



NVAO • THE NETHERLANDS

ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS
M INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Radboud University Nijmegen

REPORT

24 November 2023



1 NVAO Procedure

NVAO takes a decision on the accreditation of a programme on the basis of a panel report. If the accreditation decision is conditionally positive NVAO sets a time limit of maximum two years for the programme to meet the conditions.

At the request of the institution of higher education a panel of independent experts will assess whether the conditions are met. The institution sends the advisory report to NVAO before the end of the term. The assessment should make clear that the programme meets the NVAO quality criteria.

The NVAO decision and the panel report are published on the agency's website.¹ There you can also find more information on NVAO and the assessment of conditions.

2 Panel

Peer experts

- Prof.dr. Wil Hout (chair), professor of Governance and International Political Economy, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam;
- Prof.dr. Maggi Leung, professor in International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam;
- Dr. Arne Musch, former Head of Department Europe, Middle East, North Africa at VNG International, The Hague;
- Alex Tess Rutten MA (student), recently graduated from the master's programme Comparative Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam.

Assisting staff

Anne Martens MA (secretary) - not involved in the assessment of conditions
Drs. Jona Rovers (NVAO policy advisor and process coordinator)

Site visit

Nijmegen, 7 February 2023

3 Programme

3.1 General Data

Institution	Radboud University Nijmegen
Programme	Academic master International Development
Modes of study	Dual (previously: parttime)
Degree	Master of Science
Location	Nijmegen
Study load	60 EC ² (previously: 68)
Field of study	Gedrag en Maatschappij (Behaviour and Society)

3.2 NVAO Conditional Accreditation Decision

Report	30 March 2023
Decision	14 June 2023
Term	1 December 2023

¹ <https://www.nvao.net/nl/besluiten>

² European Credits

4 Assessment of Conditions

4.1 Condition 1

The programme restructures the curriculum in such a way that the study load and nominal duration of the programme are brought in line, either by limiting the study load to 60 ECTS credits and reducing the workload involved in the traineeship or by expanding the nominal duration of the programme.

Judgement

The condition is met.

Findings, analysis and considerations

The study load has been decreased to 60 ECTS, by implementing changes in both the academic and practice oriented parts of the programme.

The panel notes that the workload has been reconsidered in detail and appreciates that the overall balance of the programme has been warranted. By limiting both the number and scope of self-study and module assignments and the hours spent at the workplace, the workload has convincingly been reduced. Additionally, some efficiency measures have been taken.

4.2 Condition 2

The programme strengthens the second loop in double-loop learning, and ensures that the professional experience from students' traineeships feeds back to academic reflection.

Judgement

The condition is met.

Findings, analysis and considerations

In the additional documentation the principle and timing of double-loop learning has been made explicit in the curriculum, assignments and assessment criteria.

The panel finds the operationalisation of the second loop in the curriculum well thought-through, specific and convincing. Furthermore the panel follows the programme's argument that the right moment for the second loop is at the start of modules and assignments. The objective of 'enriching theoretical debate' has been added to several assessment descriptions. With that, the potential of successful implementation is clear and the panel has no more reasons to doubt that the professional experience from students' traineeships will feed back to academic reflection.

4.3 Condition 3

The programme registers MID as a dual programme (instead of a parttime programme) and brings the programme's Education and Examination Regulations (EER) in line with article 7.7 of the WHW, including formal arrangements about the share of the traineeship that is allocated for work on students' assignments and the preparation of coursework activities.

Judgement

The condition is met.

Findings, analysis and considerations

The management of the master International Development has confirmed that the registration of the master will be changed from a parttime programme to a dual programme.

The panel is pleased with this decision, and trusts that this administrative action will be effectuated shortly.

4.4 Condition 4

The programme reformulates the assessment criteria in a more concrete way and makes them more transparent. They should be explicitly aligned with the intended learning outcomes and clarify what the programme expects from students, especially when it comes to the academic master's level.

Judgement

The condition is met.

Findings, analysis and considerations

The assessment framework has been reformulated, specified and aligned with the intended learning outcomes.

The panel now sees a lot of evidence of inclusion of the learning outcomes in assessment frameworks and assessment criteria. The programme has evidently reworked the assessment criteria and not simply added a couple of learning objectives. The assessment criteria are now more clearly spelled out and aligned. The criterion 'enriching theoretical debate' has been added at relevant places.

4.5 Final judgement

The panel concludes that the programme meets the conditions. The programme has properly addressed the shortcomings which were identified in the previous peer review. Therefore, the panel reaches a positive conclusion regarding the quality of the programme.

