Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Information Sciences van de Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

datum	
26 augustus 2013	
onderwerp	
Besluit	
accreditatie wo-master	
Information Sciences van de	
Radboud Universiteit	
Nijmegen	
(001360)	
uw kenmerk	
mso/rg/12U.016456	
ons kenmerk	
NVAO/20132753/AH	
bijlagen	
3	

Gegevens

Naam instelling	:	Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Information Sciences (60 EC)
Datum aanvraag	:	20 december 2012
Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
Locatie opleiding	:	Nijmegen
Datum goedkeuren panel	:	14 augustus 2012
Datum locatiebezoeken	:	26 en 27 september 2012
Datum visitatierapport	:	10 december 2012
Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	ja, positief besluit van 21 november 2011

Aanvullende informatie

De NVAO heeft bij e-mail van 17 juni 2013 de instelling aanvullende informatie gevraagd over de correcte benaming van de opleiding. Bij e-mail van 17 juni 2013 heeft de NVAO de aanvullende informatie ontvangen.

Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2010, nr 21523).

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het visitatierapport en de aanvullende informatie deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding voldoende heeft bevonden

Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel (hierna ook: committee).

This report reflects the assessment of the committee's findings and considerations on the master's programme Information Sciences of Radboud University Nijmegen. The evaluation is based on information provided in the self-evaluation report, the selected theses, additional documentation provided during the site visit, and interviews conducted with staff, students and graduates of the programme. During its assessment, the committee observed positive

Inlichtingen
Ed Lansink
+31 (0)70 312 23 60
e.lansink@nvao.net

Parkstraat 28 | 2514 JK | Postbus 85498 | 2508 CD Den Haag
P.O. Box 85498 | 2508 CD The Hague | The Netherlands
T + 31 (0)70 312 2300 | F + 31 (0)70 312 2301
info@nvao.net | www.nvao.net

aspects as well as ones which could be improved. Taking these aspects into consideration, the committee decided that the programme fulfils the requirements set by the NVAO for accreditation.

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes
The field of Information Science is concerned with the interaction between information and communication technology on the one hand and their organisational context on the other. It deals with the analysis, design, quality control and support of digital infrastructures in relation to their organizational contexts. The programme uses the term i-architect to describe the expertise and academic background information scientists require. Graduates need to be able to make both a valuable theoretical contribution to the development of the field of study and creative and practical contributions to the design and architecture of information systems.
The domain-specific reference framework is the 'Information Systems IS2010 Curriculum', a model curriculum which is internationally accepted in the field of Information Science.

Since the final qualifications of the master's programme are directly associated to the IS2010 framework, the committee confirms the international relevance of the programme's goals. It covers the relevant skills and knowledge required by information scientists. The intended learning outcomes also meet the criteria for academic master programmes. They cover the five Dublin-descriptors. Both the scientific and the professional orientation of the programme have been adequately implemented. However, the committee found the intended learning outcomes rather generic. Given the focus and the choices the programme has had to make, one would also expect a more detailed and focused translation from the IS2010 model into intended learning outcomes. The committee recommends that the programme makes the choices in the IS2010 model and their motivation more explicit, and indicates more clearly how they are implemented in the curriculum.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment
The Information Sciences programme takes one year, consisting of compulsory courses, a specialisation course, free choice and a 24 EC thesis, which may be combined with an internship. The committee concludes that the curriculum has an adequate scientific orientation and also addresses professional learning outcomes. It found that the level of the courses is adequate, although there seems to be room to intensify the study load. The programme is feasible and enables the students to achieve the final qualifications.

The programme takes the IS2010 model curriculum as a starting point and has made its local choices within that curriculum, focussing on security and architecture. The committee understands the necessity to make these choices, but finds that the current implementation can be improved. The goal of the master's programme in Information Science is to educate students so they can perform a bridging function between IT and organizations. The committee found that the technical side of this bridge is better developed than the business side. The emphasis is currently too much on applications. The theme of enterprise architecture, which is within the scope of the choices made, is not well-integrated, due to the recent departure of key personnel. The committee recommends paying due attention to the Business Fundamentals of IS 2010.

Most of the research of the involved staff members has a strong computing science character. The committee recommends enhancing the information science character of the staff to secure the profile the programme has described. In this respect, the curriculum could

benefit from a more explicit overall (top-down) design. The cohesion of the curriculum could be better explained to staff and students.

The committee compliments the programme on the way it succeeds in bringing in the professional field, for instance in the virtual software company 'GiPHouse'. It appreciates the didactic approach, which does not seem to be part of an overarching concept, but is varied and works well. The small scale of the programme creates an open and creative atmosphere.

Furthermore, the committee concluded that the facilities are of a high standard. This also applies to the digital equipment and social facilities. Students are well-supported. Both students and staff are actively involved in the quality control, thus enabling the programme to keep improving itself.

The programme management has shown it can play a proactive role in securing the vitality of the master's programme. It has already taken measures to make good use of the existing opportunities to attract (computing) science students, HBO bachelor students and international students. The committee appreciates the effort that has been put into the premaster's programme and the way it provides the master's programme with students who have the right level. Together with the feasibility of the programme, this has proven to generate good performance rates.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes
The committee concludes that the programme uses a reasonable mix of assessments, with a balance between theory (written exams) and project work. The assessments match the intended learning outcomes of the courses and have an appropriate level. The programme has improved its assessment procedures and provides students with sufficient supervision during their graduation projects.

The committee assessed the achieved learning outcomes by inspecting a selection of the master theses. The overall level demonstrated that the intended learning outcomes were achieved. In general, the committee agreed with the grades awarded by the supervisors. The committee established, however, that in many cases the thesis subjects were not elaborated to their full scientific potential. This may relate to the fact that most reports focussed on the design of a specific application. The theses also confirmed that the Information Sciences programme is relatively close to Computing Science. In this respect, the committee feels the programme needs to keep reflecting on what the specific information science character of the programme requires. This also applies to another comment the committee had in connection with the selected theses: in more than one case the presentation was rather sloppy. Literature references, language, documentation and lay-out could be improved. For a programme which presents itself as a bridge between IT and business, this must be considered an important matter.

According to the committee, both the average level of the theses it studied and the fact that graduates easily find work within the professional field, demonstrate that the intended level and learning outcomes of the programme are achieved.

The committee assessed the standards from the Assessment Framework for Limited Programme Assessments in the following way:

Standard 1 (Intended learning outcomes): satisfactory
Standard 2 (Teaching-learning environment): satisfactory
Standard 3 (Assessment and achieved learning outcomes): satisfactory
General conclusion: satisfactory

The chair and the secretary of the committee hereby declare that all members of the committee have studied this report and that they agree with the judgments laid down in it. They confirm that the assessment has been conducted in accordance with the demands relating to independence.

Aanbevelingen
De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, in het bijzonder die over het expliciteren van de eindkwalificaties in relatie tot het IS2010-modelcurriculum, het vinden van een goed evenwicht tussen de technische en *business*-componenten, het verbeteren van de (transparantie van de) samenhang in het curriculum, het op sommige onderdelen verhogen van de studielast, het versterken van de informatiekunde-expertise binnen de staf, het vinden van een goed evenwicht tussen research en ontwerp in de afstudeerwerken en een beter verzorgde uitvoering van de afstudeerwerken.

Besluit

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen te Nijmegen in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 24 juni 2013 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 20 augustus 2013 heeft de instelling van de gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt om te reageren. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele redactionele aanpassingen en aanvullingen op bijlage 2.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Information Sciences (60 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Nijmegen) van de Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen te Nijmegen. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 1 januari 2014 en is van kracht tot en met 31 december 2019.

Den Haag, 26 augustus 2013

De NVAO
Voor deze

R.P. Zevenbergen
(bestuurder)

Tegen dit besluit kan op grond van het bepaalde in de Algemene wet bestuursrecht door een belanghebbende bezwaar worden gemaakt bij de NVAO. De termijn voor het indienen van bezwaar bedraagt zes weken.

Bijlage 1: Schematisch overzicht oordelen panel

Onderwerp	Standaard	Beoordeling door het panel *voltijd*
1. Beoogde eindkwalificaties	De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen	V
2. Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	V
3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd	V
Eindoordeel		V

De standaarden krijgen het oordeel onvoldoende (O), voldoende (V), goed (G) of excellent (E). Het eindoordeel over de opleiding als geheel wordt op dezelfde schaal gegeven.

Bijlage 2: Feitelijke gegevens

Tabel 1: *Rendement*

Cohort	2009	2010	2011
Rendement	85%	79%	-

Tabel 2: *Docentkwaliteit*

Graad	Ma	PhD	BKO
Percentage	100%	100%	25%

Tabel 3: *Student-docentratio*

Ratio	19,68 : 1 *)

*) cijfer per 2010/2011

Tabel 4: *Contacturen*

Studiejaar	1
Contacturen	In 1^e semester: 20 u.p.w. In 2^e semester: 9 u.p.w. **)

**) excl. 15 uur scriptiebegeleiding voor het gehele semester

Bijlage 3: panelsamenstelling

- prof.dr. R.J. Wieringa (voorzitter), professor of Information Systems, University of Twente;
- prof.dr. E.W. Berghout (lid), professor of Information Systems, University of Groningen;
- prof.dr. W. van Grembergen (lid), professor of Information Technology and Business informatics, University of Antwerp;
- H. Steltenpohl (lid), BSc, master's student of Information Science, University of Amsterdam;
- prof.dr. O. De Troyer (lid), professor of Computer Science, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Het panel werd ondersteund door D. de Lange, MA, secretaris (gecertificeerd).