

Besluit

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

	Gegevens
31 augustus 2016	Naam instelling : Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
onderwerp	Naam opleiding : wo-master
Besluit	Biology (120 EC)
Accreditatie	Datum aanvraag : 23 maart 2016
wo-master Biology van de	Variant opleiding : voltijd
Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (004572)	Afstudeerrichtingen : Adaptive Organisms Communities and Ecosystems Water and Environment Science in Society
uw kenmerk	Science, Management and Innovation
mso/rg/16U.011897	Science and Education
ons kenmerk	
NVAO/20161824/AH	
bijlagen	Joint Programme : Transnational Water Management (double degree with
2	University Duisberg/Essen)
Locatie opleiding	: Nijmegen
Datum goedkeuren	
panel	: 6 juli 2015
Datum locatiebezoeken	: 19 en 20 oktober 2015
Datum visitatierapport	: 2 februari 2016

Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg : ja, positief besluit van 21 november 2011

Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcr. 2014, nr 36791).

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het visitatierapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding als 'satisfactory' [voldoende] heeft bevonden.

The master's programme Biology is a two-year-programme and consists of 120 EC. The programme offers three research specializations: Adaptive Organisms, Communities and Ecosystems and Water and Environment. The panel has established that the intended learning outcomes of the programme are in line with (inter)national requirements. The programme has developed clear profiles for the research specialisations as well as for the society-oriented specialisations. The panel suggests that the profiles of the research specialisations could be reflected more clearly in the intended learning outcomes of the programmes.

The programme starts with an orientation course that introduces students to research topics and research groups related to their specialization. All specializations consist of specialization specific courses, electives, research internships and a literature thesis. Students can choose to participate in their second year of study in one of the society-oriented specializations: Science in Society, Science, Management and Innovation or Science and Education.

The panel has studied the master's programme Biology and established that the curricula of the different research specializations offer students adequate opportunities for academic specialisation. The programme is structured as a balanced combination of orientation courses, compulsory courses, electives and research projects. Being a member of the research group, students are well guided in their development towards independent (junior) researcher. The panel established that students would benefit from an advanced statistics course. According to the panel, there should also be more attention for systems biology. In addition, this programme could also be improved by offering a course that provides students with an overview of advanced research topics in Biology.

The three society-oriented specialisations provide students with the complementary knowledge and skills that enable them to use their biological knowledge in business, policy, science communication or education environments.

The programme uses a variety of teaching methods: lectures, case studies, field work, group assignments and individual research projects. According to the panel these are adequate didactic practices for master's programmes in the field of Biology.

The panel established that the programme is feasible. Coherence and feasibility of individual trajectories are monitored in portfolio activities. Although the panel considers the portfolio to be a valuable tool, it concludes that current practice does not provide much added value to the personal and academic growth of students.

The programme is delivered by qualified and highly motivated staff members. According to the panel the student-staff ratio is too high and needs to become more favourable in order to maintain and improve the quality of the programme. The Programme Committee plays a proactive role in the quality assurance of the programmes.

The panel has checked whether the programme has adopted an adequate assessment system.

The panel has established that the programme uses diverse assessment methods that are

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The Board of Examiners has a proactive attitude. The panel observed that many of the measures have been taken quite recently. It will take some time to make these procedures a routine for the teaching staff. Furthermore, concerted consultation of teachers about assessment (peer review) should be encouraged. Assessment quality profits from 'continuously learning from each other'.

After studying a sample of final reports, the panel establishes that students realise the intended learning outcomes of the master's programme Biology. Although some reports of the programme did not demonstrate an adequate academic depth, the panel has been convinced that these were special cases and that meanwhile adequate measures have been taken to prevent these incidents in the future. Based on the performance of alumni the panel concludes that the programme prepares students well for an academic or business position on the labour market.

The panel assesses the standards from the Assessment framework for limited programme assessments in the following way:

Master's programme Biology:

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes	satisfactory
Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment	satisfactory
Standard 3: Assessment	satisfactory
Standard 4: Achieved learning outcomes	satisfactory

General conclusion: **satisfactory**

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, in het bijzonder de aanbeveling aandacht te schenken aan het hoge staf-studentratio door te investeren in een meegroeidend docentenkorps.

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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 27 juni 2016 naar voren te brengen. Van deze gelegenheid heeft het college van bestuur geen gebruik gemaakt.

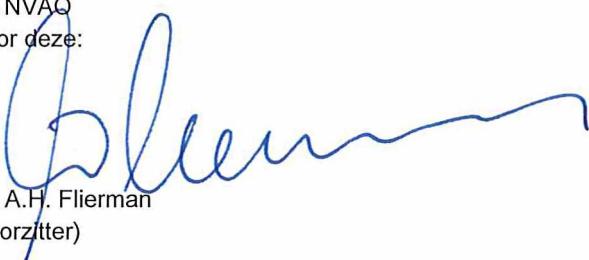
De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Biology (120 EC; voltijd; locatie: Nijmegen) van de Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen te Nijmegen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Adaptive Organisms, Communities and Ecosystems, Water and Environment, Science in Society, Science, Management and Innovation, en Science and Education. De opleiding heeft een joint programme Transnational Water Management (double degree) met de University Duisberg/Essen). De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 augustus 2016 en is van kracht tot en met 30 augustus 2022.

Den Haag, 31 augustus 2016

De NVAQ
Voor deze:

Dr. A.H. Flierman
(voorzitter)



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.

Pagina 5 van 6 **Bijlage 1: Schematisch overzicht oordelen panel**

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

De standaarden krijgen het oordeel onvoldoende, voldoende, goed of excellent.

Het eindoordeel over de opleiding als geheel wordt op dezelfde schaal gegeven.

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Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. Jan Kijne (voorzitter), emeritus hoogleraar BioScience, Universiteit Leiden.

Leden:

- Prof. dr. Ton Bisseling, hoogleraar Moleculaire Biologie, Wageningen University;
- Prof. dr. Marieke van Ham, hoogleraar Biologische Immunologie, Universiteit van Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. Herman Verhoef, emeritus hoogleraar Bodemecologie, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. Joost Teixeira de Mattos, hoogleraar Kwantitatieve Microbiële Fysiologie, Universiteit van Amsterdam;
- Jeffrey Verhoeff BSc. (student-lid), masterstudent Biologie en Dierwetenschappen, Wageningen University.

Het panel werd ondersteund door drs. José van Zwieten, secretaris (gecertificeerd).