

## Besluit

### Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Latijns Amerika Studies van de Centrum voor studie en documentatie van Latijns Amerika (CEDLA)

<b>datum</b>	<b>Gegevens</b>	
30 december 2016	<b>Naam instelling</b>	: Centrum voor studie en documentatie van Latijns Amerika (CEDLA)
<b>onderwerp</b>	<b>Naam opleiding</b>	: wo-master Latijns Amerika Studies (75 EC) (postinitieel) (Engelstalige naam: Latin American Studies)
<b>Besluit</b>	<b>Datum aanvraag</b>	: 3 mei 2016
<b>accreditatie wo-master</b>	<b>Graad opleiding</b>	: Master of Arts
<b>Latijns Amerika Studies</b>	<b>Variant opleiding</b>	: voltijd
<b>Centrum voor studie en</b>	<b>Locatie opleiding</b>	: Amsterdam
<b>documentatie van</b>	<b>Datum goedkeuren panel</b>	: 21 september 2015
<b>Latijns Amerika</b>	<b>Datum locatiebezoeken</b>	: 26 en 27 november 2015, 11 maart 2016
<b>(004852)</b>	<b>Datum visitatierapport</b>	: 18 maart 2016 (aangepaste versie: 29 november 2016)
<b>uw kenmerk</b>		
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<b>ons kenmerk</b>	<b>Aanvullende informatie</b>	
NVAO/20162808/ND		Op 2 november 2016 heeft een gesprek met het visitatiepanel plaatsgevonden op uitnodiging van de NVAO. Het panel heeft een nadere toelichting gegeven op de onderbouwing van het oordeel voor standaard 11, Gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties, en op de procesgang van de visitatie. Bij e-mail van 30 november 2016 heeft de NVAO een aangepaste versie van het visitatierapport ontvangen waarin de uitkomsten van het gesprek zijn meegenomen. De NVAO heeft haar oordeelsvorming gebaseerd op deze versie.
<b>bijlagen</b>		
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#### Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de uitgebreide opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2014, nr 36791).

#### Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het aangepaste visitatierapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding goed heeft bevonden.

#### Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

#### *Intended learning outcomes*

The panel considers the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA) one of Europe's leading institutes in Latin American studies.

Pagina 2 van 7 The Master of Arts Programme in Latin American Studies offered by CEDLA aims to provide knowledge, academic skills and understanding of the international academic literature and debate on transformation in Latin American societies in geographic, historical, economic, cultural, social, political and ecological terms. Graduates are expected to be able to solve complex problems making use of knowledge and insights from within several disciplines, and to conduct independent research in complex and unfamiliar situations. The learning outcomes are concrete and match the Dutch national qualification framework. Moreover, the programme's objectives and learning outcomes are unique in Europe. The panel concludes that this multi-disciplinary and research-oriented programme has well-defined learning outcomes which indicate that the programme is aiming at a high level. The panel assesses standard 1 (Intended learning outcomes) as good.

#### *Curriculum*

The programme allows its students to acquire research skills in a well-designed and straightforward way. Furthermore, the programme ties in with the CEDLA staff's research, which is strongly focused on contemporary developments in Latin America. The panel established that the CEDLA master's programme provides students with an excellent training in field research. The programme's combination of field work and proximity to the research of the CEDLA staff results in an excellent and unique breeding ground for academically trained professionals and researchers in Latin American Studies.

The programme is a strictly organised and intensive 15-months programme (75 EC). The structure of the programme is such that the students develop skills gradually. The programme is coherent and offers a good preparation for the students to achieve the intended learning outcomes. It contains a very good balance of thematic courses and methodological training. The panel concludes that the programme is unique due to its multi-disciplinary focus and the prominent position of the research project within the curriculum. The CEDLA Master's programme is considered an internationally leading programme in the field.

The core part of the programme is, as mentioned, the field research in Latin America. The students receive excellent guidance and supervision in the planning and execution of this fieldwork. The core teaching concept can be described as 'learning by doing', but always departing from a solid base of knowledge and training in research skills and methods. This concept is in line with the intended learning outcomes. Also, the teaching formats tie in with the teaching concept. The panel very much appreciates the measurements taken by CEDLA to improve the feasibility of the programme.

The admission requirements are realistic in view of the intended learning outcomes. The diversity in background of the students is both a complicating factor and one of the assets of the programme. The panel sees some room for improvement here. It recommends that students admitted be referred, where appropriate, to pre-session or in-session courses offered by the University of Amsterdam to help them adjust more easily to the requirements of the programme.

The panel assesses standards 2 (orientation) and 3 (contents) as excellent, and standards 4 (structure) and 5 (admission requirements) as good.

The CEDLA teaching staff consists of six regular staff members with different disciplinary backgrounds and professors holding specially endowed chairs. All teaching staff hold PhDs and are actively involved in research. The research of the CEDLA staff is internationally renowned and of a very high quality. The staff is also qualified in teaching (BKO<sup>1</sup>-certified).

The size of the staff is more than sufficient for the delivery of the teaching programme. Students report that the staff is easily accessible and very dedicated.

The panel assesses standard 6 (staff) as good.

#### *Services and facilities*

CEDLA is currently located on two floors of a modern university building. The panel was impressed by the facilities offered to the students, in particular CEDLA's library and study facilities. The onsite library has a unique collection. The panel has seen no other programme in the Latin American field with such an attractive and stimulating learning environment.

The panel saw that the students are very well guided and supervised. The students' progress is closely monitored. The information provided to the students about the programme is clear and well-structured and the teachers are well informed about the students' progress. The students are very satisfied with the supervision and guidance.

The panel assesses standard 7 (services and facilities) as excellent, and standard 8 (tutoring and student information) as good.

#### *Quality assurance*

The panel noted that the programme is evaluated on a regular basis. Relevant stakeholders are involved in monitoring the curriculum and in the quality assurance procedures of the programme. It is clear that the staff is continuously involved in improving the programme. CEDLA is a close-knit community where evaluative remarks about the programme can easily be adopted and implemented. The panel nevertheless advises the programme to define quality targets and to make improvements more transparent.

The panel assesses standard 9 (quality assurance) as satisfactory.

#### *Assessment*

CEDLA is in a transition phase and will gradually become part of the University of Amsterdam (UvA), which means that it will adopt the UvA assessment system, rules and regulations for exam boards of the UvA. At the moment the CEDLA assessment system is adequate. The present Exam Board has sufficient oversight of the quality of exams and the graduates' achievements.

The panel assesses standard 10 (assessment) as satisfactory.

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<sup>1</sup> Basis Kwalificatie Onderwijs

The assessment panel studied 15 theses and finds that the level is beyond what would be expected of a standard academic master's programme. The panel agrees with the range of grades awarded by the CEDLA examiners. That two-thirds of the theses fall into the higher levels of achievements – 62% of the CEDLA theses from 2011-2014 were in the very satisfactory to good category (7.0-8.4), and 3% were excellent (8.5 and higher) – clearly indicates that the CEDLA programme is producing results that systematically exceed the generic quality standards for Masters programme theses. The students evidently benefited a great deal from the close contact with the research experience in Latin America of the CEDLA staff as their thesis supervisors. Their achievement in producing such a noteworthy range of high-quality theses should be seen in the light of the requirement that all students undertake substantial empirical research in Latin America.

The programme assesses the theses with a transparent thesis assessment procedure. A recent improvement is the involvement of an additional, external, examiner in the process as a third assessor.

In addition to the theses, the panel also looked at several coursework assignments. These assignments support the conclusion already gained from reading the theses that students reach the expected learning outcomes more than comfortably.

The panel learnt that the career perspectives of the graduates are good. Many of them started or completed a PhD project. The panel assesses this as impressive. Moreover, a significant number of alumni work in a field with a focus on Latin America, in line with the programme, e.g. in an NGO, for the government or as a consultant. The panel concludes that the graduates are sought after.

Based on the content and level of the selected theses and the career perspectives of the alumni on the labour market, the panel argues that students of the CEDLA master's programme achieve the intended learning outcomes upon graduation.

The panel assesses standard 11 (Achieved learning outcomes) as good.

#### *Overall conclusion*

The panel established that CEDLA offers an attractive master's programme, which is unique in Europe. The panel assessed both the orientation and the content of the curriculum, as well as the facilities, as excellent. Furthermore it assessed the learning outcomes, the curriculum structure, the teaching staff and the tutoring and information, the quality assurance system, the assessment system and the learning outcomes achieved as good.

Given the predominance of excellent and good achieved for most parts of the programme assessment, the overall evaluation of the programme by the panel is good.

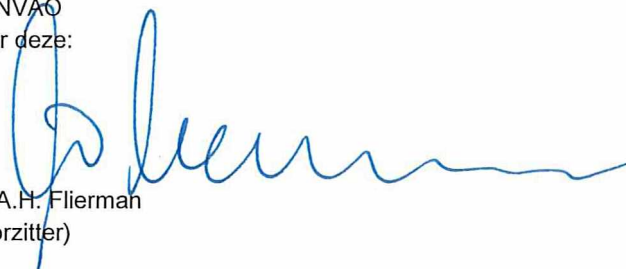
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO de directie van de Centrum voor studie en documentatie van Latijns Amerika te Amsterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 5 december 2016 naar voren te brengen. De instelling heeft geen opmerkingen en/of bezwaren geformuleerd op het voornemen tot besluit.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de postinitiële wo-master Latijns Amerika Studies (75 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van het Centrum voor studie en documentatie van Latijns Amerika (CEDLA) te Amsterdam. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 30 december 2016 en is van kracht tot en met 29 december 2022.

Den Haag, 30 december 2016

De NVAO  
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.

Onderwerp	Standaard	Beoordeling door het panel
Beoogde eindkwalificaties	1. De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen	goed
Programma	2. De oriëntatie van het programma waarborgt de ontwikkeling van vaardigheden op het gebied van wetenschappelijk onderzoek en/of de beroepspraktijk.	excellent
	3. De inhoud van het programma biedt studenten de mogelijkheid om de beoogde eindkwalificaties te bereiken.	excellent
	4. De vormgeving van het programma zet aan tot studeren en biedt studenten de mogelijkheid om de beoogde eindkwalificaties te bereiken.	goed
	5. Het programma sluit aan bij de kwalificaties van de instromende studenten.	voldoende
Personeel	6. Het personeel is gekwalificeerd voor de inhoudelijke, onderwijskundige en organisatorische realisatie van het programma.	goed
Voorzieningen	7. De huisvesting en de materiële voorzieningen zijn toereikend voor de realisatie van het programma.	excellent
	8. De studiebegeleiding en de informatievoorziening aan studenten bevorderen de studievoortgang en sluiten aan bij de behoefte van studenten.	goed
Kwaliteitszorg	9. De opleiding wordt periodiek geëvalueerd, mede aan de hand van toetsbare streefdoelen.	voldoende
Toetsing	10. De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing.	voldoende
Gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	11. De opleiding toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd.	goed
Eindoordeel		goed

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- Prof. Dirk Kruijt, (*voorzitter*), Professor Emeritus of Development Studies, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University;  
Prof. Ann Varley, Professor of Human Geography, Department of Geography, University College London;
- Dr. Gerdien Steenbeek, Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Liberal Arts and Sciences, Utrecht University;
- Veronika Macku MSc., (*student-lid*) graduate of the Master's programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam.

Het panel is ondersteund door Dr. Barbara van Balen en Sietze Looijenga (gecertificeerde secretarissen).