

## Besluit

### Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Economics van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

#### Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
31 oktober 2017	Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Economics (60 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	:	25 april 2017
Besluit	Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
accreditatie wo-master	Tracks/specialisaties	:	Generic Programme (no specialisation), Development Economics, Public Policy, International and Macroeconomic Policy, Global Challenges
Economics van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (005635)	Locatie opleiding	:	Amsterdam
uw kenmerk	Datum goedkeuren	:	
CVB/JWB/2017/347	panel	:	13 september 2016
ons kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoek	:	10, 11 en 18 november 2016
NVAO/20172470/LL	Datum visitatierapport	:	6 maart 2017
bijlagen	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	ja, positief besluit van 3 september 2014

2

#### Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 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 voldoende heeft bevonden.

#### Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

In this executive summary, the panel presents the main considerations which have led to the assessment of the quality of the programme Master Economics of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, which has been assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework.

The panel observed programme management has taken up the recommendations made in the previous assessment in 2010. Programme management has, among others, intensified

Pagina 2 van 6 the efforts to increase the influx of students, raised the number of BKO-certified lecturers and clarified the organisation.

The panel is positive about the Faculty's objectives to educate students not only in academic and professional knowledge and skills but also to train them to become responsibly thinking and acting professionals or academics. The latter is a distinct and valuable characteristic of the Vrije Universiteit economics programmes.

The panel approves of the broadness and the depth of the programme objectives, which allows students to gain knowledge and understanding of economic theory, to acquire research and academic skills, and to be able to address economic problems and economic policy-issues.

The intended learning outcomes of the programme meet the programme objectives, exhibiting, among others, disciplinary knowledge, analytical and quantitative skills, knowledge and understanding to address societal problems, research skills and communication and collaborative skills. The panel is positive about the specialisations Development Economics, Public Policy, International and Macroeconomic Policy and Global Challenges, which are open to the students. The intended learning outcomes are consistent with the domain-specific reference framework, which has been drafted by this Faculty and the economics programmes of Erasmus University Rotterdam and Wageningen University, and, in addition, correspond to master level requirements.

Programme management conducted a sound comparison to other economics master programmes in the Netherlands and abroad. From this comparison, it may be deduced the learning outcomes of this programme meet the standards of international renowned master programme in this domain.

The panel supports the policies of programme management to align the programme with trends in the professional field.

In the panel's view, the admission requirements and processes, emphasising the basic knowledge requirements of economics, mathematics and statistics, are adequate for this programme. The panel approves of the deficiency programme. Also, the panel supports the intentions and efforts of programme management to raise the number of students.

The panel observed the curriculum to reflect all of the intended learning outcomes adequately and regards the curriculum to be very well designed, being a balanced mix of challenging core courses offering fundamental knowledge and understanding and of specialisations, allowing students to apply knowledge in the context of the specialisation of their preference. The panel noted corresponding views on the principles governing the curriculum among the Faculty Board, programme management, lecturers and students and regards this to be effective for the quality of the programme.

The panel is satisfied about the educational principles and the study methods of the programme, as these are conducive to the students' learning processes. The number of contact hours is adequate. The policies regarding the introduction and deployment of new and innovative study methods are satisfactory.

Pagina 3 van 6 The panel feels programme management has taken important steps to keep the student success rates at the current, satisfactory levels and encourages programme management to continue along this path.

The panel approves of the lecturers deployment and evaluation procedures, as these procedures ensure qualified lecturers to teach in the programme.

The panel regards the lecturers to be very good researchers, working in the forefront of their field of expertise. In addition, the panel is especially positive about the educational capabilities of the lecturers, and their interaction with the students, which may be regarded as intensive and effective.

The panel is positive about the examination and assessment rules and regulations of the programme. They conform to the Vrije Universiteit and Faculty of Economics and Business Administration policy statements and include, among others, measures to assure the examinations' validity, the reliability of assessments and the competencies and expertise of examiners.

The examination methods in the programme are in line with the course contents to be assessed. The diversity of examination methods in courses and across courses allows for the assessment of knowledge and skills, relevant to the programme.

The panel observed programme management having drafted a comprehensive thesis manual, in which the timeline of the thesis writing process has been explained clearly. The supervision of the thesis is well organised. The thesis assessment process is a reliable process, as at least two examiners are involved and sound assessment forms are used. The panel welcomes the transition process from assessment forms to scoring models or rubrics, as these may raise the quality of the assessments further.

The panel ascertained the Examination Board to have the responsibilities and to work along the lines, as intended by Dutch applicable law. The Board monitors the examination and assessment processes and inspects examinations. The panel recommends to step up these inspections and to include theses in the quality assurance checks, as the Examination Board plans to do.

The panel finds the examinations of the courses to meet the courses' learning goals, to be of adequate quality and to be of a challenging level.

The theses the panel studied ranged from satisfactory to very good. Not one of the theses was assessed by the panel as unsatisfactory. The panel agrees with the grades of the theses, as given by the examiners.

The panel is positive about the positions the graduates obtained.

The panel assesses the programme Master Economics of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam to be satisfactory and recommends NVAO to grant re-accreditation to this programme.

#### **Aanbevelingen**

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel.

Pagina 4 van 6 **Besluit**

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 4 september 2017 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 19 september 2017 heeft de instelling van deze gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele tekstuele aanpassingen.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Economics 60 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De opleiding kent de volgende specialisaties: Generic Programme (no specialisation), Development Economics, Public Policy, International and Macroeconomic Policy, Global Challenges. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 oktober 2017 en is van kracht tot en met 30 oktober 2023.

Den Haag, 31 oktober 2017

Namens het bestuur van de NVAO  
Voor deze,



Mr. L.B. Kroes  
Directeur Nederland

René Hageman  
Afdelingshoofd Nederland

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

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

Pagina 6 van 6 **Bijlage 2: panelsamenstelling**

- Prof. dr. T.J. Wansbeek, (voorzitter) Emeritus Professor of Statistics and Econometrics, University of Groningen;
- Prof. dr. J. Hartog, (lid) Emeritus Professor of Microeconomics with visiting scholar position, University of Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. R. Kabir, (lid) Professor and Chair of Corporate Finance and Risk Management, University of Twente;
- S.M. van den Hoek, (student-lid) student Bachelor programme Tax Economics, University of Amsterdam.

Het panel werd ondersteund door drs. W. Vercouteren RC, secretaris (gecertificeerd).