

## Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master International Crimes and Criminology van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**

### Gegevens

	Naam instelling	: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
<b>datum</b>	Naam opleiding	: wo-master
31 maart 2015		International Crimes and Criminology (60 ECTS)
<b>onderwerp</b>	Datum aanvraag	: 2 december 2014
Besluit	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
accreditatie wo-master	Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
International Crimes and	Graad opleiding	: Master of Science (MSc)
Criminology van de Vrije	Datum goedkeuren	
Universiteit Amsterdam	panel	: 22 juli 2014
(003500)	Datum locatiebezoek	: 4 november 2014
<b>ons kenmerk</b>	Datum visitatierapport	: 21 november 2014
NVAO/20150891/LL	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: Positief besluit onder voorwaarden van 3 september 2014
<b>bijlage</b>		
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### Beoordelingskader

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

### 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 master's programme International Crimes and Criminology of VU University Amsterdam, which was assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework (22 November 2011).

The programme management has taken up the recommendations made during the initial accreditation of the programme in 2009. To enable students to obtain positions outside of the academic world, the teaching of analytical and writing skills has been strengthened. Each year, programme management speaks to the lecturers in order to prevent overlap of courses or gaps between these. Not only has the programme management followed up on said recommendations but also on suggestions, made during the midterm review and by the

### Inlichtingen

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Pagina 2 van 6 advisory board. Programme management has considered extending the curriculum, has introduced additional reading for non-law-students in the International Criminal Courts and Tribunals course and has invited practitioners to teach in the Experts Course and in the Research Seminar.

The objectives of the programme are sound, stating clearly that the students should master relevant aspects of international crimes and of international criminal justice. The panel is very positive about the distinct interdisciplinary character of the programme, which makes it unique in the Netherlands. Moreover, the level of aspiration with regard to these interdisciplinary aspects is advanced and highly ambitious. The programme meets the requirements of the domain-specific framework of reference for Criminology. The intended learning outcomes of the programme reflect the objectives appropriately. The panel welcomes the emphasis the programme management has put on the knowledge of theories and methods in this field and on the research capabilities of the students, educating them to become independent, critical thinkers with in-depth knowledge of this domain. Meeting the learning outcomes, the graduates will be in a position to either pursue an academic career or to perform policy-related tasks in the professional field. Support for the programme's objectives and intended learning outcomes on the part of the programme management, lecturers and students is very strong. Comparing this programme to others in this domain, the programme management demonstrates the specific characteristics of the programme. The intended learning outcomes are an appropriate indication of its master's level.

These considerations have led the assessment panel to assess the standard 1 Intended learning outcomes as good.

The panel regards the entry requirements for the programme as quite appropriate and the admission procedure as carried out very conscientiously. The Faculty of Law and the programme management have made some well-thought-out decisions concerning the number of students to be admitted and the composition of the student group.

All of the learning outcomes have been covered in the courses. In the curriculum, the students learn research skills, like in the Research Methodology of International Crimes course and the Expert Course but also in other courses. The panel would appreciate more focus on qualitative research methods in the curriculum. The Corporations and International Crimes course is adequate for this programme, as corporations may play a role in and be held responsible for international crimes, even if they fall outside of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. The panel holds the view that the victims of international crimes ought to feature more prominently as a subject in the core curriculum. For the panel, it is important that the programme management and lecturers can substantiate whether a specific topic is part of the domain of international crimes and international criminal justice. The compulsory and recommended literature in the courses is quite appropriate.

The capabilities of the lecturers in the programme are very much up to standard, regarding their expertise, their research capabilities and their teaching qualities. A substantial number of lecturers have a Basic Teaching Qualification. In addition, the lecturers incorporate their research into the courses and engage students in ongoing research projects.

The programme may be demanding but is doable, although it leaves little room for other activities. The assistance by the lecturers and the study guidance especially by the programme coordinator are more than appropriate. The panel accepts the programme

Pagina 3 van 6 management's view that extending the programme beyond one year would create more problems than it solves, but acknowledges there may be a difference between Dutch students including an internship and foreign students for whom this may not be feasible.

The quality assurance system of the programme is adequate. The positions and roles of the various boards and committees are well-defined.

These considerations have led the assessment panel to assess the standard 2 Teaching-learning environment as satisfactory.

The examination and assessment regulations of the programme are appropriate. The correspondence between the learning goals of the courses and the examinations is ensured and adequate assessment formats are being used, also for papers. The examination board performs their responsibilities well concerning the master's theses and should proceed to check written examinations and papers as well.

The panel studied a number of examinations and has found the contents to be very appropriate and the level quite demanding. The methods of examination are selected appropriately.

The procedure for writing the thesis is appropriate and the students are well-prepared for the thesis process. The theses the members of the panel have studied, were all at least satisfactory. The panel's evaluations of the theses did not differ substantially from the ones by the programme's supervisors. In six of the 15 theses, the students had done their own research, being other than the literature research. The panel would advise paying more attention to the quality of the English language in some of the theses. The panel has noted that a substantial percentage of the theses have led to an article in a peer-reviewed journal and/or have won prizes and regards this as additional evidence of the level a number of students have achieved. The graduates of the programme are well-equipped to pursue either an academic or a professional career.

The panel has noted the proposed introduction of more stringent rules regarding the supervision of theses and encourages the programme management to take even more steps to raise the number of students completing the programme in one year.

These considerations have led the assessment panel to assess the standard 3 Assessment and achieved learning outcomes as satisfactory.

The panel assesses the programme as satisfactory and advises NVAO to grant re-accreditation to the master's programme International Crimes and Criminology of VU University Amsterdam.

### **Aanbevelingen**

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, in het bijzonder om:

- meer kwalitatieve onderzoeksmethoden in het programma op te nemen en toe te passen in scriptieprojecten;
- blijvend aandacht te besteden aan het terugdringen van de lange studieduur van studenten;
- de examencommissie ook tentamens en papers steekproefsgewijs te laten controleren.

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 2 maart 2015 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 19 maart 2015 heeft de instelling van de gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt om te reageren. Dit heeft geleid tot een tekstuele aanpassing.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master International Crimes and Criminology (60 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 maart 2015 en is van kracht tot en met 30 maart 2017 (2021)<sup>1</sup>.

Den Haag, 31 maart 2015

De NVAO  
Voor deze:



Lucien Bollaert  
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.

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<sup>1</sup> Nadat de instelling een onvoorwaardelijk positief besluit instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg heeft gekregen, wordt de accreditatietermijn verlengd naar in totaal 6 jaren.

<b>Standaard</b>	<b>Formulering Standaard</b>	<b>Beoordeling door het panel</b>
<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>Goed</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>Voldoende</b>
<b>3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties</b>	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en 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.

- prof. dr. C.H. Brants, (voorzitter) professor emeritus Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Utrecht University and professor of Comparative Criminal Justice, Northumbria University, United Kingdom;
- prof. dr. J.A.M. Wemmers (lid) full professor in Criminology, École de Criminologie, Université de Montréal, Canada;
- dr. J.A.C. Bevers, (lid) general legal advisor to the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, The Hague, Netherlands;
- A.M.A. Kangur BSc, (student-lid) student in the master's programme Artificial Intelligence, University of Groningen.

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