

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Econometrics and Operations Research van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
31 oktober 2017	Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Econometrics and Operations Research (60 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	:	25 april 2017
Besluit	Specialisaties	:	Generic Programme, Econometrics and Mathematical Economics
accreditatie wo-master			Operations Research and Business Econometrics
Econometrics and Operations Research van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (005634)	Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
uw kenmerk	Locatie opleiding	:	Amsterdam
CVB/JWB/2017/347	Datum goedkeuren	:	13 september 2016
ons kenmerk	panel	:	10, 11 en 18 november 2016
NVAO/20172470/LL	Datum locatiebezoek	:	6 maart 2017
bijlagen	Datum visitatierapport	:	6 maart 2017
2	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	ja, positief besluit van 3 september 2014

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 goed 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 Econometrics and Operations Research of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, which has been assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework.

Pagina 2 van 6 The panel observed programme management has taken up the recommendations made in the previous assessment in 2010. Programme management, among others, separated the master programme more clearly from the corresponding bachelor programme, shifted the balance in the curriculum more towards economics subjects 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, allowing students to gain knowledge and understanding of quantitative methods for analysing and solving problems in various fields and training them to become quantitative experts. The panel observed the students are prepared to enter the labour market and may be employed in a number of different industries.

The programme intended learning outcomes meet these objectives, exhibiting, among others, knowledge of econometrics, operations research and mathematical economics, research skills and societal and ethical awareness. The 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. In addition, they correspond to master level requirements.

Programme management conducted a sound comparison to other econometrics and operations research master programmes in the Netherlands. From this comparison, this programme emerges as a broad programme, offering econometrics, operations research, mathematical economics and a wide array of optional courses.

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 are adequate for this programme. The panel approves of the deficiency programme.

The curriculum reflects all of the programme intended learning outcomes adequately and evenly. The panel regards the curriculum to be very well designed, being an adequate mix of core and optional courses. Students are in-depth educated in either econometrics or operations research and in mathematical economics and are amply trained in academic and research skills. The panel is positive about the options offered to the students to specialise or to choose from the optional courses offered. 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. The panel regards the programme to be demanding but feels programme management has taken important measures to keep the student success rates at the current, satisfactory levels and encourages programme management to continue along this path.

Pagina 3 van 6 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 examination and assessment rules and regulations of the programme are adequate. 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 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 regards 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 found the examinations of the courses to be of adequate quality and to be challenging. All of the theses the panel studied, have been assessed by the panel to be at least satisfactory and some of them very good. The panel regards the grades, given by the examiners to be systematically somewhat too low. The panel would have given somewhat higher grades for the theses. Taking this observation into account, the panel would rate the theses to have an average grade of up to or more than 8.0.

The panel is very positive about the positions the graduates have been able to obtain.

The panel assesses the programme Master Econometrics and Operations Research of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam to be good and recommends NVAO to grant re-accreditation to this programme.

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 Econometrics and Operations Research (60 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De opleiding kent de volgende specialisaties: Generic Programme, Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, Operations Research and Business Econometrics. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed.

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,

i.a. 

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
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.	Goed
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.	Goed
Eindoordeel		Goed

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. Vercooteren RC, secretaris (gecertificeerd).