

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Biological Sciences van de Universiteit van Amsterdam

	Gegevens	
datum	Naam instelling	: Universiteit van Amsterdam
29 juli 2016	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Biological Sciences (120 EC)
Onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 23 maart 2016
Besluit	Graad opleiding	: Master of Science
accreditatie wo-master	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Biological Sciences van de	Afstudeerrichtingen	: Ecology and Evolution, Green Life Sciences, Limnology and Oceanography, General Biology
Universiteit van Amsterdam	Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
(004622)	Datum goedkeuren	
uw kenmerk	panel	: 21 september 2015
2016cu0514	Datum locatiebezoeken	: 26 t/m 27 november 2015
ons kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	: 2 maart 2016
NVAO/20161742/LF	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 26 juni 2013
bijlagen		
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 goed heeft bevonden.

Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

The master's programme Biological Sciences aims at providing a student-oriented education of high, internationally recognized quality in an international setting. Furthermore, it aims to let students conduct empirical research that allows them to develop their skills, knowledge and insights into Biological Sciences. The programme wants students to become research-skilled professionals who can deal with current scientific knowledge and to apply this knowledge independently in new and continuously changing practical situations.

Pagina 2 van 5 According to the panel, the intended learning outcomes of the master's programme Biological Sciences are in line with (inter)national requirements and show a strong research focus. All tracks harbour one or more distinguishing features in their profiles. However, the different sets of learning outcomes do not yet reflect the development towards New Biology. The panel encourages the programmes to develop learning outcomes that more accurately reflect the programme's ambitions, distinct character and adaptation of current developments in research.

The master programme Biological Sciences is a two-year-programme that consists of 120 EC. Students compose their individual programme. Students can choose between four research-oriented tracks that are strongly determined by the research expertise of the contributing institutes: General Biology, Ecology & Evolution, Green Life Sciences and Limnology & Oceanography. Students can also participate in one of four more vocationally oriented programmes: a Teaching major, a Science Communication major, a Science in Society major or the Tesla minor, which trains students in tackling business or societal cases in interdisciplinary environments.

Each track consists of obligatory courses, elective courses, a literature review and one or two research projects. The panel established that the curricula of the different research tracks offer students adequate opportunities for academic specialisation. Acting as temporary members of the research group, students are well guided while developing themselves as independent researcher. The courses and research projects take place in very good research environments. The programme could be improved by adding a course that provides students from all tracks with an overview of advanced research topics in biology. This would also serve to give the General Biology track a more established profile of 'generalist biologists'. The panel considers the Green Students Lab of the Green Life Sciences track a best practice of society driven research.

The four society-oriented specialisations provide students with a good orientation on professions outside academia. The students obtain complementary knowledge and skills that enable them to use their biological knowledge in business, policy, communication or education environments.

The programmes use 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 a master's programme in biology. The panel established that the programme is feasible but demands good planning skills from students. The track coordinator supports them in this, but until now this has not resulted in timely study success rates. Qualified and highly motivated staff members deliver the programme. According to the panel the student-staff ratio is sufficient. The Programme Committee plays a proactive role in the quality assurance of the programmes. Study and research facilities are good.

The panel has examined whether the master's programme has an adequate assessment system in place. It has determined that the programme uses various types of assessments that match the respective learning objectives of the different programme components. The panel concludes that the Examinations Board has established adequate procedures that safeguard the quality of testing. Furthermore, the assessment of literature reviews and research projects are well organized. The panel also concludes that proper measures have been taken to raise awareness about the assessment quality among teachers and to support them with the implementation of the assessment system.

Pagina 3 van 5 After studying a sample of final reports, the panel established that students realize the intended learning outcomes of the master's programme in Biological Sciences. The final reports show an adequate and high academic level, often resulting in publications in academic peer-reviewed journals. Based on the performance of alumni the panel concludes that the programme prepares students well for an academic, societal or business position on the labour market.

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

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

Besluit

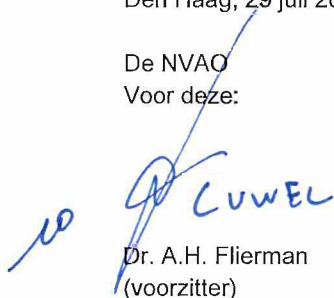
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Universiteit van Amsterdam te Amsterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 27 juni 2016 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 14 juli 2016 heeft de instelling laten weten geen opmerkingen te hebben.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Biological Sciences (120 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Universiteit van Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Ecology and Evolution, Green Life Sciences, Limnology and Oceanography, General Biology. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 29 juli 2016 en is van kracht tot en met 28 juli 2022.

Den Haag, 29 juli 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
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.	Goed
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.

- prof.dr. Jan Kijne (voorzitter), emeritus hoogleraar BioScience, Universiteit Leiden;
- prof.dr. Ton Bisseling (lid), hoogleraar Moleculaire Biologie, Wageningen University;
- prof.dr. Herman Verhoef (lid), emeritus hoogleraar Bodemecologie, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
- prof.dr. Rens Voeseek (lid), hoogleraar Ecofysiologie van Planten, Universiteit Utrecht;
- prof.dr. Maarten Frens (lid), hoogleraar Systeemfysiologie, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam;
- Jeffrey Verhoeff BSc (student-lid), masterstudent Biologie en Dierwetenschappen, Wageningen University.

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