

Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Sociale Geografie van de Universiteit van Amsterdam**

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	: Universiteit van Amsterdam
31 december 2014	Naam opleiding	: wo-master
onderwerp		Sociale Geografie (60 ECTS)
Besluit	Datum aanvraag	: 27 december 2013
accreditatie wo-master	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Sociale Geografie van de	Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
Universiteit van Amsterdam	Datum goedkeuren	
(002577)	panel	: 13 mei 2013
ons kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoeken	: 13 en 14 mei 2013
NVAO/20144331/LL	Datum visitatierapport	: 21 november 2013
bijlage		
3	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 26 juni 2013

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. Het visitatierapport geeft de bevindingen en overwegingen weer van het panel over de wo-masteropleiding Sociale Geografie van de Universiteit van Amsterdam. Het panel heeft meerdere opleidingen, behorende tot het cluster Sociale Geografie en Planologie, gezamenlijk beoordeeld.

Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen panel (hierna ook: the committee).

This report reflects the findings and considerations of the Social Geography and Planning assessment committee on the master's programme Human Geography of the University of Amsterdam. The committee's evaluation is based on information provided in the critical reflection and from evaluations of the selected theses, additional documentation and interviews held during the site visit. The committee noted both positive aspects and ones,

Pagina 2 van 8 which could be improved. Taking those aspects into consideration, it concluded that the master's programme fulfils the requirements of the criteria set by NVAO which are the conditions for accreditation.

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes

The committee assesses this standard as satisfactory.

The committee compared the intended learning outcomes prepared by the programme against the domain-specific reference framework for Social Geography and Planning and examined its profile and orientation. The committee agrees that the domain-specific qualifications described in the reference framework are appropriate for a master's program in the field of Social Geography and Planning. It furthermore concluded that the framework provides a broad but acceptable reflection of the domain.

The profile of the University of Amsterdam's master's programme Human Geography is characterised by its combined focus on urban (social and economic) and political geographies and by the fact that specific attention is given to space as a condition for societal development. The committee is satisfied with the chosen profile of the programme. However, it recommends that the programme defines and communicates its profile more clearly, especially in its communication towards students. The committee noted that the programme has undergone a number of changes in the past few years; it is in general very pleased to see how the programme is being revised. The committee would like to encourage the programme to continue developing the profile in this way.

The intended learning outcomes as formulated by the master's programme Human Geography were very well described and explained. The committee agrees that these qualifications fit a master's programme in Human Geography.

The committee also appreciates the attention paid to scientific orientation in the programme. It concludes that the programme prepares students for the professional practice in a scientific manner. However, it would like to stress that students' feelings of discomfort with their preparation for the labour market have to be addressed.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The committee assesses this standard as satisfactory.

The committee concludes that the programme, the personnel and the programme-specific facilities enable the master students to realize the intended learning outcomes. It found that the intended learning outcomes are clearly defined in the curriculum. It was also impressed by the systematic approach used to structure the curriculum, and the awareness and serious involvement of the staff members in matching the design and content of specific courses with the intended learning outcomes.

The critical reflection described which changes have been made based on the recommendations of the previous programme assessment committee. The current committee confirms that a large number of the recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented. It is impressed with the quality of the improvements made and the seriousness with which the programme has now organised its quality assurance system. The committee concludes that the Programme Committee functions properly and is quite active. It really liked the idea of interactive panel discussions to evaluate the new courses.

Pagina 3 van 8 This is a recent development, but the committee is interested to see the results and effects of these evaluations. Currently, one Programme Committee is responsible for both master programmes, and the committee advises to reconsider whether separate programme committees for each of the master's programmes would be more effective. Also, at the moment the two master programmes are not equally represented in the Programme Committee. The committee advises either separating the programme committees for the two master's programmes or adding an additional student member, so that both master programmes are equally represented.

The committee assessed the quality of the content of the courses as perfectly adequate. It found a good mix of work forms, a good variety and balance of lectures, colloquia, individual study and group discussions.

It felt, however, that the programme lacked a clearly recognizable core-course, which would teach students the basis of what Human Geography is at an advanced level. The programme uses the course 'Human Geography: Theory and Social Implications' in this way, but this course is part of the second period which is not ideal as one expects such a course at the very beginning of the programme. The committee feels that the timing as well as the content and profile of this course should be carefully reconsidered. The committee liked the five thematic electives that were offered, though it thought that these courses were so specific that they did not give a clear profile of the field as a whole. It applauds the opportunity for students to specialize, but would recommend also providing students with a common ground. This is especially significant because the interviewed students seemed to be under the impression that they were in different tracks, even though the programme does not officially define tracks.

The committee values the focus on scientific and academic training in the programmes. It recognised the link between teaching and research in the curriculum, which was also apparent from the interviews with the teachers and students. The students were aware of the research done by their teachers. The committee questioned the position of the methodological course in the curriculum. The difficulties that it had with some of the theses were mostly due to methodological issues (see Standard 3). These issues led the committee to think that it might be more productive to make a tighter connection between the methodological course and the master thesis project. It was pleased, however, with the content of the methodological course.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes

The committee assesses this standard as satisfactory.

The committee concluded that the programme has an adequate system of assessment and can demonstrate that the intended learning outcomes are realized. It confirms that the Examination Committee functions correctly and is very well prepared for its tasks. The assessments, as a whole, are sufficiently varied and well prepared, according to the committee. It was impressed by the activities the Examination Committee organised for the assessment-training day. It hopes that the Examination Committee will continue these activities in the future.

The committee concluded that the master students acquire an adequate final level by the end of the programme. This was confirmed by the master theses it evaluated. It agreed with the grades awarded by the supervisors. It would like to stress, however, that the issues

Pagina 4 van 8 encountered with the theses were all in the same area, namely methodology and use of methods. This was also an issue of concern for the previous committee. The current committee found that the often qualitative research methods used by students in their master theses were rather simple. It would like to see students applying more diverse and advanced techniques. It hopes that this issue will be addressed with the revisions that have been made in the programme, or otherwise that the programme will take action and alter the structure of the methodology teaching.

In addition to obtaining the required level in their thesis work, the committee concluded that graduates of the master's programme are sufficiently prepared for relevant job positions.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, in het bijzonder de aanbeveling om ervoor te zorgen dat studenten in hun eindwerken meer diverse en geavanceerder methoden en technieken van onderzoek toepassen.

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 24 november 2014 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 8 december 2014 heeft de instelling laten weten geen opmerkingen te hebben.

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

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 december 2014 en is van kracht tot en met 30 december 2020.

Den Haag, 31 december 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:

5/16


Ann Demeulismeester
(vicevoorzitter)

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	Voldoende
3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd	Voldoende
Eindoordeel		Voldoende

Tabel 1: Rendement

Cohort	2009	2010	2011
Rendement	73%	89%	

Tabel 2: Docentkwaliteit

Graad	MA	PhD	BKO
Percentage	100%	66%	84%

Tabel 3: Student-docentratio

Ratio	1:30
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Tabel 4: Contacturen

Studiejaar	1	2
Contacturen	8	8

Toelichting

Masterrendement: alleen het eerste instroomcohort (voltijd) is meegenomen. De standaard-rendementsgegevens lenen zich niet voor het (incidentele) tweede instroommoment, omdat er telkens op 31 augustus van het collegejaar wordt geteld voor afronding binnen een bepaald jaar.
BKO: betreft vaste staf

- Prof. dr. H.F.L. Ottens, (voorzitter) emeritus hoogleraar sociale geografie aan de Universiteit van Utrecht;
- Prof. dr. H.H. van der Wusten, (lid) emeritus hoogleraar politieke geografie aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. H.M.J. Van den Bosch (lid) hoogleraar managementwetenschappen aan de Open Universiteit;
- Prof. dr. W.A.M. Zonneveld, (lid) hoogleraar stedelijke en regionale ontwikkelingen aan de TU Delft;
- Prof. dr. R. Hassink (lid) hoogleraar economische geografie aan de Christian-Albrechts-Universiteit in Kiel;
- J. van 't Hof BSc, (student-lid) masterstudent sociale geografie aan de Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen.

Het panel werd ondersteund door Chantal Gorissen MSc, secretaris (gecertificeerd).