

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-onderzoeksmaster Brain and Cognitive Sciences (research) van de Universiteit van Amsterdam

	Gegevens	
datum	Naam instelling	: Universiteit van Amsterdam
30 december 2016	Naam opleiding	: wo-onderzoeksmaster Brain and Cognitive Sciences (research) (120 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 14 september 2016
Besluit	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
accreditatie wo-onderzoeksmaster	Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
Brain and Cognitive Sciences (research) van de Universiteit van Amsterdam	Datum goedkeuren panel	: 23 mei 2016
(005073)	Datum locatiebezoek	: 3 juni 2016
ons kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	: 25 juli 2016
NVAO/20162864/LL	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 26 juni 2013

bijlagen

2 Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2014, nr 36791) en de Richtlijn beoordeling onderzoeksmasters van de NVAO (23 april 2015).

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 panel observed programme management has taken up the recommendations made in the previous assessment in 2010/2011. In particular, programme management has taken steps to intensify the contacts with the alumni and to offer software licenses to students. In addition, programme management strengthened the interdisciplinary nature of the programme and the coherence of the curriculum. In the panel's opinion, the programme's name matches its contents and corresponds to the names of similar programmes.

Pagina 2 van 6 The objectives of the programme, training students to become experts in their field of interest within the domain of brain and cognitive sciences and training them in the theories and methodologies of multiple disciplines in an interdisciplinary way, are considered by the panel to be valid and valuable. The intended learning outcomes reflect the programme objectives adequately and meet the master's requirements. The objectives and intended learning outcomes of the programme reflect graduates' capabilities to enter PhD programmes. This may be deduced from the disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and skills of the graduates and from their research skills. Graduates may also be eligible for positions outside of academia. The panel appreciates programme management offering this possibility to the students. The Amsterdam Brain and Cognitive Center is considered by the panel to offer a solid basis for the strong research and interdisciplinary focus of the programme. Researchers from various backgrounds work in this center, thereby determining the research and interdisciplinary profile of this programme.

In the panel's view the admission requirements are very adequate and the admission procedures are enforced in a strict way. A substantial percentage of the applications is declined and no more than 60 applicants are admitted per year. The panel advises programme management to install an admission committee and not to involve the Board of Examiners in this process, since this is not a responsibility for the Board.

The curriculum of the programme is an appropriate reflection of the intended learning outcomes, offering theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills as well as academic and research skills. The courses' contents are considered by the panel to be good, the research component is substantial and a satisfactory number of electives is offered.

For the panel, a number of features make the curriculum stand out. These features are the strong element of interdisciplinarity, as exemplified by a number of courses, the track structure, allowing students to work in small groups in their field of interest, offering them a solid basis in the brain and cognitive science domain and enabling them to choose freely their own field of interest in the rest of the curriculum and the Tesla Minor, giving students who do not aspire careers in academia the opportunity to prepare for positions in businesses or non-academic organizations. The Tesla Minor can be taken extra in this two-year programme. The coherence of the curriculum is satisfactory in the first year but somewhat lacking in the second year. The panel advises to strengthen the coherence in the second year.

The panel regards the lecturers in the programme to be renowned researchers with strong international reputations. The research institutes, they belong to, received scores of very good (4) to excellent (5) in recent research evaluations. The teaching skills of the lecturers are appropriate, as may be seen from the number of BKO-certificates of the course coordinators. The panel considers programme management to be very involved and the lecturers to be committed. Unfortunately, continuity in the lecturers' participation in the programme is not always guaranteed. The panel, therefore, recommends to make long-term arrangements with Faculties and external organizations to ensure prolonged involvement of the lecturers.

In the panel's opinion, the teaching philosophy and teaching methods in the programme as well as the study guidance are conducive to the learning processes of the students. The panel, however, advises to intensify study guidance during the Research Projects.

Pagina 3 van 6 The programme quality is adequately monitored by the Educational Committee on the basis of regular surveys among lecturers and students and by student panel meetings.

The panel regards the examination and assessment rules and regulations for the programme as adequate, ensuring valid examinations and reliable assessments. The examination methods that have been adopted, conform to the course learning goals and are varied, which allows the assessment of different aspects of knowledge and skills. The contents of the examinations of the courses adequately reflect the course learning goals and contents. The panel encourages programme management, however, to complete the process of drafting examination files. This may improve the examinations and assessments. The Literature Review and the Research Projects are assessed appropriately, as two assessors are involved and assessment forms with relevant criteria are being used. The panel recommends improving the organization and reliability the assessments of the Research Projects, by promoting external supervisors to be more senior researchers (at least senior postdocs) and by strengthening the role of the co-assessor. The Board of Examiners has the authority to monitor the contents and the procedures of examinations and assessments but is still in the early stages of the process of verifying the examinations' and assessments' quality. The panel holds a favorable opinion on the steps this Board is taking and would like to encourage this process.

In the panel's opinion, the average grades of the students for the capstone projects Literature Review and Research Projects, being 8.0 to 8.5, and the percentage of judicia cum laude, being over 25 % on average per year, represent the high level of knowledge and skills the graduates of the programme have achieved. None of the Research Project reports, which the panel studied, were rated as unsatisfactory by the panel. Some of these were really excellent, whereas others were satisfactory to good. For some of these reports, the panel would have given a somewhat lower grade than the programme examiners had done. As the number of graduates having been able to enter PhD programmes is substantial, being more than 70 % of the graduates, the panel concludes programme management and lecturers succeed in preparing students very well for PhD programmes.

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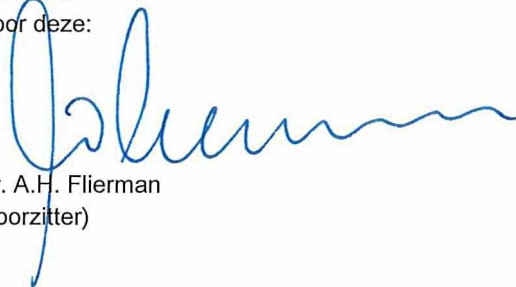
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Universiteit van Amsterdam te Amsterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 14 november 2016 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 8 december 2016 heeft de instelling laten weten geen opmerkingen te hebben.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-onderzoeksmaster Brain and Cognitive Sciences (research) (120 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Universiteit van Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 30 december 2016 en is van kracht tot en met 29 december 2022.

Den Haag, 30 december 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.	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.

- Prof. P. Hagoort PhD, (voorzitter) professor in Cognitive Neuroscience, Radboud University Nijmegen, and director of F.C. Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, Nijmegen;
- Prof. H.E. Hulshoff PhD, (lid) professor in Neuroscience and head Neuroimaging Research Group Utrecht, Utrecht University;
- Prof. A.J. W. Scheurink PhD, (lid) professor in Neuroendocrinology, University of Groningen;
- R.C.A. Wink MA, (student-lid) student Master of programme Neerlandistiek, Leiden University.

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