nvao
nederlands - vlaamse accreditatieorganisatie

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Forensic Science van de Universiteit van Amsterdam

Gegevens

Naam instelling	:	Universiteit van Amsterdam
Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Forensic Science (120 EC)
Datum aanvraag	:	3 mei 2017
Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
Locatie opleiding	:	Amsterdam
Datum goedkeuren panel	:	23 januari 2017
Datum locatiebezoek	:	14 maart 2017
Datum visitatierapport	:	20 april 2017
Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	ja, positief besluit van 26 juni 2013

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 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 programme Master Forensic Science of University of Amsterdam. The programme was assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework.

The panel observed that programme management has taken up the recommendations made in the previous assessment in 2011. Among others, steps have been taken to delineate the forensic science domain more clearly, to allow students to study both their

bachelor discipline and the interdisciplinary field of forensic science, to form a research group in this domain and to intensify the relations with the professional field.

The panel supports the definition of the forensic science field, as described by programme management in the domain-specific framework. The panel considers the objectives of the programme to be valid for an academic master programme in this domain. The intended learning outcomes of the programme meet these objectives and adequately reflect disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding, disciplinary and interdisciplinary research skills and academic and professional skills. The learning outcomes of the programme correspond to the master requirements. The panel supports the intention of programme management to add the data science and digital forensics fields to the programme, at the same time recommending not to substitute any of the subjects already being part of the programme. The commonalities and differences between this programme and other programmes in the Netherlands and abroad have been laid out appropriately, offering a view on the distinguishing nature of this programme. The panel is positive about the relations programme management and lecturers maintain with the forensic science research community and the professional field. These relations allow programme management to align the programme with trends in forensic research and in the professional practice.

The admission requirements and procedures of the programme are appropriate. Because of the limited career perspectives for graduates, the panel supports the programme management policy to put a cap on the number of incoming students. The panel also agrees with the programme management goal to attract more computer science students, as computer science is becoming more important for forensic science.

The curriculum meets the intended learning outcomes. The panel is content with the curriculum, having noted that knowledge and understanding of the constituent parts of the forensic science field as well as research skills, professional attitudes and professional skills are appropriately addressed. The panel recommends however to strengthen the practical work in the curriculum, as practical, hands-on skills are regarded by the panel to be very important for students in the forensic science field. The panel feels programme management could try and increase the practical work both in the first year and the second year of the curriculum. The curriculum is satisfactorily coherent.

Being positive about the programme teaching philosophy, the panel specially welcomes the fostering of the active participation of students and the formation of groups in which students learn to work in an interdisciplinary way. The study methods are quite diverse and instrumental in promoting the learning processes. The study load and study guidance in the programme are appropriate, leaving some room to make it more challenging. The panel is positive about the round table meetings with students, allowing them to express their views. As to the laboratories for the programme, the panel advises to try and find opportunities in the outside world for students to participate in practical work.

The number of lecturers participating in the programme is quite sufficient. The panel regards them to be well-known researchers in their fields of expertise, being able to introduce recent research outcomes in their courses. The panel observed a number of lecturers to be working at external centres and institutions. The panel recommends programme management to monitor the involvement of these lecturers in the programme, as this may strengthen the programme own character. To be deduced from the proportion of course

coordinators with University Teaching Qualification certificates, the educational capabilities of the lecturers are satisfactory. The panel is positive about the guest lecturers in the programme, addressing specialist topics.

The examination and assessment rules of the programme meet the University of Amsterdam and Faculty of Science policy statements in this respect. In the panel's view, the Board of Examiners adequately monitors the examination and assessment processes and outcomes. As programme management adopted an elaborate set of measures to that effect, *in the opinion of the panel valid examinations and reliable assessments are ensured.*

The examination methods are in line with the course goals and course contents. Having the courses assessed by multiple examinations allows to judge students' performances on different dimensions, relevant for the courses.

The panel regards the processes of supervision and assessment for the Research Projects to be adequate. The panel suggests however to require supervisors to complete the written comments on the assessment forms for students to learn explicitly about the supervisor's feedback. Although the written report of the Research Project should be in the format of a scientific journal article, the panel noticed only few reports actually did. Therefore, the panel recommends to introduce more strict criteria for the Research Project to enforce these projects to be written in this format.

The panel finds the examinations of the courses to be satisfactory in breadth and depth and to reflect the courses learning goals.

For most of the Research Projects, the panel agrees with the grades given by the programme examiners. In 20 % of the cases, the panel found the grades given to be somewhat too high. A number of the projects were regarded by the panel to be very interesting and to be very good. One of the projects was assessed by the panel to be unsatisfactory. Since all other projects were satisfactory at least, the panel considers this to be an outlier, being not representative of the general quality and level of the Research Projects.

The graduates of the programme nearly all find positions either within or outside of the forensic science field. Although programme management maintains relations with the professional field through the Advisory Board, the panel recommends to strengthen the relations with the professional field further. This may increase the opportunities of graduates to be employed in the forensic science field.

The panel assesses the programme Master Forensic Science of University of Amsterdam to be satisfactory and recommends NVAO to grant re-accreditation to this programme.
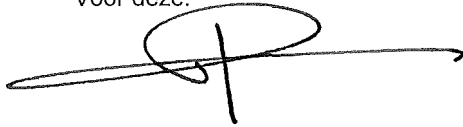
Besluit

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 24 juli 2017 naar voren te brengen.
Bij e-mail van 17 augustus 2017 heeft de instelling van de gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt om te reageren. Dit heeft niet geleid tot aanpassingen.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Forensic Science (120 EC; 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 augustus 2017 en is van kracht tot en met 30 augustus 2023.

Den Haag, 31 augustus 2017

De NVAO
Voor deze:

R.P. Zevenbergen
(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.

Bijlage 1: Schematisch overzicht oordelen panel

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	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing.	**Voldoende**
4. Gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd.	**Voldoende**
Eindoordeel		**Voldoende**

De standaarden krijgen het oordeel onvoldoende, voldoende, goed of excellent. Het eindoordeel over de opleiding als geheel wordt op dezelfde schaal gegeven.

Bijlage 2: panelsamenstelling

- prof. dr. P. de Knijff, (voorzitter) full professor in Population and Evolutionary Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center;
- G. MacKinnon BA MSc MRSB MCSFS MCIfA FRAI (Cert FA-1) (lid) forensic anthropologist and archaeologist and company director, Alecto Forensic Services ;
- Dr. A. Biedermann, (lid) associate professor in Forensic Science, University of Lausanne;
- R.C.A. Wink MA, (student-lid) student Master Dutch Language and Culture, Leiden University.

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