

Besluit **Accreditatiebesluit met een positief eindoordeel voor de opleiding Master in International Relations (master) van de University of Kent**

Samenvattend oordeel van de visitatiecommissie

datum	De visitatiecommissie (hierna commissie) heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding Master in International Relations (master) voldoet aan alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen. Ze beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.
22 oktober 2014	
onderwerp	
Accreditatiebesluit	
(003049)	<i>Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd niveau</i>
bijlage	De commissie beoordeelt het beoogd eindniveau als voldoende.
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The MA in International Relations provides students with advanced training in the methods, scope, theories and findings in the field of International Relations. According to the committee, this programme features three characteristics that – taken as a combination – sets it apart from other master programmes in related fields at other universities: interdisciplinarity, contacts with the professional field and a multi-national and multi-cultural student and staff body. In the absence of a domain-specific reference framework for International Relations studies in either the UK or Flanders, the committee established that the learning outcomes of the programme are formulated adequately for its purpose as master programme of academic orientation. The programme focuses on theory and methodology: students are acquiring a solid knowledge of the theories, heritage, development and major debates of the International Relations discipline. It also prepares students explicitly for postgraduate research. The committee, moreover, considers that the intended learning outcomes reflect the requirements of the discipline in an international perspective.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 2 - onderwijsproces

De commissie beoordeelt het onderwijsproces als voldoende.

The one-year programme (90 ECTS, 1800 study hours) consists of one compulsory module, five electives and one dissertation, which accounts for one third of the regular programme load. The extended variant (120 ECTS, 2400 study hours) consists of three more elective modules or an additional study period abroad. The curriculum allows students to gain an in-depth understanding of the core concepts of international relations while offering a high degree of choice. The programme particularly caters for students who have graduated in other fields and wish to transfer to international relations. Notwithstanding the options, the committee considers the programme to be coherent: it is strongly informed by theory, the dissertation process is guarded carefully and the programme convenor is providing personalised advice to students when deciding on their elective modules. On the basis of a

Pagina 2 van 9 sample of modules it reviewed, the committee considers that the intended learning outcomes and objectives of the programme are adequately translated in the learning goals of the curriculum modules.

The study load of the programme is feasible. Students are aware that they should take their education in hand, but can rely on the availability and commitment of convenors, thesis supervisors, PhD students and administrative staff. According to the committee, lecturers have the adequate research and didactical expertise to deliver their modules. The number of permanent staff is limited, but sufficient for the delivery of the programmes in their current form. Moreover, the committee is impressed by the opportunities for study leave by academic staff. The facilities at the Brussels School of International Studies are sufficient. The intranet link with the University of Kent provides students with good access to the library and the virtual learning network. The academic area, however, is not conducive for individual research and the lecture/seminar rooms lack state-of-the art equipment, such as smartboards.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 3 – Gerealiseerd eindniveau

De commissie beoordeelt het gerealiseerd eindniveau als voldoende.

The assessment system follows the provisions established at the University of Kent and is implemented adequately across all programmes in Brussels. The committee thinks highly of the information that is provided to students in the programme and module specifications, as well as of the feedback lecturers provide to students' individual coursework. On the basis of the sample it reviewed, the committee considers the assessments to be valid, reliable and transparent. Furthermore, the committee supports the convenor's approach to test students' understanding of the issues addressed in the compulsory module.

The committee reviewed a sample of ten dissertations and considers each of these to be of sufficient academic quality. Apart from reading many (high/good) quality dissertations, the committee also noticed that students with lower marks had difficulties in either formulating an adequate research question or in building an argumentation based on the research findings. Students are satisfied with the extensive and qualitative support they receive from their supervisors. More than 90% of the students who enrol on the programme eventually complete it. Notwithstanding the economic crisis, International Relations graduates continue to find suitable employment in line with the level and orientation of their studies, for instance as PhD researchers, at non-profit organisations (Network of European Foundations in Brussels, Forsvarets Forskningsinstitut in Oslo) or the European Commission.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 4 – Opzet en organisatie van de interne kwaliteitszorg

De commissie beoordeelt het gerealiseerd eindniveau als voldoende.

The Brussels School of International Studies follows the internal quality assurance provisions of the University of Kent. The composition and tasks of the Board of Studies differ somewhat from 'Opleidingscommissies' at Flemish universities, but its members are competent, according to the committee. Students are represented on the Board, but could do with a more prominent and visible role. Individual module evaluations are comprehensive and constitute a useful complement to more informal evaluations. The committee appreciates that student concerns are taken seriously and that issues arising from either formal evaluations or informal discussions are addressed swiftly. The committee noticed that the network of individual staff members has expanded over the years, which in turn creates more opportunities for academic and professional cooperation, as well as for

Pagina 3 van 9 students to spend time studying, researching or working outside BSIS. Alumni, however, deserve further attention of the programmes, as they are not structurally involved in quality assurance yet.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft alle aanbevelingen van de commissie.

Bevindingen NVAO

De NVAO komt tot de volgende vaststellingen:

- De externe beoordeling is opgesteld en onderbouwd volgens overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Kader voor de opleidingsaccreditatie 2de ronde (8 februari 2013);
- De visitatiecommissie heeft voor de externe beoordeling het door de QANU vastgestelde visitatieprotocol gevolgd;
- De externe beoordeling verschaft inzicht in de samenstelling van de visitatiecommissie;
- De externe beoordeling bevat een onderzoek ten gronde naar de aanwezigheid van voldoende generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen.

betreffende de accreditatie van de Master in International Relations (master) van de University of Kent.

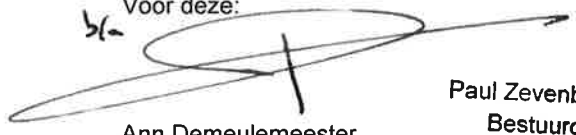
De NVAO,
Na beraadslaging,
Besluit:

Met toepassing van de Codex Hoger Onderwijs, in het bijzonder de artikelen II.133-II.149, besluit de NVAO accreditatie te verlenen aan de opleiding Master in International Relations (master) georganiseerd door de University of Kent. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Brussel met volgende afstudeerrichtingen: politieke wetenschappen, internationale politiek. De kwaliteit van de opleiding is voldoende.

De in het eerste lid bedoelde accreditatie geldt – overeenkomstig artikel II.147§2 van de Codex Hoger Onderwijs – vanaf 1 oktober 2014 tot en met 30 september 2022.

Den Haag, 22 oktober 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:


Ann Demeulemeester
(vicevoorzitter)

Paul Zevenbergen
Bestuurder

¹ Het ontwerp van accreditatiebesluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Van deze gelegenheid heeft de instelling geen gebruik gemaakt.

Pagina 5 van 9 **Bijlage 1: Globale oordelen NVAO**

De onderstaande tabel geeft per generieke kwaliteitswaarborg het globaal oordeel van de NVAO weer, alsook het eindoordeel.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg	Oordeel
1. Beoogd eindniveau	V
2. Onderwijsproces	V
3. Gerealiseerd eindniveau	V
4. Opzet en organisatie van de interne kwaliteitszorg.	V
Eindoordeel	V

Naam instelling	University of Kent
Adres instelling	Boulevard de la Plaine 5 B-1050 BRUSSELS België
Aard instelling	geregistreerd
Naam associatie	Niet van toepassing
Naam opleiding (Graad, kwalificatie, specificatie)	Master in International Relations
Niveau een oriëntatie	Master
Bijkomende titel	geen
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	– Political Science, International Politics – geen
Onderwijstaal	Engels
Vestiging(en) opleiding	Brussel
Studieomvang (in studiepunten)	90 of 120 EC
Vervaldatum accreditatie, tijdelijke erkenning of erkenning nieuwe opleiding	30 september 2014
Academieja(a)r(en) waarin opleiding wordt aangeboden	2013-2014
(Delen van) studiegebied(en)	Politieke en sociale wetenschappen
ISCED benaming van het studiegebied	Social sciences, journalism and information / Social and behavioural sciences

On completion of the MA in International Relations students will be expected to have developed and demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- historical and theoretical issues at the forefront of the discipline of international relations, together with familiarity with appropriate bibliographical sources;
- the epistemological and methodological principles in their application to the study of international relations;
- key ontological, theoretical, and methodological problems of international relations;
- current challenges to international order, cooperation, identity, social formations, and global issues, and possible strategies to address them;
- the changing role of the state in the context of globalisation and regional integration and the implications for international peace and security;
- how to carry out an independent research project and write in a scholarly manner demonstrating familiarity with academic conventions deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly.

In addition they will be expected to have achieved the following Skills and Other Attributes:

Intellectual skills:

- general research skills, especially bibliographic and computing skills;
- gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources;
- identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems;
- develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement;
- reflect on, and manage, their own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback from peers and staff to enhance their performance and personal skills,
- manage their own learning self-critically.

Subject-specific skills:

- applying concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations, the analysis of political events, ideas, institutions and practices;
- evaluating different interpretations of political issues and events;
- describing, evaluating and applying different approaches to collecting, analysing and presenting political information;
- developing a good understanding of the main epistemological issues relative to research in the social sciences, including some major theoretical and epistemological debates in the social sciences, such as explanation of and understanding the differences between positivist, realist and other accounts of social science and the practical implications of the major alternative philosophical positions in the social sciences for research.

Transferable skills:

- **Communication:** communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing (including, where appropriate, the use of IT); organise information clearly and coherently; use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information;
- **Information technology:** produce written documents; undertake online research; communicate using e-mail; process information using databases;

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- Working with others: define and review the work of others; work co-operatively on group asks; understand how groups function; collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals;
 - Improving own learning: explore personal strengths and weaknesses; time management; review working environment (especially student-staff relationship); develop autonomy in learning; work independently, demonstrating initiative and self-organisation. Important research management skills include the setting of appropriate timescales for different stages of the research with clear starting and finishing dates (through a dissertation); presentation of a clear statement of the purposes and expected results of the research; and developing appropriate means of estimating and monitoring resources and use of time;
 - Problem solving: identify and define problems; explore alternative solutions and discriminate between them;
 - Personal career development: students are encouraged to manage their own career progression and development proactively and are supported in developing skills in researching and retrieving information on opportunities for employment and continuing personal and career development.

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. Pierre Vercauteren, is Vice-Dean of the faculty of economic, social, political and communication sciences of the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) in Mons;

Leden:

- Prof. dr. Arild Saether, is emeritus professor at the University of Agder, Kristiansand in Norway;
- Drs. Ron Ton, is director of the Clingendael Academy, which is part of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' in The Hague;
- Drs. Freya Baetens, is director of Studies at Leiden University College (LUC), head of the LUC Research Centre and Assistant Professor at the Europe Institute of the Leiden Law School;
- Tessa Baeck MA (student-lid), has degrees in Political Sciences, Comparative and International Politics and EU studies from the universities of Leuven and Ghent.

De commissie werd ondersteund door Mark Delmartino MA, secretaris.