

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

Samenvattend oordeel van de visitatiecommissie

datum	De visitatiecommissie (hierna commissie) heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding Master in International Political Economy (master) voldoet aan alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen.
22 oktober 2014	
onderwerp	Ze beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.
Accreditatiebesluit	
(003051)	<i>Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd niveau</i>
bijlage	De commissie beoordeelt het beoogd eindniveau als voldoende.
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The MA in International Political Economy addresses the geopolitical and social transformation fostered by intensified trans-national economic integration. 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 Political Economy 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 explicitly on bringing together the disciplines of politics, law and economics to better understand the issues in the field of international political economy. 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 two compulsory modules, four 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 programme is coordinated in close cooperation with the LLM programme in International Economic Law, and its curriculum is composed of politics, economics, law and sociology modules. Moreover, Brussels-based policy practitioners are involved as teachers, tutors and guest-lecturers. On the basis of a 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. Currently, the programme is open to students with a variety of first cycle backgrounds. Because students with no/hardly any previous

Pagina 2 van 9 background in the subject seem to experience more difficulties in understanding all materials, the committee suggests the programme to consider sharpening the entry requirements admitting only students with a reasonable background in economics and politics. This suggestion, however, does not affect the overall positive appreciation of the committee regarding the quality of the individual modules or their alignment with the intended learning outcomes.

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. The committee also 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. Students with lower marks on their dissertation usually had difficulties in either formulating an adequate research question or building an argumentation based on the research findings. However, any possible weakness in disciplinary know-how at the start of the programme seems to have been repaired by the time students deliver the dissertation. Students, moreover, 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 Political Economy graduates continue to find suitable employment in line with the level and orientation of their studies, for instance as consultant or at international organisations such as the UN or EFTA.

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

Pagina 3 van 9 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 student placement. 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 Political Economy (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 Political Economy (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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ann Demeulemeester', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, the letters 'b/c' are written in a smaller, lighter hand.

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.

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

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

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 Political Economy
Niveau een oriëntatie	master
Bijkomende titel	geen
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	– politieke wetenschappen, internationale politiek – 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 Political Economy students will be expected to have developed and demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- key historical and philosophical issues in the development of the global economy, together with familiarity with appropriate bibliographical sources;
- how to apply general theoretical and conceptual frameworks to the analysis of specific issues and problems in domestic, regional, and international settings;
- how to utilise qualitative and quantitative research methods and evaluate critically their application in the scholarly literature and in policy papers;
- how to design and conduct a research project demonstrating awareness of epistemological and methodological principles appropriate to the subject of that research project;
- the nature of political, economic, social and technological problems, their emergence and dynamics;
- the effect of global economic, political and social processes on development, both in national and international perspective;
- how to design and write a substantial scholarly paper demonstrating familiarity with academic and professional conventions.

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.

Subject-specific skills:

- understand the different uses for theory in International Political Economy and develop an individual stance on the appropriate application of theory;
- apply concepts, theories and methods used in International Political Economy to contemporary issues and problems;
- evaluate the interrelationships between the literatures and methodologies of International Political Economy and related disciplines, such as law, political theory, economics, sociology and history;
- describe, evaluate and apply different approaches to collecting, analysing and presenting social and technical information.

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 tasks; 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.