

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Water Management van de UNESCO - IHE

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	: UNESCO - IHE
23 juli 2013	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Water Management (106 ECTS)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 27 december 2012
Definitief besluit	Variant opleiding	: Voltijd
accreditatie wo-master	Afstudeerrichtingen	: Water Quality Management
Water Management van de		Water Resources Management
UNESCO - IHE		Water Services Management
(001380)		Water Conflict Management
uw kenmerk	Locatie opleiding	: Delft
EB-008-BFA	Datum goedkeuren	
ons kenmerk	panel	: 22 mei 2012
NVAO/20132486/ND	Datum locatiebezoeken	: 17 t/m 19 september 2012
bijlagen	Datum visitatierapport	: 11 december 2012
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Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg : aangemeld en geaccepteerd voor het invoeringsregime van de instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg als bedoeld in artikel 18.32 b en c van de WHW

Aanvullende informatie

De NVAO heeft de instelling op 15 mei 2013 telefonisch om aanvullende informatie gevraagd over de gehanteerde toelatingsvoorwaarden en over enkele kwantitatieve gegevens. Bij e-mails van 16 en 30 mei 2013 heeft de NVAO de aanvullende informatie ontvangen.

Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2010, nr 21523).

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het visitatierapport en de aanvullende informatie deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding voldoende heeft bevonden.

Via opgevraagde, aanvullende informatie heeft de instelling naar tevredenheid van de NVAO een nadere toelichting gegeven bij de gehanteerde toelatingscriteria voor de opleiding.

Inlichtingen

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Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel (the committee).

The judgement of the assessment committee is based on information provided in the critical reflection, a sample of theses, additional documentation provided during the site visit and interviews conducted with staff, students and graduates of the programme. During its assessment, the committee noted positive aspects as well as ones which could be improved. Taking these aspects into consideration, the committee decided that the programme in Water Management fulfills the requirements set by the NVAO for accreditation.

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes

UNESCO-IHE is a development oriented institute of higher education and the Master Water Management is one of the four master's programmes offered to mid-career professionals from around the world. Water Management is an interdisciplinary field, combining and integrating natural and social sciences. It offers four specialisations: Water Quality Management (offered together with the master's programme in Environmental Sciences), Water Resources Management, Water Services Management and Water Conflict Management. An international benchmark has been executed by the programme and shows that the contents of the programme are in line with other programmes in the Netherlands and Europe, but that its special niche is the target group of mid-career professionals, its development orientation and the diverse background of the students who enrol in this programme (a large part are BA graduates in public administration, law or economy).

The learning objectives of the programme specify the acquirement of scientific knowledge and understanding of natural and social sciences, the application of this knowledge in engineering and management contexts, the ability to conduct research on the basis of a good research plan and appropriate methodologies, and the skills to communicate the results of research to colleagues and stakeholders, both orally and in writing. The formulation of the intended learning outcomes testifies to its ability to successfully navigate between applied and academic science. The consequential hybrid character of the programme is distinctive and challenging and considered most appropriate for a field such as Water Management. The committee therefore assesses the first standard as good.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The curriculum consists of 106 ECTS and runs over 18 months. The programme follows a modular structure, each module having a duration of three weeks and a study load of 5 EC. It has four distinct phases: Foundation, Specialisation, Integration and Research. The institute has used the T-shape model in designing the curriculum. In this model the vertical bar of the letter T represents the in-depth knowledge of the main discipline and the horizontal bar reflects the basic knowledge of adjacent disciplines. The students appreciate the effect of the programme in first broadening their scope and then focusing again.

The didactical concept of the Water Management programme is student-centred and aims to stimulate the student's independent and active learning attitude and intellectual growth. The learning objectives are described in clear module sheets. Each module uses a variety of teaching and assessment methods, depending on the goal of the course. This may include laboratory work, lectures, self-study, field trips, small group assignments and individual exams. Lectures are given by UNESCO-IHE staff and by guest lecturers who provide additional theoretical expertise and examples from the professional field.

Pagina 3 van 8 The committee suggests that as the number of guest lecturers is large the programme should pay careful attention to their briefing and coordination.

Students find the study load demanding. A large volume of material has to be covered and the material addresses a wide range of disciplines. Since many students have not been in class for years, it makes it more demanding. Especially the work on the research project is difficult for many students because only few of them have a research background. However, it is noted that the guidance and supervision during the research phase are intensive to give the students the necessary support.

The academic staff is well-qualified academically and professionally, and has good teaching skills. They are also highly committed. Their international background and experience fit the scope of the programme and the contexts of the students. For additional input guest lecturers are called upon. The Student Office offers non-academic support in a proactive manner and well-coordinated with the academic support by the Programme Coordinator and the Specialisation Coordinator. The committee recommends to establish for each incoming student a 'portfolio' with his/her initial motivation and career plan, which should be discussed and updated as needed, preferably with a unique mentor from the start.

The committee recognises the often intricate selection of the right candidates with the correct background. It recommends therefore to explore the possibilities for on-line preparation and self-learning opportunities through the e-Campus development. The committee acknowledges the effort to balance the appropriate level of the curriculum and its necessary flexibility within the constraints of the duration of the programme. The committee suggests to look into the possibility of offering a programme of 120 EC for all students and granting credits to incoming students with professional experience, comparable with an internship of 6 months.

The curriculum clearly reflects the T-shaped concept. For selected students with a BA background a special effort to prepare them prior to their arrival in Delft is highly recommended. The group work approach is a useful way to prepare future water leaders to face real-life problems. This approach as well as most of the curriculum allows for good interaction among students. An international exposure is given in field trips and site visits. The institute has well-staffed specific services and good facilities. The committee welcomes very much the vision of the Programme Committee to move towards a programme without distinctive specialisations, with a maximum flexibility to students based on their individual portfolio. The committee therefore assesses the second standard as good.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes

The committee established that the assessment system of the UNESCO-IHE functions well. Good control mechanisms ensure that work is systematically and consistently graded. The committee further found the variety of assessment methods to be appropriate but with a predominance of written exams. More oral exams could contribute to the training of the students in communication skills. The examination structure has clearly been tailored to the intended learning outcomes of the programme. The committee especially appreciates the system of blind marking, the involvement of external assessors for the thesis and the principle that marks for a module or the thesis should not deviate too strongly from an 'average' mark. The assessment system has strong checks and balances and the assessments are transparent, valid and reliable.

Pagina 4 van 8 The committee studied a representative sample of the Water Management theses. In most cases the committee agreed with the mark given by the thesis committees, but for a number of interdisciplinary theses the committee would have given a higher mark. The committee

suggests to include an examiner, fully external to the Institute, in all theses committees. All theses met the minimum requirements for academic quality and some were at a much higher level. On this basis the committee concludes that the master's programme Water Management graduates have achieved the intended learning outcomes of an academic master. The positive effect of the master's programme was confirmed by the alumni with whom the committee met. The committee therefore assesses the third standard as satisfactory.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de adviezen van het panel om:

- te onderzoeken of studenten niet voorafgaand aan de start van hun opleiding kunnen worden aangezet tot studie om de behoorlijke verschillen tussen studenten in de beginfase van de opleiding te verkleinen;
- de relatie tussen de beoordelingscriteria van de afstudeerwerken en de eindkwalificaties inzichtelijk te maken;
- gewichten toe te kennen aan de beoordelingscriteria van de masterthesis;
- de inzet van gastdocenten inhoudelijk sterker te coördineren.

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de UNESCO - IHE te Delft in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 10 juni 2013 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 18 juli 2013 heeft het college van bestuur ingestemd met het voornemen tot besluit.

Op grond van het voorgaande besluit de NVAO accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Water Management (106 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Delft) van de UNESCO - IHE te Delft. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Water Quality Management, Water Resources Management, Water Services Management, Water Conflict Management. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 1 januari 2014 en is van kracht tot en met 31 december 2016 (2019)¹.

Den Haag, 23 juli 2013

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Lucien Bollaert
(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.

¹ Gelet op het bepaalde in artikel 18.32c, derde lid, van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (Wet HWO) bedraagt de geldigheidsduur van de accreditatietermijn van de opleiding maximaal drie jaar zolang de instelling nog niet beschikt over een positieve instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg. Zodra de instellingstoets is verkregen, wordt de accreditatietermijn verlengd naar zes jaar.

Onderwerp	Standaard	Beoordeling door het panel
		<i>voltijd</i>
1. Beoogde eindkwalificaties	De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen	G
2. Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	G
3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd	V
Eindoordeel		V

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

Tabel 1: Rendement.

Cohort	2009	2010
Rendement	82%	85%

Tabel 2: Docentkwaliteit.

Graad	PhD	BKO
Percentage inclusief gastdocenten	78%	

Tabel 3: Student-docentratio.

Ratio	1:10,5
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Tabel 4: Contacturen.

Studiejaar	1 en 2
Contacturen	620 uren voor het onderwijsdeel en 50 uren begeleiding in de afstudeerfase

- Prof. dr. André van der Beken (chair), emeritus professor, Free University Brussels, Belgium;
- Prof. ing. Janos Bogardi, professor in Water Resources at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Bonn, Germany;
- Academician Dipak Gyawali, professor at the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Nepal;
- Prof. dr. Rivka Kfir, extraordinary professor Microbiology and Plant Pathology and senior advisor at the Water Institute, University of Pretoria, South Africa;
- Prof. dr. Grietje Zeeman, professor in New Sanitation at Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR), the Netherlands;
- Franca Kramer BSc, master student of Water Management at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands.

Het panel werd ondersteund door dr. Marianne van der Weiden, secretaris (gecertificeerd).