

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

Samenvattend oordeel van de visitatiecommissie

datum	De visitatiecommissie (hierna commissie) heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding LLM in
22 oktober 2014	International Law with International Relations (master) voldoet aan alle generieke
onderwerp	kwaliteitswaarborgen. Ze beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.
Accreditatiebesluit	
(003052)	<i>Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd niveau</i>
bijlage	De commissie beoordeelt het beoogd eindniveau als voldoende.
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The LLM in International Law with International Relations aims to provide a level of integration among two disciplines that will allow each domain to be informed by the other. 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 studies in International Law with International Relations in either the UK or Flanders, the committee established that the learning outcomes of the programme are formulated adequately for its purpose as initial master programme of academic orientation. The programme considers the theoretical bases of international law and enables students to understand and evaluate public international law and its role, potential and limitations in international affairs. The committee, moreover, considers that the intended learning outcomes reflect the requirements of the discipline in an international perspective. Graduates from this programme are likely to find suitable employment according to the committee, as there is a significant demand for professionals with a legal qualification outside the traditional legal professions.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 2 - onderwijsproces

De commissie beoordeelt het onderwijsproces als voldoende.

The one-year programme (90 ECTS, 1800 study hours) consists of four law modules, two international relations modules 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 committee noticed that modules often overlap with the MA programme in International Relations. On the basis of the indications set by the respective programmes, it is possible to tailor a curriculum that is identical for five out of six taught modules. Furthermore, the committee points to the different situations in England and Flanders with regard to awarding LLM degrees to

Pagina 2 van 9 students with no or hardly any previous background in law. The committee therefore invites the Programme to consider awarding such students an MA rather than an LLM degree. With regard to the contents of the curriculum, the committee has no reservations on the quality of the individual modules or on the alignment of their learning goals with the overall programme objectives and learning outcomes. On the contrary, the programme addresses an interesting niche in the field of international studies, as well as a specific need of students who choose this programme out of academic interest, potential professional career opportunities, or a combination of both.

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 key assessment product invariably being an essay, the committee suggests the programme to diversify its assessment within and across modules.

The committee reviewed a sample of ten dissertations and considers each of these to be of sufficient academic quality. The dissertation topics are very much in line with the focus of the programme. 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. The approach in all cases reflected the core discipline (Law) of the LLM programme. 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, graduates in International Law with International Relations continue to find suitable employment in line with the level and orientation of their studies, e.g. as legal officer with the special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague, as director of the Forest Legislation Initiative in London, or as programme manager with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Brussels.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 4 – Opzet en organisatie van de interne kwaliteitszorg

De commissie beoordeelt het gerealiseerd eindniveau als voldoende.

Pagina 3 van 9 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 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, in het bijzonder om de toelatingseisen aan te scherpen.

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 LLM in International Law with 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 LLM in International Law with International Relations (master) georganiseerd door de University of Kent. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Brussel met volgende afstudeerrichtingen: politieke wetenschappen, internationale politiek, publiek recht. 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	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)	LLM in International Law with International Relations
Niveau een oriëntatie	master
Bijkomende titel	Geen
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	– politieke wetenschappen, internationale politiek, publiek recht – 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 Business, Administration and Law / Law

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

- the institutions and structures of public international law, and the interrelationships between these;
- the key concepts, policy issues, principles, and relevant sources of public international law and relevant international relations;
- the substantive law relevant to a range of key areas of public international law;
- the theoretical perspectives and academic debates which underlie the substantive areas of public international law;
- the practical contexts in which the law operates;
- the importance of evaluating public international law alongside its theoretical and practical contexts; and
- the relationship and interrelationship between public international law theory and practice, and international relations theory and practice.
- 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:

- effectively apply the knowledge of public international law and international relations theory to a wide range of situations where relevant practical or theoretical issues are under consideration;
- evaluate issues according to their context, relevance and importance;
- gather relevant information and access key sources by electronic or other means;
- formulate arguments on central issues and areas of controversy, and be able to present a reasoned opinion based upon relevant materials;
- recognise potential alternative arguments, and contrary evidence, to a student's own opinion and present a reasoned justification for preference;
- demonstrate an independence of mind and ability to offer critical challenge to received understanding on particular issues; reflect constructively on their learning progression.

Subject-specific skills:

- identify and characterise issues of public international law which arise in practical situations;
- research and access the main sources of law and policy which are relevant;
- appreciate and evaluate the main theoretical and political perspectives that underlie the legal provisions and the perspectives of international relations;
- provide a reasoned and justified opinion as to possible legal consequences in particular circumstances;
- be aware of the limitations of present knowledge and matters needing to be resolved by further research;
- utilise research skills to commence further research into unresolved issues.

Pagina 8 van 9 Transferable skills:

- identify relevant issues from potentially complex factual situations;
- undertake research from a diverse range of sources;
- summarise detailed and complex bodies of information concisely and accurately;
- formulate arguments in verbal presentations and defend these against opposing views;
- present information and arguments in written form, in accordance with academic conventions, and appropriately to the intended readership;
- evaluate personal performance.

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.