

Besluit Toetsingsrapport met een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag 'Toets nieuwe opleidingen' van de opleiding Bachelor in International and European Law (academisch gerichte bachelor) van Vesalius College

datum	Samenvattend advies van de visitatiecommissie
25 september 2014	
onderwerp	"Vesalius College is a private not-for-profit association closely associated to the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. It provides English-language American-style education to about 300 students enrolled for bachelor and master programmes or spending a study period abroad in Brussels. Currently its bachelor programmes in Communication, Business and International Affairs are accredited by NVAO, as well as the Master's in European Union Policy.
Toetsingsrapport en -besluit TNO (002668)	
bijlage	
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The application concerns a three-year full-time bachelor programme of academic orientation covering the major legal sources, concepts and terminology of international and European law. Its purpose is to create non-lawyer legal specialists, i.e. Liberal Arts minded students who have a strong interest and background in international and European law.

The discussions on site with the various programme stakeholders have convinced the panel that the new BAIEL programme is developed to such extent that it can be launched now and implemented as of September 2014. Although the panel has noted that there is some room for further improvement / development, it considers that the new programme fulfils in a satisfactory way all four quality standards set by the NVAO assessment framework for Flanders.

First of all, the panel considers that the learning outcomes of the BAIEL comply with the requirements of a programme at bachelor level with academic orientation. Moreover, the panel recognises and appreciates that Vesalius College offers an extra-ordinary education opportunity - combining elements of international and European law with a Liberal Arts orientation - that differs from more traditional law curricula and reflects current changes in the legal profession.

Secondly, the BAIEL programme is new as such but also very similar to three other bachelor programmes at Vesalius College. The panel sees the added value of the BAIEL and considers that this new curriculum shall impact positively on existing students and attract additional students. The future BAIEL students from their side will benefit from the existing courses on business, communication and international affairs. Moreover, the new programme can rely on committed staff, extensive facilities and services, embedded in a highly appreciated teaching context of American style small-scale intensive education.

Pagina 2 van 7 The panel, moreover, considers that Vesalius College is using a common sense approach to assessment, which will also be adopted in the new BAIEL programme. In this respect, the panel thinks highly of some of the college's key evaluation features: the involvement of an external examiner, the diversity of assessments, the feedback to students and the organisation of mid-term exams.

Finally, the panel is very positive about the quality assurance system which is currently in place at Vesalius College and considers it will be a very useful tool to monitor and where necessary improve the quality of the new BAIEL programme. The panel, moreover, considers that the Vesalius College representatives involved in quality assurance are well prepared for their tasks.

During the assessment exercise, the panel also identified two areas for improvement. First of all, the applicant has to give more consideration on how the Liberal Arts component of the BAIEL programme can become an integral part of the curriculum of each individual student. Secondly, the panel advises Vesalius College to formalise in due course the evaluation procedures and issue a comprehensive assessment policy applicable to all programmes, including the new BAIEL. According to the panel, these reservations should be considered as strong incentives for immediate action. As such, however, the recommendations do not jeopardise the start-up or implementation of the first year of the BAIEL programme in the academic year 2014-2015.

In view of the above considerations, **the panel suggests that NVAO takes a positive decision** regarding the quality of the new Bachelor of Arts in International and European Law of Vesalius College Brussels.

Overzicht oordelen van de commissie

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg	Oordeel
1 Beoogd eindniveau	Voldoende
2 Onderwijsproces	Voldoende
3 Evaluatie	Voldoende
4 Kwaliteitszorg	Voldoende
Eindoordeel	Voldoende

Aanbevelingen commissie

De commissie doet de volgende aanbevelingen:

- Het liberal arts karakter van de opleiding nog beter gestalte te geven binnen het curriculum van de individuele student;
- Het toetsbeleid verder te formaliseren en daarbij in het bijzonder aandacht te besteden aan het vier-ogen principe voor alle summatieve toetsing en individuele beoordeling van studenten bij het Capstone project.

De NVAO stelt op basis van het adviesrapport van de commissie vast dat de externe beoordeling overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Toetsingskader nieuwe opleidingen hoger onderwijs Vlaanderen 2de ronde (25 januari 2013) tot stand is gekomen. De gevolgde werkwijze en procedure, alsook de geraadpleegde informatiebronnen zijn helder weergegeven.

De oordelen op de generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen zijn in het adviesrapport voldoende onderbouwd en overwogen en op zorgvuldige wijze neergelegd in een eindoordeel. De NVAO kan zich dan ook aansluiten bij de bevindingen en overwegingen voor alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen, zoals verwoord in het adviesrapport. De eindconclusie uit het adviesrapport wordt gevolgd.

De commissie heeft verklaard dat de voorgestelde domeinspecifieke leerresultaten in overeenstemming zijn met de niveaudecriptoren van het niveau 7 uit de Vlaamse kwalificatiestructuur.

De commissie adviseert de NVAO om de domeinspecifieke leerresultaten te valideren. De domeinspecifieke leerresultaten bevatten die elementen die van belang zijn voor het kunnen begrijpen van de juridische aspecten van internationale en Europese organisaties en voor het kunnen opereren binnen deze organisaties. De NVAO neemt het positieve advies van de commissie over.

Betreffende de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Bachelor in International and European Law (academisch gerichte bachelor) van de Vesalius College.

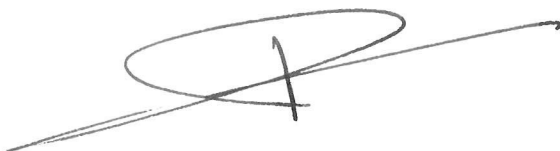
De NVAO,
Na beraadslaging
Besluit:

Met toepassing van de Codex Hoger Onderwijs, in het bijzonder Art. II.153 besluit de NVAO tot een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Bachelor in International and European Law (academisch gerichte bachelor) van de Vesalius College. Het betreft een opleiding zonder afstudeerrichtingen die te Brussel wordt georganiseerd.

Tevens valideert de NVAO de domeinspecifieke leerresultaten van de opleiding Bachelor in International and European Law.

Den Haag, 25 september 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:



R.P. Zevenbergen
(bestuurder)

¹ Het ontwerp van toetsingsrapport en –besluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. De instelling heeft geen opmerkingen en/of bezwaren geformuleerd op het ontwerp van toetsingsrapport – en besluit

Institution	Vesalius College Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussel www.vesalius.edu
Status	Private not-for-profit organisation (vzw) under Belgian law registered with the Flemish authorities as an institution of higher education
Contact person	Bert Mosselmans, Dean +32 2 614 81 74 bert.mosselmans@vub.ac.be
Programme	Bachelor of Arts in International and European Law (BAIEL)
Level and orientation	Academic Bachelor
Field(s) of study	Law and Liberal Arts
Variants	N.A.
Language of instruction	English
Location(s)	Brussels
Study load	180 EC (3 years @ 60 EC)
New programme	Yes, both in Flanders and for Vesalius College
Perspectives	BAIEL is a BA degree similar to pre-law degrees in UK/US. Its purpose is to create legal non-lawyer specialists, liberal arts minded students with a strong interest and background in international and European law. It prepares students for an international career in business, civil society or politics where legal aspects play an increasingly important role. Students can reportedly move to initial LLM programmes in Europe, Law Schools in the US or certain MA programmes. BAIEL explicitly does not offer a Belgian law degree that provides access to the bar.

General learning outcomes

- 1/ Provide students with a solid foundation in the knowledge of the substantive rules and principles of both international and European law
- 2/ Offer a specialised legal education and training
- 3/ Inject multidisciplinary talent into the legal profession
- 4/ Ensure that students further their studies in the legal discipline
- 5/ Offer students the opportunity to study international and European law
- 6/ Expose students to a wide spectrum of disciplinary approaches to legal study
- 7/ Learn in English

Learning outcomes at cognitive level

- 1/ Acquire knowledge of terminology and concepts of international and European law
- 2/ Gain an understanding of the international system and the European integration process
- 3/ Develop a working knowledge of international law-making
- 4/ Become familiar with the European institutions and the decision-making processes

Learning outcomes at skills level

- 1/ Independently analyse the interplay between international and European law
- 2/ Transpose an analysis of rules and events into a scientifically sound and feasible research project
- 3/ Use appropriate research methods and tools in the framework of independent research projects
- 4/ Gain knowledge of and practice with electronic information sources on international and European law
- 5/ Effectively communicate the acquired knowledge and the outcome of research projects
- 6/ Collaborate with others in group work
- 7/ Develop intercultural communication skills
- 8/ Further develop English language skills, both written and oral

Learning outcomes at attitudinal level

- 1/ Stimulate critical attitude
- 2/ Awareness of the normative dimension of international and European legal policies

1. Jan Smits (voorzitter) is Professor in Europees (privaat) recht aan de Universiteit van Maastricht en prof. of Comparative legal studies aan de Universiteit van Helsinki;
2. Prof. dr. Hans van Hout is onderwijskundige, em Hoogleraar Onderwijskunde, oud-directeur IOWO en nam deel aan het panel voor kleinschalig en intensief onderwijs;
3. Dr. E. de Brabandere is Universitair Docent in internationaal recht aan de Universiteit Leiden;
4. Lize van Dyck is student aan Wageningen University, waar ze een masteropleiding Environmental Sciences volgt.

De commissie werd bijgestaan door:

Jetse Siebenga, beleidsmedewerker NVAO, procescoördinator;

Mark Delmartino MA, is eigenaar van MDM-consultancy, secretaris.

Alle commissieleden, de procescoördinator en de secretaris hebben een onafhankelijkheids- en geheimhoudingsverklaring en ondertekend waarmee zij tevens instemmen met de NVAO gedragscode.