

Besluit **Toetsingsrapport en –besluit met een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag ‘Toets Nieuwe Opleiding’ van de opleiding Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (joint degree) (master na master) van de College of Europe en The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University**

datum 11 mei 2017
onderwerp Toetsingsrapport en -besluit TNO (005145)
bijlagen 2

Samenvattend advies van de visitatiecommissie
De visitatiecommissie (hierna: the panel) die de Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (joint degree) (master na master) van de College of Europe en The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University heeft beoordeeld, brengt een positief advies uit aan de NVAO. Zij baseert haar oordeel op het informatiedossier, het materiaal dat tijdens het locatiebezoek ter inzage lag en de gesprekken die tijdens het locatiebezoek zijn gevoerd.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd eindniveau
De commissie beoordeelt het beoogd eindniveau als voldoende.

In the 21st century, the US and the European Union (EU) face increasingly complex political, economic and societal challenges which – given their common interests and shared values – they best address in common. A genuine transatlantic degree aimed at the preparation of future leaders in transatlantic affairs in a broad sense seems very timely given the increased interest in transatlantic relations. Therefore, The College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium) and Natolin (Warsaw, Poland) in collaboration with The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, in Medford (greater Boston area, USA) intend to seek initial accreditation for the proposed joint degree “Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs” (MATA). This degree would constitute the first joint degree of both partner institutions, bringing together the world’s first higher education institute of postgraduate studies in European affairs (founded in 1949) and the first graduate-only school of international affairs in the United States (founded in 1933).

By achieving the learning outcomes, graduates of this study programme will be prepared for careers in positions of leadership in a variety of areas – ranging from international and national public sector functions to responsibilities in the private and not-for-profit sectors –, with an international outlook and capable of dealing with cross-border issues in a multidimensional way. The focus of the programme is on *affairs* rather than *relations*. The panel was pleased to learn that there is a close link between the professional field and the institutes, which is in line with the professional focus of the master’s programme. However, it also strongly recommends to keep options open for students who aim for an academic career and is positive about the mentioned doctorate programme with Fletcher School.

Pagina 2 van 7 The panel concluded that the professional level of intended learning outcomes of the master's programme is according to international standards. Overall with respect to level, orientation and content, the panel considers the intended exit level reflects the current requirements that are set for the programme at an advanced master's level from a professional and international perspective.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 2 – Onderwijsleeromgeving

De commissie beoordeelt de onderwijsleeromgeving als voldoende.

The panel considers that the programme is built in a coherent way and the curriculum contents cover the envisaged learning outcomes.

Admission to the MATA programme requires at least four years of university studies and a final university degree comprising at least 240 ECTS (in, for example, international relations, political science, diplomatic studies, Law, Economics or Business Administration, European or American Studies or Contemporary history) and at least six months of relevant working experience. In addition, students should have a strong interest in transatlantic affairs and basic knowledge of the European Union and the US. Finally, the applicants need to demonstrate a very good mastery of the English language (C1).

The two-year MATA programme is an advanced master after master study programme, which will amount to 120 ECTS. The structure of the curriculum foresees a first year of studies at one of the two institutions. In either of the two scenarios, all MATA students follow an additional joint transatlantic course ("Transatlantic Affairs in the 21st Century"), during the first semester, and work with the other MATA students on a joint transatlantic project during the second semester. The second year of studies begins with a 3-4-month high-level internship during semester 3. The fourth and final semester is spent at the other institution. Regardless of whether students start the programme at the College of Europe or at The Fletcher School, they will be able to opt for internships in the United States or Europe, as long as these internships are related to transatlantic affairs. However, it is strongly recommended that the high-level internship is carried out on the side of the Atlantic where the MATA student will spend his or her last semester in order to ensure that each student spends one year on both sides.

The panel was impressed by the staff involved in the programme, both in terms of quality and quantity. Lecturers are invariably established experts in their own field, while support staff is dedicated to their tasks and very professional. According to the panel, the student will benefit from the good quality and services that are already available on both institutions. In sum, the panel concludes that a few months prior to the envisaged starting date of the master's programme, the curriculum contents have been developed to a large extent. The panel advises the programme management to pay specific attention to the organization of the compulsory internship as this may be quite a challenge. The Joint MATA Committee's and support staff's commitment for assisting students in finding a suitable internship convinced the panel that this challenge can be met.

De commissie beoordeelt het te realiseren eindniveau als voldoende.

According to the panel the assessment systems in the two institutions are comparable, compatible, and of high quality. The teaching staff is first in line to ensure the validity of an exam and is responsible to guarantee fairness and sufficient comparability. Although this requires constant attention, the panel believes this requirement is met through several ex ante and ex post methods of ensuring the validity and reliability of the assessment, even though these methods may differ for both institutions. Moreover, the panel is assured that students are able to receive feedback, that appeal is sufficiently possible and that the supervision and evaluation of the internship and MA thesis is well-organised. Specific attention is and must be paid to the joint elements involving co-examination and to the length of the thesis being in accordance with the chosen study track.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 4 – Opzet en organisatie van de interne kwaliteitszorg

De commissie beoordeelt de opzet en organisatie van de interne kwaliteitszorg als voldoende.

The panel considers the system for quality management to be up to standards. The information dossier already contained many provisional measures for the internal quality assurance. During the site visit the panel became convinced that the layered strategy for continuous monitoring and enhancement of the quality of the programme is solid. The direct accessibility of the (local) MATA Committees is advantageous for the students for direct and more informal feedback on the quality of the programme. Moreover, the panel has established that staff, students and the professional field are sufficiently involved in the internal quality assurance process. The panel appreciates the external peer review by means of a critical friends exercise and advises that this exercise should be organised soon after the start of the programme.

Overzicht oordelen van de commissie

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg	Oordeel
1 Beoogd eindniveau	Voldoende
2 Onderwijsleeromgeving	Voldoende
3 Te realiseren eindniveau	Voldoende
4 Opzet en organisatie van de interne kwaliteitszorg	Voldoende
Eindoordeel	Voldoende

Aanbevelingen commissie

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van de commissie.

De NVAO stelt op basis van het adviesrapport van de commissie vast dat de externe beoordeling overeenkomstig het toepasselijke 'Kader Toets Nieuwe Opleiding – Vlaanderen 2015-2021', zoals bekrachtigd door de Vlaamse regering op 28 mei 2015, 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.

Besluit

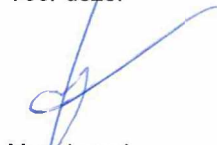
Betreffende de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (joint degree) (master na master) van de College of Europe en The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

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 Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (joint degree) (master na master) van de College of Europe en The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Brugge (België), Natolin (Polen) en Medford (Verenigde Staten van Amerika).

Den Haag, 11 mei 2017

De NVAO/
Voor deze:



Marc Luwel
(bestuurder)

Naam, adres, telefoon, e-mailadres, website instelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – College of Europe (<i>coordinating institution</i>) Dijver 11 B-8000 Bruges BELGIUM Tel.: +32 50 47 71 11 Fax: +32 50 47 71 10 Email: info.mata@coleurope.eu – The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University 160 Packard Avenue Medford, Massachusetts 02155 USA Tel.: +1 617-627-3700 Fax: +1 617-627-3712 Email: fletcheradmissions@tufts.edu
Status instelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public interest foundation (Fondation d'utilité publique / Stichting van openbaar nut) (registration number: 0409.518.855) – Private institution accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE)
Naam associatie	/
Naam, functie, telefoon, e-mail contactpersoon	<p>Prof. Dr. Dr. Jörg Monar Rector Tel.: +32 50 47 71 01 Email: rector@coleurope.eu</p>
Naam opleiding (graad, kwalificatie, specificatie)	Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs
Niveau en oriëntatie	Master after Master
Bijkomende titel	Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs
(Delen van) studiegebied(en)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – International and EU Law – History and Politics (US, EU and international) – International and European Economics
ISCED benaming van het studiegebied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 031 Social and behavioural sciences – 042 Law
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	/
Onderwijstaal	English (at the College of Europe, students who speak French may also choose courses taught in French)
Vestiging(en) opleiding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – College of Europe: campus Bruges, Belgium, or campus Natolin (Warsaw area), Poland

	-- The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University: Medford (greater Boston area), Massachusetts, USA
Studieomvang (in studiepunten)	120 EC
Nieuwe opleiding voor Vlaanderen	Ja

Pagina 7 van 7 **Bijlage 2 – Samenstelling visitatiecommissie**

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. M.H. Smith, Professor of European Politics, Loughborough University.

Leden:

- Prof. dr. P.J. Kuijper, Professor of the Law of International (Economic), Organizations at the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam (UvA);
- Prof. dr. M.O. Hosli, Professor of International Relations, Leiden University;
- L. de Potter d' Indoye (student), Master of Laws, King's College London – Master of Laws, KU Leuven.

De commissie werd bijgestaan door:

- Dagmar Provijn, beleidsmedewerker NVAO, procescoördinator;
- Liza Kozłowska, MA, beleidsmedewerker NVAO, secretaris.

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