

Besluit

Accreditierapport en -besluit met een positieve beoordeling van de accreditatieaanvraag voor de opleiding European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition (master) van de Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven, Dublin Institute for Technology, Hochschule Anhalt en Universidade Catholica Portuguesa – Escola Superior de Biotecnologica

onderwerp

Accreditierapport- en besluit
(000336)

bijlage

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1. Inleiding

Bij brief van 2 maart 2012 heeft het instellingsbestuur van de Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven te Gent een accreditatieaanvraag ingediend bij de Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO) voor de opleiding European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition (master). Deze aanvraag is ontvangen op 5 maart 2012 en ontvankelijk verklaard op 15 mei 2012.

De aanvraag betreft een *joint degree*-opleiding die wordt verzorgd door de Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven (KAHO), Dublin Institute for Technology (DIT), Hochschule Anhalt (HA) en Universidade Catholica Portuguesa – Escola Superior de Biotecnologica (UCP- ESB). Voor het gezamenlijk verzorgen van deze opleiding ontving het consortium in 2005 en 2010 een subsidie van de Europese Commissie in het kader van de *Erasmus Mundus*-programma's.

De accreditatieaanvraag steunt op het visitatierapport van een externe beoordeling uitgevoerd door een visitatiecommissie ingesteld door de Vlaamse Universiteiten- en Hogeschoolenraad (VLUHR).

De visitatiecommissie kende de volgende samenstelling:

Voorzitter:

- prof.dr. Guido Van Huylenbroeck, hoogleraar landbouw- en plattelandseconomie aan de Universiteit Gent (voorzitter)

Leden:

- prof.dr. ir. Harry Gruppen, hoogleraar Voedingstechnologie aan de Wageningen Universiteit
- prof.dr. Paul Hughes, hoogleraar bij het International Centre for Brewing and Distilling aan de Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh
- drs. Ton Kallenberg, hoofd van de stafafdeling Onderwijsonderzoek en Studentenzaken aan de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (onderwijsdeskundige);
- ms. Mai Nguyen Tuyet MSc, onderzoeksassistent en PhD-student aan het Laboratorium Voedseltechnologie van de Universiteit Gent (student-lid).

Secretaris:

- Mieke Beckers, kwaliteitszorgmedewerker bij de VLHORA.

2. Formele overwegingen

De NVAO komt tot de volgende vaststellingen:

- De externe beoordeling is opgesteld en onderbouwd overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Accreditatiekader bestaande opleidingen hoger onderwijs Vlaanderen van de NVAO en volgens de daarbij behorende beslisregels;
- De visitatiecommissie heeft voor de externe beoordeling het door de 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;
- De KAHO heeft desgevraagd aangegeven dat de accreditatieaanvraag is gedaan in het kader van de overgangsregeling academisering op grond van artikel 124 §9 van het Structuurdecreet.

Het *joint degree*-karakter van de gevisitieerde opleiding komt naar het oordeel van de NVAO voldoende tot uiting in het visitatierapport. Zo heeft de visitatiecommissie tijdens het visitatiebezoek op 19 en 20 mei 2011 in Gent van gedachten gewisseld met vertegenwoordigers (incl. docenten) van alle vier vestigingen van de opleiding. Het aandeel van de verschillende deelnemende instellingen in het programma wordt in het rapport duidelijk omschreven. De faciliteiten van alle vier instellingen zijn onderwerp van beoordeling geweest. Er is sprake van een gezamenlijk opleidingsmanagement en de visitatiecommissie meldt dat zij duidelijke bewijzen heeft aangetroffen van een goede integratie van de vier deelnemende instellingen bij de organisatie van het programma. Wel vindt de visitatiecommissie dat intensievere communicatie en afstemming gewenst is.

De NVAO is in het licht van het vorenstaande tot de slotsom gekomen dat de externe beoordeling over de voorliggende opleiding regelmatig en gedegen tot stand is gekomen.

3. Inhoudelijke overwegingen

De NVAO steunt haar inhoudelijke besluitvorming in hoofdzaak op de onderstaande elementen uit het (Engelstalige) visitatierapport.

Objectives

The panel finds that the objectives, which are based on the Dublin descriptors, are in accordance with the panel's own reference framework and with the Flemish Higher Education Act. All competences are formulated on master's level and represent a good mix of academic and professional skills. The panel appreciates that the programme successfully combines an academic and professional orientation. The self-evaluation report contains an elaborate description of the goals and intended learning outcomes of the programme. The panel, however, believes that the programme could benefit from a more focused and succinct list of competences that are aimed to. This would allow a more transparent evaluation of students' achievement of the learning outcomes. Moreover, the panel believes that

Pagina 3 van 10 the interrelationship between the various sets of competences (i.e. the general competences, the overall and the specific learning outcomes cited above) needs to be clarified.

The panel is of the opinion that the programme is clearly oriented towards a real demand from the labour market for international professionals in food science, technology and nutrition. All consortium partners have access to strong institutional networks with the labour market, allowing them to recognise the field-specific requirements. Although the panel is convinced that the programme has investigated related master's programmes in Europe, it advises the programme to take this comparison a step further (in a descriptive manner) by performing a real benchmarking exercise, which allows a focussed description of the programme's 'unique selling proposition'. It is the panel's conviction that a greater emphasis on these inherent quality characteristics – international student mobility between European higher education institutes with strong expertise in the various aspects of food science and technology - can help to emphasize the uniqueness of this master's programme in higher education.

Curriculum

Generally, the panel finds that the formulated objectives are adequately translated in the design of the master's programme. The curriculum design therefore allows students to attain the formulated qualifications. A competence matrix displaying the relationship between expected learning outcomes on the different modules has also been drawn up by the programme. The panel, however, thinks that this matrix should have a more discriminating character. It should be demonstrated more clearly in what way the module objectives are a translation or specification of the general objectives.

Various aspects contribute to the programme's academic orientation. The panel, however, believes that a more explicit consideration of research methodology in the compulsory part of the course would be beneficial for students. Moreover, the programme is also designed to prepare students to combine theoretical knowledge with skills and attitudes and to apply this knowledge in real situations. This is particularly the case for the optional modules, in which there is usually a direct link to industrial applications. The panel therefore concludes that the programme is adequately oriented towards the relevant practice and to the food industry. After having consulted the alumni, the panel recommends the inclusion of more practical work in the compulsory curriculum. The panel believes students need this, as most of them have to carry out practical work for their Master's thesis. The programme management recently included a professional competence semester in the curriculum. It explicitly aims to enhance education in industry related R&D and technology. According to the panel, this reinforces the programme's professional orientation. The professional competence semester includes an internship, either in a company or in a research laboratory. The panel finds the professional competence semester a good opportunity to enhance the professional orientation of the programme, but it also advises that further clarification of its position is needed, particularly vis-à-vis the Master's thesis.

Although it was clear to the panel that Gent and Dublin play a leading role, the panel sees ample evidence of a good integration of the four consortium partners regarding the organization of the course. The panel also believes that the programme is sufficiently coherent in terms of the curriculum content. However, the panel would like to put forward two suggestions for the further improvement of the programme's coherence. More efforts

Pagina 4 van 10 can be made to make good use of the knowledge and skills taught in the compulsory modules in the optional/specialized modules. Based on the interviews, the panel feels a need for intensified communication between the teaching staff of the different institutions.

The students with whom the panel talked, testified that the programme is rather demanding. They experience that three weeks for each module requires a quick understanding of all the material. The panel understands this and considers that four weeks rather than three might give students somewhat more time to 'digest' the material. The panel recommends carrying out a study time measurement, which might lead to an adjustment of the study time for certain modules.

The panel can conclude that the programme uses clearly outlined and transparent admission criteria. The panel is convinced that the programme coordinators succeed well in selecting the right students and, once selected, to bring them to a common level. A small suggestion for improvement could be to make the admittance score more explicit to applicants.

The master in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition consists of 120 ECTS-credits. The programme thus complies with the formal requirements regarding the 'Size of the programme', as described in the Flemish Higher Education Act.

The panel observed that a large variety of teaching methods is used. During the site visit, the panel observed that the study material is generally of good quality. The materials offered cover the essential issues. For some courses however, there are only PowerPoint presentations available for the students. The panel believes that the opportunities available via the electronic learning platform are not fully exploited. In order to improve the ownership of the teaching process the panel believes that the programme could benefit from a more explicit and common didactic concept in accordance with the programme's objectives.

The procedures for learning assessment and testing are, according to panel, sufficiently clear and robust. The consortium partners have clear agreements on how to handle assessment and testing in the programme. During the site visit, the panel noticed that, however, examinations are not necessarily taken in the same way in different institutions where the same modules are taught. The panel came to the conclusion that the discussion about assessment and testing between the institutions could be more intense, with a focus on the harmonisation of assessment methods where possible and practically feasible. It believes that the programme could enhance the quality of assessment procedures by exchanging examinations and discussing concrete evaluation criteria. In order to increase each student's learning experience, the panel feels that feedback should have a more prominent and explicit role. Students and alumni are also in favour of increased transparency of the evaluation criteria. The panel confirms this and considers it as an area for improvement.

The panel had the opportunity to read fifteen Master's theses. The panel is of the opinion that the theses are of satisfactory to good quality and adequately reflect students' independent problemsolving competences at an academic level. The master's theses also demonstrate the critical research attitude of the students. The panel does, however, believe that there is some room for improvement as far as assessment of the Master's theses is concerned. The different consortium partners seem to determine the grading of Master's theses rather differently. The panel believes that the evaluation of the Master's theses could be significantly improved if a common evaluation system across the organizing institutions is

Pagina 5 van 10 established. it would be advisable to establish a clearer relationship between the objectives of the master's programme as a whole and the evaluation criteria of the master's thesis.

Deployment of staff

The panel met a group of highly committed teaching and management staff during the visit. They have the necessary expertise for their assigned activities in this master's programme. For this Erasmus Mundus programme, teaching and supporting staff are provided by all consortium partners, following their own HR policy. Generally, the expertise of the staff matches the module requirements in the panel's opinion. Staff recruited for teaching activities belong to the regular university teaching staff and are qualified to PhD level. In addition to that, they are actively involved in research and scientific service programmes that belong to the department's or faculty's research groups.

The panel appreciated that all of the staff members that provide educational activities within the EM programme are also active researchers. Since each partner contributes to the programme with their own expertise, the panel felt that the programme is able to match the expertise of an individual staff member to the specific module requirements. Staff members are also internationally oriented because of their research activities. Some of them are also involved in editorial boards of international journals, in the organisation of scientific committees or international conferences, or as a partner in explicitly EU-oriented research and education activities. The panel appreciated the current involvement of a high number of guest lecturers who are active in the industry or in administration. The interview between the panel and the students revealed that the students thoroughly appreciate the involvement of guest lecturers.

In general, the panel considers that the staff provision is ample, yet the panel questions the fact that for many lecturers their task in this course means a surplus to their regular workload. During the academic year 2010-11 62 staff members were involved in the organization of the programme according to the information that the programme provided on request of the panel.

Services

During its site visit at KAHO, Gent, the panel visited well-equipped laboratories and facilities. Students and alumni are generally very satisfied with the provisions in the three other institutions. This appears from both the interviews during the site visit, and from the results of questionnaires. A very high percentage of respondents indicated high satisfaction with the facilities. Satisfaction concerning the lecture facilities and computer services are higher than the students' satisfaction with the library facilities. The panel states that the facilities it has visited at KAHO are of excellent quality. It also has good reasons based on students' testimonies to expect that the facilities of the partner institutions are of a high level, although the panel did not visit these other facilities.

The panel observed that student support and guidance are very well-organized. During the interviews with students and alumni, the panel heard nothing but high satisfaction with the support that they received and the easy contacts between students and professors.

Internal quality assurance

Pagina 6 van 10 Although the panel feels that the internal quality assurance is in place, it also determined that most of the evaluations and their follow-up happen on an informal basis. The panel feels that the evaluation cycle is adequate as to uphold the quality of the programme but it also has issues with the quality evaluation's informal basis. The panel believes that the programme would benefit from a quality Assurance framework on the level of the whole programme.

From the interviews with students, it can be deduced that they feel that their remarks are taken into account by the programme management. The panel thinks, however, that the programme could provide more explicit feedback to the students with regard to their initial feedback. This would make it more transparent to students whether something concrete followed out of their remarks. Nevertheless, the panel appreciates that various problems have already been tackled by the programme through identification of the issues and appropriate actions. Opposed to this is the reported lack of practical laboratory skills (which was mentioned by several students) which has not led to any remediation so far.

The involvement of staff members in the quality assessment of the curriculum and the improvement of the programme is dependent on local procedures and practices, but is generally considered an inherent and essential part of their teaching assignment. The panel feels that students do have the possibility to directly engage with the programme's quality assurance and its outcomes. The involvement of alumni in the programme is ample. The involvement of the professional field is informal, although the programme is able to provide steady contacts with both academics and profession.

Results

The questionnaire completed by the programme alumni showed that 90% of 34 interviewees feel that the programme meets their expectations. With regard to job possibilities, it can be said that the work field's appreciation can be derived from the high chances of employment after graduation. 26 of 34 alumni that were interviewed, were employed at the time, most of them in food industry. Four students were accepted for a PhD in the same field. The overall scores of the Master's theses are high, with a grand average of 80%. From the theses reviewed by the panel, it was clear that topics of the theses were embedded in the core area of expertise of the different institutes. As was pointed out earlier however, the different consortium partners use different criteria and evaluation procedures.

With regard to the 86 students who started the programme in the academic years 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, the programme reports that 83 of them graduated within three semesters, and hence experienced no study delay. The study results of graduates have been consistent since the programme went in full operation during the academic year 2006-2007. With an average of 78%, there is only a minor deviation between the 76% average in 2006-2007, the 77% in 2007-2008 and the 78% in 2009-2010.

Conclusie

De NVAO is in het licht van het vorenstaande tot de slotsom gekomen dat het eindoordeel van de commissie deugdelijk is gemotiveerd. De NVAO kan zich dan ook aansluiten bij de bevindingen en overwegingen voor alle facetten en onderwerpen, zoals verwoord in het visitatierapport. De eindconclusie uit het visitatierapport wordt gevolgd.

De tabel geeft per onderwerp en per facet het oordeel van de visitatiecommissie weer.

ONDERWERP	ORDEEL	FACET	ORDEEL
1 Doelstellingen opleiding	V	1.1 niveau en oriëntatie	voldoende
		1.2 domeinspecifieke eisen	goed
2 Programma	V	2.1 eisen gerichtheid	goed
		2.2 relatie doelstellingen - programma	voldoende
		2.3 samenhang programma	voldoende
		2.4 studielast	voldoende
		2.5 toelatingsvoorwaarden	goed
		2.6 studieomvang	OK
		2.7 afstemming vormgeving - inhoud	voldoende
		2.8 beoordeling en toetsing	voldoende
		2.9 masterproef	voldoende
3 Inzet van personeel	V	3.1 eisen gerichtheid	goed
		3.2 kwantiteit	goed
		3.3 kwaliteit	goed
4 Voorzieningen	V	4.1 materiële voorzieningen	excellent
		4.2 studiebegeleiding	goed
5 Interne kwaliteitszorg	V	5.1 evaluatie resultaten	voldoende
		5.2 maatregelen tot verbetering	voldoende
		5.3 betrokkenheid	voldoende
6 Resultaten	V	6.1 gerealiseerd niveau	goed
		6.2 onderwijsrendement	goed

Eindoordeel: positief

Pagina 8 van 10 **5. Globale oordelen NVAO**

De onderstaande tabel geeft per onderwerp het globaal oordeel van de NVAO weer.

ONDERWERP	OORDEEL
1 Doelstellingen	voldoende
2 Programma	voldoende
3 Inzet personeel	voldoende
4 Voorzieningen	voldoende
5 Interne kwaliteitszorg	voldoende
6 Resultaten	voldoende

Eindoordeel: positief

6. Academisering

De NVAO heeft vastgesteld dat aan de academisering van de beoordeelde opleiding goed vorm wordt gegeven en dat er van uitgegaan mag worden dat de opleiding uiterlijk aan het einde van het academiejaar 2012-2013 aan alle academische eisen zal voldoen.

betreffende de accreditatie van de European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition (master) van:

- Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven, België;
- Dublin Institute for Technology, Ierland;
- Hochschule Anhalt, Duitsland;
- Universidade Catholica Portuguesa – Escola Superior de Biotecnologica, Portugal;

De NVAO,
Na beraadslaging,
Besluit :

Met toepassing van het decreet van 4 april 2003 betreffende de herstructurering van het hoger onderwijs in Vlaanderen, wordt het accreditatierapport en –besluit met positief eindoordeel voor de *joint degree*-opleiding European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition (master) van de Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven, Dublin Institute for Technology, Hochschule Anhalt en Universidade Catholica Portuguesa – Escola Superior de Biotecnologica goedgekeurd en wordt de opleiding geaccrediteerd. Het betreft een opleiding zonder afstudeerrichtingen die wordt georganiseerd te Gent, Dublin, Köthen en Porto.

Onder verwijzing naar artikel 124 §9 van het Structuurdecreet geldt de in het eerste lid bedoelde accreditatie vanaf de aanvang van het academiejaar 2012-2013 tot en met het einde van het academiejaar 2017-2018.

Den Haag, 19 juli 2012

Voor de NVAO,

K.L.L.M. Dittrich
voorzitter

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Het ontwerp van accreditatierapport- en besluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Bij e-mail van 10 juli 2012 heeft de instelling laten weten geen opmerkingen te hebben.

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|------------------------------|---|
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IERLAND |
| | Hochschule Anhalt
Bernburger Straße 55
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DUITSLAND |
| | Universidade Catholica Portuguesa – Escola
Superior de Biotecnologica
Rua Dr. António Bernardino de Almeida
4200-072 Porto
PORTUGAL |
| - aard instelling (KAHO) | ambtshalve geregistreerd |
| - graad, kwalificatie | European Master of Science in Food Science,
Technology and Nutrition |
| - niveau en oriëntatie | master / academisch |
| - studieomvang | 120 studiepunten |
| - vestigingen opleiding | Gent, Dublin, Köthen, Porto |
| - onderwijstaal | Engels |
| - (delen van) studiegebieden | - Toegepaste biologische wetenschappen
- Industriële wetenschappen en technologie |