

Besluit **Accreditatiebesluit met een positief eindoordeel voor de opleiding Master of Science in Maritime Science (master na master) van de Universiteit Gent i.s.m. de Vrije Universiteit Brussel**

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|---------------------|--|
| datum | Samenvattende bevindingen en overwegingen |
| 1 augustus 2016 | De NVAO steunt haar inhoudelijke besluitvorming op de onderstaande elementen uit het |
| onderwerp | visitatierapport. |
| Accreditatiebesluit | |
| (004937) | On 18 May 2015, the Master of Science in Maritime Science at the Ghent University has |
| bijlagen | been evaluated in the framework of an educational assessment by a peer review panel of |
| 4 | independent experts. In this summary, which describes a snapshot, the main findings of the panel are listed. |

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd eindniveau

De visitatiecommissie (commissie) beoordeelt het beoogd eindniveau als voldoende.

The origin of the programme dates from the 80's when Ghent University initiated the 'Speciale Licentie in de Haven- en Maritieme Wetenschappen', which became the program 'GGS Haven- en Maritieme Wetenschappen' in 1992. In 2001 this programme merged with the University of Antwerp 'GAS Maritieme Wetenschappen' into the programme 'Aanvullende Opleiding in de Maritieme Wetenschappen'. In 2004 the two programmes decided to transform this programme into a 'Master after Master' Maritieme Wetenschappen. In 2013, the co-operation between Ghent University and the University of Antwerp ended. The academic year 2014-2015 was therefore qualified as an extinguishing year, in which no new students but the existing students that were already following the study programme, but did not finish their curriculum in 2013-2014, could register. From 2015-2016 on, Ghent University will offer in co-operation with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) a Master of Science in Maritime Science which will be taught in English and which will only be accessible for students who already have a Master degree. As the external assessment coincides with the reform, this report will refer to past experiences, practices and data, insofar these are relevant for the future programme.

In 2013-2014 46 students were enrolled in the programme organised by the University of Antwerp and Ghent University. In 2014-2015 10 students were enrolled in the extinguishing programme at Ghent University.

The programme has an interdisciplinary approach which aims to develop a specific profile, combining technical, economic and legal courses in order to offer students a broad perspective on the maritime sector. In relation to the programmes offered by the University

Pagina 2 van 10 of Antwerp, the programme aims for a stronger emphasis on technical maritime aspects, while also legal aspects are deemed important.

The panel appreciates the cooperation between Ghent University and the VUB as indeed the VUB adds expertise on logistics which is not available to the same extent at the former.

The curriculum is well appreciated by students, alumni and the labour market. Some of the specific competence of the programme go beyond the domain-specific learning outcomes.

The international orientation of the new programme, reflected both in its contents and in the choice to teach in English, creates the opportunity to attract foreign students. To fully realise this opportunity the programme has to invest in its international network and communication.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 2 – Onderwijsproces

De commissie beoordeelt het onderwijsproces als voldoende.

The new programme counts 60 credits and comprises the same three main pillars as the former one (a technical-general pillar, an economic-logistic pillar and a legal pillar). The legal content of the study programme aims at developing in-depth knowledge of international law of the sea, maritime law and transport law. This is aimed for by three compulsory courses and the student can enhance this knowledge by choosing for one (or two) of the six optional legal courses. The economic-logistic content of the study programme aims at familiarising the student with the unique economic character of maritime transport, which is a global phenomenon with very specific dynamics. Therefore it is crucial that the students know about the economic principles that govern and influence port authorities, shipping companies and transport firms. Two compulsory courses and three optional courses should contribute to this goal. The technical-general content of the study programme will comprise principles of port technology (basic knowledge of the typical technical infrastructure and facilities in ports), ship technology (basic knowledge of the scientific and technical principles that govern ships) and port problems (insights into contemporary spatial and economic principles that determine the investment and infrastructure policy in ports). This pillar is represented by four compulsory courses and three optional ones. Some of the electives have a rather introductory approach, while the electives in an advanced master should allow students to deepen their knowledge about a specific topic.

In the master thesis (15 credits) students have to show that they are able to integrate the knowledge and competences they have developed in the other courses. The thesis is a written essay about a maritime or transport oriented subject wherein the student proves that he can analyse a specific topic thoroughly and individually and write his findings down in a structured and coherent manner. An oral presentation is also included.

The programme does not have an explicit didactic concept. Ex-cathedra lectures are the most prevalent teaching method, mainly for new subjects. In case of specific subject material, guest lectures by academic specialists or experts from the maritime sector are organised. Knowledge is broadened and deepened by using other teaching methods, such as response lectures with room for questions and discussions. Response lectures are often built around actual cases, hypothetical examples, contemporary situations or issues, preparatory assignments. Specific topics are being dealt with through group discussions, sharpening the knowledge and skills of the students. Additionally, some courses use

Pagina 3 van 10 seminars, plenary exercises, excursions or group work, whereas others, such as independent work and self-reliant study activities and master dissertation, are more individually oriented. Seminars entail permanent evaluation of a group of students based on classroom participation and the writing – and in some cases presenting – of at least one paper.

Through an excursion to London and several study trips the programme wants to familiarise the students with the professional sector to enhance their theoretical knowledge with information about the actual operations and common practices on the ground. In the new programme Study Trips and Field Trips will become a compulsory component of the curriculum with the ambition that the students pay fundamental importance to these trips and visits, by preparing them thoroughly, participating actively and writing a report afterwards. The panel values positively that the interaction with the professional field is formalised in the programme.

Due to the interdisciplinarity of the programme, the organisers choose to accept graduates from a wide range of different educational backgrounds. However, every student will need to fill in and submit a standardised application form and can only be accepted after a thorough screening thereof. While in the former programme, foreign student intake was limited to Dutch students, the new programme might attract a broad range of international students with highly diverse prior knowledge.

In practice further steps could be taken to realize the full potential of interdisciplinarity. The panel indicates that the curriculum is rather focused on multidisciplinary rather than on interdisciplinarity.

Efforts are also necessary to increase the consistency of the programme. Not all the teaching staff was aware of the contents of their colleagues courses, which might lead to overlap or gaps in the curriculum. The quality of the staff is judged by students and alumni as valuable.

Prior to the start of the academic year, the programme organises an information session. The purpose of the information session is to provide maximum support at the time that is the most critical for their integration. Throughout the academic year students can contact individual professors for problems related to individual courses and a teaching assistant for administrative guidance. In the new programme, it is the ambition to organise a collective feedback meeting at the beginning of the second semester to give guidance to the students and to address any personal issues. The general approach to student counselling is prevention and early detection of problems.

The panel is satisfied with the quality of the available course materials, but some courses could be taught at a more advanced level. Some course materials still needed to be developed.

The programme is organised in the premises of the Ghent University Law Faculty. Since its recent extension and refurbishment, the Law Faculty facilities have substantially improved, to the benefit of all students. Facilities include auditoria technically equipped for interactive education. Students have access to the Ghent University central library, as well as to the libraries of all faculties and all relevant online platforms and research sites. Within the Law Faculty, a separate part of the library is dedicated to law of the Sea and maritime law.

Pagina 4 van 10 The cooperation agreement between the Ghent University and the VUB also offers students the opportunity to take a broader range of electives. As they need to take those courses at the Brussels campus of the VUB, evaluation will be necessary to see whether they are willing to move to Brussels to take electives.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 3 – Gerealiseerd eindniveau

De commissie beoordeelt het gerealiseerde eindniveau als voldoende.

The programme uses traditional evaluation methods, including oral and written exams. The testing methods are made public to the students by means of the ECTS files that are published in the online study guide. During the first class of each course, lecturers explain the objectives, content, teaching and testing methods of each course. During the final class, they provide further information about the exam. Finally, a document with guidelines on exam procedures and paper requirements is published on the online learning-platform. Feedback is organised through feedback sessions after every examination period. Students receive instant comments to presentations and papers.

The panel suggest to continue to invest in exchange and cooperation between teaching staff in order to further improve the quality of testing.

The master dissertation should represent an original piece of academic work relating to a technical, legal, economic or interdisciplinary topic. During the academic year, progress is discussed with the supervisor and the assistant. During the public oral defence, a student briefly presents the main findings of his/her work. A discussion with the jury – being the supervisor and the co-reader – follows. For the evaluation, a standardised grading sheet is used.

Based on a selection of dissertations the panel judges the quality as reasonable. The panel, however, is concerned with the scoring which is relatively high in comparison to the quality of the dissertations. The panel found also master dissertations which were mainly monodisciplinary. As an interdisciplinary approach is one of the core characteristics the programme aims for, students should be encouraged to choose an interdisciplinary approach for their master thesis.

With some exceptions, the study programme attracted, on average, about 20 new students each year. The majority of those students (60% to 65%) successfully finished their studies within one academic year. Several students already work during their studies, which explains why an additional year may be needed or why they divide the curriculum over more than one year.

Graduates work in various sectors. Most of them are employed in the transport insurance sector, the dredging sector, the shipping sector or the logistic sector. A large majority of survey respondents acknowledge that the degree was helpful in finding or securing a job, as well as in their further professional development.

No alumni association exists for the programme. A more structured approach to keeping contacts with alumni alive, would bring added value.

De commissie heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding Master of Science in Maritime Science (master na master) voldoet aan alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen. Ze beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Aanbevelingen commissie

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van de commissie.

Besluit¹

betreffende de accreditatie van de Master of Science in Maritime Science (master na master) van de Universiteit Gent in samenwerking met de Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

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 Master of Science in Maritime Science (master na master) georganiseerd door de Universiteit Gent in samenwerking met de Vrije Universiteit Brussel. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Brussel en Gent zonder afstudeerrichtingen. De kwaliteit van de opleiding is voldoende.

De accreditatie geldt van 1 oktober 2016 tot en met 30 september 2024.

Den Haag, 1 augustus 2016

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Marc Luwel
(bestuurder)

¹ Het ontwerp van accreditatiebesluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Bij e-mail van 15 juli 2016 heeft de instelling van de gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt om te reageren. Dit heeft geleid tot een tekstuele aanpassing.

Pagina 6 van 10 **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 |
| Eindoordeel opleiding | Voldoende |

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|---|---|
| Naam instellingen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universiteit Gent - Vrije Universiteit Brussel |
| Adres instellingen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25 B-9000 GENT - Pleinlaan 2 B-1050 BRUSSEL |
| Aard instelling | ambtshalve geregistreerd |
| Naam associaties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associatie Universiteit Gent - Universitaire Associatie Brussel |
| Naam opleiding (Graad, kwalificatie, specificatie) | Master of Science in Maritime Science |
| Niveau en oriëntatie | Master na master |
| Bijkomende titel | Geen |
| Opleidingsvarianten: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Afstudeerrichtingen - Studietraject voor werkstudenten | Geen |
| Onderwijstaal | Engels |
| Vestigingen opleiding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brussel - Gent |
| Studieomvang (in studiepunten) | 60 |
| Vervaldatum accreditatie, tijdelijke erkenning of erkenning nieuwe opleiding | 30 september 2016 |
| Academieja(a)r(en) waarin opleiding wordt aangeboden ² | 2015 – 2016 en volgende |
| (Delen van) studiegebied(en) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economische en toegepaste economische wetenschappen - Rechten, notariaat en criminologische wetenschappen - Toegepaste wetenschappen |
| ISCED benaming van het studiegebied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03 Social sciences, journalism and information 031 Social and behavioural sciences 0311 Economics 04 Business, administration and law 042 Law 0421 Law 07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction |

² Betreft het lopende academiejaar, op het ogenblik van de accreditatieaanvraag

| | |
|--|---|
| | 071 Engineering and engineering trades 0716 Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft |
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1. Gespecialiseerde kennis van en inzicht hebben in het domein van de maritieme, haven- en transportgerelateerde bedrijfskunde, mede opgebouwd door ervaring vanuit de vervoers- en havenwereld en de juridische praktijk.
2. De verworven wetenschappelijke kennis en vaardigheden aanwenden om haalbare oplossingen voor concrete bedrijfsgerichte problemen uit te werken en te implementeren.
3. De verworven wetenschappelijke kennis en vaardigheden aanwenden om bedrijfseconomische beleidsbeslissingen inzake haven en vervoer voor te bereiden, te nemen en op te volgen in de brede maritieme, haven- en transportsector.
4. Binnen de grenzen van de eigen competenties een verantwoordelijke rol opnemen in verschillende functies binnen nationale en internationale bedrijven uit de maritieme en havensector.
5. Een kritische persoonlijke positiebepaling ontwikkelen met betrekking tot de interactie tussen haven-vervoer en de samenleving en de impact van deze interactie op maatschappelijke structuren en het functioneren van bedrijven en organisaties correct evalueren.
6. Bedrijfskundige inzichten en hedendaagse ontwikkelingen binnen een geglobaliseerde economie kritisch beschouwen vanuit een ethisch perspectief, met aandacht voor de relevantie van de positie van een manager in de samenleving.
7. Zelfstandig een onderzoeksvraag formuleren, een onderzoeksplan opzetten en uitvoeren en de onderzoeksresultaten kritisch evalueren op het niveau van een beginnend onderzoeker in de maritieme wetenschappen.

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. Bart Jourquin, professor Université Catholique de Louvain, Mons (FUCaM); vice rector UCL Université Catholique de Louvain, en voorheen rector FUCaM, directeur van de Louvain school of management.

Leden:

- Prof. dr. Eric Verhoef, visiting prof. at Institute of Transport Studies, University of Leeds, member Faculty Board, Research director / vice-dean, VU University of Amsterdam, Fellow at Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam / Rotterdam;
- Prof. dr. Louis le Hardy de Beaulieu, professor internationaal en maritiem recht aan het Département de Sciences Politiques, Sociales et de la Communication aan de Université de Namur, tevens verbonden aan de Université Catholique de Louvain, voorzitter van de Koninklijke Belgische Marine Academie (KBMA);
- Dhr. Mathias Closset, Student Bachelor Handelsingenieur, KU Leuven (student-lid).

Pieter-Jan Van de Velde, stafmedewerker kwaliteitszorg verbonden aan de Cel Kwaliteitszorg van Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (tot 31 december 2015) en Klara De Wilde, coördinator kwaliteitszorg verbonden aan de Cel Kwaliteitszorg van Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (vanaf 1 januari 2016), traden op als projectbegeleider en secretaris van deze visitatie.