

BESLUIT

Datum 29 november 2018	Uw kenmerk -	Ons kenmerk NVAO/20183511/LF
Bijlagen 3	Dossiernummers 007199	
Toegepast kader Toets Nieuwe Opleiding Vlaanderen 2015 – 2021 (d.d. 28 maart 2015)		
Onderwerp TNO MA in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies – Vesalius College		
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Toetsingsrapport met een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag 'Toets nieuwe opleiding' Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (master) van Vesalius College.

SAMENVATTEND ADVIES VAN DE VISITATIECOMMISSIE

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van de visitatiecommissie (hierna the committee) van de bovengenoemde opleiding van Vesalius College.

The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) received a request for an initial accreditation from Vesalius College for two initial master programmes. Vesalius College seeks initial accreditation for the proposed degrees *Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Global Governance (MA DAGG)* and *Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (MA GPSSS)*, both offered in part-time and full-time mode.

The expert panel was convened by the NVAO and agreed to by the institution. The panel has examined the available information. During a site visit it discussed the proposed programmes with representatives of the institution and the professional field. The programmes started in September 2018, and as a result, the panel was able to interview students who are currently enrolled in the programmes. In addition, the panel interviewed former (undergraduate) students. Based on this information the panel report to the board of the NVAO contains a positive advice on all standards and for each of the two programmes as a whole.

The Vesalius College programmes are founded in the Social Sciences and focus on the field of International Relations. The MA DAGG combines two other subdisciplines in this field: diplomatic studies and global governance studies. The MA GPSSS combines three subdisciplines in this field: peace studies, security studies and strategic studies.

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The programmes combine a theory-oriented approach with a policy-oriented approach. The panel has established that the programmes performed a thorough benchmarking exercise. The learning outcomes of the programmes reflect what is regarded as MA-level programmes in an international context and answer to the need of the professional field for graduates with a comprehensive, theoretically founded approach to policy reality in international and diplomatic relations.

The programmes are offered in two different modes; students can either take the 90 EC option or the 120 EC option. The additional learning outcomes related to the extra 30 EC in the 120 EC option, as well as the rationale for offering both options were elaborated in the application file and during the site visit. The panel is positive on the decision of the programmes to offer both options, thereby catering to the needs of the various types of students who wish to obtain their degree. In addition, the programmes can be followed either full-time or part-time.

The programmes provide a very adequate teaching-learning environment which facilitates the learning process of students who wish to pursue a career in international relations. Vesalius College has strong ties with organisations in Brussels which allow students to get acquainted with the reality of policy-making from the perspective of the professional field. Both programmes coordinate a core team of staff of qualified academics as well as staff members from related institutions and last but not least visiting faculty' from other (research) Universities.

The structure of the programmes ensures that all students will have a thorough foundation in the respective subdisciplines of each programme and provides the opportunity for students to either broaden themselves or specialise themselves. Although the programmes are challenging, the design of the courses, the workload monitoring systems in place as well as the means of support for students to deal with the demands of the programmes, safeguard the balance between challenging students on the one hand, and on the other, overdemanding. The facilities provided by Vesalius College and its partners provide students with all means that are necessary to perform their studies. The educational model that is used within Vesalius College combines well with the combination of a theoretical and policy-oriented approach and also with the small-scale and international character of both programmes. Students who choose the 120 EC programme instead of the 90 EC programme will develop expansive knowledge in Risk Analysis and additional training in an intensive internship.

The assessment system and policies in place allow the programmes to stimulate students' active learning and at the same time, provide good and transparent criteria by which students' work is assessed. The programmes use a considerable range of assessment methods, which add to the variety in which students are assessed. The teaching manual, the rubrics and information meetings for lecturers, the pairing of core faculty with adjunct faculty and the extensive monitoring of assessment ensure that the practices on assessment are shared and understood, valid and reliable.

The internal quality assurance is comprehensive and functions very well. The panel is very positive about the external review of course material and grading by an academic peer in the relevant field. Although the system is efficiently organized, the panel suggests that Vesalius College keeps monitoring the system's 'fitness for purpose'.

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.

BEVINDINGEN NVAO

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 (28 maart 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.

De commissie heeft verklaard dat het voorgestelde domeinspecifieke leerresultatenkader in overeenstemming is met de niveaudecriptoren van het niveau 7 uit de Vlaamse kwalificatiestructuur. De commissie adviseert de NVAO om het domeinspecifieke leerresultatenkader te valideren.

BESLUIT

Betreffende de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (master) van 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 Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (master) van Vesalius College. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Brussel.

Tevens valideert de NVAO het domeinspecifieke leerresultatenkader van de opleiding Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (master).

Den Haag, 29 november 2018

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Marc Luwel
(bestuurder)

BIJLAGE 1: BASISGEGEVENS OVER DE INSTELLING EN DE OPLEIDING

Name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, website institution	Vesalius College Pleinlaan 5 B-1050 BRUSSEL BELGIUM +32 (0)2 614 8170 Vesalius@vub.ac.be www.vesalius.edu
Status institution	Registered institution
Name association	-
Name, function, telephone, e-mail address of contact person	Prof. dr. Joachim Koops – Dean +32 (0)2 614 8178 jkoops@vub.ac.be
Name programme (degree, qualifications of the degree, specification of the degree)	Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (MA GPSSS)
Level and orientation	Academic Initial Master
Title that holders of the degree earned from this programme can place with their name	Master of Arts in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (MA GPSSS)
(Part of a) Field of study, fields of study in which the programme is classified	International Relations
The ISCED name of the field of study in which the programme is classified	031 Social and behavioural sciences 0312 Political sciences and civics: Political sciences and civics is the study of government and political principles or practice. The study of the rights and duties of the citizens are included here.
Corresponding programme(s) (Flanders if any, or neighbouring countries)	New programme for the institution and for Flanders. Neighbouring countries: no programmes
Specialisations	-
Languages used to teach	English
Location in which the programme is offered	Brussels
Length of the programme expressed in credits	90 ECTS (full time, part time) Extended 120 ECTS (full time, part time)
New programme in Flanders	Yes
The post-graduate study opportunities and the possible post-graduate courses (bachelor)/ The required previous qualifications and admission requirements (master)	Admission to the programme requires at least three years of university studies, comprising at least 180 ECTS. Students typically will have a university degree in one of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Relations/Affairs • Social Sciences

	<p>All applicants hand in an application file. Students with a university degree in a different area can be admitted but will have to have an interview and can only be admitted if they have completed a course in Methodology of the social sciences or in Statistics and a course in Politics or International Relations. The programme demands English proficiency at the level of 100 TOEFL or 7.0 IELTS.</p>
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BIJLAGE 2: DOMEINSPECIFIEKE LEERRESULTATEN

The proposed MA GPSSS has six major and general learning objectives (categories):

1. The graduate demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of the major theoretical debates related to Peace Studies, Security Studies and Strategic Studies and is capable of independently formulating theory-informed arguments with a level of originality to address a complex situation.
2. The graduate demonstrates autonomy when applying major concepts and paradigms in a multidisciplinary and integrative manner to complex policy challenges related to peace, security and strategic issues as well as when proposing alternative solutions to complex problems by drawing on the interdisciplinary knowledge and insights from theoretical literature.
3. The graduate recognizes major societal and moral challenges related to global peace, security and strategic studies and their real-life implications and to autonomously draw on interdisciplinary knowledge to offer original policy proposals to mitigate them in a way suitable for specific context.
4. The graduate demonstrates the ability to communicate effectively major conclusions, rationales, arguments and research limitations to specialist and non-specialist scholarly and policy-maker audiences in the field of peace, security and strategic studies and beyond.
5. The graduate demonstrates the autonomy of thought and critical self-assessment skills necessary for life-long learning and continuous improvement.
6. The graduate possesses diverse skills, competences and attitudes--such as effective team-work, leadership, intercultural awareness, an attitude of open-mindedness, academic integrity and critical (self-)reflection--to contribute to rigorous analysis and diverse academic debates.

BIJLAGE 3: SAMENSTELLING VISITATIECOMMISSIE

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. M.H. Smith, Professor of European Politics, Department of Politics and International Studies, Warwick University, UK;

Leden:

- Prof. dr. A. Batory, Professor at the School of Public Policy and a Research Fellow of the Center for Policy Studies, Central European University, Hungary;
- Prof. dr. P. Lawler, Director of the University College for Interdisciplinary Learning, School of Social Sciences, The University of Manchester, UK;
- dr. C. van Eck, Commissioner at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, the Netherlands;
- Y. Orlov, MSc (student-member), Master of Science in Political Science – International Relations, Ghent University, Belgium.

De commissie werd ondersteund door Jetse Siebenga, secretaris & Dagmar Provijn, procescoördinator NVAO.

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