

Besluit

Accreditatierapport en -besluit met een positieve beoordeling van de accreditatieaanvraag voor de opleiding Master of Science in Human Settlements (master na master) van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

datum	1. Inleiding
24 april 2012	Bij brief van 18 juli 2011 heeft het instellingsbestuur van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Onderwerp	te Leuven een accreditatieaanvraag ingediend bij de Nederlands-Vlaamse
accreditatierapport en -besluit	Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO) voor de opleiding Master of Science in Human Settlements
(#5330)	(master na master). Deze aanvraag is ontvangen op 19 juli 2011 en ontvankelijk verklaard
Bijlage	op 31 oktober 2011.

1

De accreditatieaanvraag steunt op het visitatierapport van een externe beoordeling uitgevoerd door een visitatiecommissie ingesteld door de Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (VLIR).

De visitatiecommissie kende de volgende samenstelling:

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. arch. André De Herde, gewoon hoogleraar aan de Faculté d'architecture, d'ingénierie architecturale, d'urbanisme (LOCI) van de Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) en decaan van deze faculteit;

Leden:

- Prof. dr. Koos Bosma (domeinexpert), hoogleraar Architectuurgeschiedenis en Erfgoedstudies, geschiedenis van de moderne architectuur en stedenbouw bij de opleiding Kunstgeschiedenis van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in Nederland;
- Ir. Arch. Dirk Jaspaert (domeinexpert), oprichter en zaakvoerder van BAS, Bureau voor Architectuur en Stabiliteit, te Leuven, tevens docent structuurontwerp en bouwtechnieken aan het Hoger Architectuurinstituut Sint-Lucas;
- Ir. Arch. Michiel Riedijk (domeinexpert), leidt met Jan Willem Neutelings het in Rotterdam gevestigde bureau Neutelings Riedijk Architecten. Sinds 2009 is hij als hoogleraar verbonden aan de Technische Universiteit Delft en is daar leerstoelhouder van de sectie Openbare gebouwen en Architectonische Compositie;
- Prof. dr. Jan Masschelein (onderwijsdeskundige), gewoon hoogleraar "wijsgerige pedagogiek" aan de K.U. Leuven. Hij had opdrachten als gasthoogleraar aan de universiteiten van Caen, Zürich en Bern;
- Prof. dr. Iain Low (toegevoegd expert), hoogleraar aan de University of Cape Town, zijn onderzoeksterrein is "space and transformation";
- Dr. Eva Beuselinck (ontwikkelings expert), verbonden aan het instituut voor de overheid;
- Esma Islamaj (student-lid), student Burgerlijk Ingenieur-Architect aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel, bezig met het schrijven van de masterproef.

Secretaris:

- Dr. Dieter Cortvriendt, stafmedewerker kwaliteitszorg verbonden aan de VLIR.

De visitatie heeft plaatsgevonden op 6 t/m 9 en 22 december 2010. Het visitatierapport dateert van juli 2011.

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 VLIR 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 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 visitatierapport.

Doelstellingen

The master program is indented for junior or senior professionals who want to specialize in one particular field. The program is highly internationally and interdisciplinary oriented, and the Design Studios are developed to foster the integration of very different bodies of knowledge.

The maHS (60 ECTS) is oriented towards the built environment in developing countries and related problems. It aims at deepening the understanding of the dynamics of rapid change through critical analysis of approaches in architecture, construction, urban design and planning, thereby transcending conventional professional boundaries, and accentuating concepts of sustainable development.

The panel observes that the goals of the program are clearly formulated and provide good guidelines for both students and teachers. The general objectives have been translated into learning outcomes. According to the various meetings held by the panel, students and teachers seem sufficiently familiar with the general objectives to be met.

The panel finds that the learning outcomes, often clustered in competence domains, are in accordance with the panel's own reference framework, the Dublin Descriptors and with article 58 of the Flemish Higher Education Act.

The program delivers a profound deepening of competences with respect to the student's prior master degrees. As such, this advanced master program is clearly of added value for both junior and senior professionals enrolling in the program.

The panel finds that the goals are well defined, and in accordance with what one could expect from an advanced master program.

Pagina 3 van 11 The panel values the profiles of the program. The panel also observes that the program has aligned its goals with the requirements set by international academic peers and the needs and expectations of the professional field. The program is internationally and interdisciplinary oriented and exhibit a practical profile. The maHS and maUSP share some domain-specific requirements. Both are for example centred on sustainable urban development and integrate approaches from construction, architecture, urbanism and planning. More specifically, while the maHS focuses on the South the maUSP focuses on Europe.

The maHS explicitly focuses on human settlements. This 'discipline' emerged from concerns about the built environment formulated at the World Urban Forums, the Rio Earth Summit and the Millennium Development Goals. The maHS does not respond to a singular professional or academic demand. The program rather responds to a general challenge of sustainable urban development in the South. As such, it is a research-oriented master. The program tries to conciliate two ambitions; on the one hand it wants to train professionals working in very different situations, both from the private and the public sector; on the other hand, it tries to deal with a wide variety of issues in an integrated way, stemming from limited resources, rapid urbanization, environmental constraints and social tensions. This entails, as the goals show, an interdisciplinary approach putting emphasis on capacity building.

The maHS claims that it has a high relevance for the South. To the panel, it is clear that the goals are well in tune with the specific conditions of developing countries. The maHS puts high emphasis on research and is broader in scope than the maUSP.

The panel finds that the program is very ambitious internationally and interdisciplinary oriented, in which design studios and/or case studies are the backbone. In Flanders, these post-graduate programs are unique and have proved successful. The panel believes that this advanced master program brings an added value to the participants' professional life. The students and alumni the panel met clearly supported this view.

The panel wants to stress, as a point of attention, that these advanced master programs must dare to innovate and must address issues like sustainability in a more profound way. The initial avant-garde character of the programs must be reinitiated. They have to become more explorative in nature, with an open mind. In sum, their 'practical' profile is without doubt one of their strengths, but the 'poetic' dimension of the programs may not be neglected, nor a critical reflection on basic concepts of theory and practice in development, design and conservation.

Programma

The one-year maHS program, which counts for 60 ECTS-credits, consists of 7 ECTS Base Courses, a minimum of 10 ECTS Core Courses, 20 ECTS Design Studios and Relevant Practice Courses, a Master's Thesis and a maximum of 10 ECTS Optional Courses. Either the student chooses for a 'research' Master's Thesis (18 ECTS) or for a 'design' Master's Thesis (15 ECTS) which also envelops a Research Paper. The Core Courses are designed as baskets, allowing in-depth training in one of the following sub-domains: Architecture and Urban Studies, Rational Design and Construction or Urbanism and Strategic Spatial Planning.

The goals of the program are accurately translated into learning outcomes. In the panel's opinion, the table which links the different courses with the learning outcomes, proves that all goals and learning outcomes the program is aiming at are adequately addressed throughout the curriculum.

Pagina 4 van 11 The panel remarks that there is a good balance between the theoretical and the practical components of the maHS program. The balance between design and research, and technique and inquiry, is also valued by the panel.

The program trains students adequately to identify and analyse problems and to formulate and implement solutions to particular human settlements issues in different contexts, with a clear focus on the South and sustainable urban development. Social, economic, political and cultural issues are well addressed in the Design Studio(s). The process of interpretation from analysis to solution, however, must be made more explicit, the panel says.

The panel applauds both the multidisciplinary and international character of the maHS program, which is guaranteed because both teachers and students have diversified backgrounds. Since the program attracts an international audience, all courses are taught in English. International collaborations (like with Vietnam) and partnerships (like with UN Habitat) contribute to the international nature of the program. Above all, the courses are inherently internationally oriented because they deal with various themes like migration, globalization or colonialism. Guest lecturers from abroad often visit the program as well. In addition, two international study trips are compulsory components of the program.

The panel observed that the contents of the program enable students to achieve the goals. The panel suggests, in order to improve the program, to develop a clearer view on spatial interpretations of social, economic, political and cultural issues, and that this view must be integrated in the 'instrumental' aspects of the program. The program must also focus more on recent developments and contemporary urban constraints in the broader domain of HS. This should enable participants to develop more innovative solutions from the analysis conducted.

The panel is very pleased with the attention the program devotes to research skills and attitudes.

A Design Studio is developed to allow synergies between the knowledge component and skills and attitudes on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other hand. Also field and study trips contribute to this. Professional skills are addressed as well. Important to note is that students (junior professionals) and teachers (senior professionals) learn from each other. The diverse backgrounds of the students enable mutual learning, mainly because of the teamwork that they have to conduct. The mix of students with very different nationalities is one of the strong points of the program, the panel says. This too enhances the interdisciplinary outlook of the maHS. The panel believes that this program also enhances lifelong learning and capacity building in the South. As such, the panel stresses that the program is well in line with the 'demands' of developing countries. There is a good balance between different types of courses which are rather well distributed among the semesters.

With the ongoing process of integration between maHS and maUSP a number of overlaps between courses have occurred. This has been swiftly addressed.

In general, the panel found that students are quite happy about the program's consistency and that the maHS program meets their expectations in this respect.

As a point of attention, the panel remarks that the consistency of the program can be endangered by too much flexibility offered to the students. At the same time, the panel believes that the interdisciplinary character of the maHS must be assured.

The program is intended for highly motivated professionals with relevant experience. The admission requirements are rigorous and inclusive, the program attracts applicants from all over the world with an emphasis on developing contexts. The profiles of the participants seem exceptionally well structured in terms of gender and class, cultural and educational background, and this contributes significant value to the quality of the program and its international position.

Pagina 5 van 11 The advanced master Human Settlements counts for 60 ECTS-credits.

The students and alumni consider the maHS as an intensive program. Especially the Design Studios are considered as requiring much study time, often more than the ECTS-credits awarded. This also has negative implications for writing papers or the completion of the Master's Thesis. As the self-evaluation report says, this must be addressed thoroughly with the next curriculum revision. Increasing the synergy, or exchange between the regular courses and Design Studios could reduce the study time.

The panel concludes that the actual study time is in accordance with the standard of 60 ECTS-credits per year, that the workload is rather well distributed, and that the program can be completed within one year, that is de facto 12 months. The panel observed that the program representatives are fully aware of the 'heavy' study time and that they have taken the necessary actions to reduce the study time.

Under the banner of 'Guided Independent Learning' the K.U.Leuven has defined a pedagogical concept. The maHS has implemented this format to a certain extent. The program of the maHS exhibits a variety of learning and teaching formats. These formats stimulate interaction and are sufficiently in accordance with the contents and the goals of the program, according to the panel.

Generally speaking, the program shows a good mix of theoretical and practical courses, and individual and group work. The students and alumni told the panel that the program format enables them to reach the objectives of the program.

There is sufficient variation in study materials too, which are of good quality, the panel observed.

The Electronic Learning Environment, TOLEDO, offers both teachers and students an interactive platform, which enhances teaching and learning activities.

Generally speaking, the panel is satisfied by the mix of assessment formats. Students and alumni told the panel that the assessments adequately test their knowledge, skills and attitudes and that they have a clear view on what is expected from them during the learning assessments.

After consulting some of the exams, the panel finds that these reflect the quality of the program and that the assessments are in agreement with the learning outcomes of the different courses.

The Master's Thesis counts for 18 (research thesis) or 12+3 (design thesis) ECTS credits of the 60 ECTS-credits of the maHS program. As such, the master's thesis complies with the formal requirements.

The panel, after consulting some of the master's theses, believes that the master's thesis adequately reflects the student's analytical and synthetical competences at an advanced academic level. The master's thesis reveals the student's general critical reflecting orientation and their research skills and attitudes. On the basis of the discussions with the students and alumni the panel is convinced that the work progress of the students is well monitored by the supervisors and that most students are well prepared to complete their master's thesis.

Inzet van personeel

The advanced master program is clearly interwoven with ongoing research. Most staff members involved in the program perform research at high international standards.

The research strengths of the different staff members clearly contribute to the quality of the programs. Moreover, the many international contacts related with the research performed are often used to invite guest lecturers. Many of these visiting lecturers have a good

Pagina 6 van 11 academic record. Numerous international contacts also give the necessary input in terms of professional orientation.

As a point of attention, the panel believes that the staff has to be more aware of the complexity generated by very different (cultural) backgrounds of the entering students. For the three advanced master programs the conditions regarding the quantity of the staff are under pressure. Since the students in these programs are not among those for which the university receives financing, the ASRO Department is being pushed towards diminishing the support for these programs.

The actual staff number is a total of 6 FTE carrying the maHS counting 40 students in total. The panel finds that the staff quantity is adequate to organize the programs. The teaching load is substantial but not problematic, mainly because of the limited number of students and the many guest lecturers. The panel, however, finds that the fact that many of the senior academic staff members are only part-time involved in the different programs is not optimal. If these programs (continue to) grow in terms of student numbers, there will be a clear need for staff members who are on a full-time basis in charge of the programs. The panel stresses that there should be a real commitment of the university authorities regarding the long term support of these advanced master programs. The panel is highly concerned about the future of the programs as no firm commitment of the K.U.Leuven exists to guarantee the programs their existence.

The K.U.Leuven, as well as the Faculty, aims to develop a sound HR policy for all staff involved in teaching. Appointments and promotions are based upon research, teaching and other competences. A diversity policy is adopted as well.

The panel observed that the quality of the staff involved in the maHS is good, but, and in order to develop the interdisciplinary character of the program further, that specific expertises must be attracted. To put it otherwise, a strategic HR policy must be developed to make sure that a critical array of disciplines is represented throughout the maHS program.

Regarding the professionalization of the staff the K.U.Leuven provides a wide range of training opportunities. Some of the staff members have followed such training, but in general, they are seen by the different staff members as too generic, and not tailored towards the specificities of the programs.

Based on the discussions with the staff, students and alumni, on the self evaluation report, and on several other documents available during the visit, it is clear to the panel that the staff and its commitments to the programs are of outstanding quality. Both the domain-specific and domain-pedagogical expertises of the staff are good, the panel says. The research performed by most senior academic staff members is recognized internationally.

Voorzieningen

The panel finds that the size and quality (that is the degree to which the material facilities are adapted to the goals of the programs) of the visited facilities are not in every respect sufficient to guarantee the quality of the programs. The facilities provided at the K.U.Leuven are considered as to be below the standard.

The visited auditoria are well-equipped. However, the rooms to conduct designs, teamwork and projects do not meet all demands. They are too small and do only partly facilitate the work students must carry out. In fact, many of these rooms are 'pooled rooms' and the opening hours are also limited. Students and alumni told the panel that the limited technical infrastructure is one of the programs' major setbacks. This is for internationally oriented programs, aiming to attract junior professionals, unsatisfactory, the panel states. This clearly and severely compromises the programs' international standing.

Pagina 7 van 11 The panel states that the student's guidance meets the needs of the students, and that it, in large, effectively supports their learning progress.

At the central level, both the Education Communication Unit and Study Advice Unit provide information to possible students. Guidance for specific groups, like students with disabilities, is also provided at the central level.

The panel concludes that the information provision and the student's guidance are well organized. The panel observes that the staff does its best to help solve problems as fast as possible. The students and alumni confirmed this during the various meetings with the panel.

The panel assesses the aspect 'Facilities' as unsatisfactory and the aspect 'Student guidance' as good. The unsatisfactory score on the aspect "Facilities" is the result of the inadequate facilities for the Design Studio work. Given the fact that the other facilities (like the library and the auditoria) are adequate, and that the program will initiate and implement a number of improvement measures regarding the facilities in the near future, and, in addition, that the study guidance is well organized, the panel assesses the theme Services positively.

De NVAO volgt de overwegingen van het panel om op dit onderwerp tot een positief oordeel te komen.

Interne kwaliteitszorg

The panel observes that the programs are subject to formal periodic evaluations. The program, and more specifically the POC pays sufficient attention to the assurance of the quality of the educational processes. The formal evaluation of the results, the working of the POCs, together with the many informal contacts between students and staff and the outstanding work of the ombudspersons and coordinators, must enable the programs to take well-targeted improvement measures. Overall, the figures of the formal evaluations (the questionnaires) show that the students are satisfied with the program.

As a point of attention the panel suggests to measure the actual study time of all programs in a more systematic way.

The maHS has been subject of an external evaluation before. The panel states that the program has paid limited, but sufficient attention to the formulated recommendations and suggestions of the panel that visited the program in 2005.

The panel believes that the maHS has taken sufficient improvement measures. The results of the evaluations (formal and informal) are the basis for improvement measures that contribute to the realization of the objectives of the program, the panel concludes. This is particularly important because of the wide variety of incoming students with regard to their educational, professional and cultural backgrounds.

The panel concludes that, with respect to the internal quality assurance, the involvement of staff members and students is adequate. They play an active and important role in adjusting the program. The involvement of the alumni and professional field has been up to now rather informally organized but both stakeholders are sufficiently involved in the different programs of the K.U.Leuven, the panel concludes.

Based on the quality of the master's thesis, the programs' international and interdisciplinary character, the high level of the exam forms, the student's general appreciation of the programs' contents and their future employment profile, the panel concludes that the learning outcomes, and in effect, the goals of the programs are sufficiently realized.

The results of all programs suggest that these international renowned programs have their proper place in the Flemish higher education area. The panel, however, says that for all programs counts that the results are a bit disappointing, and that the goals of the programs could be met more effectively and efficiently. Up to now, the difference in terms of quality of the results between these advanced master programs and the regular master is too limited, the panel states. The panel believes that there is still plenty of room to increase the quality of the programs.

As a point of attention, all programs must check the results in a more systematic fashion. To put it otherwise, more efforts should be made to get a better picture of the realization of the learning outcomes by the different groups of students.

The program is quite attractive and has satisfying numbers of participants.

For the maHS counts that at least 75% of the students acquire all the credits that they have taken up, this illustrates the good study efficiency. 89% of the students graduate within the intended 12 month timeframe.

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 NVAO besluit dat de opleiding voldoet aan de eisen gesteld in de Europese richtlijn 2005/36/EG.

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

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

Eindoordeel NVAO: positief

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 NVAO: positief

6. Besluit¹

betreffende de accreditatie van de Master of Science in Human Settlements (master na master) van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

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 opleiding Master of Science in Human Settlements (master na master) van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven goedgekeurd en wordt de opleiding geaccrediteerd. Het betreft een opleiding zonder afstudeerrichtingen die te Leuven wordt georganiseerd.

De in het eerste lid bedoelde accreditatie geldt vanaf de aanvang van het academiejaar 2012-2013 tot en met het einde van het academiejaar 2019-2020.

Den Haag, 24 april 2012

Voor de NVAO,

Lucien Bollaert
(bestuurder)

¹ Conform de bepalingen vermeld in de handleiding accreditatie kan een instelling opmerkingen en bezwaren formuleren op het ontwerp van accreditatierapport. Bij e-mail van 5 april 2012 heeft de instelling gereageerd op het ontwerp van accreditatierapport. Dit heeft geleid tot een enkele aanpassing in het accreditatierapport.

– naam instelling	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
– adres instelling	Naamsestraat 22, Bus 5000, 3000 Leuven
– aard instelling	ambtshalve geregistreerd
– graad, kwalificatie	Master of Human Settlements
– specificatie	of Science
– niveau en oriëntatie	master na master
– studieomvang	60 studiepunten
– opleidingsvarianten	
– afstudeerrichtingen:	geen
– studietraject voor werkstudenten:	geen
– vestiging opleiding	Leuven
– onderwijstaal	Engels
– (delen van) studiegebieden	Toegepaste wetenschappen
– bijkomende titel	geen