

Oordeel

Positief oordeel over de kwaliteit van de opleiding hbo-bachelor Social Work and Development van de Universiteit van Aruba

Gegevens

datum	Instelling	: Universiteit van Aruba
24 maart 2017	Opleiding	: hbo-bachelor Social Work and Development
onderwerp	Graad	: Bachelor of Social Work
Positief oordeel hbo-bachelor	Variant	: voltijd
Social Work and Development	Locatie	: Oranjestad, Aruba
Universiteit van Aruba	Studieomvang (EC)	: 240
(004516)	Datum aanvraag	: 30 juni 2017
uw kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoek	: 24 en 25 oktober 2016
UAU-16035	Datum paneladvies	: 7 februari 2017
ons kenmerk		
NVAO/20170575/ND		

bijlage

2

Inleiding

Bij brief van 8 juli 2005 heeft de minister van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap de Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO) verzocht een oordeel uit te spreken over de kwaliteit van opleidingen die publieke instellingen voor hoger onderwijs op Aruba aan de NVAO voorleggen. Het gaat daarbij niet om een accreditatie dan wel een toets nieuwe opleiding in de zin van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (WHW). De instellingen op Aruba zijn immers geen instellingen in de zin van die wet. In het verlengde daarvan heeft de rector van de Universiteit van Aruba de NVAO gevraagd om de opleiding hbo-bachelor Social Work and Development op kwaliteit te toetsen.

Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de uitgebreide toets nieuwe opleiding van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2014, nr 36791).

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het paneladvies deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding positief heeft bevonden.

Samenvatting van de bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) received a request for a peer review of a Bachelor in Social Work and Development (hbo-ba)¹ at the University of Aruba. NVAO convened an expert panel, which studied the information available and discussed the programme with representatives of the institution and the programme during a site visit.

When assessing the programme, the panel made sure to take into account the specific and challenging circumstances of the University of Aruba. These conditions are determined by the format of a small higher education institution being located on an island and without a research institute. As such there certainly is some tension between the constraints and difficulties inherent to this specific context, and the stringency of the NVAO accreditation procedure. The following considerations have played an important role in the peer review.

Intended learning outcomes

Social Work and Development is a four-year Bachelor programme, having both a professional and research orientation. The learning outcomes are operationalised by 11 core competencies. According to the panel, these competencies are clearly in line with international standards for a programme in Social Work and Development. The goal and orientation of the programme can be more explicitly linked with the regional context. Moreover, social development can be a more integral part of the programme.

Curriculum

The programme has a hybrid character by focussing on both research and the professional field in keeping with the intended learning outcomes. The curriculum offers students sufficient room for getting experience in the professional field. Doing research is combined with applying it on the practice and reflecting on the profession of social work. The competencies are adequately translated in the curriculum, and the internationally recognised knowledge areas can be found back in the modules. The teaching concept, contextualised interactive teaching, is in line with the objectives of the programme. The dropout rate however, more than 25%, is high. The study load should be more closely monitored and a part-time curriculum might be considered. By Aruban law, the programme has to admit students from a wide range of secondary schools, including Colegio EPI Level 4. Moreover, some of the students have difficulties with languages, mainly Dutch. The University of Aruba has started an Academic Foundation Year in order to develop research and communication skills of incoming students.

Staff

The size of the staff is large enough and the lecturers have sufficient experience in the professional field, but only a few of them have had formal training in the field of social work and development. They can also develop a greater network in the Caribbean.

1 hbo: hoger beroepsonderwijs / professional higher education (in the Netherlands)

The accommodation and facilities - the class rooms, library and study places - are appropriate for this programme. The University of Aruba has plans to expand in the direct neighbourhood of the main building.

The programme has a system of monitoring the study progress of the students, which can be improved, and it provides sufficient guidance and supervision. The programme can inform prospective students better on the theoretical orientation of the programme and the multilingual context of the work field.

Quality Assurance

The University of Aruba has a professional centre for quality assurance that examines several aspects of the quality of the programme and formulates measures for improvements. Some elements of the system of quality assurance can be more formalised and focused more on the content of the curriculum and the teaching methods.

Assessment

The system of assessment is fitting for this programme and the exam committee plays a pro-active role. The exam committee must remain independent and no members should have management responsibilities.

Graduation guarantee and financial provisions

Approximately 90% of the University of Aruba's budget is provided by the Government of Aruba. In addition to the annual government subsidy, the university draws additional income from tuition and examination fees, facilities rental income and course fees. The University does not require extra financial provisions as the programme is already fully developed having undergone the phases of design, development and execution.

Achieved learning outcomes

The theses that the panel has examined are clearly of bachelor level. During the site visit, the panel studied portfolios that students developed during their final research and field practice. These portfolios show how students are able to transfer their research and theoretical insights to practical issues in the field. Combined with the thesis, the defence of the core competencies and the course assessments, the panel has seen sufficient evidence that graduates have obtained the criteria for a professional bachelor.

Although during some periods the government funding for social work and organisation is limited, most of the alumni have found a job in the field of social work and development.

Given these considerations, the panel concludes that all twelve standards of the NVAO framework are met. The panel therefore advises NVAO to take a positive decision regarding the quality of the programme Bachelor in Social Work and Development (hbo-ba) offered by the University of Aruba.

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel om:

1. Communicating more clearly about the professional orientation of the programme and the multilingual context of social work in order to better prepare students for their future studies and to attract the right students;
2. Positioning the programme more distinctly in the local field of social work in order to engage the local community and future employers;
3. Embedding the programme in a more regional i.e. Caribbean context;
4. Introducing the use of interdisciplinary demand-driven research that is aligned with the needs of the local community;
5. Refraining from introducing specialisations or minors given the need for social workers with a more general profile;
6. Monitoring the study load very closely and considering a part-time study programme for working students;
7. Reconsidering the managerial organisation of the programme;
8. Involving students in all matters of quality assurance on a more formal basis;
9. Ensuring the independence of the exam committee by clearly delineating tasks and responsibilities of its members.

Oordeel

De NVAO heeft de rector van de Universiteit van Aruba in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot een positief oordeel d.d. 20 februari 2017 naar voren te brengen. Bij brief van 3 maart 2017 heeft de rector ingestemd met het voornemen tot besluit.

De NVAO oordeelt positief ten aanzien van de kwaliteit van de opleiding hbo-bachelor Social Work and Development (240 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Oranjestad) van de Universiteit van Aruba.

Van kracht tot en met 23 maart 2023

Den Haag, 24 maart 2017

De NVAO
Voor deze:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' and 'P' intertwined, with a horizontal line extending to the left and a vertical line extending downwards.

R.P. Zevenbergen
(bestuurder)

Onderwerp	Standaard	Oordeel
1 Beoogde eindkwalificaties	10. De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen.	voldoet
2 Programma	11. De oriëntatie van het programma waarborgt de ontwikkeling van vaardigheden op het gebied van wetenschappelijk onderzoek en/of de beroepspraktijk.	voldoet
	12. De inhoud van het programma biedt studenten de mogelijkheid om de beoogde eindkwalificaties te bereiken.	voldoet
	13. De vormgeving van het programma zet aan tot studeren en biedt studenten de mogelijkheid om de beoogde eindkwalificaties te bereiken.	voldoet
	14. Het programma sluit aan bij de kwalificaties van de instromende studenten.	voldoet
3 Personeel	15. Het personeel is gekwalificeerd en de omvang ervan toereikend voor de inhoudelijke, onderwijskundige en organisatorische realisatie van het programma.	voldoet
4 Voorzieningen	16. De huisvesting en de materiële voorzieningen zijn toereikend voor de realisatie van het programma.	voldoet
	17. De studiebegeleiding en de informatievoorziening aan studenten bevorderen de studievoortgang en sluiten aan bij de behoefte van studenten.	voldoet
5 Kwaliteitszorg	18. De opleiding wordt periodiek geëvalueerd, mede aan de hand van toetsbare streefdoelen.	voldoet
6 Toetsing	19. De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing.	voldoet
7 Afstudeergarantie en financiële voorzieningen	20. De instelling geeft aan studenten de garantie dat het programma volledig kan worden doorlopen en stelt toereikende financiële voorzieningen beschikbaar.	voldoet
8 Gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	21. De opleiding toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd.	voldoet
Algemene conclusie		positief

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- Susana Menéndez, PhD, board member, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands (*chair*);
- Koen Hermans, PhD, professor Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven, Belgium;
- Sheloutska Martinus MSW, coordinator Victim Assistance Office Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland, Bonaire;
- Marieke Stegeman, master student Social Work, University of Curacao (*student member*).

Het panel is bijgestaan door Noël Vergunst PhD, secretaris, en Michèle Wera MA, beleidsmedewerker NVAO en procescoördinator.