

ADVICE

- Case number:** CBB-S/25-049
- Objector:** [REDACTED]
- Respondent:** The Board of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Contested decision:** the decision of 15 April 2025, in which the respondent established the ranking of the objector for the selection procedure of the Bachelor's Programme in Political Science
- Hearing:** 14 May 2025

The Chamber for Student Affairs of the Appeals and Objections Committee (hereafter: The Committee) is charged with advising the Executive Board in respect of the present dispute pursuant to the provisions of Article 38 of the Administration and Management Regulations of Leiden University (*Bestuurs- en beheersreglement*). This chamber comprises the following persons:

- [REDACTED] (Chair)
- [REDACTED], Member
- [REDACTED], Member
- assisted by [REDACTED] Secretary

The course of the proceedings

The objector participated in the selection procedure for the Bachelor's Programme in Political Science (hereafter: the Bachelor's Programme).

On 15 April 2025, the respondent assigned the ranking 1207 to the objector in the selection procedure for the 2025-2026 academic year and communicated this to her (hereafter: the contested decision).

On 23 April 2025, the objector sent a letter of objection against this decision.

The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 6 May 2025.

The objection was considered on 14 May 2025 during a hearing of the Committee. The appellant did not appear at the hearing, and did not give notice of absence. [REDACTED], member of the Selection and Placement Committee, appeared at the hearing on behalf of the respondent.

Considerations

It is disputed whether the respondent assigned ranking 1207 to the objector on proper grounds. The Committee holds that the respondent was right to assign this ranking. The following is relevant in this respect.

The authority to select students and implement this decision

Under Article 7.53 of the Dutch Higher Education and Academic Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*), Leiden University's Executive Board has the authority to select students for a programme (in legal terminology 'in relation to the available teaching capacity, to set the maximum number of students who may be enrolled for the first time').

In the Leiden University Regulations for Selection & Placement for the Bachelor's Programme in Political Science 2025-2026 (*Reglement Selectie & Plaatsing Universiteit Leiden Bacheloropleiding Politicologie 2025-2026*; hereafter: the Regulations), the Executive Board mandates the authority to select students to the Faculty Board.

The selection of candidates for the Bachelor's Programme takes place on the basis of the aforementioned Regulations and the Assessment Plan for Selection and Placement Bachelor's in Political Science (*Toetsplan Selectie en Plaatsing Bachelor*

Politicologie; hereafter: the Assessment Plan). Both regulations have been adopted by the Executive Board.

The selection procedure

The selection procedure takes place in one round with two qualitative selection criteria: the grade point average of the applicant's prior education and an online assessment. The subject of the online assessment is an introduction to political science and it is based on pre-shared study materials, including literature and pre-recorded lectures.

The ranking of candidates is determined on the basis of these selection criteria, with the grade average of the previous education weighed at 30% and the result of the assessment weighed at 70%.

Result of the objector

Based on the grades that the objector obtained during her prior education, the respondent assigned her a grade point average score of 650. The objector achieved a score of 730 for the online assessment. The weighted average of these scores is 706, leading to the rank number 1207. The objector's ranking is higher than 600. This means that at the time of the contested decision, she was not offered the opportunity to study in the Bachelor's Programme.

Assessment of the dispute

The objector argues that she was wrongly assigned the ranking of 1207. To this end, she argues that when assigning her ranking the respondent should have taken into account the substance of her previous education, the high degree of alignment with the Bachelor's Programme, and her ambition and dedication in the field of the Bachelor's Programme. In addition, the respondent should have included her predicted grades when calculating her grade point average. In that case, her grade point average would have been higher.

The respondent correctly took the position in the letter of defence and at the hearing that the applicability of prior education and a candidate's motivation are not selection criteria under the Regulations and the Assessment Plan and are therefore not taken into account when determining the ranking. With regard to the grade point average, the respondent was also correct to point out that this is

determined for all candidates solely on the basis of results achieved. This is also in line with the Regulations and the Assessment Plan. The respondent submitted the calculation of the grade point average for verification to the Admissions Office, which confirmed that the calculation was correct.

Conclusion

The Committee considers that the selection procedure was carried out in accordance with the Regulations and the Assessment Plan. The arguments of the objector, as explained above, do not give rise to a different opinion. Moreover, the Examination Appeals Board has not been informed of any other facts or circumstances that would warrant an alternative decision based on which the contested decision would have to be revoked.

Consequently, the administrative appeal is unfounded, and the decision can be upheld.

The advice

The Chamber for Student Affairs of the Appeals and Objections Committee advises the Executive Board to uphold the contested decision.

Leiden, 22 July 2025

On behalf of the Committee,



Chair



Secretary