

**OFFICIAL REPORT 19-115**

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Oral judgement dated 24 April 2019 by the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University in the matter between:

[name], appellant,

and

The Board of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, respondent.

**Present:**

O. van Loon, LL.M., (Chair)

Dr A.M. Rademaker

Prof. G. Boogaard, LL.M.

M. Heezen, LL.B.

Z.I. de Vos, LL.B. (Members)

M.S.C.M. Stoop - van de Loo, LL.M, Secretary

The appellant did not appear at the hearing, having given prior notice, but was represented by [name].

[name], was present at the hearing on behalf of the respondent.

**The course of the proceedings**

The appellant requested the respondent to be admitted to the Bachelor's Programme in Psychology, with a specialisation in Clinical Neuropsychology (hereinafter to be referred to as "the master's programme").

The respondent rejected the request in a decision dated 20 May 2019.

The appellant sent a letter on 28 May 2019 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

The respondent explored the possibility of reaching an amicable settlement. However, no such amicable agreement between the parties was reached.

The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 8 July 2019.

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### **Relevant legislation**

As far as relevant, the Course and Examination Regulations (“OER”) of the Master's Programme in Psychology state the following:

5.2.4 Persons with a bachelor’s degree or an equivalent degree from a university who possess the skills, understanding and knowledge that are required for earning the bachelor’s degree referred to in Article 5.2.1. Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act, more specifically the knowledge at university level of the following topics:

- introduction to psychology
- social and organisational psychology
- personality psychology
- cognitive psychology
- neuropsychology and/or psychophysiology and/or biopsychology
- clinical and abnormal psychology
- developmental and educational psychology
- theory or training in interpersonal skills, such as interview, counselling, discussion techniques.
- theory or training in psychodiagnostics
- advanced courses (at least 30 EC) at third-year bachelor’s level on topics pertaining to the preferred master’s specialisation within the MSc in Psychology;
- have sufficient knowledge of Methodology and Statistics (at least 20 EC): introductory and more advanced courses in methodology and statistics of psychological research (including psychometrics, multivariate data-analysis) and the use of SPSS;
- have evidence of thorough proficiency in written and spoken English, e.g. by means of an IELTS score of 7 or a TOEFL score of 100/250/600 or a Cambridge CPE/CAE score of 185 (for non-native speakers of English) with at least an IELTS score of 6.5 on partial scales of this test and at least a TOEFL score of 22 (reading), 22 (listening), 22 (speaking) and 25 (writing) on partial scales of this test and at least a Cambridge CPE/CAE score of 176 on partial scales of this test.

### **Considerations**

The appellant has a bachelor’s diploma with a major in Psychology from [name] University. Furthermore, she has completed a number of course units, at various universities: [name] University in the Federal Republic of Germany, [name] University in Hungary, and [name] University in the Philippines.

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The respondent rejected the request for admission as the previous education of the appellant differs considerably regarding substance and curriculum from the requirements to be admitted to the master's programme. The respondent holds that the appellant lacks advanced course units in the fields of psychology, methodology, and statistics. Furthermore, the Admissions Office of Leiden University assessed the bachelor's diploma awarded to the appellant by [name] University as only two years of the bachelor's programme at an academic level.

The Examination Appeals Board established that the appellant has completed various course units successfully at universities other than [name] University and has included these in her curriculum. In the view of the Examination Appeals Board, the respondent has not made it sufficiently clear how the course units that she has completed relate to the required academic level. The fact that the respondent holds that a completed BA programme at [name] University is not comparable to a completed BA programme at a recognised Dutch university does not automatically lead to the conclusion that course units attended elsewhere which have been incorporated in the curriculum by [name] University should not be valued at academic level either.

The respondent has not demonstrated that all course units that are relevant in the view of the appellant have been considered in the assessment. At the hearing, the respondent was unable to provide details in this respect to the Examination Appeals Board. Nevertheless, this is what the respondent should have done. Consequently, the contested decision contravenes the law and must be quashed due to lack of substantiation.

The Examination Appeals Board instructs the respondent to take a new decision within 6 weeks and to send it to the appellant. In doing so, the respondent must consider whether the appellant has made it plausible with her full previous education that she possesses knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a student who has successfully completed the Bachelor's Programme at Leiden University, as further detailed in article 5.2.4. of the OER.

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**Decision**

The Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University,

- I. holds the appeal founded;
- II. quashes the decision of 20 May 2019;
- III. instructs the respondent to take a new decision within 6 weeks on the appellant's request to be admitted to the master's programme, with due regard for the considerations of this decision.

This official report of the decision has been drawn up, and is duly signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

O. van Loon, LL.M.,  
Chair

M.S.C.M. Stoop - van de Loo,  
Secretary

Certified true copy,

Sent on: