

OFFICIAL REPORT 19-121

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Oral decision of 24 July 2019 of 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)
I.L. Schretlen, LL.M (Secretary)

The appellant did not appear at the hearing, and did not give prior notice of his absence.

[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 School Psychology (hereinafter to be referred to as “the master's programme”).

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

The appellant sent a letter on 26 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.

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The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 4 July 2019.

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 proof 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 equivalent (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.

Considerations

The appellant has an honours bachelor’s diploma with a major in Psychology from Guelph[name] University. He also has a General Arts and Science Diploma from [name].

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The Admissions Office of Leiden University assessed the appellant's bachelor's diploma as a diploma from a university of applied sciences. Graduation from a University of Applied Sciences (*HBO instelling*) does not qualify for admission to a research university (article 7.30b, paragraph 1, preamble and under a, of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek; WHW*]).

The respondent also rejected the request for admission on the grounds that 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 field of the chosen master's programme. In order to be admitted to the master's programme, the appellant must satisfy the final terms of the bachelor's programme taught at Leiden University, and must also possess sufficient expertise in the field of his preferred specialisation. The Examination Appeals Board holds that the appellant did not sufficiently contest the grounds of this decision.

The respondent has justly assessed the appellant's work experience as psychology assistant and the psychology subjects that the appellant has studied as insufficient to compensate for the deficiencies established.

In view of the above, the respondent was justified in refusing the appellant admission to the master's programme.

Decision

The Examination Appeals Board holds the appellant's appeal unfounded.

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

O. van Loon, LL.M,
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M,
Secretary

Certified true copy,

Sent on: