

**DECISION 19 - 074**

Rapenburg 70  
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of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University  
in the matter of the appeal of

[name], appellant

against

the Board of Admission of Psychology, respondent

**Course of the proceedings**

The appellant requested to be admitted to the master's programme in Psychology, with specialisation in Clinical Psychology (hereafter: the master's programme).

The respondent rejected the appellant's request in its decision of 7 March 2019 (the contested decision).

The appellant sent a letter on 26 March 2019 to lodge an administrative appeal against the contested decision.

It is not clear if the respondent investigated whether an amicable settlement between the parties could be reached.

The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 18 April 2019.

The appeal was considered on 22 May 2019 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant did not appear at the hearing. [name] appeared on behalf of the respondent.

**Facts and circumstances**

The appellant requested to be admitted to the master's programme in Clinical Psychology on the basis of her diploma, which she obtained at [name] University in Istanbul.

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**Contested decision**

The respondent rejected the appellant's request to be admitted to the master's programme in its decision of 7 March 2019, because her prior education is equivalent to the level of a bachelor's diploma of a university of applied sciences (Dutch HBO). Furthermore, courses were missing in the fields of psychology, methodology and statistics.

**Grounds for the appeal**

According to the appellant, [name] University, at which she studied, has an excellent programme in psychology and it prepares students for continued education at international universities. She has a double major in Psychology and Sociology and a minor in Philosophy, with an average grade of 3.64.

**Relevant regulations**

The Course and Examination Regulations of the Master's Programme in Psychology 2018-2019 (*Onderwijs- en examenregeling, OER*) stipulates, insofar as relevant here:

5.2.1 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act, holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme and one of its specialisations:

- a Bachelor's degree from the programme BSc in Psychology of Leiden University with the appropriate specialisation course for the chosen specialisation.

(...)

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, admit persons to the programmes who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under further conditions, without prejudice to the conditions specified in 5.2.4.

**Considerations**

At issue in the dispute is whether the respondent considered on correct grounds that the appellant's prior education does not meet the requirements set in the OER in this respect.

On the basis of the administrative appeal that was lodged, the respondent looked again at the education documents. The Admissions Office gave detailed advice

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about the appellant's education documents and advised the respondent that the diploma obtained at [name] University is equivalent to a diploma at the level of a university of applied sciences (HBO). The programme is neither sufficiently wide in scope nor sufficiently in-depth. Too few courses were followed and passed in the specific discipline. In itself, [name] University is a good university of applied sciences, but it is not equivalent to a programme at the academic level.

There is no pre-master's programme available for this master's programme. It is therefore also not possible to admit the appellant conditionally to the programme.

The Examination Appeals Board considers that it has established that the respondent considered on correct grounds that the appellant's prior education does not meet the requirements set for this in Article 5.2.4. The diploma obtained at [name] University does not attest to a programme at the same level as a programme at a Dutch university. Furthermore, it was not demonstrated that the appellant has sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills in the relevant topics in the discipline of Psychology. The average grade (GPA) is not relevant for admission to the programme. In view of the above, the Examination Appeals Board takes the view that the contested decision can be upheld. The other arguments put forward by the appellant do not lead the Committee to take a different view.

**The decision**

The Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

holds the appeal unfounded,

in view of Article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Research Act.

Established by a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board, comprised of K.H. Sanders, LL.M. (Chair), Dr J.J.G.B. de Frankrijker, Dr A.M. Rademaker, Prof G. Boogaard, LL.M. and Z.I. de Vos (Members), in the presence of the Secretary of the Examination Appeals Board, I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.

K.H. Sanders, LL.M.  
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.  
Secretary

Certified true copy,

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Sent on:

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