

DECISION 22 - 591

Rapenburg 70
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of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

in the matter of the administrative appeal of

[X] , appellant,

against

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

The course of the proceedings

The appellant requested the respondent to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Psychology, with a specialisation in Social and Organisational Psychology (hereinafter “the Programme”).

The respondent rejected the appellant’s request in its decision of 13 November 2022.

The appellant sent a letter on 8 December 2022 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

The respondent informed the Examination Appeals Board that it has investigated whether an amicable settlement could be reached between the parties. No amicable settlement was reached.

The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 12 January 2023.

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The appeal was considered on 23 January 2023 during a hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant attended the hearing online. [X] attended the hearing on behalf of the respondent.

Considerations

In accordance with article 7.61, paragraph two, of the Dutch Higher Education and Academic Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*), the Examination Appeals Board must consider whether the contested decision is contrary to the law.

Pursuant to Article 5.2.1 of the Course and Examination Regulations of the Master's Programme in Psychology (*Onderwijs- en Examenregeling van de masteropleiding Psychologie*, "OER"), the following admission requirements apply to the Programme:

Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

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

b. Persons with a bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree from an academic university who possess the skills, understanding and knowledge that are required for earning the bachelor's degree referred to in Article 5.2.1a. Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1a and 5.2.2, the following 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,

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discussion techniques.

- theory or training in psycho diagnostics
- advanced courses (at least 30 EC) on a third year Bachelor level on topics pertaining to the preferred master specialisation within the MSc 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.

c. a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to article 5.4.1

The appellant did not complete a bachelor's programme in Psychology at Leiden University. The respondent asked the Admissions Office to assess the appellant's [X] Sciences degree from the University [X] in the United States. According to the Admissions Office, the degree is comparable to two years of academic education.

The Examination Appeals Board agrees with the respondent that the appellant does not meet the admission requirements for the Programme set out in Article 5.2.1 of the OER.

On the basis of the information and documents provided by the appellant, the respondent also assessed whether the bachelor's degree she obtained at the University [X] meets the substantive requirements for admission to the programme. The result is that the appellant's diploma also fails to meet the stated admission requirements in terms of the substance and level of course units attended.

In order to meet the admission requirements, 80% of the course units obtained must be general psychology-related course units (=96 of 120 credits). The appellant obtained 51 credits. According to the respondent, the other course units passed are not relevant for admission to the Programme. She also lacks a course unit in theory and training in interpersonal skills. Furthermore, she obtained only 9 of the 13 required credits in basic course units in Methodology and Statistics.

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Moreover, her prior education does not include the required sufficiently advanced bachelor's course units in the field of the chosen specialisation, Social and Psychological Psychology. Consequently, the respondent holds that the appellant lacks the required knowledge, insights, and skills, both in-depth and in a broad scope. The gap between the credits obtained by her and those required by the respondent is too wide for her to be admitted to the Programme.

The Examination Appeals Board agrees with this position and endorses it. Furthermore, the Examination Appeals Board agrees with the respondent that the appellant's work experience is not sufficient to compensate for the significant lack of credits.

This means that the respondent decided justly and on proper terms not to admit the appellant to the Programme. Consequently, the contested decision can be upheld. The administrative appeal is unfounded.

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The decision

The Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

holds the administrative appeal unfounded

in view of article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act.

Established by a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board, comprised of: O. van Loon, LL.M, (Chair), Dr A.M. Rademaker and J.J. Christiaans B.A., assisted by I.L. Schretlen, LL.M., Secretary.

O. van Loon, LL.M.,
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.,
Secretary

The decision was notified to the appellant by email on 23 January 2023 and the hard copy was sent on:

Certified true copy,