

DECISION 17 - 362

Rapenburg 70
Postbus 9500
2300 RA Leiden
T 071 527 81 18

of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

in the matter of

the appeal of [name], appellant

against

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

1. Origin and course of the proceedings

The appellant sent a letter on 21 October 2017 which was received on 7 November 2017, to lodge an appeal against the decision of the respondent of 10 October 2017 (the contested decision).

The contested decision rejected the application to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Psychology, with a specialisation in Clinical Psychology, since the appellant's previous education differs considerably in terms of substance and curriculum from the requirements to be admitted to the master's programme.

In short, the appellant argued that, prior to applying, she verified all the admission requirements. She holds that the level of her previous education is sufficient and that its curriculum does correspond adequately with the master's programme. The appellant stated that she was motivated to start the master's programme.

The respondent investigated whether an amicable settlement could be reached. In his email of 14 December 2017, the respondent informed the appellant that the contested decision will remain in force and that she can only be admitted to the master's programme once she has followed the International Bachelor's Programme in Psychology, since the pre-master's is only offered in Dutch. However, this did not result in the appeal being withdrawn.

A letter of defence was submitted on 4 January 2018.

The appeal was considered on 14 February 2018 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant did not appear at the hearing, and had not given notice of absence. [name], appeared on behalf of the respondent.

2. Considerations with regard to admissibility

The appellant lodged a timely appeal against the decision of 10 October 2017 by means of the letter dated 21 October 2017 that was received by the Examination Appeals Board on 7 November 2017. Furthermore, the letter of appeal also meets the requirements as stipulated in the General Administrative Law Act ("Awb", *Algemene wet bestuursrecht*) and the Higher Education and Academic Research Act ("WHW", *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*). Consequently, the administrative appeal is admissible.

3. Relevant legislation

As far as relevant, the Course and Examination Regulations ("OER", *Onderwijs en examenregeling*) of the Master's Programme in Psychology state the following:

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 BSc programme in Psychology at 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.

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

Decision
17-362
Page 3/5

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 psycho diagnostics
- advanced courses (at least 30 ECs) at third-year bachelor's level on topics pertaining to the preferred master's specialisation within the MSc in Psychology.
- have sufficient knowledge of Methods and Statistics (at least 20 EC): introductory and more advanced courses in methods 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.

4. Considerations with regard to the dispute

In accordance with article 7.61, paragraph two, of the WHW, the Examination Appeals Board must consider whether the contested decision contravenes the law.

It has been established that the appellant was awarded a Lisans Diploması (bachelor's) at the Eastern Mediterranean University (Cyprus).

Article 5.2.1. of the OER states that direct admission to this master's programme is only possible with a Bachelor's diploma in Psychology from Leiden University. Since the appellant does not have this diploma, she does not qualify for direct

Decision
17-362
Page 4/5

admission. The request to be admitted must therefore be assessed on the basis of the requirements stipulated by the OER.

The respondent explained in his letter of defence and at the hearing that and why the appellant does not meet the requirements set out in article 5.2.4. of the OER based on her diploma. The respondent substantiated the contested decision with the considerations that the appellant's previous education differs considerably in terms of substance and curriculum from the requirements to be admitted to the master's programme. In order to be admitted to the master's programme, the appellant must satisfy the learning objectives of the bachelor's programme taught at Leiden University, and she must also possess sufficient expertise in the field of her preferred specialisation.

At the hearing, the respondent clarified that appellant's previous education is below the level of an academic bachelor's. The Admissions Office has classified the bachelor's that was awarded to the appellant to be a bachelor's at the level of a university of applied sciences, according to the respondent.

The Examination Appeals Board holds that the respondent is justified in reaching the contested decision based on the motivation provided.

Since the Examination Appeals Board has not been informed of any other facts or circumstances that could lead to an alternative decision, the appeal must be held unfounded.

Decision
17-362
Page 5/5

5. The decision

In view of article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act,
the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University
holds the appeal **UNFOUNDED**.

Established by a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board, comprised of
H.M. Braam, LL.M., MA (Chair), Dr K. Beerden, J. Nijland, LL.M., Y.D.R. Mandel
and Z.I. de Vos (members), in the presence of the Secretary of the Examination
Appeals Board, M.S.C.M. Stoop - van de Loo, LL.M.

H.M. Braam, LL.M., MA,
Chair

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

Certified true copy,

Sent on: