

OFFICIAL REPORT 19 – 021

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of the oral decision of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University issued on 6 March 2019 in the matter of the appeal of

[name], appellant,

against

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

Present:

- O. van Loon, LL.M. (Chair),
- Dr J.J.G.B. de Frankrijker,
- Dr J. Nijland,
- M.G.A. Berk, MSc,
- Z.I. de Vos (Member)
- I.L. Schretlen, LL.M (Secretary),
- [name], Chair of the Board of Admissions of the Master's Programme in Political Science.
- [name], Admissions Officer of the Expertise Centre for Student and Educational Affairs.

The appellant did not appear at the hearing.

The course of the proceedings

The appellant requested the respondent to be admitted to the Bachelor's Programme in Political Science, with a specialisation in International Relations and Organisations (hereinafter: "bachelor's programme").

In the decision of 21 December 2018, the respondent admitted the appellant subject to the condition that she would at least be awarded a grade 6 in the [name] *VWO Wiskunde-A* exam (pre-university level Mathematics-A) exam, among other conditions.

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The appellant sent a letter on 17 January 2019 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

The respondent informed the Examination Appeals Board that efforts had been made to reach an amicable settlement. However, no amicable settlement between the parties was reached.

The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 28 February 2019 .

Relevant legislation

Article 7.24, paragraph one, of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act ("WHW", *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*), stipulates that without prejudice to paragraph three the following apply as educational entry requirements for a programme in academic education:

- a. a diploma of pre-university education, as referred to in Article 7 of the Secondary Education Act (*Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs*), or
- b. a diploma of pre-university education, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph one, of the BES Islands Secondary Education Act (*Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs BES-eilanden*).

Considerations

The Board of Admissions assessed the diploma of the appellant to be awarded at the level of Dutch HAVO (senior general secondary education), and – depending on topics and grades - approximately at Dutch VWO year 5. The Board of Admissions is willing to assess the diploma, providing the following minimum criteria are met:

- (a) at least 5 grade 12 topics in general, academic topics, including Mathematics (pre-calculus), and
 - (b) a score of at least 86% (A) on each topic.
- Career and personal topics do not qualify.

At the hearing, it was explained that secondary school level in British Columbia is below the level in the Netherlands. In order to be admitted to the bachelor's programme, a level of mathematics is required that matches pre-university level. This rule is always applied by the Board of Admissions, but was indeed not stated explicitly on the website. It is now specified on the website.

Instead of passing the [name] pre-university mathematics exam, the appellant may also attend a summer course to achieve grade 12 in mathematics (Pre-

Decision 19-021 Calculus 12) according to the Board of Admissions. A third option may be an AP (Advanced Placement) exam.

Page 3/3 Furthermore, the respondent explained at the hearing that it has compared the Canadian diploma once again to the Dutch VWO diploma following the appeal. The Canadian diploma of British Columbia is the equivalent of a US High School diploma, which equates to Dutch HAVO level. Only diplomas from High Schools in Quebec and Ontario are assessed at a higher level.

The curriculum of the appellant does not comprise statistics and probability calculus, at least, not up to the required standard. The Board of Admissions holds that prior knowledge of statistics and probability calculus at a satisfactory level is vital to be able to properly follow the bachelor's programme. Such knowledge is required as from the start of the programme, in blocks 1 and 2.

The Examination Appeals Board holds that the Board of Admissions has considered rightly and on proper grounds that and why the appellant does not meet the admission requirements of the bachelor's programme based on her diploma from the British Columbia Senior Secondary Graduation. The secondary school diploma that was awarded to the appellant does not match the level of a Dutch pre-university education qualification. The respondent has designated the previous education of the appellant to be similar to the level of the Dutch senior general secondary education. Her knowledge of mathematics in particular is below the required level.

The decision

The Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

holds the appeal unfounded,

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

O. van Loon, LL.M,
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.
Secretary

Certified true copy,

Sent on: