

DECISION 20 - 484

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 [X], respondent.

The course of the proceedings

The appellant requested the respondent to be admitted to the Master's Programme in [X], with a specialisation in [X] (hereinafter to be referred to as "the Programme") with effect from 1 February 2021.

The respondent rejected the appellant's request in a decision of 19 November 2020.

The appellant sent a letter on 18 November 2020 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

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

The appeal was considered on 20 January 2021 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant did not attend the hearing. [name], Chair of the Board of Admissions, attended the hearing on behalf of the respondent.

**Decision
20-484**

Considerations

Page 2/3

1 – The position of the respondent

The respondent takes the position that the appellant's prior education does not meet the requirements for admission to the programme. There is a substantial gap between the substance and curriculum of the appellant's prior education and the chosen specialisation. The academic background of the appellant in the field of [X] is rather limited and inadequate.

At the hearing, the respondent argued that the appellant did not attend course units in the prior education in the field of [X]. This will make it very difficult for him to attend the course units and collaborate with students that do have such experience. Moreover, the Course and Examination Regulations (*Onderwijs- en Examenregeling*, OER) require that 90 ECTS have been completed in the field of [X]. The appellant has only completed 5 to 10 ECTS in this field.

The Board of Admissions has considered the appellant's CV and observed that he does indeed have four years of work experience in [X] ([X]) businesses, but this does not compensate for the lack of relevant ECTS. This pertains rather to industrial experience and his work experience lacks sufficient academic context.

2 - The grounds for the appeal

The appellant stated that he has ample work experience besides his prior education to be admitted to the programme.

3 - Considerations with regard to the dispute

In accordance with article 7.61, paragraph two, of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act (*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*; WHW), the Examination Appeals Board must consider whether the contested decision contravenes the law.

At the hearing, the respondent clarified how the Board of Admissions assessed whether the prior appellant's education in [X] at [X] University of [X] in [X], [X], would suffice to be admitted to the programme. The conclusion was and is that this is not the case as the appellant's prior education does not focus on course units in the field of [X]. The appellant has completed only 5 to 10 ECTS in the field of [X] instead of the required 90 ECTS. His work experience as [X] at [X], [X] has insufficient common ground with the field of [X] to compensate for the lack of ECTS. The experience he has gained is mainly in the [X] of [X].

**Decision
20-484**

Page 3/3

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.

Established by a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board, comprised of: O. van Loon, LL.M., (Chair), M. Heezen, LL.M., Y.D.R. Mandel LL.B., Dr W.M. Lijfering and Dr C.V. Weeda (members), in the presence of the Secretary of the Examination Appeals Board, I.L Schretlen, LL.M.

O. van Loon, LL.M,
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.
Secretary

Certified true copy,

Sent on: