

DECISION 22 - 445

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 [X] ([X]) of the Faculty [X], respondent.

The course of the proceedings

The appellant requested to be admitted to the Master's Programme in [X] (specialisation: [X]) (hereinafter: the Programme).

The respondent rejected the request in its decision of 16 August 2022.

The appellant sent a letter on 22 August 2022 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

The appeal was considered on 26 October 2022 during a 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
22-445**

Considerations

The Board took note of the parties' views, as reflected in the documents submitted.

The respondent rejected the appellant's request to be admitted to the programme on the grounds that the level and curriculum of his prior education do not meet the admission requirements.

The appellant would like to attend the pre-master's programme in February 2023. He meets the admission requirements, having obtained a Higher Professional Education (HBO) degree from [X]. He holds that students with an HBO degree have to meet the admission requirement that the bachelor's degree must be obtained within five years with an average final grade of at least 7.5. According to him, the decision also failed to take into account his work experience and the two internships he did at [X].

At the hearing, the respondent explained in more detail why the appellant's prior education was not sufficiently related to [X]. Nor is the work performed related to [X]. For instance, there was no evidence that the appellant took courses in [X]. The respondent did not find any [X]-related course unit in the appellant's cover letter and overview of course units. His prior education is satisfactory in terms of course units in the field of [X], but not as far as course units in the field of [X] are concerned. This 90 EC deficiency cannot be eliminated with a pre-master's.

It was stated on behalf of the respondent that admission requests are always assessed based on a candidate's knowledge, understanding and experience. This should be at the final level of the bachelor's programme. To this end, the candidate will be invited for an online interview or meeting, during which the programme will be discussed and whether the candidate's background will enable him or her to follow the programme successfully. Most often, a pre-master's programme is offered first and relevant course units are proposed.

It was stated on behalf of the respondent that the appellant was twice invited for an interview but did not make use of this opportunity.

**Decision
22-445**

Article 3.2.2 of the Course and Examination Regulations (*Onderwijs- en Examenregeling*, OER) for the Master's programme [X] stipulates that the Board of Admissions decides whether a candidate who does not meet the admission requirements as referred to in Article 3.2.1 of the OER (holding a university bachelor's degree) can be admitted to the programme. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the candidate has sufficient knowledge, experience and skills at the same level as the bachelor's degree as referred to in Article 3.2.1 of the OER. This also applies to candidates with a bachelor's diploma from a university of Applied Sciences. The additional condition in that case is that this HBO diploma must have been obtained within five years with an average final grade of at least 7.5.

Contrary to the appellant's apparent belief, it is not true that a candidate with an HBO diploma obtained within five years with an average final grade of 7.5 will 'automatically' be admitted to the master's programme and/or the pre-master's programme on the basis of Article 3.2.2 of the OER, regardless of the nature of the programme and the course units taken. If candidates meet these requirements, the Board of Admissions will assess whether they have sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of the bachelor's programme as referred to in Article 3.2.1 of the OER. This is also stated on the relevant internet page of Leiden University:

"The Board of Admissions will assess whether your degree and background are sufficiently related to the BSc degrees in [X] and whether you meet the additional requirements."

Candidates who have not obtained an HBO diploma within five years with an average final mark of 7.5 will for this reason not be admitted.

It emerged at the hearing that the respondent followed the procedure set out in Article 3.2.2 and assessed whether the appellant met the requirements for admission to the programme. It was submitted by the respondent that the appellant does not have sufficient knowledge, understanding and experience in

**Decision
22-445**

course units related to [X] and that he lacks course units in [X], among others. The appellant did not provide grounds to contest this. Since he also failed to appear at the hearing to provide further explanation, the Examination Appeals Board does not hold that the respondent's position would be incorrect.

Consequently, the administrative appeal is unfounded. This means that the contested decision is upheld.

**Decision
22-445**

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), Dr A.M. Rademaker, and J.J. Christiaans BA, assisted by I.L. Schretlen, LL.M (Secretary).

O. van Loon, LL.M.,
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.
Secretary

Sent on:

Certified true copy,