

**BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME
EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**MASTER'S PROGRAMMES
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
EUROPEAN STUDIES**

FACULTY OF BEHAVIOURAL,
MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE

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REPORT ON THE BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE MASTER'S PROGRAMMES EUROPEAN STUDIES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE

This report takes the joint NVAO-EAPAA Accreditation Framework 2016 as a starting point.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA REGARDING THE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor's programme European Public Administration

Name of the programme:	European Public Administration
CROHO number:	56654
Level of the programme:	bachelor's
Orientation of the programme:	academic
Number of credits:	180 EC
Specializations or tracks:	Global & European Studies Public Administration
Location:	Enschede
Mode of study:	full time
Joint programme:	
partner institutions involved:	Westfälische Wilhelmsuniversität Münster
type of degree awarded:	BSc European Public Administration, Specialization "Public Governance across Borders"
Language of instruction:	English
Expiration of accreditation:	31/12/2018

Master's programme Public Administration

Name of the programme:	Public Administration
CROHO number:	60020
Level of the programme:	master's
Orientation of the programme:	academic
Number of credits:	60 EC
Specializations or tracks:	Safety and security Sustainability Science and technology Regulation and innovation Higher Education Communication and ICT Health Care
Location:	Enschede
Mode of study:	full time
Language of instruction:	English
Expiration of accreditation:	31/12/2018

Master's programme European Studies

Name of the programme:	European Studies
CROHO number:	69303
Level of the programme:	master's
Orientation of the programme:	academic
Number of credits:	60 EC
Location:	Enschede
Mode of study:	full time

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Master's programme European Studies

The master's programme European Studies has 30 EC of required courses focusing on global and European governance. It includes courses on international relations and politics, legal frameworks, regulatory and policy design and academic research skills. The other 30 EC are for electives (5 EC) and thesis work (25 EC).

The panel concludes that the core components of the three programmes adequately educate students in the field of public administration. The basic components of public administration are present in the curricula and courses, and are appropriate for the level of the programme. The bachelor's programme focuses on understanding and applying the core components, whereas the master's programmes enables students to apply this knowledge in new and more complex environments.

2.2 Other components and specialisations

The programme clearly defines its objectives for additional work and the rationale for the objectives, and explains how the curriculum is designed to achieve these objectives. The statement of objectives includes any programme specialisation or concentration and the main categories of students to be served (e.g., full-time, part-time).

Bachelor's programme European Public Administration

The bachelor's programme European Public Administration offers specialization in two tracks (Public Administration and European Studies, both 30 EC), in the university-wide electives semester (30 EC) and in the joint degree *Public Governance Across Borders* with the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (full-time).

The two specialization tracks Public Administration and European Studies provide more specialized content in these areas as well as orienting students towards the two related master's programmes. The electives semester, which is part of the educational model (TOM), lets students choose 30 EC of electives throughout the university to either strengthen their multidisciplinary competences, or to qualify students for a master's degree outside public administration or to do an internship.

The joint degree *Public Governance Across Borders* focuses on multi-scale problems in governance, most prominently in contexts where national and state borders have become obstacles. The cooperation between the universities of Twente and Münster provides a highly relevant cross-border environment. Students experience this first-hand, spending their first year in Münster and the second and third year in Twente. The joint degree is designed to utilize the context in which it is offered by letting students simultaneously study and experience cross-border environments. The panel congratulates both universities on this successful cooperation.

The panel concludes that the specialization opportunities have clearly defined goals and objectives, and provide students with ample opportunities to specialize.

Master's programme Public Administration

The master's programme Public Administration has 30 EC for specialization, which includes two electives and the master's thesis. Students can choose between seven domain profiles (see Appendix 4) offered by experts in these fields throughout the university. The specializations are composed by the programme management from relevant master's level courses offered at the university that tie within the intended learning outcomes of the programme.

The panel is impressed by the broad range of specializations, and how the programme makes this work for a master's programme of this size. It praises their design, for which the expertise of researchers throughout the university is used as starting point. This guarantees that the students are taught (and supervised) by experts in all of the seven profiles. At the same time the programme manages to keep the set of specializations coherent and relevant to the programme's intended learning outcomes.

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could for instance involve alumni and the professional field more structurally. The panel recommends the programme to revitalize the advisory board and to involve them actively in curriculum developments on the macro level. This also applies to the bachelor's programme, which could benefit from the input of an external advisory board as well. In this light, the panel was pleased to hear about a recent meeting with regional stakeholders to discuss developments of the programme, and it encourages the programmes to engage in such meetings in a more structural way.

5.2 External reviews

The programme provides evidence that the recommendations received during previous reviews (by NVAO, EAPAA or any other (inter)national review body) have led to changes in the content or the organisation of the programme.

The previous accreditation in 2011 resulted in a number of recommendations, which played an important role in improvements made in the past years. The recommendations concentrated on the further development of skills in the programmes, the improvement of the didactical approach and the strengthening of the quality assurance within the programmes.

The panel concludes that the programmes have in general responded adequately to these recommendations. The bachelor's programme specifically was very successful in strengthening the development of professional skills and the didactical approach through the TOM approach. In the view of the panel, these aspects are now two of the strengths of the programme. To a lesser extent, the master's programmes also improved their skills education and didactical approaches. The recommendations on quality assurance were also adequately addressed, most prominently on strengthening the role of course evaluations and the introduction of the PCDA-cycle. The panel notes that the Board of Examiners was recommended to take a more proactive role. As discussed under Standard 3, this panel thinks that there is still room for improvement in this aspect.

Considerations

All three programmes have a solid system of quality assurance, with an educational committee that takes a strong, proactive role in curriculum development. This leads to continuous improvements of the programmes on a micro level. On the macro level, there is room for improvement, most prominently concerning the master's programmes. Considering the upcoming changes to these programmes, the panel recommends designing a clear process for this, and recommends the programme to use the input from external stakeholders in this process. To this end, the panel recommends revitalizing the programmes' advisory board. The programmes have responded adequately to the recommendations of the previous external assessment.

Conclusion

The panel assesses Standard 5:

for the bachelor's programme European Public Administration as 'satisfactory'.

for the master's programme Public Administration as 'satisfactory'.

for the master's programme European Studies as 'satisfactory'.

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Scholars of these issues are part of the broad 'PA' community, in research as well as in educational programmes.

Resulting Fields of Study

This PAGO-community consists of three fields of study. The first embodies the classical features of the discipline, concentrating on politics, administration and the public sector. Public administration often started within the context of (departments of) politics and/or law, with an emphasis on the study of government and bureaucracy as well as public policy-making and implementation.

The second emerged through the fact that public interests and public problems are increasingly tackled by a multitude of public and private actors. It broadened the scope of study to include nongovernmental actors, as part of the often complex public-private, multi-actor networks that deal with collective and public interests.

The third field focuses on questions of governance and organization that surpass the traditional public-private boundaries. It includes the study of private actors in social contexts. This orientation links the worlds of business administration and public administration and pays attention to what we know about management, strategy and behaviour in corporations. This approach can be labelled as 'governance and organization'.

PAGO today is a broad multi- and interdisciplinary field of science. The classical core disciplines of political science, law, sociology and economics are important, and there is an increasing involvement of disciplines that focus on organization, culture, and communication. Also, challenging new interchanges with bodies of knowledge in (for example) social and organizational psychology, planning studies and geography, philosophy and ethics and history have demonstrated added value.

The PAGO-community acknowledges that there are different views regarding object and focus of the field of study. For instance: is PAGO about knowledge by description, explanation and prediction, or is evaluation and improvement the prime goal? Or, how do we relate to and communicate with practitioners in public (and private) administration, governance and organization? Rather than excluding certain views, the PAGO-community welcomes a variety in approaches, ideas and outlook. This variety is also visible in the PAGO-programmes.

Defining programme principles

PAGO-programmes are academic programmes aiming at the development of academic knowledge, skills and attitude in students that are relevant for understanding public administration, governance and organization. They pay particular attention to social and political contexts and developments, relevant (interdisciplinary) bodies of knowledge, aim at developing research capacities, and contribute to working professionally in public and private domains. In this frame of reference we have listed elements that are to be seen as building blocks for academic programmes. As far as knowledge is concerned, contemporary programmes encompass various disciplinary views supporting the PAGO-domain, and various sorts of domain-specific knowledge. As far as skills are concerned, they encompass skills for applying and reflecting on scientific methods and approaches, integrating knowledge and skills for working in public domains/organizations. As far as attitude is concerned, it encompasses critical stances and moral stature. Each of these subfields is briefly elaborated in order to circumscribe specific learning outcomes at Bachelor and Master levels (see next paragraph).

Knowledge

Knowledge of society and changing contexts

Activities in public domains influence, are influenced by, and interact with social systems and developments. On the one hand, they constrain public sectors, as they reproduce values, traditions and culture(s). On the other hand, they call for public action; (new) facts, events and problems, fuelled by new technologies, pose new challenges. PAGO-programmes enhance understandings of

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	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
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APPENDIX 5: PROGRAMME OF THE SITE VISIT

Monday 30 okt 2017

10.00 – 14.00	Preliminary consultation panel (incl. lunch)
14.00 – 14.05	Welcome by the Dean
14.05 – 15.00	Programme management
15.00 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 16.00	Students Bachelor EPA
16.00 – 16.45	Staff Bachelor EPA
16.45 – 17.00	Break
17.00 – 17.45	Joint degree Bachelor EPA
17.45 – 18.00	Name change Bachelor EPA
18.00 – 18.30	Internal discussion panel

Tuesday 31 okt 2017

09.15 – 10.00	Internal discussion panel
10.00 – 10.45	Students Master PA (incl. alumni Bachelor EPA)
10.45 – 11.30	Staff Master PA
11.30 – 11.45	Break
11.45 – 12.30	Alumni and professional field Master PA
12.30 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 13.30	Internal discussion panel
13.30 – 14.15	Students Master ES (incl. alumni Bachelor EPA)
14.15 – 15.00	Staff Master ES
15.00 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 16.00	Educational committees
16.00 – 16.45	Board of Examiners
16.45 – 17.00	Break
17.00 – 17.45	Alumni and professional field Master ES
17.45 – 18.15	Internal discussion panel

Wednesday 1 Nov 2017

09.15 – 10.00	Internal discussion panel
10.00 – 10.45	Concluding conversation programme management
10.45 – 12.30	Internal discussion panel (incl. lunch)
12.30 – 12.45	Preliminary report (oral)
12.45 – 13.00	Break
13.00 – 14.00	Development conversation



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APPENDIX 7: RE-ACCREDITATION OF JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMME "PUBLIC GOVERNANCE ACROSS BORDERS"

(From: Self-evaluation report 2017 BSc European Public Administration, appendix 12)

READING GUIDE

The joint degree specialization Public Governance across Borders was recently accredited by both the Dutch and German accreditation authorities.

- **German accreditation.** On 1 December 2015 the joint degree specialization was accredited by German accreditation organization AQAS. AQAS set a number of "Auflagen" (additional requirements) to its accreditation decision. On 20 December 2016 AQAS accepted the Auflagen.
- **Dutch accreditation.** On 31 October 2016 NVAO (Dutch accreditation organization) accredited the joint degree programme on the basis of our response to the AQAS "Auflagen" and its agreement with AQAS.
- **Dutch accreditation expires 2018.** NVAO decided that the joint degree accreditation would expire in 2018 (with the current re-accreditation of the Bsc. programme in European Public Administration).
- **Special process for NVAO re-accreditation.** Because of the recent accreditations of the joint degree specialization programme management, QANU, NVAO, and EAPAA agreed upon a special process for the NVAO re-accreditation of the joint degree specialization. We provide the proposal upon which parties agreed in Appendix 12.1. The process for re-accreditation entails that:
 - We inform the QANU-panel about the **formal accreditation decisions**. We provide these decisions in appendix 12.2 (NVAO and AQAS) and in appendix 12.3 (AQAS).
 - We make available the **underlying documentation** to the QANU-panel. The documentation includes response to the "Auflagen" (Appendix 12.4) and the WWU/UT self-assessment report (appendix 12.5). Because of their length we make them available only electronically.

- We provide a **brief update of the joint degree specialization** integrated in the critical reflection report of the BSc. programme in European Public Administration.
 1. The NVAO decision on accreditation of the joint degree specialization is grounded in "sufficient" scores on all relevant NVAO standards 1 through 4 (see appendix 12.2).
 2. Since September 19, 2016 (the moment we responded to the "Auflagen") no significant changes took place with regard to the four standards for the joint degree specialization. The present critical reflection report of the BSc. programme in European Public Administration presents some recent information about achieved learning outcomes (see: standard 4 critical reflection report).
 3. Standards 5 and 6 (EAPAA) are described in the present critical reflection report.

12.1. PROPOSAL FOR THE RE-ACCREDITATION PROCESS OF THE JOINT DEGREE SPECIALIZATION PROGRAMME "PUBLIC GOVERNANCE ACROSS BORDERS"

Prof. dr. R. Torenvlied, M.J. Zeeman

Background. University of Twente and Westfälische Wilhelmsuniversität Münster (WWU) jointly offer the joint degree BSc. programme *Public Governance across Borders*. The programme *Public Governance across Borders* is formally registered as a joint degree specialization of the Twente Bsc. programme *European Public Administration*. The programme integrates a first year at WWU with a second and third year in the *European Public Administration* programme at University of Twente.

Recent accreditations (Fall 2016). The joint degree specialization programme *Public Governance across Borders* underwent a full accreditation process in fall 2015. This process was organized by the German accreditation organization "Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen" (AQAS). The accreditation process was based on an agreement between the German accreditation organization AQAS and the Dutch accreditation organization NVAO (signed June 21, 2013). Additionally, on July 8, 2015 the NVAO and the Akkreditierungsrat agreed to mutually

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