

OFFICIAL REPORT 19-057

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Oral decision of 8 May 2019 of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University in the case between:

[name], appellant

and

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

Present:

O. van Loon, LL.M. (Chair)

Dr A.M. Rademaker

Dr J.J. Hylkema

R.A.W. van Pelt

M.G.A. Berk, M.Sc. (Members)

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M. (Secretary)

The respondent did not appear at the hearing, and had sent notice of absence, but was represented by [name].

[name], was present on behalf of the respondent.

Course of the proceedings

The appellant requested the respondent to be admitted to the bachelor's programme in Political Science, with specialisation in International Relations and Organisations (hereafter referred to as “the bachelor's programme”).

The respondent rejected the appellant's request in its decision of 15 January 2019, because the appellant's prior education is not at the level of the Dutch pre-university education (VWO) diploma, or a comparable diploma.

The appellant sent a letter on 6 March 2019 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

The respondent investigated whether an amicable settlement could be reached. However, an amicable settlement between the parties was not reached.

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The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 9 April 2019.

Considerations

At the hearing, the appellant's authorised representative stated the reasons why the appellant would very much like to study in Leiden. In the past few years, he has travelled around the world due to his mother's position. She is a liaison officer and often works with refugees. He wants to acquire political experience during his studies in Leiden and also wants to learn several languages here. Moreover, he can complete the Leiden programme in three years, whereas a programme at a university of applied sciences (Dutch HBO) takes four years.

At the hearing, it was explained on behalf of the respondent that many students apply for this programme, in particular many foreign students. Consequently, one standard is applied to admission, which is the Dutch VWO diploma, or a diploma that is comparable to it. The appellant would either have to obtain a full International Baccalaureate diploma, or first attend an HBO programme and then re-apply after completing the first year of that programme. On 8 January 2019, the appellant was asked to sit an SE (school examination) assessment, but he did not reply.

On the basis of the submitted letter of appeal, the Admissions Office looked again at the appellant's education details. The appellant followed the GPA HS (High School) track at [name School] in Serbia and not the IB track. The level of the HS track is below the Dutch VWO level, and is comparable to a Dutch senior general secondary education (HAVO) diploma.

The Examination Appeals Board takes the view that the Board of Admissions considered correctly and on correct grounds that the education followed by the appellant at [name School] in Serbia does not meet the admission requirements of the bachelor's programme, and why this is so. The secondary school diploma obtained by the appellant is not comparable to the level of a Dutch pre-university education (VWO) diploma.

Therefore, the respondent was correct not to admit the appellant to the study programme. In addition, the Examination Appeals Board notes that, since the appellant's authorised representative states that the appellant is highly motivated to study in the Netherlands, he may consider eliminating the deficiencies by following an HBO programme, and may try again next year to be admitted to the programme on the basis of this. If he so wishes, the appellant can contact the Chair of the Board of Admissions to discuss with him which HBO programme

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would best link up with the bachelor's programme, so as to increase his chance of admission.

Decision

The Examination Appeals Board holds the appellant's appeal unfounded.

Of which this official report was drawn up, which has been signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

O. van Loon, LL.M.
Chair

I.L. Schretlen, LL.M.
Secretary

Certified true copy,

Sent on: