

DECISION 19 - 274

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 of [X], respondent

1. Course of the proceedings

The appellant applied to be admitted to the Master's programme in [X], specialising in [X] (hereafter referred to as: the programme), with effect from 1 September 2019.

In a decision of 30 July 2019, the respondent rejected the application because the appellant lacked a number of programme elements in the area of [X] and her bachelor's degree was assessed by the Admissions Office as equivalent to two years of a bachelor's programme at academic university level.

The appellant lodged an administrative appeal against this decision in a letter received on 12 September 2019.

In a letter of 16 September 2019, the appellant requested that her case be handled on a more urgent basis.

The respondent informed the Board on 15 October that an attempt had been made to reach an amicable settlement. This proved not to be possible.

On 23 October 2019, the respondent submitted a letter of defence.

The appeal was dealt with on 6 November 2019 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Board. The appellant did not appear at the hearing, without having given notice of absence. The respondent was represented by [name], Admissions Officer at the Institute of [X].

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2. The decision under dispute

In a decision of 30 July 2019 the respondent rejected the appellant's application to be admitted to the programme.

3. The grounds for the appeal

The appellant is highly motivated to start the programme. She recognises that she has a long way to go before she can become a [X], but she already has some work experience in the following areas: [X].

4. Relevant regulations

The Course and Examination Regulations of the Master's programme in Psychology ("OER") state the following, in so far as is relevant:

5.2.1 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act, holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme and one of its specialisations:

- a Bachelor's degree from the BSc programme in Psychology at Leiden University with the appropriate specialisation course for the chosen specialisation

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, admit persons to the programmes who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under further conditions, without prejudice to the conditions specified in 5.2.4.

5.2.3 (...)

5.2.4 Persons with a bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree from a university who possess the skills, understanding and knowledge that are required for earning the bachelor's degree referred to in Article 5.2.1. Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act, more specifically the knowledge at university level of the following topics:

- introduction to psychology
- social and organisational psychology
- personality psychology
- cognitive psychology
- neuropsychology and/or psychophysiology and/or biopsychology
- clinical and abnormal psychology
- developmental and educational psychology
- theory or training in interpersonal skills, such as interview, counselling, discussion techniques.

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- theory or training in psycho diagnostics
- advanced courses (at least 30 EC) at third year Bachelor's level on topics pertaining to the preferred master's specialisation within the MSc in Psychology.
- have sufficient knowledge of Methodology and Statistics (at least 20 EC): introductory and more advanced courses in methodology and statistics of psychological research (including psychometrics, multivariate data-analysis) and the use of SPSS.
- have proof of thorough proficiency in written and spoken English, e.g. by means of an IELTS score of 7 or a TOEFL score of 100/250/600 or a Cambridge CPE/CAE score of 185 (for non-native speakers of English) with at least an IELTS score of 6.5 on partial scales of this test and at least a TOEFL score of 22 (reading), 22 (listening), 22 (speaking) and 25 (writing) on partial scales of this test and at least a Cambridge CPE/CAE score of 176 on partial scales of this test.

5. Considerations relating to the dispute

Pursuant to article 7.61, paragraph 2, of the Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW), the Board is required to assess whether the decision under dispute contravenes the law.

The appellant has earned a Bachelor's diploma in [X] from [name] University in [X] and she wishes to be admitted to the programme on the basis of this previous education in combination with her work experience.

According to article 5.2.1 of the OER, direct admission to this programme is only possible with a Bachelor's diploma in [X] from Leiden University. As the appellant does not hold such a diploma, she therefore does not qualify for direct admission. Her application for admission therefore has to be assessed on the basis of the requirements stated in the OER.

In the letter of defence and at the hearing the respondent explained that, based on her diploma and work experience, the appellant does not meet the requirements stipulated in the OER, and gave reasons for this. In order to be admitted to the master's programme, the appellant has to meet the learning outcomes of the bachelor's programme offered at Leiden University. The respondent has assessed the prior education of the appellant and determined that she has indeed followed two components of the programme in [X], namely [X] and [X]. However, the large majority of the programme components taken by the appellant do not relate to [X]. As a result, the appellant does not meet the requirements stipulated in article 5.2.4 of the OER. In addition, the Admissions Office has assessed the prior education of the appellant as equivalent to two years of the bachelor's programme at university level. In the opinion of the Board, the appellant has not sufficiently

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refuted this assessment. The experience gained by the appellant in her work has not been judged by the respondent as sufficient to compensate for the deficiencies identified.

In view of the above, the respondent has properly refused the appellant admission to the bachelor's programme starting in September 2019.

In her letter of appeal the appellant states that she has enrolled in the [X] and [X] programme modules at [name] University. She will also start on a new challenge in the field of work in order to gain as much experience as possible in [X]. The Appellant indicates that she wishes to acquire the knowledge necessary to be admitted to the programme in February 2020.

The Board advises the appellant to contact the study adviser at Leiden University if she wishes to start this programme in the next semester, The appellant can notify the respondent of her altered circumstances in a new application for admission.

Since no facts or circumstances have been presented to the Board that could warrant an alternative decision, the Board must declare the appeal unfounded.

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6. The decision

In view of article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Research Act,

the Examinations Appeals Board of Leiden University

declares the appeal unfounded.

As established by a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board comprising K.H. Sanders, LL.M., (chair), Dr A.M. Rademaker, Dr J.J.G.B. de Frankrijker, M. Heezen LL.B and Y.D.R. Mandel LL.B (members), in the presence of the secretary of the Board, M.S.C.M. Stoop - van de Loo, LL.M..

K.H. Sanders, LL.M.
Chair

M.S.C.M. Stoop – van de Loo,
Secretary

Certified true copy,

Sent on: