

DECISION 21 - 016

Rapenburg 70
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of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

in the matter of the appeal of

[name] from [place] ([country]), 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 its decision of 9 December 2020.

On 13 January 2021, the appellant lodged 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 an online hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant attended the hearing. [X], Chair of the Board of Admissions, attended the hearing on behalf of the respondent.

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Considerations

1 – The position of the respondent

The respondent takes the position that the appellant's prior education does not meet the requirements that apply to direct admission to the Programme. The appellant's prior education has insufficient course units in the field of [X] and is mainly aimed at [X] subjects.

In view of the appellant's diplomas and his academic portfolio and affinity with the chosen specialisation, he can be admitted to the Programme after attending a pre-master's programme. The pre-master's programme can be attended in the second semester (block 3 and 4). This pre-master's programme can be attended online and the appellant can start the Programme as of 1 September 2021 after successful completion of the pre-master's programme.

The Board of Admissions is willing to allow the appellant a brief delay to pass an English language test since, due to Corona limitations, it is currently more difficult to sit such a test.

2 – The grounds for the appeal

The appellant indicated that he already has sufficient knowledge and experience. In his studies, he has already completed a number of course units in the four fields of the pre-master's that are listed in the contested decision ([X], [X], [X], and [X]). He therefore believes it is not necessary to first attend a pre-master's. He also has enough field work experience since he has worked in a [X] and performed [X] in [X]. At his university, it was not possible to take a major in [X].

He submitted two letters of recommendation, one by his thesis supervisor, [name] of the [X], [X] at [X] University, and one by [name] of [X] in [X], where he worked for two months.

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 explained how the Board of Admissions assessed whether the appellant's prior education in [X] at [X] University would suffice to be admitted to the Programme. The appellant's prior education focused mainly on [X], a[X], and [X]. As such, the appellant lacks sufficient disciplinary training in [X]. Although there is common ground between the appellant's prior education and his chosen specialisation, it is insufficient to compensate for the

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differences. In view of the level of the prior education, which has been assessed quite highly by the Admission's Office considering it is a diploma that is not in [X], it will suffice to attend a 30-ECTS pre-master's rather than a 60-ECTS programme. At the hearing, the respondent explained that the pre-master's will be offered online, so that the appellant can attend from [X].

The Examination Appeals Board supports this reasoning and endorses it. This means that the administrative appeal is unfounded and the contested decision is upheld.

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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: