

**DECISION 24 – 621**

Rapenburg 70  
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of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University  
in the matter of the administrative appeal of

■■■■■, appellant

against

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

**The course of the proceedings**

The appellant lodged an administrative appeal against the decision, which imposed a negative advice on continuation of the Bachelor's Programme in Politicology, with specialisation: *International Relations and Organisations* (hereinafter: the Bachelor's Programme), to which a rejection is attached (Article 7.8b, third paragraph, of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, hereinafter "WHW").

The respondent filed a letter of defence and explained the decision at the hearing.

The appeal was considered on 27 November 2024 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant did not appear at the hearing, with notice. She indicated that she could not attend the hearing due to a strike by NS staff. However, the Examination Appeals Board has no evidence that there was a strike or other relevant disruptions in public transport on the day of the hearing. Moreover, the appellant also failed to provide any evidence of a strike, if any. It was therefore decided that the hearing would still take place that day. However, to accommodate the appellant, the hearing was rescheduled to a later time on the same day to give her more time to appear on time as yet. ■■■■■

■■■■■, ■■■■■ Board of Examiners, attended the hearing on behalf of the respondent.

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### **Considerations**

In accordance with Article 7.61, paragraph two, of the WHW the Examination Appeals Board must consider if the contested decision is contrary to the law.

The appellant has attended the Bachelor's Programme since study year 2023-2024. In that year, she obtained 5 ECTS. This is less than the BSA standard of 45 ECTS set for this year.

The appellant has a statement of functional impairment stating that she was seriously impaired in her studies due to personal circumstances from 1 September 2023 to 1 September 2024. The appellant raises these personal circumstances as an explanation for the lack of ECTS achieved. She argues that the statement of functional impairment does not do justice to her circumstances and the extent to which these impaired her.

The Examination Appeals Board acknowledges that the personal circumstances put forward by the appellant undoubtedly had an impact on her study results. However, the appellant obtained only 5 ECTS in academic year 2023-2024; this is a very small number of ECTS, even in the light of the appellant's personal circumstances. Indeed, taking into account the statement of functional impairment issued by the Student Dean, the appellant could have obtained about 30 ECTS. Despite this being an approximation of the number of achievable credits, the Examination Appeals Board considers that the gap between the credits obtained and the statement of functional impairment is too great. By not attending the hearing, the appellant was unable to further explain her position on her personal circumstances and the degree of inconvenience she suffered as a result. This is the appellant's responsibility.

The appellant did not meet the BSA standard and the circumstances she put forward do not justify this. Consequently, the respondent concluded justly and on proper grounds that there is insufficient confidence that she will be able to complete the Bachelor's Programme within a reasonable time.

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The Examination Appeals Board has not been informed of any other facts or circumstances that should lead to an alternative decision. This is why the appeal must be held unfounded. This means that the contested decision is upheld and that the appellant cannot continue the Bachelor's Programme at Leiden University.

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**The decision**

The Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

holds the administrative 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, T.E.V. Claessen BA, J.J. But, LL.M., and S.H. Bartels, LL.B. (members), in the presence of the Secretary of the Board, E.M.A. van der Linden, LL.M.

O. van Loon, LL.M.  
Chair

E.M.A. van der Linden, LL.M.  
Secretary

The decision was notified to the parties by e-mail on ..... and the decision was sent on:

Certified true copy,