

**DECISION 24 – 154**

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 requested the respondent to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Psychology, with a specialisation Clinical Psychology (hereafter “the Master’s Programme”).

The respondent rejected the appellant’s request in its decision of 21 February 2024 (hereafter to be referred to as: the contested decision).

The appellant sent a letter on 2 April 2024 to lodge an administrative appeal against this decision.

The respondent investigated whether an amicable settlement could be reached. A conversation took place between the appellant and respondent on the topic on 17 March 2024. No amicable settlement was reached.

The respondent submitted a letter of defence on 26 April 2024.

The appeal was considered on 8 May 2024 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board. The appellant appeared in person at the hearing. ██████████ master’s and pre-master’s programme in Psychology appeared on behalf of the respondent.

**Considerations**

In accordance with article 7.61, paragraph two of the WHW, the Examination Appeals Board must consider whether the contested decision contravenes the law.

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The relevant legislation is included in the Annex to this decision.

The appellant does not agree with the rejection of her request for admittance. She holds a completed bachelor's degree in Psychology from Yeditepe University (Turkey). Yeditepe University is a private university and it is ranked. The bachelor's programme lasts four years and her average grade converted to the Dutch system is an 8.0/8.5. The appellant argued that she should be admitted to the Master's Programme, in view of her previous education, her experience acquired in several internships, and her general and social development.

The respondent did not admit the appellant to the Master's Programme because her previous education was insufficient with regard to substance and level compared to the admission requirements to the Master's Programme. More specifically the respondent holds that the appellant does not meet the requirements that:

- the prior education must be at least equal or equivalent to a Dutch bachelor's programme;
- at least 80% of the curriculum of the prior education must be course units in the field of psychology; and
- at least 30 ECTS must have been obtained in course units of sufficient level ('advanced courses') related to the chosen specialisation of Clinical Psychology.

The respondent explained in detail at the hearing, as stated in its letter of defence, why the appellant does not meet the admission requirements. The respondent is bound by the admission requirements as stated in the WHW (Dutch Higher Education and Academic Research Act) and the Course and Examination Regulations (the OER, *Onderwijs en Examenregeling*) of the Master's Programme in Psychology 2023-2024. Referring to Article 5.2 of the OER, the respondent explained in detail the reasons why the appellant did not meet the admission requirements with regard to the content of the programme. She did not take enough relevant psychology course units and did not take enough *advanced-level* courses in the desired specialisation field of Clinical Psychology. In addition, it should be noted that failure to meet a single condition is already a ground for rejection.

The appellant did not refute that about 70% of the study credits she achieved were in the field of psychology and not the required 80%. Moreover, the appellant did

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not refute on substance that she obtained 26 and not the required 30 ECTS in in-depth course units in the field of the desired specialisation of Clinical Psychology. The respondent clarified in this respect that it considers only level 400 course units to be of sufficient level.

Furthermore, the respondent explained in the letter of defence and at the hearing that, according to the *Admissions Office*, the appellant's prior education is comparable to two years of a bachelor's programme at a research university. Consequently, the appellant does not meet the requirement of having a completed bachelor of science degree. The appellant failed to provide sufficient motivation to contest the finding that her prior education did not meet the requirement to have completed a bachelor's degree in academic education.

The appellant argues that she compensates for her lack of study credits with multiple internships she has completed. The respondent indicated at the hearing that internships are not considered as theoretical knowledge. Moreover, it is difficult to compare practical knowledge to theoretical knowledge. The bachelor's programme in Psychology at Leiden University does not include an internship, compulsory or otherwise. In short, the lack of study credits cannot be compensated with internships. The Examination Appeals Board supports this principle.

In view of the above, the respondent decided on just grounds not to admit the appellant to the Master's Programme. The administrative appeal is therefore unfounded. This means that the contested decision is upheld.

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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 B. Siegerink, Dr A.M.C. van Dissel, T.E.V. Claessen and S.H Bartels BSc, LL.B. (members), in the presence of the Secretary of the Examination Appeals Board, R.R. van der Vegt, LL.M.

O. van Loon, LL.M.  
Chair

R.R. van der Vegt, LL.M.  
Secretary

Sent on:

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ANNEX

Relevant legislation

The Course and Examination Regulations of the Master's Programme in Psychology 2023-2024 (OER) stipulate the following:

**Article 5.2 Admission to the programme**

5.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a) a Bachelor's degree from the programme Bsc in Psychology of Leiden University with the appropriate specialisation course for the chosen specialisation.
- b) 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 5.2.1a. Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1a and 5.2.2, the following admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act, more specifically the knowledge on 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.
  - theory or training in psycho diagnostics
  - advanced courses (at least 30 ECs) on a third year Bachelor level on topics pertaining to the preferred master specialisation within the MSc 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.
- c) c. a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to article 5.4.1