

**DECISION 24 - 290**

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Of the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University  
regarding the administrative appeal by

██████████, appellant,

against

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

**Course of the proceedings**

The appellant applied to be admitted to the research master's programme in Psychology, specialising in Child and Adolescent Psychology (hereafter: the master's programme).

In a decision of 23 April 2024, the respondent rejected this application (hereafter: the contested decision).

The appellant lodged an administrative appeal against this decision in an email of 23 May 2024.

The respondent explored the possibility of an amicable agreement, but no agreement was reached.

The respondent submitted the admission file of the appellant on 30 July 2024. The respondent did not submit a statement of defence, but explained the decision at the hearing.

The appeal was examined during a public hearing of a chamber of the Board on 31 July 2024. The appellant was present at the hearing. Appearing on behalf of the

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respondent were: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Admissions Officer.

### **Considerations**

Pursuant to article 7.61, paragraph 2, of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), the Examination Appeals Board is required to determine whether or not the contested decision contravenes the law.

The relevante legislation is included in the appendix to this decision.

The appellant disputes the rejection of her application for admission. She has completed a bachelor's programme in Psychology & Counselling at the Open University UK, Milton Keynes. The Open University is an accredited university in the United Kingdom. The appellant stated that she should be admitted to the master's programme.

The respondent refused the appellant access to the master's programme because, in terms of content, her prior education is inadequate for admission to the master's programme. More specifically, the appellant does not meet the requirement that:

- A minimum of 30 ECTS must have been obtained in subjects ('advanced courses') related to the chosen specialisation of Child and Adolescent Psychology.

At the hearing, the respondent explained why the appellant did not meet the conditions for admission. The respondent is bound by the admission requirements as set out in the WHW and the Course and Examination Regulation (OER) of the master's programme in Psychology (research) 2023-2024. Referring to article 5.2 of the OER, the respondent explained the reasons why the appellant did not meet the content-related admission requirements. She has not taken enough subjects at advanced level in the area of the chosen specialisation in Child and Adolescent Psychology.

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The appellant did not refute in substance that she had not obtained the required 30 ECTS of in-depth courses taken in the field of the chosen specialisation. In this regard, the respondent explained that only courses of level 400 are considered to be of sufficient level.

The respondent further explained based on the admission file and at the hearing that, according to the Admissions Office, the applicant's prior education is equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences.

The appellant therefore does not meet the requirement that she must have completed a bachelor's programme from an academic university. There are substantive differences between the prior education followed by the appellant and the prior education required for admission to the chosen programme in Leiden.

At the hearing, different alternatives were discussed with the appellant, so that she can probably still be admitted to the master's programme in the future.

In view of the above, the respondent was correct in deciding not to grant the appellant admission 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**

Pursuant to article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Research Act,

the Examination Appeals Board of Leiden University

declares the administrative appeal unfounded.

Established by a chamber of the Examination Appeals Board, comprising O. van Loon, LL.M. (chair), Dr A.M. Rademaker, T.E.V. Claessen, B.A., J. Skidmore and Dr R. Khalil (members) in the presence of the secretary of the Board, R.R. van der Vegt.

O. van Loon, LL.M.  
Chair

R.R. van der Vegt  
Secretary

The parties were informed of the decision by email on 30 August 2024; the decision was sent on [date].

Relevant regulations:

The Course and Examination Regulation of the master's programme in Psychology 2023-2024 (OER) states 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 BSc programme in Psychology at 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 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.
  - theory or training in psycho-diagnostics
  - advanced courses (at least 30 EC) at a 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.
- c) a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to article 5.4.1