

DECISION 24 - 409

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By 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 Clinical and Health Psychology (hereafter: the master's programme).

In a decision of 10 July 2024, the respondent rejected this application (hereafter: the contested decision).

The appellant lodged an administrative appeal against this decision in an email of 13 July 2024.

The respondent did not submit a statement of defence.

The appeal was examined on 28 August 2024 during a public hearing of a chamber of the Board. The appellant attended the hearing (online). Appearing on behalf of the defendant were: ██████████

██████████ 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.

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The appellant disputes the rejection of her application for admission. She has completed a bachelor's programme in Psychology at the University of Crete, Rethymnon, Greece. The appellant believes that she has taken enough advanced courses, and she also took a fifth year in a four-year programme, all of which have given her a more in-depth education. Finally, she stated that a GPA is not a good indication of her skills.

The respondent did not admit the appellant to the master's programme because, given the admission requirements, her prior education is insufficient in terms of content and level. More specifically, according to the respondent, the appellant does not meet the conditions that:

- a minimum of 30 ECTS must be obtained in subjects of a sufficient level ('advanced courses') related to the chosen specialisation of Clinical and Health Psychology; and
- an average grade of 7.5 is required for the bachelor's subjects taken (GPA).

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) 2024-2025. Referring to article 5.2 of the OER, the respondent explained the reasons why the appellant did not meet the subject-related admission requirements. She has not taken enough courses at advanced level in the area of the chosen specialisation in Clinical and Health Psychology. It has been factually established that the appellant's GPA was not 7.5. The Board commented that failure to meet a single condition in itself constitutes grounds for rejection.

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

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be of sufficient level. Furthermore, the appellant also did not refute the fact that her GPA was lower than a 7.5.

In view of the above, the defendant was correct in deciding not to admit the appellant to the master's programme. The administrative appeal is therefore unfounded. This means that the contested decision is upheld.

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, P.C. Kemeling, LL.B., T.E.V. Claessen, B.A., and J.J. But, LL.M. (members) in the presence of the secretary of the Board, R.R. van der Vegt, LL.M.

O. van Loon, LL.M.

Chair

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

Secretary

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

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