

Dear Theo Toonen,

in anticipation of the new regulations, the programme committee of the PSTS master programme has been invited to advise you as the Dean of our faculty on the BMS master EER and the programme specific EER for the PSTS master.

In general, we approve on both documents, especially since our feedback has been considered for the PSTS EER.

However, we would like to point to some issues, which need to be addressed in the near future.

On the most general level:

1. The PC PSTS recommends having mandatory English language tests for Dutch students. We do not see any convincing reasons, why this is not the case.
2. The PC PSTS suggests reconsidering the use of half-grades. Based on our experience, the restriction to full grades contributes to grade inflation in our master programme.

Concerning the PSTS specific EER:

The PC PSTS considers the following items to be of great importance. If these issues are not addressed in a sufficient manner, we will consider not approving the EER for the academic year 2018-19.

1. 4TU.Ethics track – concerning: increased working load (5 EC more than regular profiles); status of the track in contrast to regular profiles (“excellence programme?”); quality assurance for courses offered at TUD and TU/e (e.g., how do the courses relate to the final qualifications of the PSTS programme?).
2. Individual study advisors for each student – delete paragraph unless the service is *de facto* offered.
3. The BMS master EER states, that the thesis is a public document by default. The PSTS EER should include the procedure for opting out. (E.g., “Students can voice their preference in the milestone 3 form, that the thesis should not be made public. They might provide additional information to the examination board, which will decide about the request.”)

Finally, I hope that we will soon have a chance to comment on the BMS regulations concerning the new role of the PCs.

We are looking forward to a closer collaboration on maintaining and improving the quality of our master programme. And we are certain, that the outcome of the accreditation will provide us with additional insights.

With best regards,
Michael Nagenborg
Chair PC PSTS

CC:

Ciano Aydin, PD PSTS

Marijke Peijster-Terpelle, Faculty council