

CBE 22000534

Admission to degree programme

DECISION

in the proceedings between A., hereinafter referred to as the Appellant,

and

the Admissions Board for the Master's degree programme in Molecular Medicine and Innovative Treatment (MMIT), International Master in Innovative Medicine (IMIM) track, of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, hereinafter also referred to as the Defence,

regarding the decision taken by the Defence on 9 February 2022.

I. Designation of the disputed decision

The decision taken by the Defence on 9 February 2022 to turn down the Appellant's request for admission to the Master's degree programme in MMIT, IMIM track, of the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

II. The hearing

The appeal was heard in open court on Thursday 30 May 2022, where the Appellant appeared via a video link and the Defence appeared, also via a video link, represented by V., Admissions Officer, and W., member of the Admissions Board.

III. Origin and course of the proceedings

The Appellant submitted a request to be admitted to the MSc programme in MMIT, IMIM track. The substantiated assessment stated that the degree programmes that the Appellant has followed do not satisfy the level required for admission to the MSc programme in MMIT, IMIM track. The level of the degrees obtained by the Appellant is not equivalent to that of a Dutch Bachelor's degree programme. This decision was conveyed to the Appellant in a letter dated 9 February 2022.

The Appellant appealed against this decision via the CLRS on 20 February 2022. Because the settlement procedure, as set out in Article 7.61.3 of the Higher Education and Research Act, was not practical due to the distances involved, the Admissions Board provided extra information about the decision taken on 09 February 2022 in an email dated 24 March 2022. The Appellant indicated that she wished to pursue the appeal procedure, after which the appeal was heard on 30 May 2022.

IV. The parties' positions

The **Appellant's** position, as set out in the appeal, is as follows. The Appellant has obtained a Bachelor's degree certificate in Applied Biology from Ebonyi State University in Nigeria. She has also obtained a postgraduate Master's degree in Genetics and Molecular Biology. She believes that these degrees should suffice for admission. The Appellant adds that she is suitable for admission to similar programmes in the United Kingdom. The Appellant therefore requests that the Board reconsiders the rejection of her admission.

The **Defence** defended itself as follows in the statement of defence and at the hearing. The Appellant does not satisfy the admission requirements set by the Faculty. The Defence uses the following three sources to compare and thereby assess prior degrees: Nuffic, Ecctis (previously: Naric), and CEP. The level of the degrees

obtained by the Appellant are considered to be equal to that of a Dutch Bachelor's degree certificate by only one of these sources, namely Ecctis. According to the other two sources, the Appellant's prior degrees are not equivalent in level to a Dutch Bachelor's degree. In accordance with the Defence's policy, two of the three sources must consider a prior degree to be equivalent to a Dutch Bachelor's degree. The Defence therefore concludes that it had no other choice but to deny the Appellant admission to the MSc programme in MMIT. The Defence notes that this conclusion does not mean that other Dutch universities would reach the same conclusion, as Dutch universities are individually responsible for their own admission policies and assessment frameworks.

V. Evaluation

The Board states that the admission requirements for the MSc degree programme in MMIT, IMIM track, are clear and cognizable. They can be found in the Teaching and Examination Regulations and on the UG website. The Board also notes that the Appellant does not satisfy the admission requirements for the degree programme in question. Although the substantiation for the disputed decision was very summary, Defence further substantiated its decision during the hearing and sufficiently explained that the degree certificates obtained by the Appellant, namely the Bachelor's degree in Applied Biology at Ebonyi State University and the postgraduate Master's degree in Genetics and Molecular Biology, are not equivalent in level to any of the Dutch Bachelor's degrees that provide admission to the MSc programme in MMIT. The Board therefore judges that the Defence's decision was made on proper grounds, and that the lack of substantiation was sufficiently remedied during the hearing. The disputed decision can therefore be upheld.

VI. Decision

The Board of Appeal for Examinations declares the Appellant's appeal unfounded.

Thus established on 21 June 2022 by Dr E. van Wolde, chair, Dr P.G. Tassenaar, and R.G. Stratingh, members, in the presence of M.E.A. Donkersloot, Secretary.



Chair



Secretary

In accordance with the General Administrative Law Act and Article 7.66 of the Higher Education and Research Act (*WHW – Wet op het Hoger onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek*), interested parties have the right to appeal against this decision to the national Higher Education Appeals Tribunal (*CBHO – College van Beroep voor het Hoger Onderwijs*), P.O Box 16137, 2500 BC The Hague within six weeks of the decision being sent to them.