

Decision

on the petition of 18 March 2024,
submitted by a former student of Hanze Hogeschool, hereafter petitioner,
about the alleged conduct of the Architectuur Academie
(Institute of Future Environments), hereafter the Academie.

1. COURSE OF THE PROCEDURE

On 18 March 2024, the National Commission received an email, hereafter the petition, regarding several actions of the Academie.

On 21 March 2024, the petitioner received a confirmation of their email and was informed on 29 March 2024 that the National Commission would discuss the petition for the first time on 10 April 2024.

On 10 April 2024, the National Commission discussed the petition, after which a final decision was made, and the file was closed.

2. CONTENT OF THE PETITION

The petition concerned alleged falling short of information and supervision by the Academie to the petitioner. In addition, the petitioner made more general remarks about the quality of the education institution and the suitability of its Master's degree programme for international students. The petitioner left the degree programme and moved out of The Netherlands in December 2023. The petitioner holds the Academie liable for the emotional and financial damage suffered. In its letter of 12 February 2024, the Academie responded to the petitioner's complaint. In its reaction, the Academie dealt with the various aspects of the complaints.

The petitioner requested the National Commission to thoroughly examine the situation and prevent further damage to international students.

3. ADMISSIBILITY

The National Commission is competent in inspecting petitions regarding the relationship between education institutions listed in the register of the Code of Conduct and international students. The Academie, being a part of Hanze Hogeschool, is a higher education institution and has been listed in the register of the Code of Conduct since 2 May 2006. The conduct was dated after the date mentioned before.

The Code of Conduct defines an international student as follows:

A EU or non-EU student with a non-Dutch nationality. Regarding a third-country national, a student who continues, will continue or has continued their full-time study programme at a higher education institution in the Netherlands based on a residence permit granted to this effect.

The petitioner followed a part-time study programme from September 2022 to December 2023, which was the International Master of Architecture Program of Hanze University of Applied Sciences. The National Commission verified whether it is a part-time programme. Based on the information given by the petitioner, the Academie's letter, and the publicly available information on the Hanze Hogeschool's website, it can be established that the programme the petitioner followed is a part-time study programme. The petitioner's information also shows that they followed the programme based on a residence permit granted to this effect.

Since the Code of Conduct does not cover part-time students, the National Commission is of the opinion that the petition is not admissible.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Although the National Commission is of the opinion that the petition is not admissible, it takes the signal concerning the Academie's provision of information to and supervision of international students seriously. The National Commission will consider in greater detail whether it will initiate a discussion with the Academie about the signal under its duty of care.

5. DECISION

The National Commission declares the petition inadmissible.

Delivered in Groningen on 10 April 2024,

P.M.M. Rullmann, chairman, F.A.M. Snijders, K. Penninga, L.J.M. Verhofstad, members, E.E.W. van den Berg, T. van Veen, substitute members, in the presence of M. Verweij, researcher/substitute secretary and K. Boelema, researcher/interim secretary

P.M.M. Rullmann
chairman

M. Verweij
researcher/substitute secretary

Sent on 26 April 2024