

University Teaching Qualification (BKO)

Focus on teaching

What is the University Teaching Qualification?

The University Teaching Qualification (BKO) is a nationally recognized teaching certificate that allows lecturers to reflect on their teaching skills, develop their lecturing abilities, and obtain certification for the competencies they already have. The BKO represents a broad initiative to enhance the quality of teaching at universities.

What does the University Teaching Qualification program for the Faculty of Science entail?

The Faculty of Science offers a program that emphasizes practical teaching situations and the exchange of knowledge and experiences. The program begins with an individual intake interview, where the BKO candidate and a BKO coach plan the candidate's trajectory. Following this, the program features various workshop days where lecturers collaborate and learn together. Each BKO candidate also develops a portfolio to showcase their teaching identity. Most participants attend multiple workshops over a period of six months to one year.

Who is the target group for the University Teaching Qualification?

The University Teaching Qualification is designed for all lecturers who develop course content, teach groups of students, and supervise students.

Who is responsible for the University Teaching Qualification program?

The University Teaching Qualification (BKO) program is hosted by the Teaching and Learning Centre at the Faculty of Science. It is organized by the BKO team, which includes BKO educators, coaches, support staff, and the BKO coordinator, Merel Pompe.

[1] BKO means Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs.

Teaching &
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Centre

The BKO Program

Components of the program

Intake Interview

You will be invited to an intake interview with one of our coaches. During this session, you'll discuss your training needs and what is required to achieve the BKO. Agreements regarding your BKO trajectory and personal goals will also be established.

Workshops and Coaching

Based on the agreements made during the intake interview, you'll follow an individualized program of workshops and coaching. Workshops on course design and testing & assessment are highly recommended.

Lesson Observation and Student Evaluation

You will observe a lecture given by another BKO participant and provide feedback. In turn, one of your lectures will also be observed. Students will evaluate these lectures, which will be recorded to aid in self-reflection. Based on video self-observation, as well as feedback from students and peers, you will write a reflection on your teaching.

Progress Meeting

You will have a progress meeting with your BKO coach. To prepare, complete as much of your BKO portfolio as possible. During this meeting, your portfolio materials will be reviewed and you'll receive feedback on how they align with BKO requirements.

BKO Assessment

In your online BKO portfolio, you will compile all materials related to your BKO journey. This portfolio must be completed before submitting it for the BKO assessment. It will include evidence demonstrating your competencies as a teacher. The assessment will be completed with an in-person portfolio reflection with the assessors.

Accreditation

The BKO assessment is conducted by the independent BKO Assessment Committee at the Faculty of Science. This committee, which includes both Faculty of Science assessors and external assessors appointed for national quality assurance, will recommend you for a BKO certificate if you meet the requirements. The BKO certificate is a national certification recognized by all universities in the Netherlands.

Competencies

The BKO competence profile is divided into several areas, each covering different aspects of a university teacher's role.

Designing Courses

This competency involves defining clear learning outcomes, selecting appropriate teaching methods, and designing relevant teaching activities within a powerful and inclusive learning environment. You should support students' learning and use a suitable approach to evaluate their knowledge and skills throughout the course. Courses should be aligned with the vision of the study program.

Testing and Assessing Students

This competency focuses on using appropriate assessment formats and developing quality materials to evaluate students' knowledge and skills. It also involves providing constructive feedback on their learning. The assessments should align with the course goals.

Teaching

This competency involves effectively engaging with students through various teaching methods. It includes understanding students' initial situations, connecting with diverse student groups, and providing appropriate feedback. It also entails understanding and influencing group dynamics to achieve course goals, boost student motivation, and inspire learning.

Supervising Students

This competency means effectively supporting and guiding theses, internships, assignments, and other individual student projects. It involves adapting supervision styles to meet individual student's needs and providing timely, constructive feedback to motivate their learning and development.

Evaluating One's Own Teaching

This competency involves making informed decisions to improve teaching practices and foster personal development. It includes collecting and using feedback from students and colleagues, critically reflecting on teaching and supervision results, and evaluating the achievement of learning objectives. It also involves assessing openness to student needs and how teaching contributes to the study program.

A professional approach is expected from all lecturers who obtain a BKO certificate. This means making constructive contributions to education more broadly, collaborating with other lecturers, and balancing teaching duties with other responsibilities.