

Press release
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Educational assessment at the Continental Theological Seminary

The Master of Theology in Evangelical and Pentecostal Studies focuses clearly on introducing more academic rigour into the discipline

On March 28th, 2011, the assessment panel for the Continental Theological Seminary presented, in the presence of representatives of the study programme, its final report to the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR). In this report, the assessment panel evaluated (on the basis of the six themes and twenty-one subjects of the accreditation framework) the quality of the Master of Theology in Evangelical and Pentecostal Studies run by the Continental Theological Seminary, located at Sint-Pieters-Leeuw. The assessment report will now be used by CTS to file for accreditation for the study programme at the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO).

During the evaluation process beginning in autumn 2010, the programme – initiated in 2007 as a new study programme – was graded on most aspects as ‘satisfactory’ (these elements have the generic quality) and on a number of aspects as ‘good’ (the quality of these aspects is higher than the generic quality). The assessment panel emphasizes that the study programme has the potential to evolve into a strong and high quality programme in the next few years.

The assessment panel particularly appreciates the steps taken by the programme management and by CTS to introduce greater academic rigour into the Evangelical and Pentecostal-related branch of religious studies. The panel recognizes that this indicates a clear intention on CTS’s part to raise the quality of academic teaching to the level of other higher education providers of religious studies programmes.

The assessment panel hopes that its report will have a positive impetus on the study programme and trusts that the programme will continue to evolve, supported by the research level at the institution, the dedication of its staff and the enthusiasm of its students.

The assessment panel further intends that its report will initiate a debate at CTS with the aim of determining where improvements need to be made to the study programme and to what extent this can be achieved within the constraints of the education system in Flanders. Furthermore, the assessment panel also hopes that its report will provide useful information to parents and students, policy makers and the professional world and provide insight into the characteristics and qualities of this study programme.