

Corona news update educational support #6 (week 19 2020)

ONLINE EDUCATION

No update this week on this subject.

ONLINE EXAMINATIONS

General

- Examination places will be available on campus next week. Students can register via soz@vu.nl. More information can be found in the letter to the students and will be published on the VUnet page *Studying and Corona*. Furthermore, the protocol with more information will be distributed by the heads of the Education Offices by 8 May the latest.
- A new website has been launched containing information on online proctoring for students. This is currently being finalized and will be accessible to everyone as soon as possible.

<https://sites.google.com/vu.nl/vustudentproctoringguide/online-proctoring>

- The student instructions for the Proctorio-exams of next week will be send to the examiners by 8 May the latest. They can then publish these instructions on the Canvas page for the course. The instructions contain a link to the website on proctoring. The students and examiners, who have an exam next week with ProctorExam, will be informed in the usual manner.

Proctorio

- After last week's pilot, the instruction material and the website have been adjusted. Because these adjustments were larger than expected, it was decided that another pilot would take place last weekend. The Executive Board, all Directors of Education, the USR, FSR and several volunteers have been invited to take part. This has revealed several points for improvement and are currently implemented.

Communication towards students

- May 8, all students will receive a letter explaining that online proctoring is being used to avoid study delays and diploma evaluation. Privacy and accessibility concerns are also addressed in that letter. The aim is to be transparent about online proctoring and to remove as many concerns as possible.
- Students are kept informed via the Q&A on [nl/corona](#) and via the student page on VUnet *Studying and Corona*.

CENTRAL SUPPORT ISSUES

No update this week on this subject.

CENTRAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL MATTERS AND STUDY DELAYS

Student Financial Support Fund

In response to questions about the Student Financial Support Fund, the service document HO has incorporated the following: "The circumstances which cause a student to delay or is expected to be delayed due to forced adjustments in the educational program made by the institution as a result of government's measures, does not indicate eligibility for the Student Financial Support Fund. This situation cannot be regarded as the special circumstance referred to in the context of the Student Financial Support Fund that the study program is insufficiently studyable."

Naturally, entitlement to the fund remains possible due to personal special circumstances (e.g. the student is ill himself or provides volunteer aid for sick relatives). The correct procedure is already enforced: the student must notify the study advisor on time and can apply coming academic year before 15 January.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

Under 'study at home' a tab 'study on campus' has been added. This describes the conditions under which students can now apply for a study place on campus without the intervention of a study advisor. Information about the conditions under which students can apply for an exam place on campus is in preparation. If all goes well, '*Studying and Corona*' is now also directly visible to employees on VUnet, thus without switching to a student's profile, see <https://vunet.login.vu.nl/services/pages/category.aspx?category=tcm:164-938774-1024>. If this is not the case, if you miss information or have any other suggestions, please let Suzanne Nuver know at s.c.nuver@vu.nl.

FUTURE SCENARIOS

Scenarios 2019-2020

Two proposals have been submitted to the Executive Board by the working group. The proposal for the weeks in which education and exams can be scheduled in the summer period (NB not the schedule itself) will be discussed on 12 May. In addition, the Board has taken a positive decision about the proposal to keep all lectures online in the first semester. More clarity will follow on 15 May about the form in which other education can be given. It is still unclear whether a liberalization is possible by the governmental measures. However, data from the VU and several other institutions have been provided to the VSNU that advocate for (very) small-scale use of the campus and that are used in the realization of the national measures for universities.

Incoming students, progress, outgoing students

In the past week of 4 May, we continued to work on the incoming students forecast and the influx and transfer of international students. A distinction has been made between new enrolments and re-enrol.

- In 2020 we expect that a larger number of students will enrol or continue their studies as a result of the corona crisis; the outflow will be limited. In a worst-case scenario for international new inflow, this effect is mitigated (-30% new inflow EEA, -80% new inflow Non-EEA).
- The main reason for the higher numbers is that a large part of the students with a Negative BSA will re-enrol; this group is proportionally larger than the number of students that would have enrolled as an external switcher elsewhere after a Negative BSA.
- If the number of EC of Cohort 2019 decreases on average 6 EC in the second semester of 2019 compared to the first semester, the number of long-term students will increase sharply in 2022. A better picture of this is expected from 11 May 2020; that is why this calculation is not included in the current version. A better picture of this is expected from 11 May 2020; therefore, this calculation is not included in the current version.

International Students – Update

- We currently expect a decrease in intake and re-enrolment of international students; there is still limited growth in the number of registrations compared to last year, but the conversion to registrations is uncertain.
- For Non-EEA students, the deadline has been postponed to 1 May; this is related to extended terms for the IND visa application (for Non-EU). In addition, the deadline for EEA bachelor students has been extended from 1 May to 1 June (same as for EEA master students).

The prognosis of international students has many uncertainties. Over time, there will be more clarity on the following effects:

- The way in which the virus develops, and the measures taken at international, national and VU level.
- Student behaviour after admission. Do they use the services (housing, visa) offered by the International Office?
- The extent to which alternatives outside the Netherlands are less available will also play a role (e.g. in the UK or US where corona has a greater impact).
- In addition, we must take into account deferrers (students who will now receive an admission but will only use it in 2021).

Approach international intake forecast

- We use quantitative data (registrations, requests for services) and qualitative data (from communication with prospective international students). Regarding the quantitative data, we not only look at the daily numbers, but compare the development with data with last year.
- We use different scenarios: a best-case scenario, a neutral scenario and a worst-case scenario.
- These scenarios can be adjusted, as more becomes clear about international students; the dashboard has already been equipped.

For further explanation, see the inflow forecast note ([versie Prognose inschrijvingen VU_20200507_v1.1.02_INTERN.pdf](#)). We are working on a version of the dashboard that will be made available via the Tableau Server, which will also allow us to split the forecasts at faculty level. This is expected to be completed in the week of May 11. More information will follow.

Other Scenarios

We continue working on the possible effects on VWO intake. The VWO pass rate and percentages of gap years have now been calculated and will be incorporated in the model. We hope to deliver this next week, the week of May 11. An initial analysis has been performed on the study results of Period 4. This is expected to be completed in the week of May 11, after which we will include this in the forecast of next week.

Sent to OPO, HO, DB University Student Council, VB members, Directors of Education, Christa Boer, Lilian van Güllick, Work Package coordinators, Niels Stet, deans, Code Red team, Marcel and Mirjam, Yoni Shem Tov.