

Corona news update educational support #8 (week 21, 2020)

ONLINE EDUCATION

No updates this week on online education.

ONLINE EXAMINATION

- There have been Q&A's for both students and lecturers on online proctoring. There were approximately 50 attendants at each meeting.
- Another Q&A for students will take place during the exam period.

CENTRAL SUPPORT ISSUES

Honours program during Corona

In a recent meeting, all examination boards have agreed to regard study delay as a result of Corona as a valid reason to grant postponement to comply with the honour requirements. Students of programs that have to postpone education until after the summer have extra time to meet the honour requirements. This involves a redefinition of the nominal study duration. The entry requirements will be tested differently as well: the selection of students this year will take place based on the figures obtained in the first semester (instead of those of the entire year). Faculty honours coordinators have been informed and can tell you more about the specifics of this adjustment.

International services, update regarding student exchange in the upcoming semester

The Executive Board has established the student exchange procedure for the coming semester. In order to limit the spread of the Corona virus and to protect our students, the travel advice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is leading in this procedure.

Two months before the start of the semester of the partner university it will be determined to cancel the (online)exchange with the partner if (1) the country has negative travel advice (corona-related yellow, orange or red) AND (2) the partner does not offer online education in the first semester 2020-2021 or that it is not yet known on said date.

In concrete terms this means that:

- on 19 May, a decision will be made on partners where the semester will start between 13 and 31 July
- on 2 June, a decision will be made on partners where the semester will start between 1 and 15 August
- on 15 June, a decision will be made on partners where the semester will start between 16 and 30 August
- on 1 July, a decision will be made on partners where the semester will start after 30 August

By assessing the exchange programs in phases, we hope that, where possible, physical exchange will take place or, if offered, an online semester can be followed at the partner university.

Outgoing exchange students will be personally informed by email about their exchange on the date mentioned above. When the exchange is cancelled, students will be advised to take a minor as an alternative at the VU or at another Dutch university. At the same time, the partner universities and the incoming students of that partner universities will be informed about the status of the exchange.

International diploma students are of course still welcome to start their program in September.

CENTRAL REGULATIONS REGARDING EDUCATION AND STUDY DELAY

'Soft cut': re-enrolment premaster students

Mainly with the full-time pre-master's programs at SBE and FSW, there is a limited number of pre-master's students who cannot be admitted to the master's. Due to the corona crisis, they still miss too much of the premaster program to qualify for the 'soft cut'. However, they cannot re-enrol for the pre-master's program either, as this has been arranged in this way at the VU (pre-master scheme, Article 3. Paragraph 2) / RAI and implemented in Studielink). They must complete the program in one year.

These students may only re-enrol in the pre-master program in 2020-2021. Given the limited numbers, this is not done via Studielink, but manually by SSA on the instructions of the faculty. In 2020-2021, these students will then pay a pre-master's fee of a proportional part of the statutory tuition fees for the ECs that they have yet to obtain. The faculties concerned are requested to communicate this exception only to the students concerned.

Graduation

Last Friday, OCW announced quite unexpectedly that master's students who are delayed in the last stage of their education will be compensated for the financial consequences, because they will no longer be able to catch up. The scheme applies, among other things, to students who obtain a WO master's degree by the end of January 2021. They receive a one-off amount of up to three months of course / tuition fees. Minister Van Engelshoven sent a letter to parliament on Friday 15 May. This group does not have to demonstrate that they have suffered a study delay due to COVID-19. Nor does this need to be verified by the educational institution at student level. The compensation also applies to students who pay an institutional rate but is probably "statutory compensation (€ 535)". The implementation will take place by DUO. Exactly how this process will take place is still being drawn up by a working-party, in which DUO and the VSNU are involved.

Higher education students with a supplementary grant also receive a one-off allowance.

STUDENT WELLBEING

No updates this week on student wellbeing.

FUTURE

Scenarios 2019-2020

On 19 May, the Board decided on the way in which education is offered in the summer period and September / October (period 1). It has already been decided that lectures are held online throughout the first semester. This now also applies to other educational activities and exams in the months of July to October (with the exception of location-based education). As soon as upscaling is possible, space for education on campus will be offered in phases, starting with location-based education that cannot be taught at distance. In addition, a decision was made on the layout of the summer period. In order to limit the study delay among students as much as possible, examinations and resits take place in the first three weeks of July and, if necessary, in the last two weeks of August. The weeks from 19 July to 15 August are education and exam-free. Students, lecturers and those directly involved are extensively informed on these decisions by emails from the Board. This mailing will be sent on 20 May. In addition, this message is widely communicated via vu.nl, VUnet and a number of other channels.

Incoming students, progress, outgoing students

In the past week, we continued to work on a forecast of the inflow, transfer and outflow of our students. We are now working on the possible effects on VWO intake. We expect to have this ready in 2 weeks.

In addition, we have made an estimate with Process Control of the number of students who will come to VU by train in June and July to attend education. We shared these estimates with the VSNU. Another theme that we will tackle is an investigation into the effects on the study results of our students in education period 4. We will be working with Professor Martijn Meeter.

At the same time, VU Analytics is working on, among other things, a portfolio analysis for the BETA faculty, an investigation into the HBO-P intake of the Faculty of Law and the Cum Laude return of the School of Business and Economics.

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