

Corona news update educational support #9 (week 22, 2020)

ONLINE EDUCATION

Support

In the coming weeks, several workshops will be given on online education. See the website of the [VU NT&L](#) for more information.

ONLINE EXAMINATION

Exams on campus

Since May 11, students have been given the opportunity to take their exams on campus, if their private situation does not allow them to take an exam. The figure below shows how many students per day use the opportunity to take an exam on campus. Some students attend multiple exams, so the number of unique students is lower. Students that do not have the right equipment at their disposal (in the figure: "students without a device") can use a VU PC to take the exam. To date, no more than 10 students have attended the exams at the same time during the exam period.

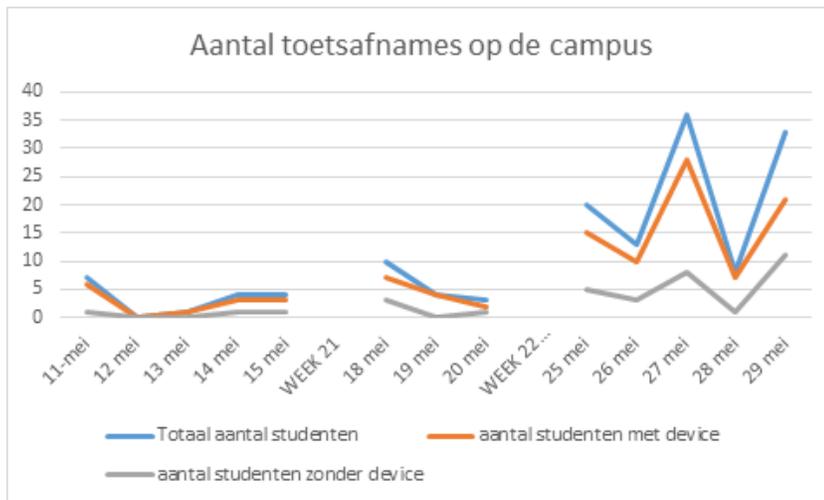


Figure 1 Number of examinations on campus per day

Examining with Skype for Business

Previously, it has been advised to use Skype for Business for the online examination of small groups and for oral exams. The advice for larger groups was not to change anything. Skype for Business appears to have shortcomings. For example, it is not available in the remote desktop and Skype for Business is not compatible with Skype, which causes confusion among students and staff. The advice to use Skype for Business for small tests and oral papers is therefore withdrawn. The new advice is not to change anything and to keep the original method of examination if it works properly. If conversations contain sensitive information, Skype for Business remains the preferred tool.

Online Proctoring

General

- Testing with Proctorio during the exam period works well. On Monday, an exam of 800 students received 5 reports from students with technical problems. Until now, this ratio seems to be representative of most tests.
- In the week before the exam period there have been some technical problems with Proctorio, causing a small delay for students at the start of the exam. These problems were resolved the same day and have not yet happened again.
- As a result of these problems, the footage of students for several tests became available a bit later as well and causing the reviews of some exams to take longer than usual. The chairmen of examination boards have been informed about this.

A second Q&A has taken place on online proctoring for students on Tuesday the 26th of May

- Approximately 20 participants (50 last week)
- One person with fundamental concerns on privacy
- Generally, more concerns on 'what if something goes wrong technically'?
- And 'what can I and what can I not do during the exam', afraid that behaviour is wrongly judged as fraudulent.
- One student indicated to be very nervous about exams in general, the novelty of online proctoring makes it worse.
- At the same time, students were glad that the exams could continue.
- The Q&A was appreciated and was declared to help take away concerns.
- The USR has indicated it wants to function as a barometer and will give a signal when there is a need for another Q&A.
- If there are signs within the faculties or study programs that a Q&A is desired, please let us know at: soz@vu.nl.

Figures 2 and 3 show the numbers of tests and students with online proctoring per week and in total from week 13 to week 21. Week 22, the week of the exams, is currently running and thus not included in these figures.

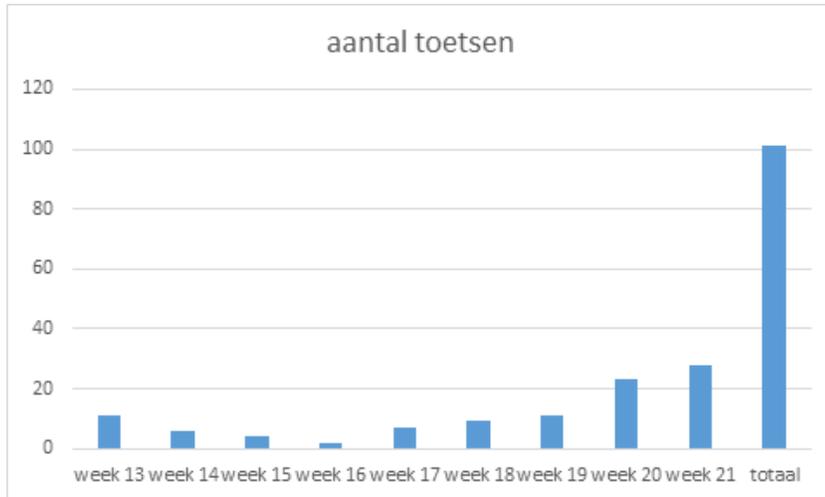


Figure 2 Number of exams with online proctoring per week and in total

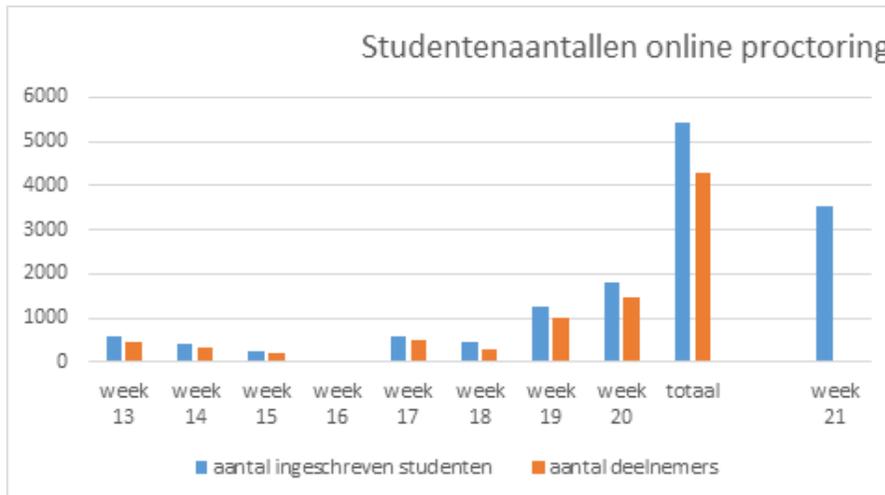


Figure 3 Number of enrolled and participating students of exams with online proctoring per week and in total

Please note: As not all official reports from week 21 have yet been completed, the number of students who participated is not yet known.

- 73 tests with online proctoring were administered from week 13 to week 20.
- A total of 5418 students were enrolled for an exam with online proctoring up to and including week 20.
- 732/5000
- The average attendance rate up to and including week 20 is 79.1%.
- Up to and including week 21, 101 tests were taken, and 8,948 students were registered for an exam with online proctoring.
- The average attendance rate up to and including week 21 is not yet known.
- 40 of the 101 tests were administered with Proctorio, for which 4946 students were registered.
- A total of 659 tests were scheduled from week 13 to week 21, 15.3% of those tests (101) were examined using online proctoring. Disclaimer, some tests are no longer in the timetable, because they have been converted to tests without a fixed examination date (for example, papers). As a result, the actual percentage of exams passed is probably slightly lower.

CENTRAL SUPPORT ISSUES

Printing of degree certificates resumes

SSA starts printing the certificates and is preparing the issuing process in accordance with the 1,5-meter society. In the SAP graduation transaction, faculties can follow which certificates have already been printed. From 8 June, there will be more information about collecting the (unsigned) certificates from the SSA. Further instructions will be distributed via HO.

Introduction week

The possibility of using canvas as a platform for the online introduction is currently being investigated. Previously, the focus was on the use of Microsoft (MS) Teams. The extensive functions of MS teams offer many possibilities for interaction between participants, something that suits the introduction period. Unfortunately, it is not possible to unroll these functions in MS teams in time for the start of the introduction. Canvas has fewer options in that respect, but its use is robust, after all it is already in use at the VU.

CENTRAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION AND DELAY

'Soft cut': re-enrolment premaster students

On 15 May, all master's programs published the admission requirements regarding the soft cut for admission to the master.

Online examinations

The analysis of the grades in period 4 shows that the grades are higher in the Corona period compared to the same period last year. In addition, only half of the credits were obtained in the past period compared to last year, due to the inadequacy of offering online exams, especially the bigger exams. The investigation will be repeated for the results of period 5.

STUDENT WELLBEING

We expect the completion of the platform for studying together in the near future; the project is in its final stages. The student counsellors notice that students are starting to report more questions and problems. Please refer them to the study advisor, the student counsellor or the student psychologist! The working party has received information from 113 suicide prevention, highlighting the need for continued vigilance for signs of suicidality, especially during the summer and fall when the after-effects of the corona crisis are expected. Next week we will post information on 'study and corona' on what to do if you are concerned about someone and we will share the information from 113 with the student counsellors.

FUTURE

Scenarios 2019-2020

Last week the working party 'scenarios' examined the requests for the timetables for period 1 (Sept/Oct). The current situation is different from what we are used to, including the requests for the timetables. Where we normally request and deliver a schedule for the entire first semester, this will now only be done for period 1. This has a number of consequences for students and teachers (think of uncertainties for periods 2 and 3), but also entails flexibility. This allows us to implement new (national) measures in education in the later periods. The approach and the schedule for the requests on 28 May have been discussed in the OPO. This is further elaborated with the input from the OPO. The request will be sent to all faculties on June 5.

Incoming students, progress, outgoing students 2020

Estimation for the international target group is still difficult. In line with the results of a survey by NUFFIC earlier this week among more than 900 students in the ten NESO countries, the interest of international students to study at VU remains high. This reflected in an increase in the number of registrations. However, it remains uncertain how many students will choose to actually complete their enrolment, as there are still many questions about, for example, possible travel restrictions, the financial situation and the effects of online education for the student. Based on the progress of housing and visa applications, as well as its own surveys, IO tries to make the most accurate estimate of the international influx that will be included in the forecasts of VU Analytics. It also immediately looks ahead, as there are already students who choose to postpone their enrolment for a year.

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.