

Corona news update educational support #3 (week 16, 2020) ENG

ONLINE EDUCATION

Provision of information

The adaptations to the [Online Education](#) website (see corona news update #2) will not be available until Friday 24 April.

Support

In early May, the first workshops will be organized for lecturers on finding online resources, making knowledge clips (including storytelling) and designing online courses - see corona news update #2. The workshops are organized in collaboration with VU NT&L.

Web conferencing

Since 1 April, lecturers and students can make use of Zoom for the purpose of synchronous education. Zoom can be accessed via Canvas and, as from this week, via SURFconext (<https://vu-live.zoom.us>). The VU license has been set up in such a way that privacy and security risks have been minimized as much as possible. On Canvas you will find the details on how to use Zoom. This page is updated daily (see <https://canvas.vu.nl/courses/39984/pages/zoom>).

Students who want to make recordings are strongly advised to use Kaltura, as the recordings can be stored safely on this platform. For a manual on Kaltura, please see https://sites.google.com/a/vu.nl/video/kaltura-capturespace#h.p_ID_52

Last week, the faculty's support contact persons received training on how to use Zoom, and in the near future there will be training sessions for second line support staff. In the coming period we will work on further embedding Zoom within VU Amsterdam. The video conferencing app will probably be available for online teaching until the end of the academic year.

ONLINE EXAMINATIONS

Examination planning and timetable

By Monday 20 April at the latest we will publish detailed information about the planning for examinations and on how the examination schedule will be communicated to students. The information will also mention which actions are expected and from whom.

CENTRAL SUPPORT ISSUES

Diploma supplements and degree certificates

The faculties' and SOZ departments' assessment of the proposed solution to work with the graduation statements issued by SSA will be ready on Friday 17 April. It is expected that this working method will not create any bottlenecks. Students will still be able to graduate and graduation will, as usual, be registered in DUO's national register.

The problems regarding the issuing of diploma supplements and degree certificates have also been discussed at the national level. It appears that other Dutch universities are using the same method. In the future, universities will be able to manually request a digitally certified Dutch diploma extract from DUO for international students who have no DigiD. This can help international students in cases where other universities consider the graduation statement issued by VU Amsterdam to be insufficient. Once this working method has been established nationwide, the faculties and SOZ departments will be informed of this.

VU Introduction Days and introduction international students

There are roughly three scenarios for the VU Introduction Days (all new FRT Bachelor's and pre-Master's students): Scenario 1: regular programming. Scenario 2: small-scale programme on campus (variant where groups of 100+ are allowed and variant where only small groups of approx. 15 people are allowed). In scenario 2 there is no physical evening programme. Scenario 3: as large a part of the programme as possible online. Scenarios 2 and 3 are currently being worked out in more detail; in these scenarios no contribution from prospective students will be required. Scenario 1 is becoming increasingly unlikely.

VSNU has set up a small working group in which VU Amsterdam (Marije Breukelman) takes part as well. The following matters were put forward by this working group (16-04-2020):

1. If the 'one-and-a-half-metre society' is still a fact by this summer, a large-scale event cannot take place. It will be up to the universities to investigate alternatives. This matter will be discussed with the VSNU R&D Steering Committee and OCW.
2. Most universities have a deadline of around 1 May as to whether or not to continue the regular programming. After this deadline, large (financial) commitments will have to be made, otherwise there will not be enough time to organize the programme.
3. The scenarios that have been discussed or that are still being discussed among the universities will be written down on an A4 sheet. Copies will be issued to VSNU and OCW. The sheet will be compiled by EUR and UT.
4. It is assumed that there will not be a solution/guideline for all universities, but each university can give their own interpretation within the range of the start-up protocols.
5. Examples of alternatives/scenarios will be shared among the working group members.

By the start of May at the latest, VU Amsterdam would like to make a decision on the VU Introduction Days and the introduction for international students. Before that time, the scenarios will have been worked out and presented as much as possible.

The social programme for international students shows many similarities with the general introduction. Important to note is that students from >100 countries come to VU Amsterdam, and it is currently not clear who will and who will not be able to come to the Netherlands. In an alternative scenario, both the group that does come to the Netherlands and the group that does not must be catered for. An important point of concern are the Arrival Days: 2 days on which students arrange their practical matters (registration with the municipality, have documents checked, etc.) and possibly receive the key to their accommodation. In case of a digital introduction, a different scenario will have to be worked out with the relevant external parties.

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EDUCATION AND STUDY DELAY

Transition moments within higher education: Bachelor's to Master's (Bachelor's before Master's rule (*harde knip*)/allowing students to start the Master's programme while still having to finish some Bachelor's subjects (*zachte knip*), more intake moments), BA-Premaster's-MS, HBO-P to WO-BA

VSNU has made a proposal for the intake of HBO-P students who have not yet completed their preliminary year. This proposal has now been discussed with the Vereniging Hogescholen and OCW, but the outcome has yet to be announced. How VU Amsterdam will design this will be determined later.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

We are currently working on publishing additional information on 'studying and corona' under different categories. 'Social security' will be added as an additional category. The community part of 'studying and corona' will soon be set up. Some employees have difficulty accessing the 'studying and corona' pages on VU.net. If you are unable to edit your profile, you can do so using this link:

<https://vunet.login.vu.nl/actual/pages/News/newsdetail.aspx?cid=tcm:165-938985-16>; then change your persona ('change'); then choose and select a student of any programme from the dropdown menu.

FUTURE SCENARIOS

2019-2020

Most faculties have provided the overviews for the examinations of periods 4, 5 and 6 that can only be taken in the regular way. As soon as all overviews have been submitted, rescheduling can start. Depending on whether activities can take place on campus during the summer months, it will be decided whether the examinations will take place physically or online, or a combination of these. The working group will draw up measures to ensure that students and lecturers take a distance of one and a half metres into account.

Incoming students - progress - outgoing students 2020 and after

This week, VU Analytics continued to work on the Incoming Students Forecasting Model. This includes a review by Martijn Meeter and Sandjai Bhulai. On Tuesday a first version was discussed in the Teaching Meeting and on Thursday in the Doorstroom focus group. It is currently being finalized and will be discussed in the Consultative Body for Portfolio Holders for Teaching on Tuesday 21 April.