

In light of the current COVID-19 circumstances, it is necessary to amend additional information to the EERs. Three specific elements need additional information.

Firstly, the (Negative) Binding Study advice for bachelor students started in 2019/2020. For FSE this relates to all the MSLAS bachelor programmes (UCM,MSP,UCV) and the DKE bachelor. For the new bachelor Business Engineering there is no addendum needed since it only started in 2020/2021.

Secondly, there needs to be a provision for the “Soft Cut” at the masters programmes. Soft Cut means that a student can start a master’s programme without the necessary entrance diploma (i.e a bachelor’s degree). This was legally prohibited, but due to the current COVID-19 crisis the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science decided that universities can be more lenient with this requirement, to prevent further delay for the students. This means, however, that there need to be clear arrangements on how and when a student will obtain his or her diploma. For FSE this should apply for both the DKE masters and the science masters (Biobased and Systems Biology). Because of the closed deadline for admissions, we have a clear inventory of all new students at the science masters. All of them obtained the necessary bachelor (or other entrance) degree. Therefore, it will not be necessary to amend information about the soft cut for these programmes.

Thirdly, a provision is required for the mandatory attendance for PBL sessions.

1. Attendance

It is the decision of the Board FSE that during period 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 of academic year 2020-21, students’ failure to attend tutorial groups and lectures shall not be taken as independent evidence that students have failed to successfully meet a course’s learning objectives. All sections in the OER/EER concerning attendance of tutorial groups and lectures (including those regarding students’ obligation to document the reasons for failed attendance, and those regarding make-up assignments) are suspended for periods 1,2,3,4,5 and 6.

The board of FSE wants to stress that this decision should by no means be interpreted as a recommendation to students to be absent. Problem based tutorial groups have been designed with student participation as a key component for their quality. Being present and participating does not only influence the students’ own learning experience positively, but it is also contributes to the learning experience of the other participants of the tutorial group and the group dynamics as a whole. The board trusts FSE students to make the decision to be absent, should health or other considerations necessitate this, with all the possible effects on themselves and others in mind.

Students are also reminded that the increased freedom to decide when to attend lecture and tutorial sessions also increases their personal responsibility for attaining the knowledge and skills needed to successfully pass courses. Hence, the responsibility placed on FSE teachers in the respective OER/EERs to assist students in this process through special make-up sessions or assignments in case of missed tutorials is also limited for this period.

2. Addendum EER MSLAS

7.5A Deferment of Negative Binding Study Advice

1. Contrary to the provisions of article 7.5, the Faculty Board will defer its BSA to any student who started the program during the 2019-2020 academic year and who did not meet the propaedeutic standard, as defined in article 7.6, at the end of the student's first year of enrolment.
2. The student whose BSA is deferred will develop, in consultation with the student's Academic Advisor, an individualized plan-of-study that is aimed at meeting said propaedeutic standard while concurrently progressing through the second year of studies. The plan shall be realistic and cover at least one full semester. This plan shall be submitted to the BoE for its approval.
3. Once the student completes the terms of the aforementioned plan-of-study, the Faculty Board will issue a positive BSA. If the student fails to complete the terms of the aforementioned plan-of-study, the Faculty Board will issue a negative BSA (unless newly arisen extenuating circumstances justify otherwise; see article 7.8).

7.6 Standards (updated March 2021)

Based upon an agreement with all universities in the Netherlands (in January 2021), the BSA standard is lowered from 45 to 40 ECTS for the academic year 2020-2021. Programme specific requirements (egg. passing specific courses) will be maintained.

The lowered standard also applies to students who have received a "retained" BSA advice for 2019-2020. Drafted action plans need to be evaluated in light of this new criterion on an individual level.

3. Addendum EER Bachelor and Master DKE

I. "Zachte-knip"-regulation

Temporary derogatory condition for enrolment in the (pre) master 2020-2021

1. In accordance with Article 7.37c and in derogation from Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.2a, 2.3, 2.6 and 2.7 of the EER the programme may, at its request, register for a 'registration without completed prior education' ('zachte knip-regulation') for the programme, if:
 - a. the candidate has obtained at least 80% of the credits to be obtained from the last year of the previous education (bachelor or bridging programme (pre-master)) (e.g.

- max. 12 ECTS from year 3 of the bachelor may be missing, year 1 and year 2 have been completed in full) OR has obtained all credits except the bachelor thesis.
- b. the candidate wants to enrol from a bridging minor (“schakelprogramma”), at least the bridging component offered by DKE has been completed. Subsequently, the programme, considering the 80% standard, assesses whether the student in question can be enrolled on the basis of the prior knowledge obtained in relation to the load of the subsequent programme;
 - c. the candidate has completed the prior education at least one month before the (pre) master's program, but no later than 31 August 2021.
2. This arrangement applies to the academic year 2020-2021 and will expire if the diploma for the previous education (bachelor or bridging programme) is not obtained before 1 September 2021;
 3. The period of validity of passed examinations during the 'registration without completed prior education' in 2020-2021 is bound according to Article 5.13 of the EER.
 4. The bachelor's thesis has been completed before the master's thesis can be started.

II. BSA

2019-2020

Study advice

1. The Faculty Board will officially adjourn the advice to students who started the program in the 2019-2020 academic year and who did not meet the standard for binding study advice at the end of their first year of enrolment. At the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, the student must still meet the BSA standard of the relevant study program.
2. The Faculty Board will officially adjourn the advice to students who started the 2019-2020 academic year with a postponed binding study advice from the previous academic year and who did not meet the conditions at the end of the academic year 2019-2020. At the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, the student must still meet the imposed conditions for positive study advice.

Additional provision March 2021

1. Based upon an agreement with all universities in the Netherlands (in January 2021), the BSA standard is lowered from 45 to 40 ECTS for the academic year 2020-2021. Programme specific requirements (egg. passing specific courses) will be maintained. The lowered standard also applies to students who have received a “retained” BSA advice for 2019-2020. Drafted action plans need to be evaluated in light of this new criterion on an individual level.