

## Binding recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA), academic year 2019-2020

Addendum Education and Examination Regulations (EER) Bachelor programmes 2019-2020

### Factual communication and its arguments

On March 20, the UT communicated the following message:

*The University of Twente deals with the Binding student progress evaluation (BSA) in line with the request made by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. In the study year 2019-2020, no negative binding study advice will be issued to first year students.*

*For first year students who do not meet the requirements of the BSA per 31 August 2020, the final student progress evaluation will be postponed. This postponed evaluation means the student will have the opportunity to fulfil the requirements for the BSA in the study year 2020-2021. Furthermore, they will receive an additional, non-binding preliminary student progress evaluation. Also, they will be invited by their study advisor to discuss whether continuing the educational programme is preferable.*

*The UT will do everything within its power to smoothly proceed education and examination online. We do expect to offer all students a programme in which they are able to complete the third and fourth quartile within this study year.*

This message was created after discussion with the CCOW and CCT. Arguments for the decision taken, were:

- The request of OCW; prior to March 20, OCW already announced (via the VSNU) that it would like to see all higher educational institutions to not give binding recommendations this year.
- The desire to accommodate students as much as possible in this bizarre time.
- The widely accepted assumption during the discussion in the CCOW that many students, who would be subject to a negative recommendation, have already left before February 1.
- The fact that it is difficult to assess whether or not a student's study has been delayed by Corona and, related, to avoid a large amount of applications that need to be assessed.

### What does this decision mean formally?

The BSA regulations (section 6 EER) is followed, unless otherwise stipulated in this document or by the Executive Board.

#### First-year students

- Students, who have met the requirements of the programme<sup>1</sup> at the end of the first year:
  - o receive a positive recommendation on continuation of the study (in accordance with Art. 6.3 par. 1 EER).
- Students, who have not met the requirements of the programme<sup>1</sup> at the end of the first year:
  - o all receive (in derogation from Art. 6.3 EER) a letter stating that their recommendation will be postponed [standard letter Osiris, end of the 2019-2020 academic year];
  - o to them, the end of the second year of enrolment<sup>2</sup> in the relevant programme applies as the new deadline for the final recommendation;
  - o receive (in accordance with Art. 6.5 par. 2 and sub b EER) a letter from the programme containing the requirements and the aforementioned date by which the student must have met these requirements, within 6 weeks after the date of enrolment in the second year of the relevant programme [manually, sample letter].

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<sup>1</sup> Where having "the requirements of the programme" stated in this document, it refers to the requirements of the programme in accordance with the 2019-2020 EER, based on Art. 6.3 par. 3 and 4 and Art. 6.5 par. 2 EER.

<sup>2</sup> For all these students, the final recommendation on continuation of studies is postponed for the same period of time, namely one academic year.

- Students, who discontinued their study before or as of February 1, 2020:
  - o will not receive a recommendation (in accordance with Art. 6.4 par. 2 EER).
- Students, who discontinued their study after February 1, 2020 and want to continue the same programme in academic year 2020-2021:
  - o receive (in derogation from Art. 6.4 par. 3 EER) a letter stating that the recommendation will be postponed [standard letter Osiris, end of the 2019-2020 academic year];
  - o to them, the end of the second year of enrolment<sup>2</sup> in the relevant programme applies as the new deadline for the final recommendation;
  - o receive (in accordance with art. 6.5 par. 2 and sub b EER) a letter from the programme containing the requirements and the aforementioned date by which the student must have met these requirements, within 6 weeks after the date of enrolment in the second year of the relevant programme [manually, sample letter].

### Second-year students

- Students, whose recommendation has already been postponed (in accordance with Art. 6.5 EER), who have met the requirements of the programme<sup>1</sup> in the 2019-2020 academic year:
  - o receive a positive recommendation on continuation of the study.
- Students, whose recommendation has already been postponed, who have not met the requirements of the programme<sup>1</sup> in the 2019-2020 academic year:
  - o receive a negative recommendation on continuation of the study (in accordance with Art. 6.3 par 4 EER); or
  - o can receive a positive recommendation with due consideration of personal circumstances (in accordance with Art. 6.3 par. 5 EER), if students have not met the requirements due to personal circumstances (that can be assessed by the CPO).

### Giving advice

It is important to speak about their study progress with first-year students whose recommendation will be postponed. The purpose of this one-on-one conversation between the programme and the student is to look at the study results together and to discuss whether lesser results may be the consequence of:

- the Corona virus;
- personal circumstances;
- no clear circumstances.

This conversation is an extra interim evaluation moment (in addition to Art. 6.2 EER) and will take place before the end of the 2019-2020 academic year, on the basis of which the student can consider whether it is wise to continue the study. Based on the study results and the conversation with the programme, the programme will (in addition to Art. 6.2 EER) advise the student about this by e-mail before the end of the 2019-2020 academic year [manually, sample email].

*N.B. 1.* It is not realistic to have all these conversations in the summer period. With students, who are no longer able to meet the requirements based on their study results up to and including quartile 3, can already be spoken in quartile 4. As a result, not all conversations need to take place in the summer period. If it is not possible for the study adviser to speak to all these students, some may be conducted by other parties involved of the programme (for example mentors / tutors, coordinators and programme directors).

*N.B. 2.* It is important to also have this conversation with students who have discontinued their studies after February 1, 2020, but who want to enroll in the same programme again based on a postponed recommendation. Programmes are requested to contact these students about this matter. It is recommended to have this conversation as soon as possible after the student has discontinued the study. If this is not possible, the conversation will at least be conducted at the beginning of the first quartile of the second year of enrolment.

## Communication

We are flexible and accommodating to our students. In return, we expect students to actively commit to achieving the best possible results. It is therefore important to emphasize the following in communicating with students:

- Education continues as far as possible: this means that it is still possible to achieve positive results in the third and fourth quartile. It is therefore in the interest of the students to continue studying.
- It is not always in the interest of a student to continue the study with a postponed recommendation. Despite the fact that the UT does not give negative (binding) recommendations to first-year students current academic year, we can discuss such concerns, if applicable, with the student.