

Section 6 (Binding) recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)

Explanatory notes: Article 7.8b WHW

Article 6.1 Preliminary recommendation on continuation of studies

1. Students will receive a general information letter about study progress and the binding recommendation on continuation of studies by calendar week 52 at the latest of their first year of enrolment in the degree programme. They will receive a preliminary recommendation on continuation of studies on 25 February of the following calendar year at the latest. This recommendation can be positive, negative or neutral and is not binding. Students with a postponed recommendation on continuation of studies receive a timely warning in their second year of enrolment in the degree programme (in accordance with Article 6.2, paragraph 4) if their study progress proves insufficient.
2. Students who receive a negative recommendation on continuation of studies will be invited for an interview with the study adviser to discuss their study methods and review their choice of specialisation. A negative preliminary recommendation on continuation of studies is considered as a warning (Article 6.2, paragraph 4).

Article 6.2 (Binding) recommendation on continuation of studies

1. Students receive a written recommendation on continuation of studies, at the latest by the end of the first year of enrolment in the degree programme, about continuing their studies. This recommendation is based on the student's results: the student may be allowed to continue on the programme, or may be required to leave the programme, with due regard for Articles 6.3 and 6.4. The Institutional Board mandates the programme director to issue recommendations on continuation of studies.
2. The calculation for the recommendation on continuation of studies includes:
 - a) the credits obtained for examinations from the first year of the degree programme;
 - b) the exemptions for examinations and tests in the first year that were granted to the student.The programme director may set programme-specific requirements which must be met. These requirements are specified in the programme-specific part. Programme-specific requirements may not state that all study units of a certain curricular course must be attained¹⁷.
3. The programme director may decide that a recommendation on continuation of studies should involve expulsion. A *recommendation on continuation of studies that involves expulsion* is referred to as a *binding recommendation on continuation of studies* (binding studieadvies, BSA). The programme director will take the student's personal circumstances of which the university is aware into consideration when making a decision. The recommendation on continuation of studies may only involve expulsion if the programme director considers the student as unsuited to the educational programme, because the student's results do not meet the required standard, i.e. if:
 - a) the student has obtained fewer than 45 credits of the first year, or
 - b) the student has obtained 45 or more credits of the first year, but does not meet the programme-specific requirements (as referred to in paragraph 2 of this article).The decision notification relating to a binding recommendation on continuation of studies must inform the students of their right to file an objection and appeal via the Complaints Desk.
4. Before issuing a binding recommendation on continuation of studies, the programme director must first issue a warning to the student giving him/her a reasonable term in which to improve the course results, to the programme director's satisfaction (Article 6.1 paragraph 2), and the programme director will give the student the opportunity to be heard.
5. Students may file a request (supported by documentary evidence) for assessment of their personal circumstances to the Personal Circumstances Committee (CPO). This request is to be filed in consultation with the study adviser. The CPO will assess the validity, nature, severity and duration of the personal circumstances and will issue an advisory opinion on these matters. The CPO's advisory opinion, issued to the programme director and the study adviser concerned, will be taken into account in the programme director's decision-making referred to in paragraph 3.
6. Personal circumstances include illness, physical, sensory or other functional disability or pregnancy of the student involved, extenuating family circumstances, participation in top-level sports or arts and membership of the university council, faculty council, programme committee or a Category 3 or 4 board (student activism) in accordance with the StOF Regulations.
7. Students who have received a binding recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA) may not enrol in the same degree programme for a period of three consecutive academic years. If a student re-enrols in the relevant programme after this period, this enrolment is designated as a first-year enrolment and the relevant provisions of this section apply in full.

Article 6.3 Discontinuation of the programme

1. The degree programme is considered to be discontinued if the student stops taking courses or any form of tests for the programme, and where the student:
 - a) submits a request to the University of Twente to terminate the enrolment, or
 - b) submits a request to terminate the enrolment for one programme at the University of Twente and enrolls in another programme at the University of Twente, thus switching to another programme at the University of Twente, or
 - c) continues the studies at another institute of higher education with a proof of tuition fees paid (*bewijs betaald collegegeld*, BBC).
2. A recommendation on continuation of studies will not be issued if the request to terminate enrolment is received through Studielink **before** 1 March in the first year of enrolment for the degree programme and the student does not

¹⁷ For example: 'The student must pass all mathematics study units from the B1 programme' is not permitted, whereas 'The student must pass three of the four mathematics study units from the B1 programme' is permitted.

re-enrol for the same programme in that same academic year. If the student re-enrols in the same programme in a following academic year, this enrolment is designated as the first-year enrolment.

3. Students who de-enrol as per 1 March for a degree programme at the University of Twente will receive a recommendation on continuation of studies, as referred to in Article 6.2 paragraph 1, from the degree programme they discontinued.

Article 6.4 Postponement of recommendation on continuation of studies

1. The recommendation on continuation of studies as referred to in Article 6.2 paragraph 1 may be postponed if:
 - a) the student has enrolled in the degree programme on or after 1 October of the relevant academic year and on 31 August at the latest has not met the norm, or
 - b) if personal circumstances preclude an assessment of the student's suitability at the end of the first year of enrolment in the degree programme.

In the event of postponement pursuant to the provisions under a), the recommendation on continuation of studies will be issued by the degree programme in which the student is newly enrolled.
2. If the student whose recommendation has been postponed re-enrols in a subsequent academic year in the same degree programme, then the recommendation on continuation of studies for the relevant programme will be issued by the end of the second year of enrolment. The same norm as set out in Article 6.2 paragraph 3 applies to this recommendation.
3. If a student transfers to another UT degree programme prior to 1 October, then the recommendation on continuation of studies will not be postponed based on transfer and the norm will not therefore be adjusted as referred to in Article 6.2, paragraph 3.