

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

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To the Executive Board

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datum	6 December 2019	e-mail	g.w.m.oldeengberink@utwente.nl
bijlage(n)			
cc.			
onderwerp	Question on 'Master Insert'.		

Dear Executive Board,

The University of Twente - Design lab is as of this year offering something called a 'Master Insert'. We are happy to see the UT experiment with new forms of offering specializations to our students. However, this is a new educational concept as well as new construct as far as we can tell. As such, we have a few questions regarding this Master Insert.

Relation to the formal curricula

- The website states "It consists of six modules (5 EC each, 30 EC in total) and is to be pursued full-time (Quarter 2 and Quarter 3) prior to starting a graduation assignment". Is it therefore correct to assume that the master insert adds several months to the duration of the academic programme?
- Why did the UT decide upon a new educational concept to add to the existing suite of non-curricular education available, such as Minors, Honours programmes etc? In other words: How is this module different from a minor, and why was chosen for a structure that leads to longer MSc programmes rather than a format that is included in the existing curricula? In fact, the term 'Master Insert' seems to be a UT specific term. Has the concept been based on some best practices, or is this a full UT setup?
- How is this programme embedded in the formal UT structure?
Sub-questions come to mind such as:
 - How is quality assurance of this module organized: Does this fall under the processes put in place for regular Minors?
 - Which programme director carries responsibility for this educational unit? In other words: Which programme committee, exam committee and EER are involved?
 - Which participatory board has approved the start of this new type of education?

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Relation to study progress/graduation targets

- The university has measures in place to avoid study delays - in line with our agreements with the minister. This 'master insert' might result in the opposite: Nominal study duration of our Msc programmes is 1 or 2 years. However, by adding this insert, the students will not be able to graduate with 1.5 and 2.5 years, respectively. How does this affect our agreements with the minister?
- How is the master insert organized when it comes to re-sits? Will failure lead to further study delays, or can resits be organized within the semester?

Finances

- How is the financial side of this 'master insert' organized? To us it is unclear what the status is of this educational unit. Does it fall under the regular financed educational programmes? Or are students paying the institutional tuition fees for the module? What does this mean for the internal financial distribution (covering Staff time, lecture halls etc)?

The University Council would like to hear your answers to the questions above during the upcoming consultation meeting on 11 December 2019.

Kind regards,
on behalf of the University Council,


dr. ir. H. Wormeester,
Chairman