

Enrolment moment for semester 2

For several years there have been discussions on creating a proper enrolment moment for students starting at the University of Twente in semester 2. Since the number of students starting in semester 2 is increasing it has become more important to finalise a decision on this topic. In April 2019, a project team investigated several scenarios and reduced these down to two viable options.

Scenario 1

Start the second semester 2 or 3 days later. Provide the formal introduction to the academic programme at this time. Meanwhile, focus on providing more digital tools for students to help them prepare for their arrival at the University of Twente. Provide a social orientation programme during the week of arrival, and during the course-free week later in the quarter.

Scenario 2

Move the course-free week in Q3 to the start of the semester. Use this week to provide students with an integrated orientation program.

Within the limit of these two scenarios both attracted the same support among stakeholders. The general conclusion is that all stakeholders are in favour of a proper enrolment moment being created for students starting in semester 2. The University Council states that every member of our community wants the University to be warm and welcome, not just during the summer Kick-in, but also in February. This problem was identified some years ago, and the analysis was that the problem lies in the **housing** of the international students, i.e. housing is not available as a result of the short period between the two semesters. This problem has not been addressed.

The University Council is concerned by the fact that nearly all the bodies asked for advice have not taken a strong position in favour of one option or the other (Platform Studieadviseurs, Platform Onderwijs Contactpersonen, UC-Ow, S&P), PIA seems to favour scenario 1, CES foresees increased workload in scenario 1, HR foresees a structural increased workload in scenario 2. The University Council has asked for advice from the faculty councils, the 4 contributions received so far are negative on scenario 2. This very mixed opinion might be partially due to the restricted two options presented to them.

Everybody agrees that a proper introduction period should also be present in February, but that whatever option is chosen the workload for both teaching staff and students will increase. A number of problems have been identified by the University Council and discusses with the Rector in a committee meeting. This discussion led the Executive Board to decide to withdraw this item from the agenda of the plenary meeting of September 25th and to reconsider the solution. The University Council is awaiting the results of this reconsideration.