

To the University Council

Date

26-02-2021

Subject

Your request to lower the institutional fee

**Our reference**

E&S/CH/FvdS/BG 287640

**Your reference**

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**Enclosure**

**Department**

Executive Board

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Dear members of the University Council,

On Friday 12 February 2021, your Council sent us a question with regards to the institutional tuition fees, in relation to the ongoing corona crisis this academic year. With this letter we respond to your e-mail.

Your request is to explore whether it is an option to lower the tuition fees to the statutory fee, for those students who pay the institutional fee rate. You claim that this should be a nice gesture of the Erasmus University towards its international students, as many of those students should perceive current education to be of less quality. Although we appreciate your concerns towards the wellbeing of our international (non-EEA) student, we see no reason to lower the institutional fees at this moment. Our reasoning is as follows.

1. *First and foremost, we see no substantial reason to compensate (international) students financially.*

Online education is in place since the last twelve months. The university and all its (teaching) staff have done their very best to make this happen. And these investments, including financial investments and considerable efforts by our teaching and non-teaching staff, result into success: first study results show that on average, students seem to be quite able to manage online education and to receive good grades.

Last academic year, when the corona crisis started, the Dutch universities jointly decided to help those non-EEA students who were close to obtaining their degree but needed to enroll for one or two months extra, because of the corona crises. Back then, students did suffer from the sudden switch to online education, and compensation was appropriate. However, this year is different. All education does take place, which is why we do not have any reason to lower the institutional fees.

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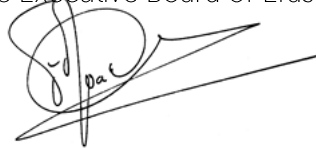
2. *Compensation of tuition fees is subject to an ongoing national political debate.*

As the cabinet and parliament are considering compensation of tuition fees, and the Dutch universities tend to follow the outcomes of that debate, it would be premature to introduce EUR specific guidelines, even without considering the arguments mentioned before.

In the meantime, we will closely monitor other universities' activities in this field. If, like last year, VSNU finds that all universities should compensate within the tuition fees, we will reconsider our strategy.

Yours Sincerely,

The Executive Board of Erasmus University Rotterdam,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. van der Duijn Schouten', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Prof. dr. Frank van der Duijn Schouten  
Rector Magnificus a.i.