



To the University Council
Via university.council@eur.nl

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Subject
Response to 38562 BSA – informal advice

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Enclosure
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Department
Executive Board
Academic Affairs

Visiting address
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Erasmus Building
A2-02

Postal address
P.O. Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

T +31 6 46999947
E aida.tunovic@eur.nl
W www.eur.nl/English

Dear members of the University Council,

Thank you for your advice, insights, and opinion regarding the BSA and specifically regarding the follow-up steps and the exploration of the options brought forward by OCW.

In your letter you focused on the scenario in which OCW would propose lowering the norm to either 45 or 30 EC. You make a case for a more balanced norm of 45 EC, a scenario in which the norm would be both sufficiently lowered for the students to experience less stress yet high enough to stimulate efforts and attendance. Collectively, the universities are against setting of a national norm for BSA but in case a norm has to be set, [the UNL also argues](#) for a norm of 45 EC.

However, as outlined in [his letter to the Parliament](#), Minister Dijkgraaf has opted for the more radical lowering of the norm to 30 EC. In addition to the BSA norm of maximum 30 EC in year 1, OCW has introduced an additional option of a second BSA norm in year 2 (maximum 60 EC). The adjusting of BSA norm has been explicitly placed in the broader context of student wellbeing. This means that flanking/supporting (measures) policy has also received a great deal of attention.

The new BSA-legislation will go into effect in academic year 2025/2026. This implies that EUR has approximately 2 (academic) years to prepare and implement the adjusted BSA-legislation. Evidently, this also means that the N=N policy is no longer viable. N=N policy contains more than just 60 EC in year 1. The compensatory testing as well as the current resit policy (and possibly also the subject division/size of the curriculum) will need to be overhauled.

We are currently developing a new policy on the adjusted-BSA and flanking policy, including student success-promoting measures. One of the first steps consists of collecting data and

information to map out the expected consequences and changes. For this, as well as identifying the support needs, we have started an inquiry with the programs.

We will keep you informed on any new developments and our progress.

The Executive Board of Erasmus University Rotterdam,



Prof.dr. A.L. Bredenoord
Rector Magnificus