

Programme Director ESE  
Dr Josse Delfgaauw

Date  
20 May 2025

Subject  
Advice concerning TERs 2025-2026

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Dear Dr Delfgaauw,

During the plenary meeting of the Examination Board on 13 May 2025, the proposed adjustments to the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TERs) for the academic year 2025-2026 have been discussed.

In this regard we would like to make the following comments.

In your **Guidance Note 2 of 29 April 2025** you propose to lower the GPA from 7.5 to 7.0 for students who wish to enter an ESE master and whose prior Bachelor education is not in Economics or Econometrics, and also for students who wish to enter an ESE Pre-master after completing an Applied Sciences (HBO) programme.

In both cases you "expect that the knowledge and skills obtained during the previous education will be more important than the GPA. With a GPA of 7.0 students should still have sufficient mastery of the relevant subjects to successfully complete our (pre-) master programmes."

In the opinion of the Examination Board, the proposal to lower the GPA from 7.5 to 7.0 seems a bit rushed. We would like to emphasize that this is a measure that cannot easily be reversed. That would lead to too much confusion and (legal) uncertainty.

The main vulnerability is that the impact has not yet been further investigated.

- How do current students with a 7.5 perform on average?
- What kind of students will we attract if we proceed to admission with a GPA of 7.0?
- Will this not lead to students having more difficulty with their studies, taking longer to complete their studies, making more use of our facilities (including help from study advisors), which could lead to higher costs in another way?

Since this year, based on recent case law, we also have to take personal circumstances into account if students submit a request for the hardship clause. We only do this for students who are close to the 7.5 standard (max. a difference of 0.2 points, so at least a 7.3). Introducing the lowering of the GPA to a 7.0 means that we will have to apply this measure to students with a GPA of 6.8. It's good to be aware of that.

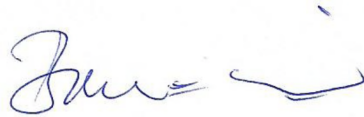
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In addition, our Admissions staff sees in practice that students who are rejected for the E&B Master because of a GPA that is too low, often apply for the AAC Master. Lowering the GPA for the E&B Master can therefore lead to a decline in the number of applications for the AAC Master. It is also important to be aware of this.

Yours sincerely  
On behalf of the Plenum of the Examination Board ESE



Prof.dr. B. Visser  
Chair Examination Board ESE