



# Memorandum

**Date** : 31 May 2023  
**Topic** : Numerus fixus bachelor programmes 24-25

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### Introduction

The Executive Board annually sets a numerus fixus for bachelor's programmes with limited teaching capacity. This is done based on WHW Art. 7.53, and applies to the bachelors Psychology, International Business Administration (IBA) and Criminology. At the same time, the EB is informed about the numerus fixus of the Bachelor of Medicine. This is a formality, as the distribution of the total number of Medicine students takes place nationally, based on a ministerial regulation belonging to WHW Art. 7.56. This regulates the intake restriction based on labour market needs.

Since academic year 2017-2018, universities themselves are entirely responsible for the selection and placement of students for bachelor's degrees with a numerus fixus. The Executive Board decides, and the University Council advises. Each year, deans wishing to use numerus fixus are invited to apply. Their application should include a description of the need for the capacity restriction, the selection criteria and methods and how applicants will be informed in advance. The application also contains a report of the previous selection round, so that an internal check is made on the transparency of the process, the number and type of qualitative selection requirements and quantitative information on the number of participants and appeals. Even though faculty councils have no legal role in the application for a numerus fixus and capacity restrictions, deans are advised to consult their faculty council.

EUR must report to OCW by 1 September which programmes use numerus fixus, so that students can apply for the new academic year via Studielink from 1 October. Both the participating programmes and the number of places have remained unchanged in recent years.

School	Bachelor programme	Capacity
ESL	Criminology (56469)	135
RSM	International Business Administration (50952)	750
ESSB	Psychology (56604)	600
EMC	Medicine (56551)	410

*Bachelor programmes with numerus fixus EUR 2024-25*

## Current developments

There are some national developments on the selection topic that will affect EUR bachelor selection in the future.

### 1. Lottery

The Bill on Lottery will probably lead to an amendment of WHW article 7.53 which will make it possible, as of academic year 2025-26, to also apply lottery in decentralised selection; for the entire population of applicants, or as part of the selection procedure for bachelor's programmes with limited teaching capacity. Currently (May 2023), the *Regeling aanmelding en toelating hoger onderwijs* (Ratho) is being amended, and institutions of higher education have been asked to reflect on this. With this development it is as good as certain that it will become possible for bachelor's programmes with capacity restrictions from academic year 2025-26 to apply:

- a. Decentralised selection through a selection procedure (current practice),
- b. Decentralised selection based on (unweighted) lottery,
- c. Decentralised selection based on a combination of lottery and selection.

For all options, the central requirement is that selection is based on at least two qualitative selection criteria.

At EUR, Medicine, Criminology and (possibly) Psychology are interested in selecting based on the combination of lottery and selection (option c), with the main motivation being to make the bachelor's programme more accessible to a more diverse student population.

### 2. Internationalisation

In the letter on internationalisation in higher education (May 2023), the Minister of Education, Culture and Science outlines how he views the influx of international students. In this light, additional tools within the possibilities to select students (via *numerus fixus*) are announced. Programmes may soon be allowed to limit intake for a track within the programme, for instance the English-language track. There will also be an 'emergency *fixus*' if a study programme is suddenly flooded with students from outside the EEA. If programmes threaten to fill up, they can stem the unexpected rise with an emergency capacity *fixus*. It is still unclear if, and when, the law will be amended.

## Participants *numerus fixus* 2024-25

The law requires the institution to select on at least two qualitative criteria. One of these qualitative criteria can be fulfilled by assessing grades from secondary education. This is because grades from secondary education give a picture of the knowledge of the prospective student. Other criteria may relate, for example, to personality traits, cognitive/non-cognitive skills (such as analytical skills) or motivation.

The following pages summarise the *numerus fixus* applications of the four participating bachelor's programmes. In each case, we briefly discuss the need for a capacity *fixus*, the selection criteria and method, faculty participation and relevant developments.

## Medicine

*See annex 3 for full documentation*

Nationwide, the government funds the intake of 3,000 students per year. With this decision, the national available teaching capacity for the Bachelors of Medicine is a fact. The deans of the faculties involved have made agreements on the quotas per institution. For Rotterdam, this means that we receive funding for 410 students for the bachelor's programme at EUR.

Medicine	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-registrations	1057	1107	998	1263	1232
Fixus	410	410	410	410	410

*Pre-registrations in Studielink EUR, on 15 January*

### *From the faculty council*

Medicine has informed the the Joint Assembly of EMC about the numerus fixus. Joint Assembly has indicated its support for the numerus fixus (the number of available places and the selection method), but has a few points of concern, mainly about the lack of a more comprehensive description of how Medicine wants to attract a more diverse public. These points will be discussed further within EMC, and this will go hand in hand with the development of a selection policy that will involve lottery. EMC's ambition is to use a combination of selection and lottery in the selection of medical students by 2025-26. This information will be submitted to the Executive Board in due time.

### *Evaluation 2022-23*

Evaluation provided, no specific outcomes.

### *Selection 2024-25*

Candidates will be assessed on each of the criteria below using the five instruments listed. Exceptions apply to candidates who score an average equal to or higher than an 8.25 for the 5-Vwo final marks, have fulfilled the E-module, the preparation assignments and score a pass in the motivation section of the portfolio. These candidates will be given a placement number. Candidates who have successfully completed the Junior Med School programme, fulfilled the E-module and the preparation assignment and scored satisfactorily for the motivation section of the portfolio. These candidates will also be given a placement number.

1. E-module - When making the E-module, candidates indicate what they would do in the situations outlined.
2. Preparatory assignment - The preparatory assignment considers whether candidates have handed in the assignment on time and correctly and performed it adequately (met/not met).
3. Portfolio - For the portfolio, candidates receive a z-score. Here, the z-score is an average of the components Preliminary training, Distinctive qualities and Motivation.
4. Final 5-vwo marks - For the final 5-vwo marks, candidates also receive a z-score.
5. Selection day - For the assignments that candidates complete during the selection day, they are given a z-score. The z-score is determined by the average score for the various assignments.

**Criminology**

*See annex 4 for full documentation*

Criminology has had a numerus fixus since the start of the programme. The capacity of ESL's Criminology section is equipped for an intake of about 130 first-year students. Based on experience from past years, it appears that a numerus fixus of 135 yields around 120 to 130 first-year students. It has been agreed with sister faculties at VU and Leiden that the numerus fixus will remain in place. The capacity in Rotterdam has stood at 135 places each time in recent years, and this number has been agreed by the three programmes jointly.

Criminology	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-registrations	343	569	528	776	677
Fixus	135	135	135	135	135

*Pre-registrations in Studielink EUR, on 15 januari*

*From the Faculty council*

Due to lack of time not included. The ESL faculty council had no comments/comments on Criminology's numerus fixus in previous years and gave a positive opinion each time.

*Evaluation 2022-23*

Criminology indicates that they prefer to provide an evaluation of 2023-24 and will do so as soon as data on this are available. This evaluation will be used in the discussion whether they want to add lottery as part of the selection.

*Selection 2024-25*

ESL applies the following two criteria:

1. Grades from the most relevant previous education (50%)
2. Results of a mock study test (50%).

To establish the ranking, candidates are assessed on a combination of the two criteria. So-called z-scores are used to establish the rankings. The weighting of the result of selection tool 1 and selection tool 2 is 50:50. For the criterion 'average grade', the candidate's average grade counts as the raw score (x) in determining the z-score. The rank number for selection is determined by the z-scores given to the candidate on the two criteria. Thus, the average of the two z-scores determines the rank number.

## International Business Administration

*See annex 5 for full documentation*

IBA's teaching capacity has been gradually increased from the start of the programme in 2000 to 750 in 2023-24. RSM has for some time expressed dissatisfaction with the requirements of the numerus fixus selection process. Numerus fixus programmes must adhere to nationally determined, external deadlines. For instance, rankings are determined on 15 April, which is late for an international programme like IBA. It often happens that international applicants have already received an offer elsewhere (in Europe) by then, as a result of which these often talented students do not come to Rotterdam. For this reason, RSM proposes a maximum number of places higher than the intended intake. This is generally a lot lower (namely around 650).

RSM has investigated other ways of selecting, as an alternative to numerus fixus, but so far without success. For example, last year it investigated whether selection based on Additional Requirements (international classroom) would be an option, but this was assessed as unsuccessful in an internal check.

IBA	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-registrations	2424	3439	3126	4163	3950
Fixus	600	650	650	750	750

*Pre-registrations in Studielink EUR, on 15 januari*

*From the faculty Council*

Both the programme committee and faculty council have given a positive opinion for selection at IBA in 2024-25.

### *Evaluation 2022-23*

RSM is pleased with the composition of the students who were eventually allowed to apply for 2022-23. With 57 different nationalities, they form a very diverse population. But with only 17% Dutch students in the programme, an all-time low was reached, both in relative and absolute terms. This happened despite efforts to promote IBA more among Dutch students. RSM attributes this mainly to the Dutch grading system in secondary schools, which (by international comparison) is less likely to award high grades. Dutch-speaking students are more likely to choose *Bedrijfskunde*, the Dutch-language variant, without a numerus fixus.

### *Selection 2024-25*

Selection is based on two criteria. All students are selected on grades, and then choose whether they want to be assessed on their CV, or their motivation.

1. Grades (average secondary school grade, mathematics grade and English grade): 75%
2. Either CV (showing relevant international background and experience): 25%
3. Or motivation (the motivation to participate in the international classroom): 25%

Average scores on the two (chosen) selection criteria determine place in the ranking. IBA uses tiers for this purpose: students are placed in a certain category depending on their scores on a certain component.

**Psychology**

*See annex 6 for full documentation*

Each year, more students apply for both the Dutch-language and English-language track of Psychology. This upward trend is expected to continue. With the numerus fixus, ESSB wants to safeguard the quality of education and the educational concept of small-scale education. Moreover, it has been agreed with the other Psychology programmes in the country that all programmes have a fixus in order to share the education burden.

Psychology	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-registrations	978	901	1.333	2.981	2901
Fixus	600	600	600	600	600

*Pre-registrations in Studielink EUR, on 15 januari*

*From the faculty council*

The faculty council issued a positive advice.

*Evaluation 2022-23*

Psychology has been selecting via numerus fixus for 3 years and generally has good experiences with this. In particular, school grades and scores on the online test seem to be good predictors of study success.

*Selection 2024-25*

Selection criteria Psychology:

1. School grades (33.3%);
2. Scores on an online test (multiple choice, 33.3%);
3. Motivation (online questionnaire with open-ended questions, 33.3%);

Standard scores (z-scores) are calculated for each item to assess how candidates score relative to each other on the assessment items. All z-scores are added up to create a total score. Each component contributes equally to the total score. This total score determines the final rank number of each candidate.

Candidates choose either the international or Dutch-language programme when registering in Studielink. However, one ranking is made for the programme instead of separate rankings per track, as the WHW currently prescribes.