

# Memorandum

To Deans  
From Institutional Fee Committee EUR (IFC)  
Topic Advice institutional tuition fees 2025-2026  
Date 18 January 2024

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In this memo the Institutional Fee Committee (IFC) advises on the institutional tuition fees for the academic year 25-26. In short, the advice is to (1) increase all bachelor and master fees by the inflation rate and thereby following the advice to increase the statutory tuition fees for 24-25, (2) to apply a 20K ceiling for the non-EEA master fees in the cluster Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, and (3) to add Erasmus School of Economics to this cluster so fees are harmonized across the EUR with the exception of RSM and EMC. Below you will find the details supporting this advice.

## Background

Since 2021, the internal IFC EUR advises the Executive Board (EB) on the institutional tuition fees. The IFC currently consists of Maarten IJzerman (dean ESHPM, chair), Jason Pridmore (vice-dean ESHCC), Willem Koolhaas (Marketing director RSM), Brenda Vermeeren (vice-dean ESSB), Aleid Fokkema (University Council, UC) and a representative of CPC. The EB decides about the institutional fees based on the IFC recommendation (WHW art. 7.46), and the UC has the right of advice (WHW art. 9.33a).

The increase of the institutional tuition fees usually follows the annual percentage increase of the statutory tuition fee, which is based on the inflation of the previous year (formally announced by the Ministry of Education or OCW). The IFC also weighs aspects such as a national benchmark, influx trends over past years and harmonization between fees into account. Schools are also invited to take other aspects into account, for instance international comparison or their specific market value.

## Institutional fee 25-26 - proposal

The statutory fee for 24-25 is €2.530,- compared to €2.314,- in 23-24. This means an increase with an inflation rate of 9.3%. See annex 1 for the proposed institutional fees for 25-26. The statutory fee for 25-26 will be announced by the Ministry of OCW in the summer of 2024.

### *Proposed budget ceiling*

The IFC has discussed the need to implement a maximum increase in fees for the 25-26 year, based on global uncertainties contingent on changes in student enrollment. Therefore, the IFC has reviewed the impact of fee increases in previous years on international student enrolment and could not identify an inverse relation. Nevertheless, the IFC was reluctant to only consider the inflation rate and therefore benchmarked our fee structure with Dutch and international universities. Also, with uncertainties around the political debate on internationalization in the Netherlands, the IFC was by majority in favor of applying an 20,000 Euro ceiling.

### *Humanities, Social Sciences and Law*

Following the increase of the statutory fee in the previous year, the institutional fees 25-26 can be calculated by increasing the current ones with 9.3%. The initial IFC's advice is to apply the 9.3% increase to all bachelor and master programs, except for the non-EEA fees in the cluster Humanities, Social Sciences and Law. This exception is proposed because when applying the 9.3% increase, fees will exceed the 20K ceiling. To avoid a psychological barrier to not apply, the IFC proposes to set these fees on €19.950, - which means an increase of 6.1%. The IFC acknowledges this is below the inflation rate and anticipates this will again be discussed or compensated for in the years ahead of us. However, the

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IFC strongly proposes to wait with further fee increases until we have more condensed information about the political agreements in terms of international student enrolment.

## *Economics*

The IFC proposes to include Erasmus School of Economics in the cluster of Humanities, Social Science and Law. If ESE is included, this implies a relatively larger increase for ESE's institutional fees. This reasoning is twofold: this will be a step toward more harmonization between the EUR fees, and this will put ESE in a stronger national position. In the national comparison between universities that offer the same kind of programs (see annex 2), ESE's fees belong to the lower end in the benchmark. The IFC believes that the ESE increase will do justice to their national market position. ESE has confirmed to be supportive of the proposal, yet a formal decision has to be taken.

## *Business*

Annex 3 shows the influx of non-EEA students since 2016 compared to the percentage increase of the institutional fees. Although no hard conclusions of the affects of the fee increases can be made, as many other factors should be considered (for instance, marketing), RSM fees do not seem to 'suffer' from the bigger fee increases. That's why the IFC advises to apply the 9.3% increase to the non-EEA master programs, and to keep RSM in the stand-alone Business cluster.

## Waivers and scholarships

When determining the institutional fees for 24-25 (in March-April 2023), the IFC proposed an increase of the Erasmus University Holland Scholarships (EUHS) and the Erasmus Trust Fund (ETF) Scholarships. Schools agreed to (1) reserve 10% of the distributed EUHS components to be able to award more components in total, and to (2) expand to 2 ETF scholarships per school per year, instead of 1. ETF is recruiting donors, and this seems to be becoming successful. This means that for 25-26, more waivers and scholarships can be distributed. We kindly ask schools to put these reservations into their 25-26 budgets and to inform your admission/scholarship colleagues. Please contact us if more information about this topic is needed.

Currently, the ETF scholarships can be awarded to both EEA and non-EEA students. As the increase of the scholarships is a result of the increase of the institutional fees for non-EEA students, the IFC proposes that these scholarships are awarded to non-EEA students per default. Should a school wish to deviate from this, we ask that they describe the motivation for awarding the scholarship(s) to an EEA student in a brief memo to the IFC.

Lastly, one concern discussed by the IFC, was the *further* increase in waivers and scholarships that may further increase when fees are increasing. However, the IFC confirms waivers are requested throughout the study program as a result of lack of progress and/or personal circumstances. The IFC has not found a direct relation between the increased fees and the number of waiver requests. The IFC will continue monitoring these numbers in the years to come.

## Next steps

The decision-making planning for the institutional fees 25-26 is as follows:

Schools respond to the proposal	Until 1 March'24
Collecting input, discuss and advice EB	March'24
Decision EB	April'24
Asking the UC for advice during their last cycle of the year	May/June'24
Institutional tuition fees are communicated, systems are updated	By 1 October'24

Annex 1 – Proposed institutional fees 25-26

Annex 2 – National comparison non-EEA fees

Annex 3 – In-or decrease students influx 22 vs 23\_trend