

Executive Board
cvb@eur.nl

Date
31 March 2022

Subject
Institutional tuition fees 2023-2024

Our reference
MvS/md/ESHCC-v-05595

Page
1/1

Department
ESHCC

Visiting address
Erasmus School of History, Culture
and Communication
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Van der Goot building
M7-34

Postal address
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

T +31 10 408 28 98
E dean@eshcc.eur.nl
W www.eshcc.eur.nl/English

Dear members of the Executive Board,

With this letter I would like to respond to the proposal of the institutional fee committee to cluster and increase the institutional fee rates from academic year 2023/2024 onward.

The proposal brought about a discussion in our Faculty Council wherein arguments both in favour and against the proposal were voiced. Because the Faculty Council was not able to reach consensus, the student body of the Faculty Council has written up its own advice, attached to this letter. I wish to express my support for the proposal institutional fee committee to place ESHCC in a cluster with ESHPM, ESL, ESPhil and ESSB. This is supported by the student members of the Faculty Council.

Concerning the increase of the institutional fees (€9.900 for our bachelor programmes and €17.900 for our master programmes from 2023/2024 onward). We have heard the student body's arguments and will continue to have an open conversation about the implications of this fee increase. However, I will not follow their advice to reject the proposed fee increase. Instead, I want to indicate here that we will follow the advice on raising ESHCC fees in line with the proposal of the institutional fee committee and more in line with other universities within the Netherlands and abroad.

The thorough research conducted by the institutional fee committee into fee level structures at (inter)national universities and international students' decision-making process reassures me that the increased fee will not have a negative impact on our faculty.

Lastly, I wish to emphasize ESHCC's aspirations to install appropriate and reasonable measures for promising students that cannot afford to participate in our education because of financial restraints. The increased institutional fee will provide the opportunity to offer an increased number of tuition fee waivers and scholarships, something we currently cannot offer.

I hope to have informed you sufficiently.

Yours sincerely,



Prof.dr. Martine van Selm
Dean Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Erasmus School of History, Culture,
and Communication

Dean prof.dr. M. van Selm

Date

29-03-2022

Subject

Advice on proposal to increase and
cluster the institutional fees per 2023-
2024

Our reference

FCL2022-03-29S

Your reference

MvS/to/eshcc-5583

Page

1/2

Appendix

-

Department

ESHCC Faculty Council

Postal address

PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

E facultycouncil@eshcc.eur.nl

Dear Dean, dear members of the MT,

In light of the recent discussions on the increase and clustering of the institutional fees from 2023-2024 onward, the Faculty Council has had several conversations regarding our stance on this topic. These were long and difficult discussions, as there are a lot of factors to take into account and there are many perspectives to take into account, both inside and outside the Faculty Council. Although these discussions were held by the Faculty Council as a whole, in view of the provisions of Article 9.33a, paragraph 2 under b of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), this advice is signed by the student body of the Faculty Council. Following from the two-fold nature of the approval request, with the clustering of the institutional fees on the one hand and the increase of the fees on the other, the Faculty Council has concluded its discussions with two advises. As such, the FC advises positively on the clustering of the institutional fees, and it advises negatively on the raise of the institutional fees. Our negative advice on the raise of the institutional fees arises from the following concerns:

The major concern is targeted specifically at non-EEA international students. Although we are aware that the group of people affected by a raise of institutional fees is bigger than this, we want to specifically highlight the consequences of the raise of the institutional fees for non-EEA international students in the Netherlands. The national policies already create challenges for international students, for instance by not allowing them to take out a student loan, and only allowing non-EEA students to work a maximum of 16 hours a week. Although the university obviously cannot fix these problems, raising tuition fees might contribute to disproportionate treatment for non-EEA students. In addition, the Faculty Council believes that the rise of the institutional fees and the difficulties this might create for international non-EEA students would contrast the faculty's fostering of an international learning environment. As is stated on the ESHCC website: "We educate our ambitious Dutch and international students in a stimulating learning environment.", but what is so stimulating about a learning environment where non-EEA international students have to work harder to make ends meet? How can we expect ESHCC students to gain knowledge, insight, and skills of an increasingly more international society when we are creating a larger threshold for non-EEA students, especially those from less-affluent backgrounds, to join our programmes?

Secondly, the argument as presented in your proposal is that our educational programmes can be regarded as cheap vis-a-vis other universities. However, why would this be a problem, if there is no concerning impact on our student influx?

Lastly, in your proposal, the faculty's financial situation is used as an argument in favour of the raise of the institutional fees. However, it does not become clear to us that other means of solving or countering our financial problems have been exhausted. The Faculty Council strongly believes that the current financial situation of the faculty is a consequence of a structural underfunding in the central allocation model. As such, the raise of the institutional fees then seems to imply a substitute solution to a more structural problem. Rather, the Faculty Council is in favour of finding a solution at the heart of the problem by creating change in the EUR allocation model and thus allowing for a structural increase in the faculty budget. We prefer to see changes made at a central level, rather than moving the financial burdens of the faculty to students who are required to pay the institutional fees.

In conclusion, the Faculty Council advises positively on the clustering of the institutional fees and negatively on the increase of the institutional fees.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the student body of the Faculty Council,

Anisha de Vries,
Vice Chair of the Faculty Council

ESHCC Faculty Council
Vice Chair Anisha de Vries

Date
03 May 2022

Subject
Elaborate reply to advice letter
institutional fees

Our reference
MvS/md/ESHCC-05602

Page
1/2

Department
ESHCC

Visiting address
Erasmus School of History, Culture
and Communication
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Van der Goot building
M7-34

Postal address
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

T +31 10 408 2898
E dean@eshcc.eur.nl
W www.eshcc.eur.nl/English

Dear student members of the faculty council,

As discussed in the faculty council meeting of 4 April 2022, you have requested a more detailed reply to your advice on the institutional fees. As discussed in that meeting, urgent requests from the central Institutional Fee Committee required a rapid response on our part. As such, we elaborate here a bit more than what we provided in our previous response letter to you. We want to clarify our decision-making process a bit more.

First, we share the university-wide argumentation that our tuition fee rates should be more in line with those of other Dutch universities. The significant difference in fee rates does not serve as a proper reflection of the quality of our education. Over the last years we have continued to invest in our education and student services: new master specialisations were introduced, an additional student advisor was hired, and many lecturers participated in innovative educational projects. All of this happened while our institutional fee rates remained the same or increased only slightly and were well below the rates of competing programmes with which we feel our education is equivalent. We believe that the proposed fees are more indicative of the high-quality education we have to offer.

Secondly, the suggestion that we look at the allocation model of the university has already been taken into consideration and requested of the Executive Board in our bilateral conversations between ESHCC MT and the EB. We continue to wait a response on some of our requests for this. This request is part of a larger plan in which ESHCC and EB work together on a financially more sustainable situation for ESHCC.

However, this request will shift the costs of our education to be further supplemented by Dutch taxpayers. While we do believe a shift in the allocation model is needed, this should only be one aspect of a larger approach to the faculty's financial situation. It is reasonable to assume that we should receive support from the government to pay for the education of students from the Netherlands, and as a member of the European Union, that students within the European Union would enjoy similar benefits. Therefore, the costs for persons outside the European Union should reflect the fact they have not and do not pay taxes within the European Union.

This connects with a final point that you have asked us to respond to further on, that of the financial situation of our faculty. As noted, the structural underfunding of the central allocation model has been a topic under scrutiny for some time now. As Jason Pridmore explained during the Faculty Council meeting, ESHCC management continues to discuss this topic with the

Our reference
MvS/md/ESHCC-05602

Your reference
Error! No text of specified style in document.

Executive Board. An improved allocation model will surely benefit our financial situation in the long term. In addition, we seek solutions in our education, research and professional service strategy and increased institutional fees. We do not yet have detailed overview to what degree institutional fees will change our financial situation, however had they been increased in the past five years in line with other universities, our faculty would be significantly better off financially. This is why we see the increase in institutional as a key part of our financial considerations.

Lastly, we have not yet started the process of establishing a scholarship and tuition fee waiver policy. In order to determine how much funding can be made available for this purpose, we need a clearer understanding of the financial scope in 2023-2026 which will be part of the budgeting process which will start within a couple of weeks.

We hope that with this letter we were able to provide more insight into our argumentation for the support of the institutional fee committee's proposal.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the ESHCC Management Team



Martine van Selm
Dean ESHCC