

Executive Board
cvb@eur.nl

Date
February 28, 2022

Subject
Institutional fees for academic year 2023-2024

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ESSB/VB/21442/nbo

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Appendix
- ESSB Faculty Council's advice on institutional fees 2023-2024

Department
Dean

Visiting address
Erasmus School of Social and
Behavioural Sciences
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Mandeville
T15-44

Postal address
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

T +31 10 408 2634
E steijn@essb.eur.nl
W www.eur.nl/essb/English

Dear Executive Board,

With this letter I would like to respond to your letter and proposal concerning the institutional fees. I received the proposal from the institutional fee committee, including the proposed differentiation for already enrolled and new students (starting in academic year 2023-2024).

With one exception, that concerns a small mistake we believe has been made, I support the proposal of the committee. Their advice is attached. Below, I will describe in more detail the proposal of the institutional fee committee and my remarks about its elements. I will also discuss the conditional positive advice of the Faculty Council of the ESSB.

From our viewpoint the proposal of the committee has three important elements. First, the committee proposes a clustering of the fees of the various schools. We believe this is a very sensible proposal as some small differences between schools are very difficult to explain. Harmonization in clusters is – also for reasons of transparency and fairness – in my opinion a good idea. In this respect, I support the placement of the ESSB within the Humanities, Social Sciences and Law cluster (with the EUC being in a separate cluster of its own).

The second part involves a proposal to increase the institutional fees for new bachelor and master students in the academic year 2023/2024. I believe the committee has done well in comparing fees between universities and applying market research, in determining acceptable fee levels. Hence, I fully support the proposal of the committee for an institutional fee level for new bachelor students of €9.900 and for new master students of €17.900. I also agree with the proposal to only apply a small indexation to the fee for students who are already enrolled.

However, there appears to be a mistake in the proposal regarding to the EUC students. The proposal suggests €14.100 for new and €13.800 for already enrolled students. It is unclear to me what this small difference is based upon – especially as the fee for EUC students has already been increased substantially for 2022-2023, following our proposal of last year. Because of this, there is no valid reason to differentiate between enrolled and new EUC students and go above the normal indexation. I therefore propose to set the fee level for all EUC students on €13.800 in 2023-2024.

The third part of the proposal of the committee deals with the accessibility of our programs, which I find very important to safeguard. Rising fees will affect this accessibility for students with limited financial means and can also negatively affect the diversity in the classroom, and both of these negative

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consequences we would like to prevent or limit as much as possible. A well-thought-out scholarship system is therefore essential. I agree with the advice of the ESSB Faculty Council who advises positively on the condition that a working scholarship system should be in place when the proposed institutional fees come into effect. It is in my view important that coordination is taken up at a central level. Therefore, I hope the Executive Board installs a committee to work out the details of a scholarship system in preparation for 2023-2024. In doing so, this committee should also facilitate collaboration with the Trustfund, as I share the observation of the institutional fee committee that the Trustfund can play an important role here.

Finally, I recognize the observation of the committee that part of the additional funding generated by the higher fees could be invested in increasing service levels. It is clear that the service level for international students need special attention, as is also shown by the market research done on behalf of the institutional committee. However, an open question to us is whether this should be done on a faculty or central level.

Yours sincerely,



Prof.dr. V.J.J.M Bekkers
Dean ESSB

Cc: Prof.dr. Bram Steijn, vice-dean education ESSB
Kimberly van Aart MA MSc, policy advisor education ESSB
Carolien Hennekam MA, policy advisor Education & Student Affairs

Dean ESSB
Prof. dr. V.J.J.M. Bekkers

-Intern-

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25 February 2022

Subject
Letter of advice tuition fees

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Appendices

Department
Faculty Council

Visiting address
Erasmus School of Social and
Behavioural Sciences
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Mandeville
T15-19

Postal address
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

T +31 10 408 2065
E office.dean@essb.eur.nl
W www.eur.nl/essb/English

Dear Prof.dr. Bekkers,

The Faculty Council of ESSB would like to give a conditional positive advice on the proposal of leveling the tuition fees with those of comparable educational programs offered across the country. We understand the reasoning behind the proposal, concerning reputation and branding, financial motives, and alteration of the level of service provided by our faculty.

As we discussed in our last faculty council meeting, we would like to state a condition for the advice. Also, we have some additional questions and concerns.

First, by raising the tuition fees significantly certain students might not be able to afford the expenses related to studying at our faculty. Of course, this will affect students from outside the EEA and students who have already finished a degree. To maintain fairness and diversity in the student population we believe a well-designed scholarship system is of special importance and must be prioritized. Therefore, we state this as a condition accompanying our positive advice.

Besides this condition the Faculty Council would like to express some pointers and questions for the implementation of increased tuition fees.

- First, we ask the management what the influence is of the increased tuition fees on the level of service provided by our faculty. What is our current level of provided services, compared to other universities and programs? Where does the ESSB fit in the reputation status of costs versus level of service and to what category does the faculty want to present itself?
- A second and related question is where the additional financial gains would be allocated in the budget. Does this extra money flow towards better services, research or will it be allocated somewhere else entirely?

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Concluding, we would like to give a conditional positive advice towards increasing the tuition fees for non-EEA students and students with a degree. The condition being a fair and well-designed scholarship system. Additionally, we would like insight in relation to the level of service provided by the faculty and to hear where the extra income will be allocated

Best regards,
Faculty Council ESSB

Josanne van Dongen (chair)
Marina van den Bosch (vice-chair)

Faculty Council ESSB:

Agnieszka Kanas
Andrea van der Velden
Amaranta de Haan
Celina Zimmerman
Ellen de Waal
Giacomo Domini
Jaron Roest
Nawin Ramcharan
Ryan Morgan
Wesley Hennep