

Cover note University Council

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Details		
Topic		Elaboration of tuition fee discount 2021-2022 in connection with COVID-19
To be discussed before		ASAP
Author / Section		Nieuwdorp / E&S
Handled by (to be invited to the committee)		Nieuwdorp / E&S
Date		14-4-2021

Context / Reason
<p>Part of the government's National Education Programme plan (announced on 17 February 2021) is the measure to elaborate the full statutory tuition fee in connection with COVID-19 for academic year 2021-2022. The emergency bill (noodwet) regulating this will soon be sent to the Tweede Kamer. In anticipation of this bill, the Minister requests to lower the tuition fees for academic year 2021-2022 (Appendix 3). This means that in academic year 2021-2022 the full statutory tuition fee will be €1,084. Communication regarding the reduction in tuition fees for academic year 2021-2022 will take place as soon as possible via OCW and DUO.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science requests the institutions to lower their institutional tuition fees by €1,084 for the academic year 2021-2022. The Executive Board has decided positive on this request on 13 April 2021.</p> <p>In this advice memo, the consequences of this change and the proposal of OCW are further explained.</p>

Jurisdiction UC / Question to the UC
<p>Normally, the University Council has right to advise over the university's budget, including the level of institutional tuition fee. That is why we also want to present this (national requested) change in fees to the University Council.</p> <p>An immediate and fast (positive) advice is imperative as this needs to be communicated to our students as soon as possible.</p>

Short Summary
<p>The statutory tuition fee is determined by the Ministry of Education, the institutional tuition fee is set by the Executive Board.</p> <p>Full Statutory tuition fee OCW is going to set the statutory tuition fee for academic year 2021-2022 at € 1,084. Compensation will be provided in the 2nd government grant letter for 2021 (July 2021) for the loss of income this will cause for the institutions because students will pay less tuition fees to the institution.</p> <p>Fees derived from the full statutory tuition fee</p>

The fees derived from the full statutory tuition fee are adjusted accordingly (including the fee for premaster students). All of these fees are subject to a range related to the full statutory tuition fee; minimum and maximum amounts have been included in the law. It is up to the institutions to determine - within the new range - the exact level of tuition fees for these groups of students for academic year 2021-2022. The Executive Board had decided to set:

- the increased statutory fee at €3,316 and to set the reduced higher fee at €2,774 in 2021-2022;
- the reduced statutory fee at € 1,084 in 2021-2022;
- the regular premaster fee at a maximum of € 1,084, and to correct accordingly (e.g. for fewer EC).

Institutional tuition fees

For the institutional tuition fees, OCW assumes that the institutions can reduce these fees by € 1,084 for academic year 2021-2022 (this is the amount that is compensated per student). To accommodate students who pay the institutional tuition fee, the Executive Board has agreed to this proposal by OCW (see Appendix 2 for an elaboration).

Appendix 1 explains for each student target group what they will pay in the 2021-2022 academic year and how it is or will be regulated (OCW or CvB):

Group of students	Current system/rate 2021-2022	Proposed system/rate OCW 2021-2022	EUR
Full statutory tuition fees as defined in Section 2.2 (1) of the 2008 WHW Implementation Decree (hereinafter referred to as UWHW)	€ 2.168	€ 1.084	€ 1.084
Institutional tuition fee as described in Sections 7.46 (2) and (3) of the WHW	Minimum € 2.168	Minimum € 1.084	Previously established institutional rate 21-22 minus 1.084 (see appendix 2)
Partial statutory tuition fee, as referred to in Section 2.4a, subsection 1, of UWHW	Minimum € 1.291 Maximum € 2.168	Minimum € 645 Maximum € 1.084	€ 1.084
Higher tuition fee, as referred to in section 6.7, paragraph 4 of WHW	Minimum € 2.168 Maximum € 10.842 EUC: € 4.400	Minimum € 1.084 Maximum € 5.421	€ 3.316
Reduced statutory tuition fee, as referred to in Section 2.4b, subsection 1 of UWHW	€ 1.084	€542	€542
Reduced partial statutory tuition fee, as referred to in article 2.4b, paragraph 1 of UWHW	Minimum € 645 Maximum € 1.084	Minimum € 323 Maximum € 542	€542
Reduced higher tuition fee, as referred to in article 2.4b paragraph 1 UWHW (freshmen EUC)	Minimum € 1.084 Maximum € 9.758 EUC: € 3.316	Minimum € 542 Maximum € 4.879	€ 2.774

Compensation

The costs incurred by the institutions for this purpose are covered by funds that go to the institutions through the NPOC. In the funding of OCW, the budget is included in the education surcharge in amounts based on the share of each HE institution in the total number of enrolled students. This will be done at in the 2nd state funding letter for 2021, which is due in July 2021.

The compensation from OCW (statutory tuition fee and institutional tuition fee) is based on the total number of enrolled students on a reference date in 2020-2021 and not on the actual numbers

of 2021-2022. Fluctuations are also no longer corrected. If there are more students enrolled in 2021-2022 than on the reference date, this amount must be supplemented by the Executive Board

According to the official forecast, overall, we expect only a very slight increase in student numbers next year. Should there be an increase, it will be a limited amount for which we will not be compensated.

This has no financial impact on the faculties: they will be compensated for all reductions centrally and will receive the same amount per student that they would normally receive (both through the distribution model and directly in terms of the non-statutory tuition fees). Any differences between the discount given to students and the compensation received from OCW are covered centrally.

We cannot give more discount on the institutional fee because the costs of education are not decreasing next year, and this is the compensation offered from the government. This is also agreed upon with other universities.

Implementation on the EUR

Implementation of this measure will require adjustments to the fees in the systems of the institutions (Osiris). DUO and Studielink have already indicated that in the implementation no adjustments are needed in the systems of DUO or Studielink for the indications about the tuition fee.

Follow-up process

This should be communicated to all our (prospective) students as soon as possible so they know where they stand.

Also towards different departments (international office, ESSC, ABO, faculties, CPC). Tuition amounts need to be adjusted in Osiris as soon as possible (involve ABO and CPC).

Specifics

Fast handling

Documents to be attached

Appendix 1. Tuition fees 2021-2022 by student group
Appendix 2. Adjusted institutional fee according to OCW proposal (marked in yellow)
Appendix 3. Letter from OCW (Dutch)