

To Josse Delfgaauw
Programme Director
of Erasmus School of Economics

Date
2 June 2025

Subject
Advice on Proposal Savings on tutorial
education

Our reference
ESE/PC-econometrics

Page
1/2

Appendix
none

Department
Econometrics

Visiting address
Erasmus School of Economics
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
E Building

Postal address
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

E paap@ese.eur.nl
W www.eur.nl/ese/english

Dear dr Delfgaauw, dear Josse

The Programme Committee has reviewed the proposal outlining cost-saving measures for tutorial education. Below is the formal feedback:

1. The tutorials in the Econometrics program are highly valuable and play a crucial role, particularly in Bachelor 1. Reducing their number would be a significant loss. These sessions not only enhance understanding but also foster a sense of belonging, as students feel seen and supported by their TAs. This personal connection is especially important in the early stages of study.
2. If cuts are necessary, it may be worth evaluating other programmes where tutorials are less attended or less impactful, rather than targeting a core component of a programme where they are clearly effective.
3. Relying on PhD candidates to take over tutorials in the econometrics programme is likely not feasible due to capacity issues. In the econometrics programme PhD candidates are already involved in the bachelor skills course, bachelor seminars and thesis supervision. With fewer PhD students available and increasing pressure on staff, this could shift the burden to lecturers and impact overall teaching quality.
4. Members would also like to understand the trade-offs: what are the actual benefits of these proposed cuts compared to the costs? Given that tutorials involve relatively inexpensive labor and relate to primary educational processes, the rationale behind cutting them should be clear.
5. Having a closer look at the amount and content of tutorials could be part of the coming curriculum redesign. To reduce the burden for lecturers of changing the setup of their course, HOKA funds can be used to cut back costs until the new curriculum starts.

The PC advises negatively on the current proposal. Small-scale education is a cornerstone of the faculty's educational philosophy and is highly valued by both students and staff.

The proposed measures would lead to a notable decline in educational quality and significantly increase the workload for lecturers, without yielding sufficient financial benefit to justify such consequences.

Page
2/2

Our reference

Error! No text of specified style in document.

Your reference

Error! No text of specified style in document.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Paap', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Prof Dr Richard Paap
Chair PC Econometrics

cc. Iris Versluis

PS. this letter will be sent to the School Council for information