

Students at Wageningen University

Dear students,

We are living in turbulent times. The corona crisis affects normal life in the whole country, including education. As you might have noticed, we follow the regulations provided by the Corona experts and the government to ensure that you and your relatives and friends are safe. We realize this will have major consequences for your education. This will also require extra efforts from your side. We hope for your understanding and commitment.

As issued by the Ministry of OCW we are only allowed to offer education to you in an online form at least until March 31. All physical meetings related to education on campus are not allowed. We have operationalized and will implement the following general guidelines:

Courses in period 5

Our aim is to keep education in period 5 up and running and to enable you to do examinations at the end of period 5 as much as possible. The purpose of this is to prevent study delay and to keep the structure of the academic year in place as much as we can. Concretely this will mean the following:

- We have suggested teachers taking the coming Monday and /or Tuesday to reflect and prepare on how to change to an online form before they start the course;
- Practicals are no longer allowed on campus. We have asked teachers to reconsider the necessity of practicals and whether alternatives are an option. Essential practicals or part of essential practicals that need to be done regarding the learning outcomes have to be postponed;
- Excursions and field work are no longer allowed. We have asked teachers to reconsider the need for field work and excursions and consider alternatives. When necessary they need to be postponed.
- Excursions and fieldwork planned after March 31st are currently uncertain, alternatives or postponing are considered.

Two additional remarks:

- we have asked teachers to use Brightspace as the tool to communicate with you how courses will take place, are (re)designed, etcetera. **We request you to use Brightspace to stay informed about courses and announcements!**
- You can also look for online courses to be used for your free space in your education programme. A number of online courses is available via the Virtual Exchange programme (www.wur.eu/virtual-exchange). Additionally a big number of edX courses will soon be available for free for students. As soon as we know

Wageningen
University & Research

Executive Board

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SUBJECT
Corona

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more we will communicate the procedures in Brightspace. As usual the exam committee has to approve your choice.

ACT

When ACT can take place in a virtual form than it can start. If not, we have asked teachers to replace it for an alternative case or subject.

Examinations of coursework at the end of period 5

A lot of examinations take place at the end of period 5 (beginning of May), we aim for digital examination.

Examinations of coursework in period 4

If you have Corona crisis related complaints regarding examinations in period 4, please follow the normal procedures.

Thesis and internships

The general rule is that BSc- and MSc-thesis work and internships are part of the education regime and therefore they cannot take place on campus. Work that has to be done in laboratories at campus has to be postponed, organized in another way or changed into another assignment. For thesis work and internships that take place at other institutions (including WR institutes outside the campus) you have to follow the rules of the guest institution.

Colloquia and thesis examination cannot take place in the regular form, only in an online form or by using skype. The BSc graduation ceremonies are cancelled, for the MSc graduation ceremonies we will provide more information later.

BSA

First year students might be worried about the BSA rules. In order to comfort them we will try to continue education as much as possible. At the same time, we know that there might be hick ups. We will lower the BSA norm for the academic year 2019/2020 with 6 credits.

Regulations

The above changes might have consequences for the formal rules and regulations. We will look into the rules (the EER in particular) and discuss with the Student Council, examination boards and programme committees to what extend we can adjust the rules to accommodate the above measures and to allow some flexibility.

Students and staff abroad

Please see the general policies and procedures on Corona virus at WUR.

Financial arrangements

We will look into the financial dimensions of issues related to your education. We will let you know as soon as possible. If you experience financial problems, please contact the study advisors or student deans.

Sport facilities

The sport facilities at the sport centre De Bongerd will be closed at least until March 31st.

WURshop and WUR canteens

The WURshop and WUR canteens from Monday (March 16) until further notice.

Study places

The policy is to work from home. A limited number of study places will be available at campus, with no more than hundred students per area. This is also the case for the library. The digital library is available from home.

Student support

The student deans, the student psychologists, and study advisors will remain available online. Also the medical centre at campus remains open. For problems concerning VISA please contact the student deans.

With these measures, we expect to maintain our high-quality education without unnecessary study delay, although we realize it will require additional efforts of you and your teachers. We trust that you will behave responsible outside the virtual classroom. We will do our utmost best to support you in these dramatic times and have such an influence on personal and educational life.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

Prof. dr. Arthur P.J. Mol
Rector Magnificus

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