Dear students,

Studying in times of corona has been (and is) a challenge. We cannot express how impressed we are with your resilience during this time. However, we do have a positive outlook on how the situation might change over the next few months.

**On period 6 we have the following updates**

- Exams on-campus in period 6
- Relaxation of measures
- International thesis, internship and exchange programmes
- COVID-19 Self-tests: how and when?
- News on bachelor-before-master rule

**Updates on the Academic Year 21/22**

- Preparing the Academic Year 21/22
- Campus as the center of our education
- Bring Your Own Device
- Wanted: team mentors for MSc programme AID

Please read through it carefully.

**Updates period 6**

**Exams on-campus in period 6**

As of period 6, if you are not able to make an exam that is scheduled on-campus, you will have to register for an online version of that exam. That means that online exams will not be open to all students by default. If you are unable to take your exam on campus due to corona related complaints or quarantine, please contact your course coordinator.

**Some more relaxations of measures**

As of Wednesday 19 May, Sport Center de Bongerd will offer more possibilities for sports indoor. Also, catering outside is allowed again, so you can enjoy drinks and food after your workout. Student- and study associations can organise small, study related events on campus and sports activities on the Bongerd. They have been informed about the specifics.

**International thesis, internship and exchange programmes**

Last week’s press conference of the Dutch government highlighted the rules regarding travel to and from abroad, now that the generic worldwide negative travel advice expired on 15 May. This currently implies the following:

- International thesis/internship: Students are allowed to travel to areas with a green or yellow travel advice (www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl) and to orange areas if it is your home country or in the context of Disaster Studies. You always need permission to travel. Please refer to our website for more information:
• Exchange: Students are allowed to travel to areas with a green or yellow travel advice (www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl). You will be informed by the Exchange Team about the possibilities of your exchange.

COVID-19 Self-tests: how and when?

Last week, you have received instructions (by email) on the ordering and use of self-tests. Again, we'd like to call upon you to order self-tests (zelftestonderwijs.nl) and test yourself twice a week. Even if you’re not coming to campus.

After all, only together we can bring Corona under control.

WUR states that access to higher education is important and therefore we will not require negative self-test results in relation to access to education or the campus.

*Note: at home you can dispose of the used self-tests in the general waste (‘restafval’ in Dutch). So you don’t need to collect it as chemical waste (it isn’t)*

News about the transition from bachelor to master

Wageningen University offers leniency in the bachelor-before-master rule (in Dutch: ‘Harde knip’) to students who - due to the effects of COVID-19 measures on education - encounter problems in the transition from their bachelor to a master’s program at Wageningen. The bachelor-before-master rule states that students have to obtain a full bachelor's degree before they can start a master's program. However, if you experienced such study delay that you cannot finish your bachelor’s program in time because of how COVID-19 measures have affected education after March 2020, you can still register for a master's program at Wageningen University.

Does this concern you? Please check the detailed information and conditions on the Bachelor-before-master page.

Updates on the Academic Year 21/22

Academic Year 21/22

The ministry of Education (OCW) has published the scenario how universities are to prepare for the academic year 2021-2022. Based on the expectation that almost everyone will be fully vaccinated by the end of August, they urge all universities to organize education without the 1.5 m distance rule, but with a limited group size (in one room) up to 75.

We welcome this perspective, and we will follow this scenario in our preparations. Obviously, there remains a small risk that the epidemiologic situation does not allow the implementation of the scenario as proposed by OCW, and that we have to switch back to a 1.5 meter distance scenario, similar to what we currently have in period 6.

We are confident that from period 1 onwards we can use Aurora, our newest addition on campus with many new, large practical rooms as well as multifunctional teaching rooms. Even when we have to switch back to the 1.5 m distance scenario, we will be able to teach a lot on campus.

We will keep you informed on what the exact scenario will be when the new academic year starts.

Campus as the center of our education
At the start of the new Academic Year we welcome all of you students back to the campus and we will use the campus optimally with an emphasize on small scale and interactive education. This means that no online alternative should be offered, if you cannot attend a practical or class. All exams in the next academic year will take place on campus.

You should expect to be on campus often. So when you’re currently not living in (or close to) Wageningen, do consider moving (near) to Wageningen for the next academic year. If you foresee any problems contact your study advisor or contact ssc@wur.nl

**Bring Your Own Device**

In the new academic year (possibly from period 1 onwards), on-campus exams are going to be administered on students’ devices. It is therefore important that you have a laptop that meets WUR BYOD requirements.

**Wanted: team mentors for MSc programme AID**

The preparation of our Annual Introduction Days (AID) are in full swing, and are of great importance for the start of new students. We will organize two “Out of this world” AIDs (11-14 and 16-19 August). Do you want to help out? We are still looking for AID-Master-mentors and crew. See www.aidwageningen.nl for all info.

**More updates to come**

We wish you a best of luck with your studies in period 6 and will keep you updated on new developments and education at the start of 21/22 Academic Year.