

COURSE AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS ADDENDUM ADMISSION

Valid until 1 September 2021

Chapter 5 CER Master's Degree Programme 2020-2021 addendum – conditional admission

Article 5.2 Conditions for admission to the programme

5.2.2a Hardship clause for temporary admission due to coronavirus restrictions

1. In exceptional cases, as a consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Board of Admissions can, at the student's request, admit to the programme a student who is studying towards the final examination of the bachelor's degree programme, providing that:
the only uncompleted components of the programme that the student of the bachelor's degree programme still has to complete represent a combined study load of no more than 15 credits of the bachelors programme required for admission to the masters or pre-masters programme.
2. Once the student passes the final examination of the bachelor's degree programme/bridging programme, admission for the remaining months is converted into definitive admission.
3. Students who started on 1 September 2021 and who do not pass the final examination of the bachelor's degree programme/bridging programme on or before 31 August 2022 are excluded from further participation in the master's degree programme until they pass the examination.
4. Section 5.2.2a applies after the entry into force of the 'Amendment to the Higher Education and Academic Research Act and the Student Finance Act 2000 regarding temporary provisions for the 2021-2022 academic year in relation to Covid-19'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Article 5.2, section 5.2.2a

An addition has been made to Article 5.2, section 5.2.2a of the model CER 2020-2021 regarding temporary admission to the master's degree programme up to and including 31 August 2022. It is known as the 'soft cut'. The article is an addition to the CER 2020-2021 for the master's degree programmes to which students can be admitted for the 2021-2022 academic year on the basis of this soft cut. This provision applies to students from the Netherlands and the EEA who study on a bachelor's degree programme or bridging programme in 2020-2021.

For students from the European region whose studies have been delayed as a result of Covid-19, this means that they can only be admitted to the Dutch bachelor's degree programme without a diploma if they would have been eligible for admission to higher education without a diploma in their home country. No exemption from the admissions criteria on the basis of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act (WHW) is extended to students from outside the European region. As regards international bachelor's students who wish to continue their studies on a master's degree programme, on the basis of the WHW the programme is already authorised to admit these students if they possess bachelor's degree-level knowledge, understanding and skills.

Under the relevant emergency legislation (the **Amendment to the Higher Education and Academic Research Act and the Student Finance Act 2000 regarding temporary provisions for the 2021-2022 academic year in relation to Covid-19**), the admissions criterion that students must have completed a

bachelor's degree programme before starting a master's degree programme may be temporarily waived. The 'soft cut' takes the form of a hardship clause. The soft cut is intended to assist students who are unable to continue their studies in the academic year beginning on 1 September 2021 because, due to Covid-19, they were unable to complete their programme before 1 September 2021 as they could not complete one or more modules.

The delay to their studies must have occurred in the 2020-2021 academic year, and it must be reasonable to assume that the delay relates to the government's Covid-19 measures, which caused the students to be unable to meet admissions criteria they would otherwise have expected to meet.

The first paragraph can be amended for each master's degree programme to state the conditions under which students are admitted to the master's degree programme in the event that they do not yet hold a bachelor's degree, or have not completed a bridging programme, but otherwise satisfy the criteria for admission to the programme referred to in Articles 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. Each programme sets out the admissions criteria for the master's degree programme in the first paragraph and can formulate alternative admissions criteria with respect to admission under this measure, such as: compulsory modules, the extent of a credit deficiency or a minimum number of credits achieved during the bachelor's degree programme. For example, these credits may relate to a student's graduation project. The Faculty Board or the Board of Admissions for each master's degree programme assesses whether students satisfy the conditions for temporary admission to the master's degree programme.

The third paragraph includes the condition that students must complete their bachelor's degree programme on or before 31 August 2022. Students who successfully complete their bachelor's degree programme on or before 31 August 2022 will have their conditional enrolment on the master's degree programme converted into definitive enrolment (paragraph 2). Students who do not pass the final examination of the bachelor's degree programme/bridging programme on or before 31 August 2022 will be excluded from participation in the master's degree programme until they pass the examination (paragraph 3).

In the latter case, the results achieved during the master's degree programme remain valid and can be listed on the academic bachelor's degree certificate. After re-enrolling on the master's degree programme, students can ask the Board of Examiners to issue an exemption from the compulsory modules they have already completed.

The article is a guideline issued by the Board of Directors to the faculty boards in accordance with Article 9.5. No deviation from this guideline is permissible.

The article has been presented, as an addendum to the model CER 2020-2021, to the University Council for the council's consent.

The wording of the first paragraph has been presented to the faculty representative advisory body for advice.