



Additional guidelines to the education and examination regulations 2020-2021 in relation to Corona

Update 1 October

The supplementary guidelines are formulated, taking into account general guidelines that apply ¹ and the Education and examination regulations (OER).

Our goal during the Corona crisis is to continue to offer made-to-measure education based on our own educational vision and culture. This implies that artistic directors, the core team and teachers should translate the given guidelines to fit the demands of their specific study programme and curriculum. Study programmes and students should refer to this framework of guidelines and advice that make up a supplement to the OER. So that in retrospect - when things return to 'normal' - we can refer back to agreements made during the crisis and avoid misunderstandings as much as possible. If these do arise, they should be referred to the exam committee.

Guideline framework:

1. The ATD has a legally binding commitment to offer education and students are legally obligated to follow the prescribed curriculum. Moreover, students are entitled to continue their study and graduate with as little delay as possible.
2. Postponing education activities, graduation productions and projects are only allowed under exceptional circumstances. The ATD does not have the capacity to programme large-scale catching up of foregone education activities during the new academic year because regular education will also go ahead. With regard to available space and facilities, it will be impossible to make up all lessons missed. Aside from this, we cannot as yet predict what circumstances the new academic year will bring.
3. Education will take place mainly online. We trust that study programmes, teachers and students will collectively commit to pursuing lessons to the best of their ability and where possible create new options for study.
4. The artistic directors are responsible for the substantive and didactic adaptation of education offered and the quality of the assessments and graduation. The Team Bedrijfsvoering is charged with the practical organisation of the necessary adjustments while the exam committee will actively safeguard the quality of assessments and graduation.

Duty to be present in the event of quarantine because of Corona

If a student (who is not ill) is unable to attend physical education due to quarantine on account of Corona and is therefore unable to comply with the obligation to be present, the following guidelines will apply:

1. The artistic director will make agreements with the student about solutions and adjustments in the education to prevent study arrears. These agreements will be recorded in writing and kept in the student's file.

¹ of the AHK, based on those of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences

2. If a student is unable to carry out an assignment or test and cannot therefore be assessed, this assignment or test will be offered at a later date, or an alternative assignment will be offered.
3. If a student does not agree with the alternative offered in accordance with sections 1 and 2, they may submit a reasoned complaint to the Examination Board.

If a student is actually ill and is therefore unable to follow the lesson remotely, the normal rules for illness apply.

Assessment of online education: of individual subjects/modules

To assure the quality of education and the final diploma, the stake is to follow the planned curriculum in character and contents as much as possible. That is to say, study programmes should follow the same subjects as far as practicable (although they might take a different form) and continue to pursue the same contents/learning goals that will be assessed according to the same criteria. In this way everyone maintains an overview of the curriculum and competencies that need to be attained.

When subjects or modules are discontinued for example creative and collaborative projects ('on the floor') and internships (in the professional field), 'new' subjects or modules can be developed and made available.

We advise the programmes to draw up these new subjects and components; including learning goals, a reference to the competencies and the number of study load hours. This in order for both study programmes and students to keep a perspective of what has been worked on during the Corona crisis and what, due to prevalent circumstances, has been neglected. In the years hereafter this can be taken into account and might result in changes to the curriculum.

In the online assessment of individual subjects and modules we advise the use of the following conditions/guidelines in accordance with the OER:

1. All those involved have been informed of the rules by the study programme, that is to say, the manner of assessment: what is assessed, by who, how and when, plus the criteria and possible modifications thereof.
2. It is clear to all concerned what deadlines apply with regard to products for assessment that need to be submitted online so that they can be viewed and evaluated in good time.
3. Agreements are made at an early stage about how assessment feedback is given and within which time frame (see also the OER).
4. All assessments are recorded on assessment forms or in reports and shared with students. It is advisable to use the regular forms or reports and adapt them where necessary. If this is not possible, a new form should be drawn up.
5. Online assessment and giving feedback may cost more time because contact is remote and someone's body language is harder to read. Establishing how a student deals with given feedback therefore deserves extra attention.
6. All individual assessments will, as usual, be stored in the students' dossiers and will form the basis of the integral assessment.
7. Agreements have been made with students and teachers about what steps to take in the event of technical problems that might result in material for assessment not being submitting in time.

Integral assessment: the semester assessment

We stick to our integral assessment system whereby an artistic director and teachers together assess the entire development of a student during a semester. This can also be done in an online meeting. As before, the subject assessments of the previous semester serve as basis even though some subjects may have been suspended and others added. The focus of the integral assessment continues to be the development of a student's proficiency regarding the prescribed competencies, previous learning assignments and own learning goals, despite the fact that the form and perhaps the contents of achievements deviate from what is customary.

Study credits are awarded in line with OER directives

1. The student will receive 30 study credits per semester for a positive assessment; 20 for attendance and 10 for study progress or the development a student has undergone. If there are personal circumstances, these will be included in the decision making.
2. If a student's (online) attendance has been insufficient, the student cannot be assessed and must repeat the semester by completing extra alternative assignments. Other specific steps may also be taken.
3. If the student's development has been assessed as insufficient, there are two options:
 - A. The assessment meeting decides that the student will benefit most from an additional learning assignment for the coming semester. The student is awarded 20 credits, with the 10 only being awarded after a positive assessment of the learning assignment.
 - B. The meeting ascertains that the stagnation of the development is for the most part due to the Corona measures and decides to give the student the benefit of the doubt on the basis of the student's development and level in previous semesters. The student receives 30 credits.

If with previous integral assessment learning assignments were issued in connection with the lagging development of the student, and 10 study credits withheld, the integral assessment meeting will examine this learning assignment in the next assessment meeting.

The options are:

1. If the student has fulfilled the assignment, he will receive the 20 + 10 of this semester + 10 of the previous semester.
2. The student has due to Corona not been able to work on the assignment, the assessment will be postponed till the following semester. If, on the basis of the assessment of the current semester, the meeting has sufficient confidence in the student's development, the student gets the benefit of the doubt, but the assignment of the previous semester remains. The student receives the 30 credits for the current semester (20 + 10), but not yet the 10 of the previous semester.
3. The student has been able to carry out the assignment but does not yet meet the required level. The meeting decides that the student has to repeat the year or, in exceptional cases, to give the student a new adapted assignment. The 10 ECTS credits of the previous and this semester are not yet awarded and are postponed to the next semester. There is a good chance that the student will suffer a study delay.

Graduation

The graduation/examination is the final integral assessment in which it is assessed whether the implementation of the graduation plan has been successfully completed.

What needs to be taken into account?

1. Because of the Corona virus certain modules might assume a different form; must be carried out within a different time frame and with a distance of 1.5 metres.
2. The graduation committee decides on the basis of what a student has demonstrated during the graduation phase (live and online) whether the student complies with the requisite competency levels and should be allowed to graduate. In case of doubt, previously achieved results can be taken into account and be decisive.
3. If reasonable doubt exists about a student's proficiency level and how well the student functions in professional practice, the graduation committee will suspend judgment and the student will have to retake one or more modules.
4. Postponement of essential graduation components that have not yet been finished or cannot be carried out is possible in exceptional cases, but only if explicitly requested by the student and the study programme. The study programme should submit such a request to the directorate to determine if this is logistically possible. Such action will cause delay to the completion of a student's study.
5. If parties cannot agree on a suitable procedure, an objection can be lodged with the exam committee who will consider the case and deliver a verdict.
6. In view of the required 1.5 metres distance and therefore allowing a more limited number of people present, a festive graduation ceremony will probably not be possible, or will only be possible in a stripped-down form.

The negative binding study advice 2019-2020: postponed to the second year

First-year students who did not meet the positive study advice standard (60 study credits) in 2019-2020 (due to Corona) have been given the opportunity by the ministry to meet this standard in the next academic year (2020-2021). This means the binding study advice has been postponed until the second year of enrolment, so that students have another year to show that they are suitable for the programme.

Some students have received a warning at the end of academic year 2019-2020 that their study advice is suspended until the end of the following year. A conversation has been held with these students. In a few cases, the programme has given the student the compelling advice to stop their studies. However, this advice was not binding. Some students have been advised to redo the year and students have followed this advice. Others have simply moved on to the second year.

The downside of the suspended binding study advice based on Corona is that at the end of the second year of enrolment a negative binding advice can still be given. This means that the student still has to quit the study programme. The student must then stop the studies.

Other options are:

1. If the student has progressed to the second year and the recommendation at the end of the year is positive, the student will progress to the third year.
2. If a student did the first year for the second time, and is given a positive advice, the student will progress to the second year. In the latter case, however, the student will suffer a study delay.

Negative binding study advice 2020-2021

It is not yet known how the negative binding study advice of first-year students of the academic year 2020-2021 will be dealt with. If necessary, a new update of the additional guidelines on the OER in relation to Corona will be published.