



Government proposes one-off reduction of tuition fees for government-funded higher education

The tuition fees, course fees or school fees for all students enrolled for the 2021/2022 academic year will be halved. The government has decided this as part of the National Education Agreement in order to give students some financial breathing space during this difficult coronavirus crisis. Below, students in higher education can read what this means for them. The amounts given below are set out in a bill that is currently being drafted. They will not be final until the act is passed by parliament.

- **How high will the tuition fees be?**
The statutory tuition fees for the 2021/2022 academic year will be €1,084.
- **For what year will the tuition fees be halved?**
The reduction of the statutory tuition fees applies to the 2021/2022 academic year.
- **Will I receive any compensation if I graduate before 31 August 2021?**
If you are awarded an associate degree, bachelor's degree or master's degree from your higher professional education (HBO) institution or a master's degree from your university between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, the Education Executive Agency (DUO) will pay you back €535. To be eligible for this payment you must have been enrolled in a government-funded higher education course for at least one month in both the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic years.
- **I'm due to graduate in February 2022. Will part of my tuition fees be refunded?**
If you paid the statutory tuition fees (€1,084 for the 2021/2022 academic year) and graduate in February 2022 or later that academic year, you will be refunded proportionately for the remaining months.
- **I plan to start my new course part-way through the 2021/2022 academic year. How high will my tuition fees be?**
If you start a course in higher education (HBO or university) part-way through the 2021/2022 academic year and the statutory tuition fees apply to you, you will be charged a proportionate amount of the reduced fees for the remaining months of that academic year. If the institutional fees apply to you, the HBO institution or university determines the amount you will have to pay.
- **I will be a first-year student in the 2021/2022 academic year and would already be entitled to pay only half of the statutory tuition fees. How much will I have to pay now?**

Students entering higher education for the first time in the 2021/2022 academic year will pay half of the reduced statutory tuition fees: €542.

- **I will be starting my second year of teacher training in the 2021/2022 academic year and would already be entitled to pay only half of the statutory tuition fees. How much will I have to pay now?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year, second-year students doing teacher training will pay half of the reduced statutory tuition fees: €542.

- **Are international students also entitled to a reduction of their tuition fees?**

International students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) pay institutional fees, which are set by the HBO institution or university. The minimum institutional fees for the 2021/2022 academic year will be €1,084. For international students from within the EEA the same rules apply as for Dutch students. In each case, the institution checks what type of tuition fees (statutory or institutional) applies. If the statutory fees apply to an international student from within the EEA, they are eligible to pay the reduced fees.

- **What are the fees for part-time and dual-course students?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year, the tuition fees for part-time students and students on courses combining working and learning will be at least €645 and no more than €1,084. The HBO institution or university sets the amount.

- **My course is considered 'small-scale and intensive'. How high will my fees be?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year the tuition fees for courses considered 'small-scale and intensive' will be at least €1,084 and no more than €5,421. The HBO institution or university sets the amount.

- **I am an Open University student. How high will my fees be?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year the fees for the Open University will be at least €18.07 and no more than €36.14 per credit (EC). The university determines the amount.

- **I have to pay institutional fees. How high will my fees be?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year you will have to pay at least €1,084. The HBO institution or university sets the amount.

- **My course is not government-funded. How high will my fees be?**

Privately funded HBO institutions or universities set their own fees.

- **I am participating in the flexible studies experiment. How high will my fees be?**

You pay an amount per credit (EC). For the 2021/2022 academic year the amount per credit will be approximately €21 (the statutory tuition fees of €1,084 divided by 60 credits per year, plus a surcharge of up to 15%).

- **I am enrolled in a preparatory programme (*schakeltraject*). How much will I have to pay?**

The government caps the amount that institutions can charge for preparatory programmes. For the 2021/2022 academic year the maximum amount is €1,084.

- **My course is a post initial course. How high will my fees be?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year you will have to pay at least €1,084. The HBO institution or university sets the amount.

- **I already have a bachelor's degree and will be taking a teacher training module (one of the flexible higher education experiments) in the 2021/2022 academic year. How high will my fees be?**

For the 2021/2022 academic year you will have to pay €542 per module.