UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM CULTURAL EXCELLENCE SCHEME

Adopted by the Executive Board on 21 February 2023, reference number 2022-166141.

Introduction

Pursuant to Sections 7.51, 7.51c, 7.51f and 7.51h of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW), the board of a government-funded institution may put in place financial support provisions for students who experience study completion delays due to special circumstances. The Executive Board of the UvA adopted this scheme, which pertains to the granting of financial support due to the special circumstances of students who deliver outstanding cultural performances and incur study completion delays as a result, with the approval of the Central Student Council on 21 February 2023.

Article 1 Cultural excellence status

The following students may apply for cultural excellence status:

a. students who deliver outstanding cultural performances within a professional organisation that focuses on one of the arts/performing arts;
b. students who deliver outstanding cultural performances by practising their art on highly reputed national or international stages, in festivals or art centres.

Article 2 Cultural excellence coordinator and Cultural Excellence Committee

1. The Executive Board shall appoint a student counsellor as the cultural excellence coordinator of the University of Amsterdam on the recommendation of the director of student services.
2. The director of student services shall put together a Cultural Excellence Committee on behalf of the Executive Board. The Committee shall consist of a chair and at least two members. The composition of the Committee shall be as follows:
    a. the cultural excellence coordinator (chair);
    b. a student supervisor;
    c. an expert in the field of the arts/performing arts.

Article 3 Applying for cultural excellence status

1. Students must submit an application for cultural excellence status to the Executive Board for the attention of the cultural excellence coordinator.
2. The status shall be valid for one academic year and can be renewed annually at the student's request.
3. When applying for cultural excellence status, the student must submit:
    a) a list of activities for the relevant academic year, along with additional details on these activities;
    b) an original declaration or certified copy from the organisation in question, signed by the artistic director or reputable expert on the cultural discipline in question that demonstrates sufficient evidence that the student meets the conditions of Article 1.

Article 4 Notification to the study adviser

Students who have been awarded cultural excellence status and who wish to be considered for facilitation shall, to that end, take part in an annual interview with the study adviser for the degree programme at the start of the academic year. During the interview, the student shall present the adviser with confirmation of the cultural excellence status issued by the cultural excellence coordinator and an overview of present and future activities.

Article 5 Facilitating students with top-class cultural talent

1. Wherever possible, the UvA shall facilitate students with cultural excellence status in combining their art with their studies. This shall take place within reasonable limits and shall be decided at the ultimate discretion of the Examinations Boards of any degree programmes studied.
2. Students shall discuss with the study adviser how to submit a request to the Examinations Board as early as possible.
3. Depending on the specified learning objectives, technical possibilities and attendance requirements, the faculties and degree programmes have various options for alternatives and adjustments in the areas of teaching and assessment.

Article 6 Financial support during the performance-related grant period

Provided they meet the requisite conditions, students with cultural excellence status may be eligible for financial support if practising their art should lead to study completion delays, as described in the Profiling Fund Regulations.

Article 7 Registration of study completion delays

Students with cultural excellence status who claim financial compensation under the Profiling Fund Regulations shall ensure that the study completion delay that was incurred as a result of practising their art is registered each year with the study adviser(s) for the relevant degree programme(s). Registration must be carried out in accordance with the procedure described in the Profiling Fund regulations.

Article 8 Entry into effect, transitional provisions and official title

This scheme shall come into effect on 21 February 2023 and may be cited as the ‘UvA Cultural Excellence Scheme’.

Explanatory notes to the University of Amsterdam Cultural Excellence Scheme

General

By means of this scheme, the University of Amsterdam (UvA) is providing clarity about the support that the university offers to students who wish to combine studying and achieving cultural excellence. During information sessions and in communication regarding study choices, the UvA pays due attention to this topic to ensure that prospective students are able to make a good choice between higher education institutions and degree programmes at the UvA.

Explanatory notes to individual articles

Article 1

Students who are simultaneously taking a programme related to cultural excellence (such as a programme at the Conservatorium or at the Rietveld Academie) cannot claim support under the Cultural Excellence Scheme on the basis of this programme in the cultural sector. The Cultural Excellence Scheme aims to support UvA students who wish to pursue a dual career. Enrolment in a degree programme related to culture does not fall under the dual career pathway referred to here.

Article 2

The cultural excellence coordinator can be reached at the following email address: topcultuurcoordinator-sts@uva.nl. An appointment with the cultural excellence coordinator can be made using the appointment system for the student counsellors on the website. The student supervisor may be a student counsellor, study adviser, tutor, careers adviser or student psychologist.

Article 3

An intake interview with the cultural excellence coordinator shall take place prior to the potential awarding of cultural excellence status.
Cultural excellence status applies to all the education that the student receives at the UvA in the relevant academic year.

Article 5

In order to avoid any delays in the process, the student should consult with the study adviser at the earliest possible stage about any provisions and adjustments that may be requested. Examples of adjustments include tutorial changes, the provision of alternative assignments or assessments in the event of absence and adjustments to the order of courses. These adjustments shall be facilitated within the limits of what is reasonable and in close consultation with the Examinations Board for the degree programme.

Article 6

For more information on the conditions, the maximum amount of the payment and the application procedure, please refer to the applicable UvA Profiling Fund Regulations. Financial support under the Profiling Fund Regulations can only be awarded after it has been established that all requirements as set out in the Profiling Fund Regulations have been met. Cultural excellence status alone is not sufficient.