



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM STUDENT SUPPORT FUND SECTION 1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON THE GROUNDS OF FORCE MAJEURE

Chapter 7, Title 3, Section 2a of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW*) contains rules governing financial assistance for students whose studies are delayed by a circumstance referred to in said section. The Executive Board adopted the arrangement below for the allocation of the financial provision on the grounds of this statutory arrangement, with the consent of the student participation body, on 28 May 2026 (reference: 2026-049407).

Article 1 Definitions

- 1 In this section of the regulations, the following terms have the following meanings assigned to them:
 - a. DUO: *Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs* (the Education Executive Agency), which is responsible for student finance, among other things;
 - b. Nominal duration of the study programme: the duration of the programme according to the RIO or the WHW Implementation Decree;
 - c. Performance-related grant: performance-related grant for higher education as referred to in Article 5.1 of the WSF 2000;
 - d. Basic grant: part of the performance-related grant as referred to in Article 5.1(a) of WSF 2000.
 - e. RIO: *Registratie Instellingen en Opleidingen* (Register of Institutions and Degree Programmes);
 - f. WHW: *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek* (Dutch Higher Education and Research Act) of 8 October 1992, Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 1992, 593 and as subsequently amended;
 - g. WSF 2000: *Wet Studiefinanciering 2000* (Dutch Student Finance Act) of 29 June 2000, Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2000, 286 and as subsequently amended;
 - h. Student Counsellors' Committee: the committee that assesses student applications under the Student Support Fund and makes a decision on them on behalf of the Executive Board.
- 2 Other terms used in these regulations have the meanings assigned to them in the law, if they are used in any acts.

Article 2 Exceptional circumstances

Students may submit an application for financial assistance if they have fallen behind in their studies due to one of the following exceptional circumstances:

- a. illness or pregnancy and childbirth;
- b. a disability or chronic illness;
- c. exceptional family circumstances;
- d. an insufficiently feasible degree programme.



Article 3 Terms and conditions

- 1 Financial assistance will be issued to a student:
 - a. whose studies, as a direct result of circumstances described in Article 2 of these regulations, are delayed during the academic year in which the student is registered as a full-time student on a degree programme for which the student has not yet taken the final examination;
 - b. who, during this period of study completion delay, has received a performance-related grant in the form of a basic grant and, if applicable, a supplementary grant; and
 - c. who was registered as a student at the UvA for the duration of the basic grant period; and
 - d. who has paid the UvA the requisite statutory tuition fees.
- 2 A student who does not receive any assistance from the WSF 2000, solely on the grounds of their nationality, may invoke this section of these regulations, as long as they are studying within the nominal study duration of the study programme. Previously completed higher education programmes, including those completed abroad, are included in the calculation of the nominal duration of the study programme. Students must comply with the requirements of these regulations, with the exception of the provisions specified in the first paragraph under items b and d.

Article 4 Reporting and limiting the study completion delay

1. In the event that a student falls behind in their studies due to force majeure, the student or their authorised representative must report to the academic study adviser of the degree programme in which they are enrolled (and in which they are falling behind) or to the student counsellor at once, or in any event within three months, in order to agree on measures to be taken to limit the study completion delay as much as possible.
2. Students will not be eligible for support if they only report the exceptional circumstance or report it to a student psychologist or another member of staff.
3. If a student reports this at a later date, they will not be eligible for assistance for study completion delay that occurred earlier than three months before the report of the exceptional circumstance took place.
4. Students who discontinue their enrolment before 1 February during their first year of enrolment are not eligible for financial assistance.
5. Students must have demonstrated responsible study behaviour in order to be eligible for support. Responsible study behaviour is in any case deemed to have been demonstrated if the agreements made with the study adviser or student counsellor or the instructions and advice given to limit the study completion delays have been complied with or followed. This includes any advice or instruction to temporarily suspend the programme and suspend the student finance, which is taken into account in determining the duration of the study completion delay.



Article 5 Annual registration of the study completion delay

1. The study completion delay is recorded annually. This information will be recorded between 1 September and 31 December after the student has contacted the student counsellor, immediately after the end of the academic year in which the exceptional circumstances that caused the study completion delay occurred and were reported to the academic study adviser.
2. The amount of financial assistance is based on the number of study credits not obtained as a result of the exceptional circumstances referred to in Article 2, in relation to the nominal course load of 60 EC or the number of study credits for which the student has enrolled.
3. Account is taken in this respect of the structure of the academic and examination programme concerned.
4. The delay incurred as a result of exceptional circumstances cannot exceed the number of credits that could be achieved in the context of the nominal duration of the degree programme(s) in the academic year in question, in accordance with the academic and examination programme (set down in the Teaching and Examination Regulations).
5. If the applicant achieved 60 EC or more in the academic year, no study completion delay will be deemed to have occurred. Study points earned at other institutions or on other degree programmes are also included.
6. If a student is 5 credits short, they are deemed to have incurred a study completion delay of one month. A study completion delay lasting less than one month or of less than 5 credits will not result in allocation of financial assistance.
7. No later than 31 December following the end of the academic year in which the student incurred a study completion delay due to exceptional circumstances, a calculation will be made of the number of months of study completion delay resulting from the exceptional circumstances, based on the official number of credits to be obtained and the actual number of credits obtained.
8. If the student enrolls after 31 December, no study completion delay can be registered.

Article 6 Study completion delay due to pregnancy and childbirth

1. If the pregnancy extends across two academic years, the level of financial assistance allocated to the student will be determined by the student's situation in the second of these two academic years.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 5 of this section, the amount awarded to a student to offset falling behind in their studies due to pregnancy and childbirth shall not exceed the equivalent of four months' grant amounts.

Article 7 Application for the Student Support Fund and/or extension of the performance-related grant

1. After the nominal duration of the programme has elapsed, or if the basic grant expires before the nominal duration, the student must contact the student counsellor by 31 December, after which the annual registration period of the study completion delay will end. The student counsellor determines the total study completion delay.



2. In the event that a student has incurred a study completion delay due to medical circumstances, the student may in certain cases apply to DUO for an extension of the performance-related grant, following a consultation with their student counsellor.
3. If the student meets all the conditions, they may choose the most favourable option for which to apply: either an extension of the performance-related grant from DUO or a grant from the Student Support Fund.
4. If the student who has incurred a study completion delay has their performance-related grant extended by DUO, they become ineligible for financial assistance from the Student Support Fund and vice versa during that same period.
5. If DUO grants an extension of the performance-related grant, the student will receive a grant for another 12 months. If a student is granted an extension of the performance-related grant in one academic year and incurs another study completion delay due to exceptional circumstances in subsequent academic years, the student will not be eligible for financial assistance from the Student Support Fund again until their study completion delay is greater than the 12 months covered by the initial extension of the performance-related grant.

Article 8 Application process for the Student Support Fund

1. After the total study completion delay has been determined by the student counsellor, the student must submit the application for financial assistance between 1 September and 31 December, after the end of the academic year in which the total delay was determined.
2. The following documents must be enclosed with the application form:
 - a. a statement from the academic study adviser on when the study completion delay was reported, what agreements have been made with the student and how many credits by which the student is short;
 - b. an overview of academic results obtained elsewhere, if applicable;
 - c. a statement from DUO showing that the student has received a basic grant and, if applicable, a supplementary grant in the academic year in which the exceptional circumstances have occurred;
 - d. if the application is based on a medical condition: a document proving that the student was affected by this medical condition and showing when the condition arose; or
 - e. if the application is based on exceptional family circumstances: a document proving these exceptional family circumstances.
 - f. If the documents submitted in support of the application are drawn up in a foreign language (i.e. neither Dutch nor English), the student must include a certified translation into Dutch or English.



Article 9 Amount of financial assistance

1. The financial assistance from the Student Support Fund is an amount per month of study completion delay equal to the last basic grant received, if applicable, plus the supplementary grant to which the applicant was entitled in the period in which the study completion delay occurred.
2. A study completion delay of 5 EC due to circumstances as referred to in these regulations is equivalent to one month of study completion delay.
3. The duration of the assistance on the grounds of Section 1 for the entire period that the student is registered at the UvA cannot, taken together, exceed half of the nominal duration of the study programme per academic year (six months), and in total cannot exceed half of the nominal duration of the study programme.
4. If an applicant holds a position – as referred to in the Student Support Fund regulations, Administrative Body Membership Grants for Participation in Decision-making section or the Top-class Athletes and Cultural Excellence section – during the academic year or part thereof, the award will be reduced pro rata.

Article 10 Convergence of circumstances

In the event that a convergence of circumstances as referred to in Article 2 exists within the same period, which each separately provide cause for the allocation of financial assistance, a determination will be made as to which cause has resulted in the greatest study completion delay. Financial assistance will be issued solely on that ground.

Article 11 Incomplete applications

If the application is incomplete, the applicant will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete the application. If the application is not completed within this period, it will be rejected. The applicant will be notified to this effect. As long as the period for submitting an application has not elapsed, the student may submit a new application.

Article 12 Processing and decision

1. The Student Services director will reach a decision, on behalf of the Executive Board, within eight weeks of receipt of the request for financial assistance.
2. The student counsellor will issue advice to the Student Counsellors' Committee regarding the length of the study completion delay. The level of assistance is related to the study completion delay actually incurred as a result of the exceptional circumstances.
3. The applicant will be notified of the decision in writing. The notice of the decision will also inform the student that an appeal may be lodged with the Executive Board within six weeks.
4. The decision will state one of the following:
 - either that the student will be granted financial assistance;
 - or that the application has been rejected.



Article 13 Hardship clause

In circumstances other than those specified in these regulations, the Executive Board may make provisions so as to prevent significant unfairness.

Article 14 Effective date, official title

These regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026 and may be cited as ‘Student Support Fund regulations, Force Majeure section’.