



Fact sheet

Student loan funds

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) receives student loan funds from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. These funds have become available because of the introduction of the student loan system and must be spent on new, innovative, education-related activities (as set out in the sector agreement on higher education); they may not be used for regular educational activities. The universities are making agreements about the above with the representative advisory bodies: these are the so-called 'quality agreements'.

How will the UvA use student loan funds?

The UvA will focus on the following three themes: 1) the provision of more intensive, small-scale education, 2) professionalisation of teaching, and 3) suitable, high-quality educational facilities.

Student numbers, forms of teaching and the necessary teaching facilities vary between and within faculties. The faculties have therefore largely been given responsibility for developing the contents of the quality agreements plans, in order to reflect the differences in teaching practices and needs. Plans in relation to the professionalisation of teaching and the realisation of suitable, high-quality educational facilities are also being developed and implemented at the UvA-wide level.

The UvA wants to foster student aspirations and motivation by providing students with an education that is high-quality and innovative, and both students and staff must be in a position to develop themselves optimally. All

of the plans are designed to contribute to achieving these objectives.

How much funding is available?

The quality funds for 2019 to 2022 will be awarded on an annual basis. An amount of €7.9 million is available for 2019 and an amount of €9.2 million for 2020. The amount awarded will increase each year, up to an expected €20 million in 2022. The allocation model has been used to establish how funds are to be allocated within the UvA.

Who decides what the funds are to be used for?

Setting the themes and developing the quality agreements took place in several stages, with the representative advisory bodies closely involved at each stage. The Central Student Council and Central Works Council were also part of intensive discussions about how the decision-making process should be organised.

The stages are as follows:

- Stage 1: gather input and organise the process
- Stage 2: prepare the preliminary memorandum
- Stage 3: develop agreements
- Stage 4: integrate agreements and decision-making

In stage 4, development of the central and faculty plans was discussed with the central representative advisory bodies. The University Committee on Education (UCO) also discussed the development of the central plans. The Programme Committees and Faculty Student Councils advised on the faculty plans.

The quality agreements are currently awaiting the consent of the representative advisory bodies. Once this has been obtained, the Executive Board will be approached for its formal decision.

Next autumn, the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) will assess whether the UvA's plans will contribute to improving the quality of education, whether stakeholders have been sufficiently involved, whether there is enough support for the plans and whether the plans are realistic.

When will the plans be implemented?

The plans will be implemented in phases in the years ahead. Some parts of these plans are already starting to be implemented, even though the Executive Board has not yet issued a formal decision. This was necessary because the University must spend the funds as of 2019.

What is the difference between pre-investments and student loan funds?

The student loan system was introduced in September 2015, bringing an end to the basic student grant for students. The savings that the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has been able to make since 2018 flow back to the universities and universities of applied sciences, which are then able to invest them in education. These means are referred to as 'student loan funds'. In anticipation, the universities and universities of applied sciences made extra investments in education from their own reserves in the period from 2015-2017. The term used to describe this is 'pre-investments'.