

Frequently Asked Questions

Impact current lockdown and curfew on our education and exams

22 January 2021

Education

What is the impact of the current lockdown on our education?

Practicals during daytime can continue as planned. This is in line with the Dutch government's policy. If desired, the course coordinator can choose differently as previously outlined in the heuristics. You may ask your students to wear a mouth-nose mask throughout the practical. **Excursions** and **fieldwork** during the day can only continue if the group size is 2 persons or if students work alone, and only in the Netherlands. If this is not possible, the excursion cannot take place. All other education must move online until at least February 9th.

What is the impact of the current curfew (in Dutch: avondklok) on our education?

Practicals must be finished at 19:00, leaving sufficient time for students and staff to travel home before curfew. The Scheduling Department will contact you if your practical has been scheduled after 19:00. Staff who still have to travel after 21:00 due to the nature of their work will get an employer's declaration (Dutch: werkgeversverklaring) in addition to their [personal curfew declaration](#). There is also impact on the evening exams during the resit period in February, see further.

What is the expectation for the next periods?

We expect the current lockdown to be in force in period 4 as well. At the moment, it is still unclear what measures will apply during periods 5 and 6.

Exams

Why does Wageningen University have the policy 'on campus first' for written exams?

Considering all restrictive measures, privacy aspects for students, and workload in the review process leading to a longer overall exam process, the Executive Board has decided to have as many exams on campus as possible. This is in line with the Dutch government's policy that explicitly supports that students can take their exams on campus. Due to the limited campus capacity, some written exams must be scheduled online.

What is the policy regarding on-campus exams during the resit period in February?

All resits will be scheduled on campus. However, the fact that exams are programmed in Ans offers us an easy step to provide exams online when necessary. For example, if a student cannot come to the campus or if the Corona measures are tightened. When you've submitted your exam to the team Digital Examination before the deadline, a remotely proctored exam in Ans will be facilitated by this team. Otherwise, you can use a live proctored exam via MSTeams or Skype, or an online alternative such as an oral exam.

What is the impact of the current curfew (in Dutch: avondklok) on exams and resits?

The Dutch government has allowed on-campus exams and travelling during curfew. This means that the exams of period 3 and the resits will continue as planned. The policy 'on campus first' hence applies both during the day and in the evening. Employer's declarations (in Dutch: werkgeversverklaringen) for invigilators are available at the reception desk on the evening of the exam. Students download their [personal curfew declarations](#) and WUR will automatically send an email that students can use to prove they have taken an exam in the evening. This means that you do not need to provide curfew declarations for students taking part in evening exams on campus. Given the current circumstances, we recommend not to allow students to take an exam if they have not registered.

What measures are in place to ensure that on-campus exams are safe?

All tables are at least 1.5 meters apart and the invigilators ensure that students keep their distance. Also, security guards are present outside the Bongerd.

Due to my personal situation, I don't want to come to campus to invigilate the exam. What should I do?

You don't have to come to campus. All you are expected to do is:

- You ask a colleague to print the exams and take them to the exam room. If this is not possible, you can request the Exam Office (roostering@wur.nl) to do this for you.
- Ask colleagues to supervise the exam and/or request the Exam Office (roostering@wur.nl) to provide invigilators. It is possible to give the invigilator instructions by phone. Make sure you provide your phone number to the invigilators so they can contact you in case students have questions about the exam.

What should I do if (at the last minute) students cannot or don't want to come to the campus?

If your exam is already available in Ans, you don't have to do anything. You don't need to check whether students have a legitimate reason to take the exam online and you don't have to inform anyone. All students who have registered for the exam can take the exam online. If your exam is not in Ans, you need to organise an online alternative yourself. For example, a live proctored exam via MSTeams or Skype, or an oral exam. It is no problem if this results in too many classrooms or invigilators being scheduled.

Students send me emails that they cannot take the exam on-campus due to their health. Should I check this?

No, you don't need to check whether students have a legitimate reason to take the exam online. [Students take this decision themselves.](#)

Is it possible to administer my written exam on campus but in an online setting?

It is indeed possible to administer an exam on-campus but online. About 150 WUR-devices are available for this purpose. Please contact the Scheduling Department to ask whether a PC room is available for your exam.

I have prepared an exam in Ans, but now I hear my exam will be on paper. Why this decision? And what should I do now?

Our policy is to use the campus in the best possible way as it has multiple advantages over large-scale remotely proctored exams. We can administer an online exam on campus but only 150 WUR-devices are

available for this purpose due to Corona measures. If the PC rooms are not available and your exam is suited for conversion to paper, Digital Examination will send you information on how to print the exam. Once the exam has been administered, Digital Examination scans the answers, and the examiner finds the digitised answers in Ans. If your exam is not suitable for this solution, you can consult with Digital Examination.

Wouldn't it be better to organise all written exams online?

In periods 5 and 6 of the academic year 2019/2020, online exams were our only option. Since education and exams were not possible on campus back then, remote proctoring was an effective, and only, solution. However, it is currently explicitly permitted to administer exams on campus. Large-scale remote proctoring is expensive, labour-intensive, more sensitive to fraud, and we are facing political pressure to limit the use of remotely proctored exams. Therefore, we organise both online and on-campus exams.

May I or the chairgroup decide to administer our exams online only?

No. After considering all arguments, the Rector and Dean of Education have decided that we should use the campus in the best possible and safe way for examinations. That decision is guiding. The Scheduling Department schedules the exams in accordance with this principle.

Since it is WUR's policy to administer exams on campus, why do I need an online alternative?

Due to Corona, not all students can come to the campus. For example, students with health problems or students who have caught a cold. These students should be able to do an online exam in Ans or need an online alternative such as a live proctored exam via MSTeams or Skype, or an oral exam. And there is the risk that the government policy becomes so strict that on campus examination is no longer allowed.

Is it allowed to organise an inspection of assessed exams on campus?

No, inspection of assessed exams is not allowed on campus, so you need to use an online alternative. As the contexts of exams vary, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Therefore, we ask you as examiners to choose what fits best for your exam. Options we recommend are: 1) Publish the exam and model answers on Brightspace, 2) Discuss frequent flaws and misunderstandings during an online plenary meeting, 3) Schedule individual online meetings with students by appointment, or 4) Ans offers the possibility to organise an online inspection (without remote proctoring). Please note that you cannot prevent students from taking notes or from photographing or recording images during online meetings. Students can (and do) document exam questions also after on campus inspection anyway.