

Dear students,

As you will have heard, the government of the Netherlands has announced stricter lockdown measures. These include among others a nationwide curfew (Dutch: avondklok) that starts at 21:00 hrs and ends at 04.30 hrs, and far-reaching international travel restrictions. These measures will be in place until at least the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. You can read more about these measures on the [official English website](#) of the Dutch government. In this letter, we inform you what these new measures mean for your education and exams.

The new measures influence the way we organise our education. Education at WUR will continue to take place mainly online, except for on-campus practicals, exams and self-study. These exceptions are in accordance with government regulations, due to the vital nature of these education activities. We expect this will also be the case in period 4. The various measures in place **until at least the end of the resit period (11<sup>th</sup> of February)** are:

- **Exams and resits** that are scheduled on-campus will continue to take place on campus. Since exams are exempted from the curfew, also exams scheduled in the evening can continue to take place on-campus. Students taking part in these evening exams can travel home with a signed [personal curfew declaration](#) and a declaration of the university. You will receive an email on how to arrange this when it applies to you. This will happen in the week leading up to the exam. For online exams, the curfew has no effect, and therefore these will continue as scheduled.
- You may encounter **last-minute problems** in relation to Corona that prevent you from taking an on-campus exam. An example is that you wake up feeling ill on the day of the exam. In this case, it is important you remain at home and make the exam online. For many exams and resits an online alternative is available. Please inform your teacher if you are not able to come to campus.
- **Practicals** will continue as scheduled and will end at the latest at 19.00 hrs. The lecturer may ask you to wear a face mask throughout the practical. Thesis labwork can also continue.
- All **individual study spaces** on campus will only be accessible after registration via TimeEdit during this lockdown period and are intended for students that are unable to study properly at home. Please note that due to the curfew, the study spaces at the Forum and Leeuwenborch buildings on campus will close at 20:00 hrs.
- The **maximum group size** outside is 2 people, this is also the case on campus and for all activities, including field work, excursions and sport activities.
- **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.
- The government of the Netherlands has announced that until 1 April **travel abroad for study or work is not allowed anymore**. For the period after the 31st of March, it is not likely travelling abroad for your study is possible again to the full extent; and international travel should always be organised in accordance with the [WUR travel policy](#).

Please note that it is your own responsibility to stay inside between 21:00 hrs, when the curfew starts, and 04:30 hrs. The only exception to this rule is made for students taking part in an on-campus evening exam, who have a university and a personal curfew declaration. When you must travel home after your practicals and you live far away (more than 2 hrs travel), this might mean that you cannot stay on campus for the full duration of your practical. In that case, please inform your teacher and discuss an earlier leave or alternative solution.

22 January 2021

We realise that the continuation of the lockdown is a disappointment to us all. For many students, maintaining a social life during the coming weeks can be hard. Student wellbeing is a concern of the university and we would like to stress that we are there to support you. Examples of support, such as coaching and the Wageningen Writing Lab can be found on [this website](#), but also study and student associations can provide help. You can also reach out to your study advisors, teachers or the student deans and psychologists of WUR. Taking a first step to these support possibilities can already improve your situation. We hope you will look after each other and behave in a responsible way, both on and off campus.

Please consult [this webpage](#) for more information on what corona means for you as a student and for answers to the [FAQ's](#). Together with your teachers, we hope to welcome you back on campus again soon.

Kind regards,

Prof. dr. Arthur Mol, *Rector Magnificus*  
Prof. dr. Arnold Bregt, *Dean of Education*