

Request for hybrid education

Dear Executive Board,

As you are aware the housing situation is dire, especially among international students. There is a shortage of housing and a huge amount of new students coming to Tilburg and older students returning after the Covid-19 situation. The housing problem is not new but it has gotten worse over the years. After the Covid-19 situation all we want is to go back to on-campus education to see our professors and meet our fellow students and colleagues. For a large group however, no matter how much they too want this, that is not possible because they do not have accommodation in Tilburg. If there is but one thing that we have learned from the Covid-19 crisis, it is how flexible we can be as a university. We call upon you to keep being so and to provide online education to those who cannot come to Tilburg. Our party has talked to several international students and based on those conversations we would like to ask the following of you: for Tilburg University to keep providing online education to any of these students that are not able to come to Tilburg because of a lack of accommodation. We know that the university offers temporary housing but, as is in the name, this is only temporary and for some, too expensive or not suitable considering the amount of students they have to share a room with. Creating new housing is of course very long-term which is why we have to start thinking about short-term solutions. At the moment not only new students but also older students feel like their only option is to de-enrol, which is not fair. Students from the February intake who started their studies online and, during the peak of housing search in August heard that they will have to come to campus, feel like they cannot finish their studies. Students who are in the middle of their studies are forced to come to classes that they cannot attend which costs them not only an essential part of their education but also a serious amount of money. We understand that we cannot put the pressure to solve this situation on the professors and academic staff, but we believe that simply recording or livestreaming lectures can already make a huge difference. Students are also very willing to help each other out with smaller questions. If these online options can be provided to those students who are in a country with a flight ban, then why not to others? It may be a concern of the board that it will de-motivate other students to come to campus but we truly believe that any students who is able to come to campus after not having been able to go to school or university for so long, will take that opportunity. Online education does not have to be permanent, but it does provide a large group of students with a simple and quick solution. We therefore urge the university to acknowledge this group of students and provide them with online education so that they can keep studying at our beautiful university.

With kind regards,

Student Party SAM

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