

Flexible Study Regulations 2020/2021

1. Scope of the Regulations

These Regulations are in implementation of the Decree on Experiments in Flexible Higher Education at Tilburg University.

2. Target groups

1. Entrepreneur: a student who has received an admission to the *Starterslift* program from the Screening Committee.
2. Top athlete: a student who has been granted a top-athlete status by the Executive Board.
3. Informal caregiver: a student who provides care (other than within the framework of a care-providing profession) to a person who is chronically ill, handicapped, or dependent due to illness in his/her immediate environment, whereby the care provision is a direct result of the social relationship, and for whom (it is expected that) the student provides help for more than 3 months and/or more than 8 hours per week. Conventional care does not fall under informal care. Conventional care is the type of care that can reasonably be expected from members of the household and/or family members.
4. Chronically ill/disabled person: a student who has reported a chronic illness to the dean of students (including evidence provided), and the dean of students estimates that this has an impact on the student's study progress.

3. Maximization

1. For the duration of the pilot project, the Executive Board will assign the status of flexible student to a maximum of 75 students per academic year. The maximum numbers for each target group are as follows:

Target group	Quota
Entrepreneurs	19
Top athletes	19
Informal caretakers	19
Chronically ill/disabled persons	18
Total	75

2. The quota for the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology is 5 students.
3. Applications are considered and allocated in the order in which they are received. If the student making the application belongs the target group for which the quota has been reached, the application will be rejected. However, if on July 1 or December 1 the quota for another target group has not been reached yet, the application will be allocated and the relevant status of flexible student will be deducted from the other target group's quota.
4. A flexible student only counts towards the quota the first time he/she is granted the status of flexible student.

4. Conditions

1. In order to be given the status of flexible student, the following conditions must be met:
 - a) The student belongs to one of the target groups defined in Article 2 and the student can provide documentary evidence to substantiate this;
 - b) Students must pay the statutory tuition fees referred to in Article 7.45a of the Higher Education and Research Act (hereinafter: the Act);
 - c) The student has submitted a request for enrollment or re-enrollment for a full-time Bachelor's or Master's program at Tilburg University and has issued an authorization to pay the tuition fees;
 - d) The student has submitted the application, as described in Article 5, on time;
 - e) The student registers for a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 42 credits per year. If appointed as a flexible student as of February 1, the student registers for a minimum of 9 credits in that semester;
 - f) The application does not relate to a study program that is excluded from flexible studying:
 - B Global Law; CROHO code 56475
 - B Data Science (joint degree); CROHO code 55018
 - M Data science and entrepreneurship (joint degree); CROHO code 65018
 - M Communication and information sciences (research); CROHO code 60834
2. A student cannot be granted a flexible student status if he/she has already been granted a flexible student status for six academic years.

5. Application and decision-making

1. By July 1 at the latest, the institution must have received the request of the student who wishes to be granted a flexible student status by September 1. By December 1 at the latest, the institution must have received the request from the student who wishes to be granted a flexible student status by February 1.
2. The application must be submitted, together with relevant supporting documents, on the form provided for this purpose, which is available and must be returned to the flexible studying coordinator, indicating whether the student wishes to be granted a flexible student status for a full academic year or a semester (September–February; February–September).
3. No later than August 15, students who wish to participate in flexible studying as of September 1 must indicate to the flexible studying coordinator which courses they wish to take for that semester and/or the semester thereafter. No later than January 15, students who wish to participate in flexible studying as of February 1 must indicate to the flexible studying coordinator which courses they wish to take in that semester.
4. The flexible student status is only granted by
 - i. September 1 for a full academic year or a semester, or
 - ii. February 1 for one semester
5. After having been granted a flexible student status, the flexible student may submit a new application, in which the student's compliance with the conditions as referred to in Article 4 will be re-evaluated.

6. Premature termination of status granted

1. The flex student status is terminated prematurely:
 - i. at the request of the student, or
 - ii. if the flex student completes more than 42 credits in an academic year.
2. With effect from the first month following the premature termination, the student is required to pay the statutory tuition fees in proportion to the number of months remaining in that academic year.

7. Tuition fees

1. Contrary to Article 7.43 of the Act, the amount of the tuition fees for flexible students depends on the study load expressed in credits and equals the statutory tuition fees divided by 60 and increased by 15 percent of that fraction per credit.
2. If the flexible student does not participate in a course and/or examination for which he/she has registered, the amount of the tuition fee will not be adjusted.
3. If the flexible student wishes to participate and/or actually participates in extra courses and/or examinations for which he/she has not registered in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 3, he/she must immediately report this to the flexible studying coordinator, and the amount of the tuition fees will be adjusted with due observance of paragraph 1 of this article. It is irrelevant whether or not the flexible student passes course(s) and whether or not the associated credits have been obtained.
4. Supplementary to Article 7.47 of the Act, flexible students must pay the tuition fees by means of an authorization via Studielink. Payment via iDeal or otherwise is not possible.
5. In a given academic year, the student does not pay more than the statutory tuition fees plus 15 percent of the statutory tuition fees.

8. Flexible student's rights

1. The rights referred to in Article 7.34, paragraph 1(a) and (b) of the Act only apply to flexible students in respect of the courses and/or examinations for which they have applied in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 3.
2. Article 7.48 of the Act does not apply to flexible students.
3. The Executive Board may include deviating provisions with regard to flexible students in the Profile Fund.

9. Registration and Tuition Fee Regulations

1. The Registration and Tuition Fee Regulations apply to flexible students with due observance of the provisions of this article.
2. Contrary to Article 9 of the Registration and Tuition Fee Regulations, Article 7 of these Flexible Study Regulations applies to flexible students.
3. Articles 17 and 19, paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Registration and Tuition Fee Regulations (Tuition Fee Reduction and Reimbursement) do not apply to flexible students.
4. Contrary to Article 18, paragraph 1 of the Registration and Tuition Fee Regulations (Payment of tuition fee), the provisions of Article 7 paragraph 4 of these Flexible Study Regulations apply to flexible students.

10. Duration of the Regulations

These Regulations have been adopted for the period up to and including the academic year 2022/2023 and are based on the Decree on Experiments in Flexible Higher Education. Students who have been granted a flexible student status may continue to study as such under the conditions of these Flexible Study Regulations, but never for longer than for the duration of the experiment as stipulated in the Decree on Experiments in Flexible Higher Education. From the academic year 2021–2022, students will no longer be able to take part in the flexible studying experiment for the first time.

11. Hardship clause

The Executive Board may deviate from these Regulations in case the application of these Regulations leads to extreme unfairness. An appeal to the hardship clause must be submitted by the student to the flexible studying coordinator. The request must be accompanied by documentary evidence. Before the Executive Board takes a decision, the applicant will be given the opportunity to be heard and the dean of students will be asked for advice.

12. Possibility to object and appeal

A notice of objection against decisions under these Regulations may be submitted to Tilburg University's Central Disputes and Complaints Desk at <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/students/studying/regulations/complaint-appeal/cabb> within six weeks of receipt of the decision. An appeal may be lodged with the Appeals Tribunal for Higher Education, PO Box 16137, 2500 BC The Hague, within six weeks of the publication of the decision on the notice of objection.