

Changes in student support

The Netherlands' 2015 student loan scheme

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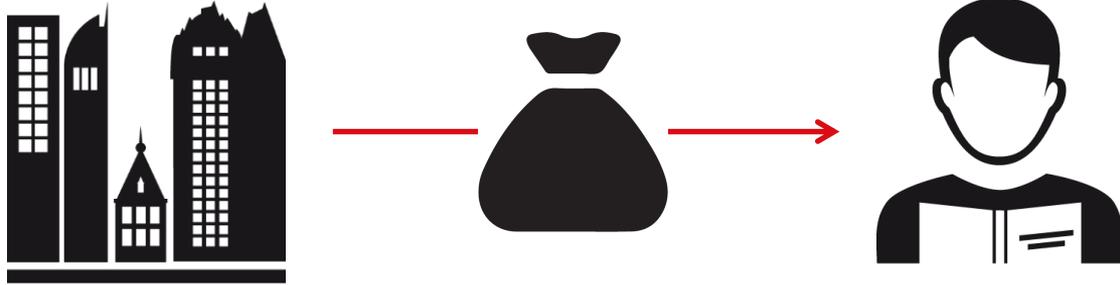
The political scene of 2015

- Public investment per student trailing peer-countries
- In times of austerity: no extra funding available
- Relative high expenditure on student finance & public transport: 3/8 bln of total higher education budget
- Cost sharing to increase quality of higher education

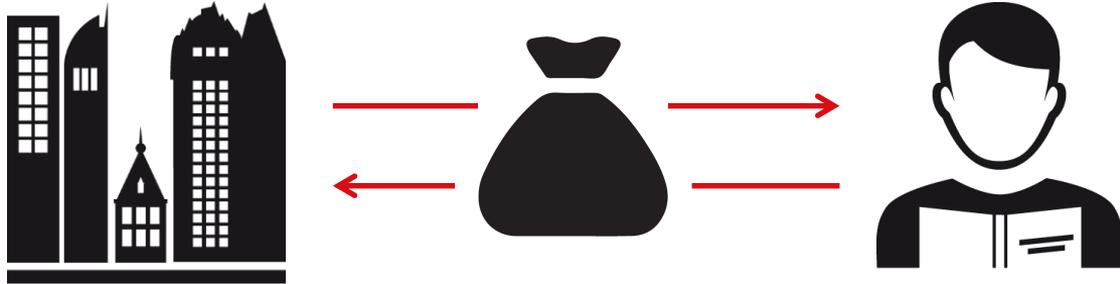


Introduction of student loan system

Until 2015:



From 2015:





Additional measures to reduce financial impact

Higher additional grants for low-income students



Extended repayment term

15 years



35 years



Elevated repayment threshold

Max 15% of income above social minimum

Max 4% of income above minimum wage



Investing in quality of education & student support

- €76 mln (2018) > €230 mln structurally
- Goals set with students:
 - Intensive education
 - Student support
 - Teacher professionalisation
 - Talent development
 - Modern education facilities
- University councils are granted right of approval on key elements of the budget
- Prior to the availability of the funds, universities agreed to pre-invest





New performance agreements



Performance agreements 2012-2016

- 5% of the education budget linked to performance agreements (2012-2015) aimed at education quality and study success.
 - 7 common indicators
 - Budget cuts (and redistribution) in case targets not reached
 - In 2016: all universities reached targets set (some UAS didn't)
- 2% of the education budget linked to specialisation and focus to enhance diversity and quality of the higher education landscape.
 - Resources were selectively assigned on the basis of plans of institutions.
- Review committee of experts advised minister on assessment



Universities demand for new agreements

- Framework: Strategic Agenda and common agenda universities and student unions
- Decentralized approach: local ambitions and indicators (institutional level).
- Not a fixed and obligatory set of indicators for each institution.
- Limit the administrative burden: connect to existing systems of universities
- No new review committee or Higher Education Authority.
- No financial settlement/consequences.
- Developing a sector dashboard for a better view on broad developments



What did we agree upon? (1)

- 5% of the education budget returns to the lumpsum budget.
- Institutions develop their own plans, with local stakeholders involved
- This budget can be spent within 6 themes:
 1. Education intensity
 2. Education differentiation
 3. Quality of teachers
 4. Education facilities
 5. Student facilities
 6. Study succes including, accessibility and equal opportunities.
- There is no obligation to formulate ambitions on all 6 themes.
- There are no main/central indicators.
- This plan can be identical to an existing institutional plan.
- The plan includes a multi-annual budget
- The participation council / representative advisory council should be involved at all stages
- Independent peer-review panels by the Dutch Accreditation Organisation NVAO.



What did we agree upon? (2)

- In annual reports 2019-2024 universities will report on the results
- University council / student council reports independently and simultaneously.
- Annual reports 2019-2021 are the basis for the midterm review in 2022.
- Final review in period 2023-2026 on basis of the annual reports and possibly peer review panel (to be decided).



Results and main focus points

Positive

- Less pressure on the process: plan can be submitted in 2019/2020.
- Time and space for discussion and ambitions on the local/institutional level.
- No uniform indicators.
- We used the maximum leeway considering the text of the government agreement.
- No financial settlement/consequences and limited impact on the funding.

Main focus points

- Elaboration of the assessment framework (NVAO, quality assurance association and AMvB, general administrative order)
- Administrative burden, in particular in the area of financial accountability.
- Facilitating the participation council at the university (office, training, substantial amount of hours).



Investment and results loan system

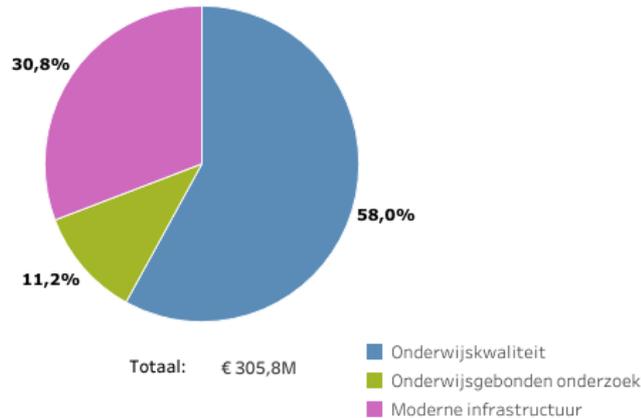


Pre-investments 2015-2017

>300 mln spent

Gerealiseerde voorinvesteringen universiteiten 2015-2017

Selecteer een universiteit:
All



In for example:

- Blended learning
- Support by study advisors
- Improved matching
- Research in effective teaching
- Study facilities (library spaces)



Impact of the policy changes:

- Annual monitor of impact by the ministry. Preliminary results:
 - No change in research university enrollment
 - Slight decrease in vocational students > UAS
 - No decrease of students with migration background
 - Enrollment of disabled students almost fully recovered
 - Not all seem aware of relevant support mechanisms
 - Students live longer with their parents
 - (may also be caused by increased housing prices)
 - Student satisfaction has increased
 - In particular with quality of teachers, other factors stable



Q&A



What tuition fees do students pay?

- Statutory tuition fees: €2.006 p/y
 - Dutch and EU-students
- Institutional tuition fees: from €7.000 up to €32.000 p/y
 - Dutch and EU-students following a second study after finishing the first
 - Exception: studies in education and health care
 - Non-EU students