

Dear Erasmians,

In the beginning of 2020 it became clear that, due to the Covid-pandemic, the educational processes at Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) could not be continued in the usual manner. Hence the Executive Board decided, after consultation with the deans, to transfer to online education and examination in order to keep the study delay of EUR-students to a minimum. To guarantee the validity of the degrees the use of online proctoring and a second camera was deemed necessary.

The introduction of the second camera stirred dissatisfaction among students. After the introduction of the second camera it became more apparent that students had several problems with the proctoring software. The problems experienced ranged from privacy issues to practical concerns. These problems weighed heavily on the already difficult lives of students during the pandemic, increasing stress levels even further.

To tackle these issues the executive board proposed to start an advisory committee. This group was tasked to critically reassess EUR's policy with regards to online proctoring. The committee consisted of representatives of the Executive Board, University Council, Examination Boards, educational directors and IT. Over the past weeks, this committee has evaluated the use of proctoring and its implications.

In its final advice, the committee concluded that online proctoring and the use of the second camera is necessary in the short term. However, it does acknowledge that online proctoring takes a heavy toll on the lives of students. Consequently, proctoring should be used only as a last resort. Moreover, several concrete measures will be taken to alleviate student concerns. These should solve the issues currently experienced by students.

In the longer run, we would like to meet each other on campus again. Hopefully we can return to our normal lives soon. With the return of our old lives, we will also move away from online proctoring en masse and conduct examinations in the manner they were before Covid.

Although we hope to quickly return to campus, we as student representatives and Executive Board do believe that these measures will resolve the major problems with online proctoring.

Kind regards,

Frank van der Duijn Schouten (rector magnificus; chairman)

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Bram Heesen (student member UC)

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Jasper Klasen (student member UC)

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