

# Policy for the academic year 2021-2022, fall semester

Dear students,

As we want to inform our (future) students on time and in a transparent way, below you will find the outline of the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University (RSM) policy with regard to BSc, Premaster, and MSc teaching in the **2021-22 fall semester** (September – December 2021). Our main message is – **come to Rotterdam**. You'll find our policy outlined below.

In short:

- Come to Rotterdam
- Increased on-campus participation, not coming to campus at all should be the exception
- RSM will offer blended learning, a combination of online and on-campus activities, with passive streaming of on-campus activities
- Synchronous/live activities will be predominantly offered during Dutch daytime (Central European Time, CET)
- Exams will take place on campus as much as possible
- For remote exams, online proctoring with two cameras may apply

## 1. Resuming teaching on campus

As [announced](#) by Erasmus University Rotterdam, from September 2021 we hope to gradually resume teaching on campus, transitioning into post-pandemic teaching. All students, especially first-year students, are invited and encouraged to come to Rotterdam because part of their academic journey will take place on campus. It will allow students to meet with each other, something we know our students missed in the past academic year.

At this moment, we have a blend of on-campus and online teaching ready. For many courses, students will be required to work in smaller groups that can meet in person, off-campus, still allowing for face-to-face contacts, under observation of any remaining pandemic management regulations. Moreover, being in Rotterdam means that students can reach out in person to smaller numbers of fellow students in informal settings, respecting Covid regulations of course. Given this choice, we will offer only limited provisions for students unable to come to Rotterdam. We will make sure that there will be online back-up for on campus teaching in order to allow students to still participate and pass exams, but for activities that are offered on campus, the online option will not be fully comparable to the on-campus experience.

Generally, on-campus and synchronous online teaching activities will take place during Dutch working hours (09:00-17:00 CET), and in some cases during the evening. This means that online participation (teaching and assessment activities) for students in other time zones might take place during less

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conventional hours in their location. Assessments can also take place on Saturdays; exact timing of your educational activities and assessments will be communicated at a later stage.

We are aware that some students might not be able to come to campus for reasons beyond their control. For these students, online provisions will be offered as well. Before the summer, all international students (including exchange students) will be surveyed about their intentions for coming to Rotterdam. Note that there will be no financial compensation for students in case of a sudden and unexpected lockdown whereby RSM is forced to revert to a full online education. Also, we advise our international students to start in time with their visa procedures as, due to Covid, these take up more time than usual.

## 2. Aim for blended learning

Our intention is to have the fall semester for all programmes offered as blended learning, combining on-campus activities with online activities. The balance between online and on-campus will partly depend on developments in COVID-19 restrictions and regulations in the coming months and might differ per programme and/or course.

## 3. All on-campus activities will also be available online

For all on-campus activities, an additional online option will be provided. Depending on the Covid situation and on the course or module, this might take the form of:

- students attending on-campus classes remotely via livestream (passive participation)
- students having access to recordings
- students attending class online or on campus according to a rotating schedule within a cohort or programme
- special online tutorials for remote students to be confirmed on a case-by-case base

## 4. Plenary lectures online

As our students have indicated that they appreciate this new mode of delivery, RSM expects most plenary lectures in BA and IBA year 1 and 2 to be replaced by online versions, which will also be recorded. Working groups and other smaller scale activities will preferably be on campus, to a manageable and safe extent.

For plenary lectures in MSc programmes with more than 200 students, the recommendation is to follow a similar approach, offering these lectures in an online mode. However, this will be decided by the course instructor and can, therefore, vary per course/programme.

## 5. Exams and assessments

During the fall semester, exams and assessments should preferably take place on campus. However, there is a chance that this will not always be possible due to COVID-19-related government measures or individual personal circumstances. In this case, it will be also necessary to arrange online exams and assessments, some of which might be proctored. For proctored online exams, students will have to provide their own equipment (i.e., laptop computer with camera and microphone and a mobile phone or tablet with camera), and they will be required to accept the rules for proctoring and possibly unconventional times for exams, depending on their home time zones.

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## 6. Scheduling - reverting to online if necessary

The fall semester schedules will be published mid-July 2021. In the hopes of fully returning to campus, rooms have been allocated to many educational activities. However, if social distancing is still required during the fall semester, the room capacity may be limited. In this case, we may rotate groups of students, in order to prevent groups getting too large on the one hand and to allow every student access to on-campus teaching on the other hand. The school is also prepared to revert to blended online and on-campus as well as a full online model if necessary.

## 7. Spring semester education

We hope that education at RSM will be fully on-campus again during **the spring semester** (January – June 2022). The decision about the education mode for the spring semester will be communicated later.

## 8. In closing

We intend to make on-campus activities possible wherever and whenever we can, gradually moving towards a fully on-campus experience again. We hope you will understand that we cannot guarantee this at this stage. It will require flexibility of all involved – with the objective of ensuring as much as possible a safe, on-campus student experience.