Protocol delay in research or thesis project  
(v.6, English version 9/9/'15)

This protocol will be provided to the student along with the application form for projects. This protocol shall take effect on 1 September 2015. This protocol is translated from the Dutch and no rights can be derived from any errors in translation.

- There will be strict adherence to the ending date as specified (before starting the project) in the ‘application form’. If an assessment is reasonably possible on the ending date, the assessment will be made and processed.
- If on the ending date (1) the result of the assessment is an insufficient grade and the student has a right to a re-take exam (‘aanvullende toets’), or (2) the result of the assessment is ‘not completed’ (‘niet voldaan’) and in the opinion of the first examiner the student has a valid reason for extending the project, the project length can be extended once with a maximum of 1/3 of the nominal original length. A valid reason at least entails that the student has met all the required commitments to the course. A delay because of an impending publication is not a valid reason. The maximum final grade after extension is an 8; graduating cum laude is therefore no longer possible.
- If on the ending date (1) the result of the assessment is an insufficient grade and the student has no right to a re-take exam (‘aanvullende toets’), or (2) the result of the assessment is ‘not completed’ (‘niet voldaan’) and there is no valid reason for extension, no extension of the project will be granted, and the student can complete the project only by starting a new project.
- At approximately 1/3 of the running length of the project, but no later than halfway, the first examiner, in consultation with the student, will take a go/no-go decision about continuing the project. Any differences of opinion will be presented to the board of examiners.
- Hardship clause: If the ending date cannot be met be due to force majeure or harrowing personal circumstances than –after meeting with and getting the approval of the academic advisor (‘studieadviseur’)- the project length can be extended for a period established in consultation. Such an extension may be granted twice, after which the board of examiners will decide about a possible continuation of the project. If this hardship clause is applied, the maximum time limit for obtaining a cum laude judicium will not be strictly enforced, and the board of examiners will instead use a limit that is reasonable under the given circumstances.
- Jurisdiction: all cases not covered by this protocol will be presented to the board of examiners, who will decide in the spirit of this protocol.
- Cases where the assessment results are processed later than the planned ending date will be presented to the board of examiners. The board may decide to adjust the results or decide the results are invalid. In the case the project should have been formally extended, the maximum final result is 8.

1 Viz., has, in conformity to the EER (OER), art.5.5, at least a 4 as the final result and has met all other requirements for the course.
• This protocol will be published by the Graduate School of Natural Sciences on the students’ website and presented to the student along with the ‘application form’ for research projects.

This protocol applies m.m. to any research project of over 30 EC, and to the separate sub-projects/courses of a thesis project if split into two parts, even if the separate parts are smaller than 30 EC.