

Protocol delay in research or thesis project (v.8.1, 30/5/'18)

[This protocol is translated from the Dutch and no rights can be derived from any errors in translation.]

This protocol describes the events in case the planned ending date of a research project cannot be met, or extension of or addition to the project is necessary.

This protocol takes effect on 1 September 2018. Students that are already working on a research project at that time and feel they are disadvantaged by changes in the protocol can claim rights based on an earlier version of this protocol.

- There will be strict adherence to the ending date as specified (before starting the project) in the 'application form' or in OSIRIS-zaak. The ending date is the last date by which the final grade is determined. The ending date is based on full-time study. If an assessment is reasonably possible on the ending date, the assessment will be made and processed.
- If on the ending date the result of the assessment is an insufficient grade and the student has a right to a re-take exam ('aanvullende toets')¹, or, in the opinion of the first examiner, the student has a valid reason for extending the project, the student receives the mark AANV and the project length can be extended once with a maximum of 1/3 of the nominal original length. Note that a delay because of an impending publication is not a valid reason. For projects with a numerical grade, the maximum final grade after extension is an 8. In case the research project is split into two parts and the first part is extended, the beginning and ending dates of the second part are moved up with the length of the extension.
- If on the ending date the result of the assessment is an insufficient grade and the student has no right to a re-take exam ('aanvullende toets'), and there is no valid reason to extend the project, no extension of the project will be granted, and the student can complete the project only by starting a new project.
- Hardship clause: If the ending date cannot be met due to a delay of the project caused by circumstances beyond the control of student and supervisor, or by other valid reasons causing a delay of the project, the first examiner (with the explicit consent of the second examiner) can push back the ending date with a maximum of 1/3 of the nominal project time. In case of force majeure or harrowing personal circumstances, the board of examiners will determine a new, later ending date; in case of personal circumstances after the advice of the academic advisor ('studieadviseur'). 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.
- All cases not covered by this protocol will be presented to the programme leader. If no consensus can be reached then the board of examiners will take a decision in the spirit of this protocol.
- This protocol will be published by the Graduate School of Natural Sciences on the students' website and annexed to the Education and Examination Regulations (EER).

¹ In conformity to the EER (OER), art.5.5. This means at least that the student has met the minimal obligations associated with the project.