

## **Overview of the recommendations of the advice of Victor Rutgers evaluation of the Code of Conduct 2022**

In the Code of Conduct is decided that once every five years an evaluation should be organized. In November 2020 together with the umbrella organizations in Dutch higher education (namely the Dutch Council of Training and Education (NRTO), the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences and the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL)), the National Commission started the evaluation of the text and impact of the Code of Conduct International Student in Higher Education. Part of the evaluation were the internal relationships among, and the functioning of the Commission, the secretariat and umbrella organizations, and the ministries of Education, Culture and Science, Justice and Security and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This part of the evaluation was outsourced to an independent advisor, namely Victor Rutgers of [Victor Rutgers Consulting](#). The main reason for this was to warrant an objective analysis of the functioning of the involved organizations.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 the advice was established and validated by the recently institutionalized directors' meeting. Participants are the director of the umbrella organizations Babs van den Bergh (UNL), Ria van 't Klooster (NRTO) and Ron Minnee (The Netherlands Association of the Universities of Applied Sciences), as well as the chair of the National Commission Paul Rullmann. Below the purpose of the advisory process is explained and an overview of the recommendations of Rutgers is given.

Purposes of the advisory process:

- The first purpose of the advisory process is that it should lead to a joint picture of the way in which all parties involved want to implement self-regulation in the field of interaction with international students in the coming years.
- The second purpose of the advisory process is that during the procedure agreement will be reached on some more complex issues, which are the language table, the list of diploma's, accreditation requirement, and cooperation between higher educational institutions and agents.

### ***Recommendations***

### ***(First) responsible***

	<b><i>Relationships, roles, tasks, authorities and responsibilities</i></b>	
<b>1</b>	Determine at all times whether a subject is hardcore Code of Conduct and therefor falls under the requirement of unanimity, or whether a subject touches on the Code of Conduct but leaves room for more independent acting by the umbrella organizations.  In appropriate cases the involved governmental parties (Justice and Security, Immigration and Naturalization Service and Education, Culture and Sciences) will be informed about these considerations.	Umbrella organizations, secretariat and Commission
<b>2</b>	Keep underlying agenda's transparent. This is especially true in situations where tensions can arise between the umbrella organizations about the way to achieve common objectives. It is precisely at those moments that an open conversation about the sometimes diverging interests of the umbrella organizations in relation to the objectives of the Code of Conduct is of the greatest interest.	Umbrella organizations
<b>3</b>	Better reporting of consultations between the umbrella organizations.	Umbrella organizations
<b>4</b>	Tighter process control by the Commission on potentially controversial subjects such as, for example, research reports with a major impact. This means, among other things: identifying and discussing risks, informing the	Chair and secretary of the Commission

	parties involved and jointly making decisions about the approach of these subjects.	
<b>5</b>	Organize regular meetings between the umbrella organizations and Commission to discuss the experiences of the past year with the implementation of the Code of Conduct, to discuss the risks and bottlenecks for the future and to share visions on internationalization and, where necessary, coordinate those visions.	Secretary and Commission
<b>6</b>	In the event of intentions to decide on changes to the text of the Conduct or regulations that may affect the authorities and responsibilities of the ministries of Justice and Security/Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Ministry of Education Culture and Science, the Commission and umbrella organizations will arrange a meeting to discuss the proposed changes with the responsible ministries.	Chair and secretary Commission
<b>7</b>	Organize future oriented and agenda-setting meetings at regular intervals between the Commission and umbrella organizations with the ministries of Justice and Security, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Ministry of Education Culture and Science. These meetings will not primarily deal with incidents, but mainly with important matters for the longer term, such as an assessment of the functioning of the Code of Conduct in relation to the objectives of the ministries of Justice and Security/Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Ministry of Education Culture and Science and the elimination of the tensions between the Higher Education Act and Migration law about the admission of international students.	Commission
	<b>Status Code</b>	
<b>8</b>	Establish a communication plan after the evaluation (mid-2022) that will lead to greater awareness of the Code among executive staff of the institutions and among international students.	Chair en secretary Commission
	<b>Decision-making procedures and recommendations</b>	
<b>9</b>	It is recommended that article 8 paragraph 2 of the Code of Conduct explicitly states that unanimity is required for amendments to the Code of Conduct. ("Change is possible if the National Commission has approved on the unanimous recommendation of the umbrella organizations,....")	Commission
<b>10</b>	It is recommended that the role of the meeting of directors, in the absence of unanimity among the policy officers of the umbrella organizations, is formalized.  The directors' meeting consists of the three directors of the umbrella organizations, supplemented by the chairman of the Commission. Unanimity is also required at the meeting of directors. Joint proposals shall, if necessary, be submitted to the Commission for decision-making. In the event that no unanimity is reached in the meeting of the directors, the meeting will act according to the circumstances.	Directors meeting, umbrella organizations, chair Commission
	<b>Input students</b>	
<b>11</b>	Setting up a student advisory board: Advisory council of around 10 international students, from the group of students who follow a degree program and	Secretariat and chair Commission

	<p>who preferably participate in representative bodies of Dutch higher education institutions. The students are appointed for two years, half of the members are appointed annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The advisory board can provide solicited and unsolicited advice to the Commission on all subjects that fall within the scope of the Code of Conduct.</li> <li>o The Advisory Board meets in the presence of representatives of ISO, LSVB and ESN.</li> <li>o The members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Commission. The members of the advisory board elect a chair among themselves. The Commission makes the possibility of joining the advisory council widely publicized, primarily targeting international students who are active in representative councils. The secretariat of the Commission organizes the recruitment.</li> <li>o The secretariat of the Commission is responsible for the secretarial support of the advisory board.</li> <li>o The Advisory Board meets at least twice a year. During one of the meetings, a discussion takes place with the chair and secretary of the Commission about the topics that are currently on the Commission's attention.</li> <li>o The Advisory Board may propose to the Commission that one of the members of the Advisory Board is present during a topic on the Commission's agenda, in order to explain advice from the Advisory Board.</li> <li>o A provision will be added to the Code of Conduct regarding the establishment of an advisory board.</li> <li>o In the context of the 5-yearly evaluation of the functioning of the Code of Conduct, an evaluation of the functioning of the advisory board also takes place.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>Provide systematic and easily accessible information for international students about living, studying and working in the Netherlands. It is recommended to keep the general information up to date in one place, and to make it known to international students via all institutions.</p> <p>Meeting with NUFFIC to ensure that the Study in Holland site is developed and improved in such a way that all higher education institutions will actually use the site as an information platform for international students about all general (i.e. non-study or institution-related) student matters.</p>	<p>Secretary Commission in cooperation with the umbrella organizations</p>
<p><b>Other themes</b></p>		
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p>After the umbrella organizations have agreed on the content and implementation of the Quality Framework for the preparatory year, the Commission will integrate the provisions of the Quality Framework about cooperation with agents and private providers into the text of the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>In consultation with the umbrella organizations and with the ministry of Justice and Security, the Commission also develops an assessment framework for the supervision of this collaboration with private providers and agents.</p> <p>NB admission to the preparatory year as such is not part of the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>Chair and secretary Commission</p>