

DECISION

on the petition of 17 December 2025,
submitted by an international student at TIAS Business School, hereafter petitioner.

1. COURSE OF THE PROCEDURE

On 17 December 2025, the National Commission for the Code of Conduct in Higher Education (hereinafter: *the Commission*) received a petition from the petitioner concerning her application to the Women in Business Committee.

The petition refers to the Preamble and Articles 2.1, 6.1 and 8.5 of the Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education (hereinafter: *the Code*).

Receipt of the petition was acknowledged on 18 December 2025. The petitioner was informed that the petition would be reviewed after the Christmas recess. The Commission considered the petition at its meeting of 11 February 2026. The petitioner was informed accordingly and notified that the time limit for handling the petition would be extended in accordance with the applicable Rules and Regulations.

The National Commission discussed the petition, after which a final decision was made and the file was closed.

2. CONTENT OF THE PETITION

The petition concerns the provision of information by TIAS Business School (hereinafter: *the institution*) regarding the application procedure for the Women in Business Committee. The petitioner wanted to apply for membership of this committee and submitted the application by email. Upon inquiry, petitioner learned that the institution had not received the email. By that time, the selection procedure had already been completed. As a result the petitioner was unable to participate in the selection process.

On 6 December 2025, the petitioner lodged a complaint with the Examination Board of the institution regarding the handling of the application. By letter dated 8 December 2025, the Examination Board informed petitioner that the complaint did not fall within its competence. The complaint was forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs (in Dutch: *bureau Onderwijszaken*). On 9 December 2025, the Office of Academic Affairs informed the petitioner that the complaint was unfounded and did not fall within its competence. It stated that participation in the Women in Business Committee constitutes as an extracurricular activity and concerns a voluntary student initiative. According to the Office of Academic Affairs, the committee does not fall under its administrative responsibility.

In the petition before the National Commission, the petitioner submits that the institution has acted in breach of the Code on the following grounds:

- Preamble and Article 2.1: the institution failed to provide timely, reliable, clear and accessible information to international students regarding the application procedure. The petitioner submits that this lack of information resulted in a procedural disadvantage. Petitioner further argues that institutions are required to act in the spirit of the Code in matters not explicitly regulated therein.
- Article 6.1: the institution failed to comply with applicable national laws and regulations, in particular the General Principles of Proper Administration. According to the petitioner, the administrative handling of applications was not sufficiently careful, as no adequate acknowledgment-of-receipt mechanism was in place.
- Article 8.5: the institution did not handle the complaint with due care. The petitioner argues that the response failed to properly address the relevant provisions of the Code.

3. ADMISSIBILITY

The National Commission is competent to examine conduct relating to the relationship between institutions listed in the Register of the Code and international students who intend to pursue, are pursuing, or have pursued higher education in the Netherlands, provided that such conduct occurred after the institution's registration in the Register. TIAS Business School has been listed in the Register of the Code since 29 May 2006. The conduct at issue occurred after that date. The petitioner holds Taiwanese nationality and is enrolled in a full-time master's programme at the institution. Petitioner therefore qualifies as an international student within the meaning of the Code. The Petitioner also has exhausted the internal complaints procedure of the institution. In that respect, requirements have been met.

The Commission had to assess whether the subject matter of the petition falls within the scope of the Code. The Commission derives its competence exclusively from the Code and may only render decisions on matters governed by its provisions. The Code contains provisions relating to information provision, recruitment and selection, and the quality of education and student support. These provisions concern the education provided to international students. They do not extend to extracurricular activities. The recruitment and selection procedure for membership of a student committee constitutes an extracurricular activity and does not concern the provision of education within the meaning of the Code. The National Commission is of the opinion that it therefore lacks the competence to assess the substance of the petition. As the matter raised in the petition falls outside the substantive scope of the Code, the Commission declares the petition inadmissible.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Although the Commission lacks competence in the present matter, it emphasizes the importance of ensuring that international students are afforded genuine opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, including student committees. Clear information provision and a careful recruitment and selection procedure are essential in this respect. In the present case, it is noted that, it leads to confusion with petitioner which party is responsible for the selection of the members of the committee. The Commission therefore recommends that the institution, insofar as it plays a role in this regard, reviews the information provided and the procedures applied.

5. DECISION

The National Commission declares the petition inadmissible.

Delivered on 11 February 2026,

P.M.M. Rullmann, chairman, E.M Minneman, K. Penninga, P. Habibović, S. Heimovaara and L.J.M. Verhofstad, members, and in the presence of E.J Wijers, researcher, and J.G van den Bosch, secretary.

P.M.M. Rullmann
chairman

J.G van den Bosch
secretary

Sent on 06 March 2026