

Preparatory document for online Q&As session on Coronavirus for international students, via Instagram on 13 March 2020, 12.00-13.00 hrs, by Student Office

Compiled by Student Office using BUas updates and FAQs, RIVM FAQs, and additional FAQs based on questions received by Servicedesk and Student Office – 12 March 2020

BUas follows the general guidelines of the RIVM, and has taken many precautions and prevention measures. Our main guiding principles are: 1. Taking care of the health and safety of our students, staff and guests. 2. Education continues, as much and as long as that is reasonably possible.

What is the general BUas perspective on the coronavirus?

BUas acts in accordance with the directives of the RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) and the GGD (Local Healthcare Organisation). We are closely following the developments concerning the coronavirus and will provide any relevant updates.

As communicated previously, BUas has taken various preventative measures, and is providing extra support in prevention, such as extra cleaning, paper towels and hand sanitizer.



What to do if symptoms arise?

Students and staff who start showing any symptoms of the virus such as coughing, shortness of breath, fever and/or lung problems are advised to stay at home. If this situation arises, please act according to the protocols communicated:

[protocol \(for BUas students\)](#)

[protocol \(for BUas staff\)](#)

More information of the RIVM, Foreign Affairs, Noord-Brabant and BUas

Do you have any specific questions about the coronavirus? Please contact the RIVM via the designated telephone number 0800-1351 (available every day from 08.00 to 20.00 hrs), or check the [RIVM](#) website.

For more information and guidance on international travelling, check the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/02/27/reisadviezen-voor-landen-of-gebieden-waar-het-coronavirus-is-gevonden>

For more information, specifically about the situation for Noord-Brabant, please check the FAQs of the Dutch government:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/veelgestelde-vragen-over-de-situatie-in-noord-brabant>

If you have any additional questions, you can reach BUas (Corona Service Desk) by e-mail at corona@buas.nl or by phone at +31 76 533 2275 (available from 08.00 to 18.00 hrs).

What are the specific RIVM directives for Noord-Brabant?

Since Monday evening 9 March, the RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) and the government formulated the following additional policy, in addition to 'no shaking hands': 'Employers are now asked to make it possible for residents of Noord-Brabant, and people who work in Noord-Brabant, to work at home wherever reasonably possible. You will also be asked to spread your working hours. These additional policies can contribute to preventing further infection, and also apply to the next seven days.'

In the news coverage it has also been stated that in principle schools remain open.

1. The new guideline requires additional guidance from BUas, as not every employer is in the same situation, and that BUas essentially is a school.
2. In addition to the RIVM guidelines, BUas presents the principle: 'Education will continue if this is reasonably possible'.
3. This means that we expect lecturers to continue with their teaching duties, in accordance with the scheduled class timetables, 'unless...'.
4. This means that we expect students to continue to attend their classes at BUas on the campus, 'unless...'.



5. This means that we facilitate support staff to work at home, if that is reasonably possible. Employees are to coordinate this with their supervisor.
6. This also means that we facilitate teaching staff to work at home, if that is reasonably possible, if - at the time or day in question – they are not scheduled to be present at BUAs nor involved in any teaching duties of student coaching. Employees are to coordinate this with their supervisor.
7. 'Unless...' applies: we urge employees or students who cough, sneeze, have flu symptoms or a fever to stay at home anyway. This is a guiding principle in all cases.

These guidelines will apply until further notice, at least during the period of this additional RIVM recommendation.

What preventative measures can you take yourself?

The RIVM and GGD also advise you to take your own preventative measures:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water on a regular basis, at least for 20 seconds
- Cough and sneeze in your elbow, not in your hand
- Use paper tissues and throw them away immediately
- Do not shake hands

What preventative measures has BUAs taken?

Apart from following the RIVM and GGD guidelines, BUAs is providing extra prevention support on the campus:

- Extra cleaning, of door handles and stair railings for example, as a part of the daily cleaning schedule.
- Paper towels, available in places where the Dyson hand dryers and towel dispensers are.
- Extra supplies of hand sanitizer.
- Disinfectant wipes for desks, available and distributed in regular office spaces, and on request via Service Desk).

If you have any questions or complaints about preventative products, please contact the Service Desk.

Will examinations and final exams go ahead as planned?

Education will continue as usual, which means that examinations (including resits) and final exams will go ahead as planned too. If you are unable - in the coming period (up to 31 March at least) - to attend an examination or final exam, you will be offered an extra opportunity. You do not have to report absent; you will automatically be eligible for this extra opportunity. Of course, planning of the extra opportunities will depend on the developments around the coronavirus and the RIVM directives in this matter.



Will placements/internships go ahead?

Placements and exchanges abroad will continue as usual, within the framework of the guidelines of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If the advice changes to 'advise against travel' in the area where you are, we will contact you to discuss what would be the most convenient and sensible steps for you to take. If you have to return, but are unable to do so in the short term, we will do everything we can to provide you with replacement courses or study material, so as to avoid any delays in your academic progress.

Should there suddenly be a loss of work at your placement host company, due to corona-related circumstances, please contact the placement office. We will then try to find suitable alternatives for you, if possible close by, or arrange another solution together.

Will the field trips go ahead?

Field trips due to take place soon will go ahead as usual, if the code of the destination country is green (in accordance with Ministry of Foreign Affairs). After all, they are part of the education that we deliver. We will keep examining any risks and developments closely, as well as any instructions and guidelines provided by official authorities. We reserve the right to cancel trips at a late point in time. In all cases, we will subsequently look for alternatives, in the short or longer term.

Will lecturers' trips abroad go ahead (including placements)?

Travel abroad by lecturers/researchers will be suspended, in any case until 30 April. We do not want to risk people no longer being available for educational activities in Breda. This policy will be implemented at the various academies. This policy does not apply to travel in the Netherlands, directly related to work and for commuting purposes. The situation for travel abroad will be reconsidered after 30 April.

Will BUAs events in and outside Breda continue?

All events organised by BUAs that fall outside the scope of education, both at BUAs Breda and outside, will be cancelled by BUAs. This applies to events in the coming period up to 30 April. In line with the RIVM recommendations (RIVM) we want to minimise the risk of our students, staff or guests getting infected.



Will the orientation days, selection days and matching days take place as planned?

Activities within the framework of introduction to a degree programme and/or matching or selection for one of the BUAs degree programmes will continue as usual. This will be done in small groups and has a direct relationship with education at BUAs. If necessary, extra days will be planned at a later stage.

How can you work online?

BUAs students and staff have access to Microsoft Teams, which facilitates online teamwork. Meetings that cannot take place at the campus, due to staff working from home, can also be held online by means of this tool.

What if you visited one of the corona-infected regions abroad?

Students and staff who visited one of the areas where the coronavirus exists and who start showing any symptoms of the virus such as coughing, shortness of breath, fever and/or lung problems must stay at home and contact their general practitioner (*huisarts*) promptly.

Does BUAs offer e-learning possibilities?

At this moment BUAs is organizing more facilities for online learning to support the continuation of education as much as possible. Teachers and BUAs staff are working together to realise this for our students, and bring e-learning to a higher extent.

Students working on projects can continue to do so with online tools they already have. Teachers and tutors can keep in touch with their students, both by phone as well as digitally.

My parents are worried and want me to return to my home country. Is it possible to continue my exchange through e-learning?

At this moment BUAs is organizing more facilities for online learning to support the continuation of education as much as possible. Teachers and BUAs staff are working together to realise this for our students, and bring e-learning to a higher extent.

Students working on projects can continue to do so with online tools they already have. Teachers and tutors can keep in touch with their students, both by phone as well as digitally.

My school is requesting me to return; how to deal with study delay?

At this moment BUAs is organizing more facilities for online learning to support the continuation of education as much as possible. Teachers and BUAs staff are working together to realise this for our students, and bring e-learning to a higher extent.

Students working on projects can continue to do so with online tools they already have. Teachers and tutors can keep in touch with their students, both by phone as well as digitally.



My partner is infected; what do I do?

According to the RIVM guidelines you (being a housemate of a patient with novel coronavirus) are asked to limit physical contact with others (social distancing) as you may have become infected with the coronavirus. This means that you are not allowed to go to work or school. However, you may be able to work from home. You are allowed to go outside to do some shopping, for example, but have to make sure that you stay at a distance from others and do not make physical contact. This applies to the following two groups of people.

Why is BUAs still open?

Although the situation can change every day, at the moment no direct cause exists for closing schools or universities, which also accounts for BUAs and the BUAs Campus. The GGD (local healthcare organisation) can – in coordination with local authorities – advise to close a school or part of a school. Without such an advice of the GGD or a decision by the local mayor, schools are obligated to offer education, based on legal grounds.

In surrounding countries, the approach towards the coronavirus may differ. It is important to bear in mind that every country has different circumstances. The healthcare system in The Netherlands is different than in the surrounding countries. Moreover, the dissemination and development of the coronavirus is different in each country.

My placement is in a region with possible lock down, what is BUAs' policy, can I stay?

Placements abroad will continue as usual, within the framework of the guidelines of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so if nothing changes in their directives, we will not ask you to return. However, meanwhile make arrangements with your placement company and BUAs placement supervisor to continue your placement in a sensible way.

Should there suddenly be a loss of work at your placement host company, please contact the placement office. We will then try to find suitable alternatives for you, if possible close by, or arrange another solution together.

I'm on a placement abroad but my company is closing; what do I do?

Always contact your placement office first, so before you book a flight, to discuss the situation.

I'm on exchange and my host university has been closed, what do I do now?

Exchanges abroad will continue as usual, within the framework of the guidelines of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so if nothing changes in their directives, we will not ask you to return. However, meanwhile make arrangements with your host university and BUAs programme coordinator to continue your exchange in a sensible way.



I have health conditions, what do you advise?

For people with health problems such as asthma, COPD and diabetes it is advised to follow up the basic hygiene measures and keep clear from sick people. These measures apply to all viruses that can cause the flu and colds.

It is always important to follow up these basic hygiene measures:

- Wash your hands with soap regularly
- Cough and sneeze on the inside of your elbow
- Use paper handkerchiefs
- Do not shake hands

I don't have a general practitioner; can you help me?

We are in good contact with the general practitioner Dr. van Kamphoven at the Mgr. Leijtenstraat. At the Servicedesk there will be registration forms available. However, when you expect you have the corona virus, please contact the doctor's office by telephone on the following number 0031765216733 and inform them you are a student from BUAs.

I'm returning from a corona area; do I need to stay at home?

You are asked to limit physical contact with others (social distancing) as you may have become infected with the coronavirus. This means that you are not allowed to go to work or school. However, you may be able to work from home. You are allowed to go outside to do some shopping, for example, but have to make sure that you stay at a distance from others and do not make physical contact.

This applies to the following two groups of people:

- People who have been in areas with many coronavirus infections and have a cold or fever.
These are the following areas:
 - China (including Hong Kong and Macao)
 - Italy
 - Iran
 - Singapore
 - South Korea
- Housemates of patients with novel coronavirus

These complaints may be the beginning of the novel coronavirus. Stay at home and get well first. Do not infect others in the meantime. Call your GP if the symptoms get worse.

What about my upcoming fieldtrip?

Field trips due to take place soon will go ahead as usual, if the code of the destination country is green (in accordance with Ministry of Foreign Affairs). After all, they are part of the education that we deliver. We will keep examining any risks and developments closely, as well as any instructions and guidelines provided by official authorities. We reserve the right to cancel trips at a late point in time. In all cases, we will subsequently look for alternatives, in the short or longer term.