

# Special feature small-scale and intensive education

With the special feature small-scale and intensive education the higher education institution can get permission of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science for selection of students and increasing the legal tuition fees.

## GENERAL INFO

Dutch higher education programmes (or tracks contained within such programmes) may get permission from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science to select students at the start of the programme and demand a higher legal tuition fee, if they meet the criteria for the special feature “Small-scale and intensive education”.

This concerns programmes with small-scale and intensive education that aim for an above average education efficiency and where the activities inside and outside the curriculum are connected. The criteria for the special feature are included in the framework: ‘criteria pertaining to distinctive feature of “Small-scale and intensive education”’ of January 2018 of NVAO.

## Cross check with the practice

The first awarding of this special feature is based on an ex ante assessment, based on plans that provide a clear picture of the ambitions regarding small-scale and intensive education. Six years after obtaining the permission by the Minister, the programme carries out a practice-based assessment on the basis of the achieved results of the small-scale and intensive education. The practice-based assessment may also take place earlier than after six years if there is enough achieved result to be assessed.

NVAO prefers that the special feature small-scale and intensive education is assessed in the context of a regular assessment of existing or new programmes. However, an application for the special feature can be submitted separately. In that case, NVAO convenes a panel for the assessment. A site visit is always part of the procedure.

The criteria and the procedure of the practice-based assessment are described in: ‘criteria pertaining to distinctive feature of “Small-scale and intensive education”’. Programmes or tracks within that have obtained the special feature on the basis of the 2011 frameworks should apply the separate Guidelines for the practice-based assessment of January 2018 for the practice-based assessment.

## STEPS

1

### PANEL COMPOSITION

The panel must have sufficient expertise with respect to the subject of the special feature. That can be completed in different ways, such as in th...

The panel must have sufficient expertise with respect to the subject of the special feature. That can be completed in different ways, such as in the “Nadere uitwerking Criteria bijzonder kenmerk Kleinschalig en intensief onderwijs” is described. In the application for approval of the panel composition for visitations the programme mentions that they want to obtain the special feature and underpins the experience of the panel in this area.

2

### APPLICATION

In the application for accreditation of an existing or new programme the institution mentions that they want to obtain the special feature and that...

In the application for accreditation of an existing or new programme the institution mentions that they want to obtain the special feature and that they explicitly seeks permission to getting the Minister of Education, Culture and Science for selection of students and increasing the legal tuition fees.

3

### REVIEW BY THE PANEL (6 MONTHS)

An assessment of an application for the special feature runs parallel with the assessment of the existing or the new programmes where this is inclu...

An assessment of an application for the special feature runs parallel with the assessment of the existing or the new programmes where this is included in. The accreditation procedure for a new associate degree programme takes six months. For the procedure of existing programmes the assesement framework gives no term.

4

### DECISION-MAKING NVAO AND ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

NVAO decides on the basis of the advisory report to grant the special feature small-scale and intensive education. In addition, in case of a positi...

NVAO decides on the basis of the advisory report to grant the special feature small-scale and intensive education. In addition, in case of a positive decision NVAO advice the Minister of Education, Culture and Science to give permission to the programme for selection of students and increasing the legal tuition fees.

5

### CROSS-CHECK WITH THE PRACTICE EN EXTENDING THE FEATURE

Six years after obtaining the permission by the Minister the programme carries out a practice review - the "cross-check with the practice" - where ...

Six years after obtaining the permission by the Minister the programme carries out a practice review - the "cross-check with the practice" - where NVAO decides to what extent the ambitions regarding small-scale and intensive education have been achieved. This assessment is preferably integrated into a visitation procedure. The validity of the special feature small-scale and intensive education is similar to that of the accreditation of the programme. After granting the feature small-scale and intensive education the programme checks at each reassessment whether the feature still meets the criteria.

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## RATES

In 2025, the rate for the assessment of a special feature small-scale and intensive education outside an accreditation procedure for new programmes is EUR 24,000. The rate for an accreditation procedure for new programmes including special feature small-scale and intensive education amounts EUR 24,000.

Different rates apply for other or non-standard procedures. The costs of visits abroad, work performed by external experts, advisory work, or work associated with additional requirements will be invoiced additionally. Residual rates apply if applications for the accreditation of a new programme are withdrawn.

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