

*Position paper March 2016
Last revised February 2021*

Matching and selection

Situation sketch

Since 2014, TU Delft must offer a study choice check (SKC) to every student who enrolls (before 1 May). The university is free in its choice of details, but the intention is that this check will help students to confirm their choice of study. An SKC should ensure that students make a well-considered choice of study, thus reducing the drop-out rate in the first year and ensuring that the student is in the right place (sooner).

Because there are few guidelines in the law regarding the implementation of a matching process, the interpretation differs from one university to another. Some universities of applied sciences have an intake programme, while others have introductory days at which every prospective student must attend.

What is noticeable is that the TU Delft is very cautious with the implementation compared to other universities: the SKC is not compulsory and the scope of the checks is also relatively small (although the exact implementation differs per faculty). TN, TW and ET are running a pilot with a compulsory SKC.

ORAS's vision

ORAS sees many opportunities in matching. TU Delft must try to learn from national experiences: reinventing the wheel is a waste of time and money. By making a good matching process compulsory for all applicants, the drop-out rate in the first year can be reduced. Partly because of this, a Numerus Fixus (NF) will not be necessary. ORAS believes that a good matching process consists of an SKC that tests for interest and intrinsic motivation. As part of the SKC, students should spend a day with the programme, where they come into contact with the subject matter. Each faculty should be given the opportunity to ask its questions in this format and to offer material relevant to the programme. According to ORAS, programmes with a Numerus Fixus do not need a matching process, as many elements of the selection procedure are the same as for the SKC.

ORAS is against selection at the gate, as a VWO diploma should be enough to start a WO programme of your choice. ORAS believes in the strength of the student. That is why ORAS believes that selection and Numerus Fixi should only be introduced as a last resort, to prevent the quality of education from being compromised. Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to test whether the quality of education is compromised are:

1. Negative changes in the Student/Staff ratio
2. Shortage of Workplaces
3. Results of course evaluations and other surveys.

These three KPIs should play a major role in the discussion about the introduction of an NF. In this, the NF is still an extreme resort and the KPIs should be brought back up to standard as soon as possible.