



Dear students,

We are delighted to welcome you as first-year students in our Horticulture and Business management study program, and we are looking forward to meeting you in person. We are currently preparing for the first term of the academic year 2021-2022 which starts in August. Our first priorities are your personal health and safety, and our commitment to offer you the best possible education in these uncertain times.

At the moment our Dutch government slowly allows for Higher Education to re-open their doors in the coming months. However there is still some uncertainty for us and the rest of the world. Social distancing is the most important regulation we still have to deal with. This has led us to the following decisions:

1. The Welcome Day at the end of August organized by the International Office will be offered online; if possible combined with online personal meetings for those of you who are able to come to the Netherlands.
2. We will be able to (re)start physical meetings in 's-Hertogenbosch in term 1. However the number of meetings/classes/ practicals etc. will probably be limited to one day a week at the beginning. This will be the same amount as all the other (Dutch) programs at the HAS.
4. From term 2 2021/2022 onwards, we will have to await the developments in the Netherlands and worldwide. However we are positive that we will be able to offer fulltime physical education from then onwards. We will communicate about this in November 2021 at the latest. Please know that we will organize several introduction activities to make you feel at home at our university, and to enable you to get to know your fellow students and the HBM members of staff.

The introduction program of HBM starts Monday 30st of August and runs until Friday the 3th of September.

The International Office will organize a Welcome Day on Thursday the 26th of August. The program will be online. The International Office will publish information on this on the website before the 16th of July. Please note that HAS University of Applied Sciences will be closed from Tuesday 27th of July until Monday 23th of August 2021. The International Office will also organize a social activity on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

It might well be possible that you still have questions. If this is the case, please contact the following people:

- If they are study and planning related: please contact our study adviser Maaïke Mikkers ([m.mikkers@has.nl](mailto:m.mikkers@has.nl)) - If they are related to visa, housing, etc.: please address our International office ([international@has.nl](mailto:international@has.nl)) - We also organize a webinar for all your questions on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of July at 4 pm (Dutch time zone). You will receive more information on how to join this webinar in due time. Please know that we are highly committed to our program and your ambitions, and looking forward to meeting you, at HAS or online!

Kind regards, on behalf of the entire HBM staff,

Maaïke Mikkers  
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