

To: Tweede Kamer (PVV, BBB, NSC)

Stop the reduction of the basic grant (basisbeurs)!

After years of student opposition to the loan system, in which the average debt per student exploded, the basic grant was finally reinstated last year. Now the basic grant has only been around for one year and it is already in danger of being drastically reduced again. Indeed, starting in September, the basic grant for students living away from home is in danger of being reduced by almost 2,000 euros per year!

Indeed, the political parties which are currently trying to form a coalition government voted against a proposal to maintain the basic grant. And this while the BBB party had submitted a motion at the time of the introduction of the basic grant to keep the basic scholarship at the same level not only this year, but to correct it every year with inflation. The PVV also voted for this! Therefore, we call on the members of parliament of all parties, and especially PVV and BBB: do not abandon students, keep the basic grant at the same level and increase the basic grant along with inflation!

Why is it important

The basic grant had been increased by €2000 last year to compensate for strong inflation. Of course, the price of rent and tuition will not magically drop by €2000 in September: Dutch cities are among the most expensive in Europe and the price of living keeps rising sharply every year. Studying without unhealthy debt thus becomes unaffordable for the average student.

Instead of reducing the basic scholarship, it should instead be increased to more than 500 euros per month, as prices continue to rise. In 2021, the Social and Economic Council calculated that, at the time, a basic scholarship of 476 euros per month would allow the average student, with a side job and possible parental contribution, to graduate without serious debt. With inflation since then, this means that the basic grant should be increased to 500 euros per month instead of reduced to 302 euros per month.

That's why students from all over the country are taking action! On May 18, 14:00 we will protest in Utrecht on the Domplein against this inexplicable reduction of the basic grant. Studying should be possible for everyone, without worrying about a sky-high debt.

We call on the Tweede Kamer to stop the decrease in the basic grant before September, because inflation does not stop in September!

Join the whatsapp group to stay updated: <https://shorturl.at/jluE5>

Students with EU/EEA or Swiss citizenship are also eligible for study finance, including the basic grant of €466,69 a month and free public transport if you work at least 32 hours per month or have worked for 24 hours per month for the last 6 months. Check out the government website to see if you're eligible!

<https://duo.nl/particulier/student-finance/>