

## **FAQ Satisfactory Academic Progress**

### **What action to take when I do not pass enough courses or when I think I will not pass enough courses?**

Please contact your Academic Advisor as soon as possible. In case you obtain less than 30 credits in a full academic year, you are only allowed to keep your residence permit when you have an excusable reason. For this reason, it is paramount that you report to the Academic Advisor as soon as possible in case you fall behind in your studies. When you do not have an excusable reason for obtaining less than 50% of your credits, then unfortunately you are not allowed to continue your studies at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. You are not allowed to enroll in a different study programme at VU Amsterdam either.

### **Does the above also apply to me when my residence permit is still valid for multiple years?**

Yes, the rule applies in this case as well. Even when your residence permit is still valid for a few more years, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is obliged by law to revoke your residence permit when your study results are below the standard (i.e. 50%).

### **What if I am enrolled in a pre-Master or preparatory year?**

Please keep in mind that if you started a pre-Master or preparatory year, you will need to pass 100% in order to keep your residence permit and continue with the regular degree programme. This means that 50% is not sufficient. The 50% rule (i.e. 30 ECTS) will then apply for you as soon as you start your Master's degree.

### **What causes are considered as excusable reasons?**

It may be the case that you encounter exceptional circumstances during your studies which have a negative impact on your academic performance. The following falls under exceptional circumstances:

- Illness
- Pregnancy
- Special family circumstances
- Disability
- Board membership activities

These exceptional circumstances should be reported to the Academic Advisor within three months taken from the moment they first occurred. Should you have a disability or impaired function, please report these as soon as possible after the start of your study programme. The Academic Advisors can help you to find a solution.

### **What about Binding Recommendation on Continuation of Studies (BSA – applicable to Bachelor students only)?**

All Bachelor students have to meet the requirements of the Binding Recommendation on Continuation of Studies during their first year. These requirements vary per study programme, but they are always more strict than the rules of the IND. This means that if you pass BSA, you have gained enough credits to

meet the requirements of the IND. However, you are not allowed to continue your study at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam if you do not obtain at least 30 credits each year. It is not possible to switch to another study programme at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Please remember that BSA only applies to the first years of your study, but that the IND rules apply to the entire study programme.

**I am an Exchange student, does all of this apply to me?**

Satisfactory Academic Progress is not applicable to Exchange students as they cannot stay longer than a year at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

**Where can I receive more information?**

- International Office  
Website: [www.vu.nl/visa](http://www.vu.nl/visa)  
E-mail: [studentimmigration@vu.nl](mailto:studentimmigration@vu.nl)
- Academic Advisor  
VUnet: [Academic](#) Advisor
- Dutch Immigration Service (IND)  
Website: [IND](#)