Rogier van Weelden (HAN ISB) over hoe hij in gesprek gaat met studenten over wat we verwachten van elkaar gedurende online contactmomenten.

Code of conduct

In our last update, you have received the code of conduct for students and in this update, we share what we've learnt when using it in our lectures. Our team members set out to create a mutually supported agreement with their students on how to behave during an online lecture, with the help of the code of conduct. The key to success here was to first of all ask students what they think works well in an online lecture. The answers are along the line of:

- Creating interaction during lectures
- Have short, bite sized pieces of information such as knowledge clips
- Keep the amount of theory covered in an online session low
- Make sure to have a clear structure for the online session

As you can tell from the list above, these answers are about what students expect from their lecturers to deliver to them. Here it is important to tell your students what is possible, and mutually agree on how to shape the education in the upcoming weeks. Subsequently, the question was raided by the lecturer: how does an exemplary student behave during an online lecture? Again, here's their response:

- Be well prepared
- Be on time
- Ask and respond to questions
- Minimize distractions

Surprisingly, none of the students mentioned "Turn on camera". This triggered a discussion, which gave insight into the reasons why students are reluctant in turning on their camera's. Sometimes, there is an obvious reason (e.g. poor internet connection), but also: students don't see the added value of turning on their camera when their lecturer is lecturing. All they see is the slide and their lecturer in a small frame, which means they don't experience interaction at all. Therefore, the key lies in creating a mutual agreement/contract on how to behave in your online lectures! So for instance: agree that students will turn on their camera when no slides are used / screen is shared.

Last week we've shared our experiences in making a contract with your students, this time we will focus on how to make sure your students will live up to the agreements you've made with them. One topic that was covered in our last update was students turning on their camera. Just agreeing this with your students doesn't make sure that they will turn on their camera every single lecture. It requires the lecturer to make contact with the students at the start of the lecture, ask how they are doing today and say (perhaps slightly surprised) "Hey (add student name here...), I can't see you, how are you today"? This can create a more relaxed atmosphere and often trigger the students to turn on their camera. Why? Students experience that you are interested in their wellbeing by making contact with them. To conclude: the behaviour of the lecturer evokes behaviour from the students, also online.