

FAQ: Electives 2026 for EMBA, MBA, and GEMBA Participants

All students across the EMBA, MBA, and GEMBA cohorts have to participate in elective courses during their respective programmes as a mandatory component of their curriculum; however, the requirements for each may be slightly different depending on the programme being followed. The FAQ below has been divided according to common questions that cover information about electives in general, including the requirements for the elective selection process.

There is a second FAQ, which will also be made available on Canvas, that goes into more detail regarding the system that you will be using to make your electives selection, and how various aspects of the system work.

Please make sure to read each FAQ carefully so that you fully understand what is required of you and when.

How many elective courses do I have to take?

This depends on the programme you are enrolled in so, if you are a(n):

- MBA and GEMBA student, then you need to take three (3) elective courses in total from the offerings
- EMBA student, then you need to take four (4) elective courses in total.
- Incoming Exchange students will have the same status as our Full-time International MBA students, except that the number of elective courses which you are required to take will be set by your home school.

We have a large portfolio of courses, across multiple disciplines, that you can choose from. These courses run on various dates and times from early September to early-December. You will see that some courses have some restrictions on who can take these courses due to overlap of content with courses offered in the core curricula of the MBA / EMBA / GEMBA programmes respectively or because of the content requirements of the lecturer.

How will I know what courses are on offer?

You have access to a dedicated area on Canvas where an overview of all the electives that are on offer this year can be found. It is called **E/MBA Electives Information Site 2026**. The schedule and course outlines describing the content of most of the elective courses will be made available to you there.

You will see that courses take place during the week (Monday to Friday), sometimes the whole day or mornings / afternoons / evenings; or during weekends (Friday night and whole day Saturday). The weekday electives are administered by the MBA Programme, while the weekend electives by the EMBA and GEMBA Programmes respectively.

Can I just go over the list and choose my electives?

It would be great if you could just choose your own set of courses, however each course has a limit to the number of students that can participate. To make the course selection process as fair and transparent as possible, we have developed a system that will allow you to rank a maximum of 6 courses in order to help you secure seats in at least 3 of your preferred choices in the case of MBA & GEMBA students, and 4 in the case of EMBA students. The system we are using is called, simply: Elective Preference Ranking System (EPRS), and more information about how this works is given below and also in the separate "Technical FAQ".

Are there restrictions on taking some courses?

Yes. Some courses are mutually exclusive, such as weekend courses which take place at the same time, while others are restricted as to the students who can participate in them. For example, there are some courses that are MBA only, while some courses are for the EMBA students only. These are clearly marked in both the course outlines and highlighted in the course schedule.

Is there is a limited number of seats for each course?

Yes, to ensure the best learning experience and based on the set-up of the course by the faculty, a maximum number of seats is determined for each course. When the EPRS goes live in June, the final and correct number of available seats per course will be shown in the system. Do note that there is also a minimum number of seats that need to be filled if a course is to be run. If that minimum is not reached, then such a course could be removed from the elective course offering. Should any course not reach the minimum number of participants signed up we will communicate this well in advance (after the first preference ranking round has taken place).

How should I prepare myself for the selection of my electives?

First, please go over the list of all electives that you will find on the Canvas site then read the draft course outlines to get a feel for the electives that interest you the most. Please note: Draft course outlines are intended to give you an overview of the topics covered and the class format of each elective; and remain subject to change until finalized and officially approved prior to the actual start of the elective courses. . The outlines shared are taken from the same courses which ran during the previous academic year.

Once you have decided which courses you are interested in, look at the **SCHEDULE** to see the exact timing of all the course sessions. It is **crucial** that you check and double check the time schedule to make sure that you do not choose any courses that have two or more overlapping sessions! **Make sure that you are referring to the LATEST elective schedule as, over time, new updates might have been posted on Canvas. We will always indicate with an announcement as to where changes have been made.**

➤ **MBA and Incoming Exchange students: Can we take courses that run only during weekends?**

Yes, you are also welcome to go for these weekend electives, and such courses will have 'weekend' mentioned in the electives schedule. These courses are mainly scheduled this way to suit the needs of the GEMBA/EMBA students, and you will have to double-check which of these are available for MBA as well. Weekend electives will take place in blocks consisting of two (2) weekends, with three (3) sessions per weekend, giving a total of six (6) sessions per course. Please note that MBA students opting for weekend courses will be given less priority for securing seats in the weekend elective courses as **EMBA / GEMBA students will be given a higher priority for these.**

➤ **GEMBA / EMBA students: Can we take courses that run only during the week?**

Yes, you can. Weekday electives are scheduled either in the morning, afternoon or sometimes in the evening of a weekday and/or Saturdays. It will be mostly Full-time International MBA students who opt for participating in these courses, however, you are also welcome to go for them if they fit with your work schedule. **Please note that GEMBA and EMBA students opting for weekday courses will be given less priority for these courses than the MBA students.**

OK, so tell me about the system that we will use to select our elective courses. Can you tell me how this works exactly?

To make the process as easy as possible, we have developed our own Elective Preference Ranking System (EPRS), which will be open for a week in early June (Exact dates and times will be confirmed in due course). During this period, called the Preference Ranking Period (PRP), you must select six (6) elective courses and rank them in order from 1 to 6, with No. 1 being the elective that you would most like to pursue and No. 6 being the least. **Please note that it is essential that you rank them in your order of preference as this will be taken into consideration by the system.**

After the EPRS closes, your choices will be locked and there will be no possibility to make changes while we review and process all results. This may take up to a week to complete and, once done, we will publish the list of assigned electives on your student page on the EPRS platform.

Students will also be given one opportunity only to change the elective courses in which they have secured seats, and we are calling this a “Swap Period”. More information on how this works is given in the [Technical FAQ](#) that has been made separately available on Canvas. The swap period will be open for a week in late June.

Important: If you do not participate in the Preference Ranking Period (PRP) you will only be able to select courses during the Swap period, which means that you can only choose from courses that still have seats available. Choices made during this period are taken on a “first come, first served” basis.

If you do not participate at all, neither in the first round nor in the Swap period, you will need to choose your electives from those course that would still be available in our elective portfolio once the entire the Preference Ranking Period has concluded.

How do I get a seat in a course?

In general, you will need to rank a maximum of 6 elective courses in order of preference from 1 to 6, with 1 being your most important and 6 being your least important. Based on your ranking and the choices made by other students participating in the elective selection, you will be allocated to 3 of your ranked elective choices (4 for EMBA).

How do I get the results of the Preference Ranking Period (PRP)?

You will be able to see the result in the EPRS once the system has processed the results of the selection week and we have re-opened the system for the Swap Period.

What happens if I do not get a seat in one or more of the courses that I ranked during the PRP?

It may happen that you did not get your required number of courses during the Preference Ranking

Period due to a course being cancelled or because a course was very popular so was oversubscribed. In the very few cases where this happens, students are requested to make use of the Swap Period to select their remaining course load.

Do courses actually get cancelled?

Yes, a course may be cancelled in case of force majeure; if we do not get a minimum number of students; or, in rare circumstances, when the lead faculty is unable to teach due to extenuating reasons and no suitable replacement can be found to run it successfully. If the course is cancelled as a result of the PRP, the system will place you in one of the other courses from your ranked selection choice. If a course is cancelled once the entire selection process has been completed (that is, after the swap period), we will inform you of this and you will need to choose another course replacement that would be available in our elective portfolio at that point.

Can I opt for two courses that take place at the same time or have a partial overlap?

You cannot be enrolled in courses that have more than two (2) overlapping sessions as you cannot miss more than **one session per elective course (in accordance with the TER)**. For the weekend courses it is pretty clear: there are multiple courses that run over the same weekend and, if you selected several of them, the system would only place you in 1 of these courses, not all of them. Please note that the system is setup to prevent a more than two-session overlap.

For the courses that run during the week it is less straightforward, even though we have tried as much as possible to avoid overlap in the scheduling. You will need to keep this in mind when selecting your elective courses.

Apart from avoiding attendance issues, another reason for not allowing too many overlapping sessions is the workload. Each elective stands for 84 hours of work, therefore it will be very hard to attend two courses that take place at more or less the same time.

How many sessions of a course can I miss?

Electives take place in a limited, pressured timeframe, so it is not ideal if students miss any sessions.

Missing more than 1 session of each elective course does not align with the examination regulations and may lead to a course fail. As the weekend electives are completed over two (2) consecutive weekends, with three (3) sessions per weekend, it means that you cannot miss any of those weekends. Please keep this in mind when choosing your elective courses and making other plans.

I have changed my mind, and I want to make a change in one of my elective courses that I have secured. Is this possible and what do I do?

Yes, that is possible during the Swap Period, provided the course you would like to take still has seats available. If a course is full, it is not possible to select that course until another student decides to drop said course within the Swap Period. During the Swap Period, the ERPS is "real time" so changes are processed instantly.

It will not be possible to change elective courses **after** the entire elective selection process has been completed (that is, after the Swap Period, or during the elective season), unless there is a personal circumstance confirmed by student advisors or a force majeure situation confirmed by the Registrar's office (in alignment with the TER) that prevents you from taking one of your assigned elective courses and for which written approval from the Examination Board is required.

Please note that, for MBA students, participating in an internship is not a “force majeure” to allow you to change elective courses as you need to meet the academic requirements of your degree programme first.

What could stop me from participating in the elective process?

If you have any outstanding payments owing to the school and you do not have a pre-approved financial agreement with the Finance office, you may not be allowed to participate in the Elective Preference Ranking Period. If you are worried about your financial status, please check with the Finance Office by sending an email to finance@rsm.nl and make sure that you inform your programme director.

Once the course registration is all done, what do I do about the course materials?

Once we know how many participants we have for each of the electives, we will order the study materials / books / etc for the courses. Do note that only some of the electives require a textbook, while others will only have articles as readings. EMBA / GEMBA students will have any course textbooks mailed to them, while MBA students can collect these from the respective EMBA / MBA offices at RSM once they have been notified that they are available.

We aim to have most of the other course materials available on Canvas latest two weeks before the start of the course.

For incoming exchange students, you will need to purchase your books independently.

What if I still have questions about the Preference Ranking Period process?

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at bidding@rsm.nl. This is a dedicated mailbox that we will be using for elective related matters.