TU/e Mobility plan

On April 17, 2014, TU/e adopted the Mobility Plan, thereby deciding on a Mobility policy that is in line with its aim of being a sustainable university. The choice to discourage car use and encourage alternative (sustainable) transport fits in with this policy.

One of the measures emerging from the Mobility policy is that TU/e has, as of April 15, 2015, introduced paid parking for employees. In order to mitigate the introduction of paid parking, TU/e also comes up with incentive measures and facilities to promote alternative transport to the campus. In addition to offering an NS Business Card, this concerns the reimbursement of relocation expenses (see Declaration guidelines), the bicycle plan and the scheme for pre-financing the purchase of an E-bike (see Selection model for conditions of employment).

NS Business Card

In cooperation with NS, TU/e offers its employees an NS Business Card, the main information for which is listed below:

- Each month you receive compensation for the costs of traveling to and from work in line with the TU/e scheme. This is unrelated to the NS Business Card.
- You do not have to pay any travel costs up front. All travel costs will be automatically deducted from your salary. The first deduction will be delayed for 2 months.
- You can couple the NS Business Card to a subscription type that best suits your travel wishes by train and bus/tram/metro:
  - With an off-peak subscription (in Dutch: dal abonnement) you travel with 40% discount on NS off-peak travel. In addition, you can make use of a group discount: 40% discount after 9:00 am for up to 3 fellow passengers. This subscription can be cancelled daily (one month after the starting date).
  - With a Traject Vrij Subscription you can travel by train on a chosen, fixed route within the Netherlands for a fixed amount per year. This includes the days you do not work. In addition, you can travel during off-peak hours outside the chosen route with a 40% discount on trips outside the route and off-peak hours. You can make use of a group discount: 40% discount after 9:00 am for up to 3 fellow passengers. This subscription can be cancelled daily (one month after the starting date).
  - With a Traject op Maat subscription you travel by train on a fixed route in the Netherlands, where the amount is determined monthly in retrospect by the actual number of travel trips on the chosen route. In addition, you travel with a 40% discount on trips outside the route and outside rush hour. You can make use of a group discount: 40% discount outside rush hour for up to 3 fellow travelers. This subscription can be cancelled daily (one month after the starting date).
  - With a Trein Vrij subscription you can travel by train unlimitedly throughout the Netherlands for a fixed annual fee. In addition, you can make use of a group discount: 40% discount after 9:00 am for up to 3 fellow passengers. This subscription can be cancelled daily (one month after the starting date).
  - With OV-Vrij subscription you travel unlimited with the train, bus, tram and metro throughout the Netherlands for a fixed amount per year. In addition, you can make use of a group discount: 40% discount after 9:00 am for up to 3 fellow passengers. This subscription can be cancelled daily (one month after the starting date).
- You can also choose not to add a subscription to the NS Business Card.

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1 NS rush hour: 06:30 - 09:00 and from 16:00 to 18:30.
With an NS Business Card without subscription, you travel on account with train, bus, streetcar and metro throughout the Netherlands. In addition, you can use door-to-door services within the Netherlands, such as cab, rent a bike or park your car at the station.

- NS always charges TU/e annual subscription rates that are more beneficial than the monthly subscription rates.
- If you wish to switch or cancel a subscription, you can do so already after the first month at no extra charge.
- If you do not use public transport for a given period, such as during holidays, you can suspend your subscription temporarily (see the explanation below).
- If you use the NS Business Card you also have an account in “Mijn NS Zakelijk” where you can easily manage your own details and have access at all times to your travel data.

If you wish to apply for the NS Business Card, you must read and sign the user agreement and mail the signed user agreement and the application form to ns@tue.nl. You will then receive your login details for “Mijn NS Zakelijk” by email so that you can apply for the NS Business Card with your preferred subscription type. If you have any questions, mail ns@tue.nl.
Temporary suspension of NS Business Card, subscription and settlement of costs

One of the benefits of the NS Business Card for TU/e personnel is that you can temporarily suspend your subscription if you do not use the services of the NS for a period of time, so you pay no subscription fees in that period. If you suspend your subscription, and re-activate it in the same month, this ‘saving’ is not, however, immediately evident in your monthly fees since the regular subscription fees are invoiced in advance. However, you will see the saving due by virtue of the suspension of your subscription on an annual basis; you pay only for the periods when your subscription is active.

Below is an explanation of how it works along with a calculation example and invoice summary for a year (chart)

Once the subscription commences, the fees for that month will be invoiced (in advance) from the commencement date, which is therefore also the invoice date. You can suspend the subscription and re-activate it later (see FAQ for how to do this). During this period, you will be invoiced for only those days that you use the subscription. If payment for that period has already been deducted, the subscription amount for days not used will be credited to the invoice for the next month (see the month of July in the example below).

You have to re-activate the subscription yourself. Unless you re-activate the subscription on the same day of the month, a different commencement and invoice date will apply than your ‘original’ commencement date. If suspension and re-activation of your subscription take place within the same month, then the amount deducted is higher than your ‘normal’ monthly amount. The reason for this is explained in the example below.

Example

Say you begin a monthly 100 euro NS Business Card subscription on May 1. In May and June you use the NS and pay the monthly 100 euro rate.

Due to your holidays, you suspend your subscription from July 10 till 29. On July 1 NS invoices 29 euros. Thereafter the subscription is suspended. On July 30 a new invoice period begins with a charge of 100 euros. You pay a total of 129 euros in the month of July even though you only use up 11 days of your subscription. In August the new invoice period begins on August 30, for which you again pay 100 euros.

Each year the differences are compensated on a monthly basis due to the change in the invoice date of your subscription. At the end of a calendar year (or when your subscription ends), you will have paid pro rata the same as you would have paid each calendar month for the days actually used in that month. See calculation below for illustration.

Example

If you suspend your subscription again in November (from November 25 till December 14), you will have paid part of your subscription for this period (from November 25 till 30). This amount will be credited to you. In November you will receive 12 euros, although you use up 24 days of your subscription that month.

On December 15 you again pay 100 euros per month, and subsequently for the rest of the first year that your subscription has to run (till May 1).
Annual calculation example

For the first year you are charged a total of 1,117 euros while you have not used your subscription for 37 days. However, in May your subscription still has 15 days to run into the second year; in order to arrive at the correct amount for the first year, you can actually only include 16 days (or 16/30 of 100 euros). Making this adjustment, the amount for the first year is 1,117 - 46 = 1,071 euros. Calculated on an annual basis whereby you suspend your subscription for 37 of the 365 days and thus save 37/365 x 1,200 euros (or 100 euro per month), you arrive at a saving of 121.64 euros for that first year. Based on this calculation, you would pay 1,078.36 euros per year (1,200 euros – 121.64 euros). Apart from a few minor rounding differences, this annual figure corresponds with the amount you actually pay, so the conclusion is that you do not indeed pay for the days that you suspend your subscription.

Summary

- Subscription start date is the same as the billing date.
- Suspension of subscription: you pay that billing period only for the days that the subscription is active. Unused days of the current month will be credited.
- Date of subscription reactivation equals the new billing date.
- Termination of subscription: days of the current month that have not been used are credited.
More information

If the above explanation is not clear, or if you have any other questions regarding the billing of the NS Business Card subscription, please contact ns@tue.nl.

This information has been updated on November 1, 2021.