

Thoughts from students & postdocs

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The Nikhef logo consists of a red stylized symbol above the word "Nikhef". The symbol is a vertical line with two diagonal lines extending upwards and two extending downwards, forming a shape reminiscent of a particle detector or a specific particle interaction. The word "Nikhef" is written in a red, sans-serif font below the symbol.

Nikhef

- Concerns from final year PhD students on contracts.
- Will there be leniency on extension of contracts from NWO-I/Nikhef?
- How will the lockdown affect our research and can we finish on time?
- Students in final months say they cannot finish on time if they become ill.
- Job prospects and future plans for finishing students reach new levels of uncertainty - arranging a defence, job applications, how does this affect positions.

- Some people do not have an ideal home office or home environment for working: desks, chairs, noisy flatmates.
 - affects productivity
 - what can be done for them?
- Some students are worried about expectation of working in “quiet of your own home”, when in reality many things are affecting productivity.
- Ability to schedule 1-on-1 time, especially with supervisors, is reduced.

- Students at CERN. Will their stay be extended?
Networking with other researchers is not very possible.
- How is the hiring of new students affected?

Mental Health

- “I think it is also important to note that we as PhD students are more prone to mental health issues and anxieties. The general situation with the virus, the uncertain/difficult work circumstances, isolation plus the loss of a structure can increase anxieties in everybody, but it does especially in people that were already struggling with mental health issues and anxieties before.

I notices that my productivity in general dropped because my mind is very busy with trying to keep my worries at bay, and I can imagine that other students struggle with this as well. I think this should not be underestimated.”

Staff + PhD council

- Make students aware they can receive zoom license under Nikhef.
- Organising 'virtual social events'

Summary

- In general, students are happy with the Nikhef response, the availability of resources, feel like the best is being done for them, happy of the supportive atmosphere.
- Difficult to reach bachelors, masters students and postdocs.
- Virtual coffee breaks every morning are very well appreciated.