

Election program 2017-2018

Partij voor de Utrechtse Student



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“You’re a real student when you are active!”

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Preface

It's that time of the year again, on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of May the University council election will start. We are nominated as candidates of the 'Partij voor de Utrechtse Student' (Party for the students of Utrecht), for the election of the University council of 2017-2018. In this election-program you can read exactly why you should vote for the nominated candidates of the 'Partij voor de Utrechtse Student' (PvdUS). The Partij voor de Utrechtse Student was founded in 2007 as counterpart to the existing party and was founded with the sole purpose of targeting a specific audience that felt they were not represented by the existing University council. Considering that more than 30.000 students study at the University of Utrecht, you can no longer define the typical student, as there is so much diversity. Not every student is the same. So from these 30.000 students, the PvdUS represents the 'active' student. The 'active' student is not only interested in their study, but also constantly developing outside of their study. The development outside of the University should be stimulated and facilitated for every single student in Utrecht. The PvdUS is committed to achieving this in the University council, as this is, according to the PvdUS, an essential right of the 'active' student.

However, the question now is: who should associate themselves with this so-called group of 'active' students? We define the active student as a student who finds it important to develop themselves outside of the University on both an academic and social level. This entails students who participate in activities such as:

- Being active in study-, student-, or sport associations
- Internships or taking subjects abroad
- Working or having a part-time job
- Actively practices a hobby
- Extra projects/honoursprogram
- Boardmember of a club or association
- Charity work
- Committees



The PvdUS is aware that these extracurricular activities are eventually crucial for future employees. Therefore the PvdUS wants to support these activities, eventually setting you apart from other students. The PvdUS wants to eliminate any barriers for these students and provide them with opportunities and the freedom to continue to develop other skills apart from skills learned during their study. The PvdUS enriches student council through this vision, which will lead to a better and more accurate representation of the active student in Utrecht.

The PvdUS is a growing party with a clear vision of representing the active student in the University council. A vision that continues to speak to more people. For instance, last year we managed to secure 5 seats in the council. The amount of active students is constantly growing, meaning that the PvdUS also proceeds to gain support. Considering the current developments and the visible potential for further growth, we expect to win 6 seats this year. A realistic goal for a party with a clear vision.

In this election-program we present our candidates for the University council of '17-'18, who will, besides our collective vision also touch upon a couple of our campaign's focal points. The acquisition of 6 seats in the University council in this election is our goal.

List PvdUS 2017-2018

Left to right:

Front row: Juliette Smits
 Anna-Colette Sol
 Franka Baardman

Back row: Derek de Jonge
 Guus van Marwijk
 Nicky Cornelissen



Focus points



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Development of the student **outside** of the University of Utrecht

1. Internships within the curriculum
2. Recording lectures
3. Supporting student sport
4. Tuition-fee free council year

Development of the student **outside** of the University of Utrecht

5. Personal guidance from within the University
6. Accessibility library
7. Improvement of the timetable publication
8. Improvement of UU-app & -website
9. Transparent study environment: rights and obligations
10. General exam procedures
11. Master selection
12. 'Flexstudereren'

University of Utrecht as a social institution

13. Sustainability
14. Globalizing
15. Inclusion; Diversity

Our candidates



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Name: Nicky Cornelissen

Age: 23 years old

Study: Pharmacy

Associations: U.V.S.V/N.V.V.S.U.

Motto: *An open and diverse university is what we strive for.*

I identify myself as an *active* student because for me solely studying is not the 'student life'. For me it is crucial to develop myself and to especially expand my horizons outside of my study. For this reason, I make sure that the University of Utrecht makes more space for students which want to expand their horizon outside of their study. Moreover, a transparent study environment is crucial for spreading of awareness of the rights and obligations of the UU students. The clarification of exam-criteria and guidelines are concrete components in attaining this goal. Besides that, we need to make sure that more attention is given to intercultural skills. Lastly, I would further stimulate diversity within the University of Utrecht.



Name: Guus van Marwijk

Age: 19 years old

Study: Economics and Business Economics, Rechtsgeleerdheid: Utrecht Law College

Associations: USC

Motto: *Every student should be able to follow interdisciplinary subjects*

Next year I want to create opportunities for development, both inside and outside the University along with more facilitations for career orientation. It is very important that students have the opportunity to develop themselves with minors and second majors. The UU needs to facilitate to interdisciplinary education. In addition, I would like to get involved in creating better and flexible timetables creating more possibilities to make an active student life possible. My final statement is that the university must respond to needs of the students and not vice versa.





Name: Juliette Smits

Age: 20 years old

Study: Communication- & Information sciences

Associations: C.S. Veritas

Motto: *A modern university allows access to online lectures and strives towards the development of digital platforms for the students.*

I am an active student because I am more concerned with other activities besides only studying. In that premise I am not alone and exactly for that reason it is important to represent the active student in the University council. Besides excelling in a study, it is also important to develop yourself personally. The UU must provide a range of possibilities for student development. Also, the student must have sufficient flexibility to manage his/her life outside of the study. Improving and clarifying the current website and creating an application in which students' grades, schedules and opportunities of the student are clearly lined up next to each other is a goal. In addition, I will get student associations more involved with the University.



Name: Franka Baardman

Age: 21 years old

Study: Jurisprudence, Utrecht Law College

Associations: U.S.R. Triton

Motto: *Students must literally and figuratively have enough room to study and sport*

As an active student, I gladly represent *the* 'active student', with a shared vision. As a student-representative supporting this vision, I will act as an approachable contact point. I want to improve and continuing successful points. With that being said, I will be striving for a climate within the UU that provides room for student-participation and extra-curricular activities for students that want to get involved. These experiences form you to become an outstanding person and to guide you to success. To be more concrete, I would like to get particularly involved with student sport, as well as student participation and transparency around exam facilities. Besides that, the UU needs to facilitate more study areas in exam periods. Lastly, 'flexstudereren' is one of the projects that I want to get involved



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with. The freedom for self-discovery and gaining useful experiences will be a focal point for the coming year in which I will stand for heavily.



Name: Derek de Jonge

Age: 22 years old

Study: Economics and Business Economics en Informatica

Associations: USC

Motto: *As an International student I believe that students should look further than our boarder more often.*

Due to the combination of two interesting studies and my membership of a student association, I identify myself as an active student. With that being said, it also allows me to accurately represent the voice of students in Utrecht who also want to achieve their maximum potential during their time at University. My focus during my year in the University Council will predominantly be aimed at the expansion of the exchange program. I will make sure that the university not only provides opportunities for exchanges abroad but also provides more information of such exchanges. Besides this, it is of importance that communication is improved and becomes a priority regarding tutor guidance. Especially in the first study year, but also after, there are many uncertainties concerning important issues such as timely registration for subjects, ordering books and international internships. A missed opportunity can have a negative impact on a student's academic career. I want to ensure that information is clear and deadlines are stressed.



Name: Anna-Colette Sol

Age: 19 years old

Study: Natural Sciences and Innovation Management

Associations: U.V.S.V. / N.V.V.S.U.

Motto: Sustainability, a CO2 neutral university is what I strive for.



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It shouldn't matter in which you want to spend your time at university, but that for each student there should be possibilities to challenge yourself. The space needed to develop yourself is of great importance. The profile part of the programme can create opportunities for yourself to discover yourself and I am committed in providing sufficient information about the possibilities of this part of the programme.. Besides this, upcoming year I will improve awareness concerning bachelors and masters. The students must receive enough insight in why they choose Utrecht and what is expected of them during their masters. Information concerning master programs should be clear and easy to find. This will create a more targeted stream of new master students. Further, due to my study, I want to address the importance of the theme of sustainability and innovation. In my opinion, the university should continue their involvement in sustainability and I will be an advocate of this cause.



Working-out our focus points

Development of the students outside of University of Utrecht

Internships within the curriculum:

The PvdUS argues that there should be more space within a bachelor to do an internship along with the compulsory subjects. An internship provides valuable information of the field of work in which the student will likely move towards. It provides an experience that will help the student to better understand which field of study actually suits him/her. An internship is very useful for personal development, gaining work experience and allowing the student to discover a suitable master program and eventual specializations.

Recording lectures

The recording of the lectures is becoming increasingly more common at the UU and the PvdUS is very satisfied with this notion. Despite this, there are still many courses that barely make use of these facilities. This year, the PvdUS wants to make sure that almost every lecture is going to be recorded next year. By recording the lectures, students who have been hindered from attending the lecture could still gain access to the study material through the online lecture. The release of these online lectures will make sure that the students can be more flexible in planning and re-watch of lectures. Besides that, the online lecture can help students who did attend the lecture. By repeating the material multiple times, it can help students to absorb the material. We think it is essential that lectures are recorded for as many subjects and courses as possible.

Supporting Student-sport

In Utrecht there are countless possibilities for students to sport. The university must support this as much as possible. Every year student sport associations get more applications than the amount of spots they have available. This clearly indicates the enthusiasm of the students in Utrecht to participate in sport. We want to get involved in improving the facilities and financing, by mediating between the university, sports council and student sport associations. We strive to make sure that money comes



from the university to sport associations according to the amount of members and needs of each student association. Also, the building of new sports fields at sport associations is a part of our goal.

Tuition-fee board-member year

A tuition-free year for board-members is meant for students that want to fill their year with a full-time year as a board-member of a student-association without participating following any bachelor related courses (without fully stopping their bachelors). At the moment, this is only possible if the student stops his bachelors, so that they do not have to continue paying tuition fees. This way the student cannot borrow money from ‘Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs’ and also does not have the right to obtain a student-ov (public transport pass). The board grant does remain to exist. We think these students have the right to keep their student-ov and to keep borrowing money. This way, students can focus fulltime on their student-association without paying tuition fees yet being able to keep their student loan, a board grant and ov-rights. The current council is already in the process of making this happen and will also ensure that a tuition-fee board-member year will be possible at the UU, so that the obstacles to become a board member of a student-association will be lowered financially.

Development from the student within the University of Utrecht

Personal guidance from the University

A tutor is a person that combines personal knowledge about a student with deep specialized knowledge of the study which the student is following. A tutor can help students (especially first years) who are having problems in their. It is important for the student that there is a person that provides guidance for both study-related activities as well as extra-curricular activities. Through sufficient contact between student and tutor, an understanding exists which can make it easier to adjust to the bachelors. This tutor already gets introduced to the student in the introduction period and teaches all the specialized subjects that are provided to the student.

Accessibility UBB & UBU

The PvdUS wants to improve the amount of study areas during exam periods this coming year. Next to the two university libraries, there are more places that make space available for students



(such as: Janskerkhof 203, de medische bibliotheek en KGB). Many student are not aware of this and we want to focus on a better communication about locations and broader opening hours.

Schedule publication

The active student has a lot more on his/her mind than just the university schedule. Therefore, it is also very important that timetables are presented in a timely fashion and are very clear. In this moment, it often occurs that schedules are published only one or two weeks in advance. As consequence, the active student has a problem planning other activities (association life, part-time job, sport, internship, charity work etc.). This situation can cause the quality of their academics or extra-curricular activities to suffer unnecessarily. The university is also the number one priority of an active student. Through a timely published schedule, the student can adjust their agenda a lot better to make sure that no activities are compromised. If two appointments are still incompatible, then it is easier for the student to catch up to workgroups by publishing the schedule of the entire subject.

Improving UU-app & -website

The website of the UU has to be clear and transparent, so that students can easily be aware of their rights and obligations. Step plans and an uncluttered framework of designs will contribute to a clear study plan for the student. Also, the development of an app that links to this website is part of our policy. The idea is to create a digital environment in which grades, schedules, compulsory activities and opportunities within the study and extra-curricular activities are bundled together to create a very clear overview.

Transparency; rights and obligations

We consider it important to understand the rights and obligations of students. At the beginning of every subject, the expectations of the students must be concretely presented. What they are entitled to and the consequences to certain choices during the course of their study. More generally, we also strive for more information at the beginning of the study. This also means that



students are better prepared at the end of the bachelor, if they want to participate in a master selection.

Exam procedures

We strive towards a general exam procedure for all of the faculties. The right to access is currently varied per teacher and per study. This often does not provide enough transparency for the student. We are going to publish test criteria and guidelines on answers online, so that the students have a greater understanding of his/her examinations.

Master selection

The university must deliver good master programs to their students. A master must be of high level substance, and in addition the input of the students is of utmost importance. The master selection makes sure that excellent students, which the university strives for, could develop in their master study. However, this does not mean that the active student should get overwhelmed with work. The active student develops soft-skills next to his study, and that is also what the labor market is increasingly demanding. This is something the master selection should also have an eye for. In addition, it should be possible for each graduated bachelor-student of the UU to follow a master within their field at the UU. The master selection should not be a negative BSA after several years.

‘Flexstudereren’

Flexstudereren (translated to FlexStudying), or in other words Flexible studying, means that students can pay per study-point or subject instead of paying for an entire year of tuition. This way, the student does not pay more than what he/she ends up utilizing. When a subject is not providing any added value; the student can use that time to study. Currently, only two universities and ‘Hogescholen’ (University of Applied Sciences) are experimenting with this idea. We want to evaluate what the benefits and limitations are and if this initiative actually yields positive results for the experimenting universities. Consequently, we want to make a prediction of the achievability and desirability within the University. We think that it could be



very useful for active students and can be of high value. It is especially interesting for students that do many activities next to their study such as part-time board members. In particular, caregivers and top athletes who do not receive a scholarship from the ‘profileringsfonds’, but often do not study full-time.

UU as a social institute

Sustainability

The development towards a sustainable society is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. The University of Utrecht takes its societal responsibilities seriously when actively contributing to the society with FossilFree. The University of Utrecht does this by organizing days where a sustainable environment is brought to attention and awareness is created. ‘The University of Utrecht prioritizes sustainability in the implementation of its core tasks and in its business operations (Strategic Plan 2016-2020, p 14 – Translation). On the one hand, the University does this through the sharing of scientific knowledge, but on the other hand it does this by being an inspiring role model. The PvdUS believes that new partners of the UU must have an identical sustainable vision: a CO2 neutral business management in 2030. The University of Utrecht is transparent in the way in which it measures the CO2 emissions and what the results are. The PvdUS wants to stimulate this. Further, the PvdUS will provide sustainable catering, with a variety of local products.

Internationalization

Another important policy is the internationalization of our institution. In an ever-globalizing society, people get more in touch with diversity. Also in this case, an opportunity presents itself for students to develop on a social level. To achieve this diversity we will make sure to pay extra attention to education for refugees (inclUUsion), the stimulation of internships abroad and other exchange programs including a buddy-system, so that students can develop their abilities. The University of Utrecht is also appealing to foreign students. The integration of the foreign students in the city and the University of Utrecht is not always evident. Students- and sports



associations can play an important role in achieving this by opening their doors to foreign students.

Inclusion; Diversity

Students in Utrecht are known for their social involvement. A great deal of these students eventually goes abroad during their study. Students with a foreign experience have the necessary international and intercultural skills to be successful in a strong globalizing labor market. In the internationalization program, the UU has set up a course to teach intercultural skills for students who are going abroad. A very nice initiative, that the PvdUS supports and wishes to expand. The PvdUS believes that intercultural skills are highly valued qualities that every UU student should possess after graduating. The university wants to achieve this through providing courses for all the UU students in which intercultural qualities are focused on. A second option is to install a new course, aimed towards learning intercultural skills, open to all students from each faculty. The PvdUS is talking with the diversity taskforce, the professors, teachers and Studium Generale to set up a new course.

