



Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

Focus Points

The University Student Council 2022-2023



Hugo van Bree, Mark Bunschoten, Bart van der Heijden, Mark de Jong, Giovanni Meijer,
Anne van Poppel, Pheadra Regales, Julius Tilmans, Ishani Mohit Udas, Nienke Verver,
Noah Vetter, Dieke Westerink, Derk Wijkamp & Isa Witteveen

Introduction

In this document, the 26th University Student Council (USC) of Radboud University presents their focus points for the academic year of 2022/2023. These are the main points that we as USC want to work on in the coming year. It is the aim of the USC to represent the interests of students of the Radboud University. To achieve this, the USC aims to work on different topics in the fields of student, education, campus and participation. We have aimed this year to make our focus points as concrete and precise as possible. The results of these choices lay here in front of you right now in the form of a concrete list of points. If there any questions, please feel free to reach out to us via mail (usr@ru.nl), via our socials (Instagram @radboud_usc) or walk by the USC-room (Thomas van Aquinostraat 1, room 00.34)

Vision

Next to the more concrete focus points that will be listed down below, we also have a more abstract vision that we will use as a benchmark for the positions that we will take in the different discussions during the year.

At Radboud University, we as USC feel there should be a strong focus on inclusion. Our aim is to create an environment where all students feel safe and at home regardless of their background, orientation or gender. It is important for students to not only be able to express themselves, but also to be heard and respected. A key point to inclusion is to not only tackle explicit forms of discrimination, but to also pay attention to more implicit ways in which this can take place. That is why this year, we are proactively engaging with and evaluating projects that aim to diversify the campus. We also want to focus on the inclusion of international students, by ensuring that they can feel at home in their new environment. The inclusion of students with different religious identities is also an important point for us.

Inclusion is about everything that has to do with the acceptance of personal expression. Considering that this is an elementary thing, the university should be active in facilitating the means that are necessary for someone to study not only with their unfolding identities, but also in the context of their unfolding identities. This means the USC carefully tries to secure a situation in university wherein different religious, creative, philosophical etc. identities and beliefs can coexist. These things are considered necessary by the USC to form a situation in which students can further develop as an individual and study as best as they can.

Summarizing, the USC finds it very important that every student feels at home at university. Every student should feel that they study in a safe environment where they can be themselves and study at their own discretion. This is the value that we keep in the back of our minds in every discussion that we have. We are here to serve the interests of the students of Radboud University and to do everything we can to make the university facilitate the means for a happy life as a student.

Student

Mental wellbeing

We want the university to increase the visibility of the existing support structures and have one clear entry point for students before the start of the next academic year, to facilitate support for study and student life-related issues. We want to increase the quality of student psychologists, by making sure the right training is offered.

Social safety

In the following years we want the university to emphasize the importance of social safety in creating a safe space on campus. With the implementation of a road map, awareness campaigns, code of conduct and continuous evaluations, we aim to consciously look into maintenance and improvements to make the campus a secure environment for all.

Inclusion

At the end of the academic year, we want more students from Radboud university to feel included, through the implementation of a inclusive language policy, the discouragement of discrimination, a focus on international students and prayer- or silent rooms for students.

Active students

Giving adequate support and acknowledgement to student boards is necessary for these organizations to keep functioning well. We want to achieve this in the upcoming year by raising the financial compensation by at least 36%, making sure the university commits itself to let the compensation grow with inflation and student numbers and making sure the active students are heard by the university.

Capacity

This year, we want to look at the growth in student numbers at Radboud University, student housing in Nijmegen and the feasibility of being physically present at lectures. In this way, we hope to map out whether further growth (in student numbers) is possible with the supply of housing in Nijmegen and/or the travel distance students living at home have to travel when education is only offered physically.

Education

Professional academic skills

We want that before the end of the academic year, the university commits itself to implementing 21st-century professional academic skills in all studies in the near future such as privacy and technological skills. In a way that they are relevant to the study at hand.

Interdisciplinary studying

We want that before the end of this academic year, the university will provide an overview for all students that allows better access to interdisciplinary studying across all faculties.

Radboudumc

We want that in the upcoming months a document/communication will be offered to all students and co-determination bodies at the medical faculty and the USC, about the responsibility of education and the students at the medical faculty and where what responsibility lies, at the Radboudumc or the Radboud University.

Campus

Sustainability

We want that before the end of the academic year, the university commits itself to create a more sustainable campus by implementing measures that reduce food waste and packaging.

Green Campus

We want that before the end of the academic year, the university commits itself to make the campus greener than it already is by expanding vegetation inside and outside campus buildings and looking for more working and relaxing spots in the open air.

Campus facilities

At the beginning of the next academic year, we want study workplaces to be offered to students via a working app or webpage, using existing space and thus avoiding vacancy of certain spaces, giving all the students a place to study on campus.

Sports and Culture

We want that before the end of the academic year, the university commits itself to facilitate an increase of cultural and sports facilities on the campus of at least 20% to ensure that more students can practise their cultural expression or their sport in the upcoming two years.

Participation

Strong student participation

During this academic year we want more training to be provided for co-determination bodies. Next to the existing introduction at the beginning of the academic year, we want training possibilities for all participating students in the co-determination of the Radboud, to help them and provide them with the right tools, and knowledge so they can develop themselves, know their rights and have an even stronger student representation.

Impact and influence of co-determination

We want the students at the university to be aware of the necessity of student participation in co-determination. We aim to increase our visibility in the coming year such that the student population is more aware of the tasks of participational bodies in the loop of projects by the USC and the threshold for approaching the USC and to give input is lowered.

Visibility of the USC

Next year we aim to increase the visibility and reach of the USC, by increasing the number of followers on Instagram by 200% through weekly stories or posts, having monthly updates (in the student newsletter) and having a 6 weekly (once per cycle) coffee and tea with the USC at different faculties. In this way, we hope to reach more students, engage with them, include them in policies and thus represent them better.