



To Dah Loo

PUBLISHED BY THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Especially made for
UvA science students

November 2017

 **Facultaire
Studentenraad**

Dear students,

Two months into the study year, most of you will probably have finished your first courses. We hope you can be proud of your results so far! This month, the To Dah Loo will be all about internationalisation and, in particular, about the possible shift to English as main language for some programmes.

The UvA has recently expressed its desire to become a bilingual university, meaning that courses and programmes will be taught in either Dutch, English or both according to a certain language policy. This policy is already being implemented, even though a proper language policy has not yet been proposed. Meanwhile, we have received input from students whom are experiencing difficulties in their programme. Inconsistencies between lectures and assignments and concerns regarding teachers' levels of language proficiency have been indicated in particular.

Do you experience annoying language inconsistencies in your education? Are you of the opinion that your programme would be better off in either Dutch or English? Do you have ideas regarding internationalisation or language policy that you would like to share, or do you have any other suggestions for our Faculty in general? Please don't hesitate to stop by our office next to the large stairs in the central hall, or find us in the central hall on Tuesdays and Fridays between 12:00-13:00. Last, don't forget to like Studentenraad FNWI-UvA on Facebook to stay up to date about current affairs at the Faculty of Science!

Yours truly,

The Faculty Student Council

More information? Please visit room B0.112, send an email to fnwi@studentenraad.nl or go to studentenraad.nl/fnwi

'To Dah Loo' to Dutch?

Lately there has been a lot to do about English as primary language of instruction in academic education. To Dah Loo asked two Faculty of Science lecturers for their opinion.

Leen Torenvliet, lecturer in Mathematics and Informatics: 'The best way to explain complicated concepts is in a language that student and lecturer both have full command over. If everybody is a native Dutch speaker, there is no reason whatsoever

to teach in English. If not, we need to find an alternative. Though I don't see why this couldn't be German, French, Spanish or Mandarin.' Marcel Vreeswijk, lecturer and programme director BSc Physics and Astronomy (bilingual): 'An English-taught programme would best prepare students for the international environment we educate them for. Being fully accessible for international students also elevates the status of the programme and the degree. Note that there



are also serious disadvantages and many concerns as well. We need to ask ourselves if we are ready and willing to invest in resolving those issues. If we carefully do so, I do believe we will ultimately reap the benefits.'

UvA Career Day



Thursday 9 November 2017, 12:00-17:00, Roeterseiland

Major IT Maintenance

On Saturday 25 November major IT maintenance works will be conducted.



What's your next destination?

Are you considering to do an exchange semester or internship abroad? Or perhaps a research project or summer programme? On the website studyabroad.uva.nl you'll find all the information you need about conducting part of your study programme elsewhere.

Not sure where to go yet? Get inspired by all our exchange destinations on the Digital World Map. You will also find information on our website about financing your stint abroad and other practical matters such as visa, accommodation and insurance. Did you know the Faculty of Science also has its very own student exchange officer? If you have any additional questions about studying abroad, you can come by during open office hours on Thursdays between 10:00-12:00 and 13:00-15:00. Ask for the student exchange officer at the student desk of the Education Service Centre.

- E S** Thursday 9 November, 18:00-21:00, **Science Master's event**, Central hall SP904
- V T** Monday 27 November, 17:00, **Drinks with the Council (Praat-met-de-raadbordel)**, B0.112
- E N** Tuesday 28 November, 12:00-13:00, **BetaBreak: Robbert Dijkgraaf on string theory**, Central hall SP904
- For all events, check student.uva.nl

 UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Do you have ideas for improving the quality of your programme?

'I joined the programme committee because I enjoy being in a position where I can critically review the programme in order to make it even better'

Mark Snelders, student member Physics and Astronomy (BSc) programme committee

Share them with your programme committee!

Check student.uva.nl (your programme>A-Z>Programme committee)