Welcome (back)!

Dear students,

Whether you are a senior student returning to campus after several months of online-only education, or a first-year student starting walking our halls for the first time, we are very excited to be able to welcome you all (back) to Science Park 904. Over the summer, our lecturers and education support staff have worked hard to put together a schedule for Block 1 where students in every year of every programme at the Faculty of Science are offered at least one on-campus teaching activity. This was by no means an easy task, as we of course must adhere to strict rules and regulations in order limit the risk of spreading COVID-19. But we felt it was important to offer our students the opportunity to meet with each other and their lecturers, as personal connection is at the heart of a meaningful education experience.

We are very keen to keep the doors of our faculty buildings open for you and your fellow students, as well as our staff who need to be here for teaching or research. In order to do so, we also require your cooperation. This means:

• Only come to Science Park if you have a lecture. After your last lecture, please leave the building and don’t hang around. This allows other teaching activities to continue;
• Book your study place in advance on the University Library website (uba.uva.nl);
• Follow directions and walking routes, and take the stairs if you are physically able to;
• Help keep the buildings clean. Leave your workplace and classroom clean after use. Cleaning supplies are available.

And of course, the general RIVM guidelines apply:

• Stay at home if you (or one of your housemates) have a cold or a fever;
• Maintain a 1.5-meter distance from others;
• Wash your hands regularly;
• Sneeze or cough in your elbow.

Together, I am confident we can make 2020-2021 a gainful academic year, and I wish you much joy and wisdom in your studies at the Faculty of Science.

Kind regards,
Peter van Tienderen
Dean of the Faculty of Science

UvAcare: A mental health check

In addition to existing care, the UvA wants to provide more mental health support for her students. On 24 September, every student of the Faculty of Science will receive a personal e-mail invitation for the UvAcare health check. The health check consists of a series of questions about your (mental) health (such as anxiety, sleep, mood, stress and the current Corona crisis). The check takes about 20 minutes and is on voluntary basis. What’s in it for you? After completing the UvAcare health check you will gain more insight into your (mental) health situation and you will receive advice about existing care within and outside the UvA. If you experience health problems related to anxiety/depression, you will be invited for the second phase of UvAcare.

If you haven’t received an email on 24 September but do want to participate, then send an email to uvacare@uva.nl or contact study advisor Iris Hettelingh, UvAcare ambassador at the Faculty of Science.

Waste it right!

The UvA strives to be a pioneer in sustainability. This means we must, among other things, be more aware of our waste. Therefore, starting this September, there will be a pilot in which a different way of waste separation will be tested. The pilot will take place in building A, B, C, D of Science Park. Will you contribute to a more sustainable UvA? Look at the icons on the bins before you throw away your waste!

What’s that in front of the Faculty building?

On 17 August the realisation of the newly to be built LAB42 started. The new building will accommodate the growing number of employees and students. LAB42 will have teaching rooms, study places, research rooms and workplaces in the field of Artificial Intelligence and information sciences. Commissioning is scheduled for August 2022.