



To Dah Loo

About the UvA-VU collaboration and other scientific stuff

Especially made for
UvA Science Students

Published by
the Faculty of Science
in cooperation with
the Student Council

April 2015

 **Facultaire
Studentenraad**

Dear students,

Last month you had the opportunity to read about the new joint degrees the Faculty will be offering next year. We would now like to talk about joint programmes.

Let me first explain the difference: an application for a joint degree must be submitted to the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO), a national agency. If approved, the degree programmes offered by the two collaborating universities are merged into a single programme. From that moment onward, both universities will offer the joint degree programme as part of their curricula and will work together to teach it. Joint programmes, on the other hand, are collaborative efforts between two universities where the collaborating universities both retain their own independent programmes. However, the universities must ensure that the programme curricula are similar enough to allow collaboration on the programme content.

The Student Council (representing the students) and the Works Council (representing the lecturers) are both required to agree with the dean's proposal to create a joint degree. This is a legal requirement. However, this did not apply to joint programmes prior to our new agreement. According to the Student Council, this requirement was ironic, as it meant that programmes could be created into joint programmes without students having any say. The term 'joint programme' is clearly defined in the agreements made with the dean. The Student Council must grant approval for every programme that intensifies collaboration with another university and where overlap counts for more than a third of the programme.

We are pleased with this result and hope that the Student Council and dean will continue to make agreements on such matters in the future.

More information? Please visit room A1.26, send an email to fnwi@studentenraad.nl or go to studentenraad.nl/fnwi

Promising synergy

Collaboration between biologists and chemists at the UvA and VU could unlock some promising synergies. This is one of the conclusions drafted during the meeting held by the virtual department Chemistry and Molecular Life Science for Sustainability.

Students present

On 20 March, staff members from the UvA HIMS and SILS institutes and VU's Theoretical Chemistry department were joined by biology and chemistry students to discuss a possible joint future in a - virtual - Chemistry and Mo-

lecular Life Science for Sustainability department.

Promising synergistic effects

'The core team conducted a SWOT analysis for the collaboration,' says Marcel Bartels, HIMS institute manager. 'That was the point of departure for the discussion. A joint conclusion was that, even though the chemists and biologists may not be fully familiar with each other's disciplines, collaboration is expected to result in promising synergistic effects. This applies particularly to research and teaching in the field of biochemistry.'

Lunch meetings

The institutes have begun a series of lunch meetings featuring scientific lectures. Bartels: 'A joint research day will be organised before the summer to explore common research interests.'



You can find all the information on the core teams and the exploratory committees at student.uva.nl in the A-Z list under 'Samenwerking bètafaculteiten VU en UvA' or 'Collaboration UvA and VU science faculties'.

Amsterdam Science magazine launched



The Amsterdam science research community has a new platform: Amsterdam Science. In this magazine, which has been published for the first time on 26 March 2015, students and researchers present their research results.

'The idea behind the magazine is to inform a wider audience about the interesting research conducted at both the UvA and VU science faculties and medical centers and ten other science institutes in Amster-

dam,' says Sarah Brands, one of the editors of the magazine and a Master's student of Astronomy & Astrophysics. 'Amsterdam Science's primary target audience are young researchers, such as Master's and PhD students.'

The editorial board approaches individuals to write articles, but also invites everyone to submit contributions for the magazine. Brands: 'We want the reader to learn something from the articles, but they must be comprehensible. Biologists must be able to un-



derstand the articles on mathematics and vice versa.'

Amsterdam Science will be published several times a year and is available free of charge at Science Park.

For more information, visit www.amsterdamscience.org

Register for the National Think Tank 2015



Register before 28 April 2015, for the National Think Tank (DenkTank) 2015 on the theme 'Learning of the future'.

The National Think Tank is an initiative for Dutch-speaking students of all disciplines who would like to be involved in social is-

ssues. During a four-month programme (17 August - 11 December 2015), you will have an opportunity to develop yourself in a number of areas.

More information: www.nationale-denktank.nl

EVENTS

Tuesday 14 April, 17:00-17:45
Brainwave, Student Colloquium

Wednesday 15 April, 12:00-13:00
Central hall Science Park 904,
BetaBreak

Tuesday 26 May, 17:00-17:45
Brainwave, Student Colloquium

A list of all workshops, conferences and events can be found in the Events list on student.uva.nl.