

SEPTEMBER 2019

ISSUE 0.5



THE FRESHER'S ISSUE

FOR THE INTRODUCTION DAYS BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

# word of the board



camp with strangers, finding out the Hogwarts houses of said strangers, singing karaoke with my newfound acquaintances and deciding to go to that party after all because my friends are also going. The best part is that the fun opportunities never stop, with enough variation for everyone to find something they like.

So, I look forward to sharing these opportunities with you in the oncoming year and hope to see you during activities or in the Shack, where I'll make sure to stack up on enough cookies.

Love, on behalf of the 29th Albion board,

Imke van Dam

Dear firsties,

I welcome you all to English Language and Culture! I also welcome you to wonderful teachers, interesting courses, meeting new people, taking chances and finding your way, which are all part of the package that you signed up for. This may sound daunting, or completely up your alley, but I hope (and am sure) that you will find your place in this amazing program and among your peers.

"Who are all these new people?" you might ask. I'd have to tell you that you'd have to find out for yourself. Luckily, a great place to start is Albion, as it is not merely some faceless entity that grants you discounts on your books. No, it also gives opportunities where you can try new things and have loads of fun, which is how I (as a scared firstie, new to student life) got to know many people. Playing games during introduction



## PHOENIX (Fresher's Issue)

Magazine for students of English Language and Culture at Utrecht University.

Issue 27.5 - September 2019

Cover Image

**Nina van der Linden**

 [vdlindenphotography](#)

Logo

**Cecilie Balemans-Højberg**

 [artsy\\_cici](#)

This special edition of Phoenix Magazine was assembled and revised for publication by two members of the 2019/2020 editorial board: editor-in-chief **Patrick van Oosterom** and creative director **Tessa Karsten**.

All illustrations are made by **Tessa Karsten**.

## Previous Board

### Editorial Board

Indie Reijnierse **Editor-in-chief**

Laurel Sanders **Editorial Director**

Nurai Mertens **Content Editor**

Tanisha Wetsteen **Content Editor**

Fleur Pieren **Content Editor**

### Staff Writers

Tess Masselink, Robert Ziolkowski, Patrick van Oosterom, Percy Lessoff

### Creative Team

Roos Speelman, Celonie Rozema, Cecilie Balemans-Højberg, Angela Kroes, Tessa Karsten

### Thank You

Cathelein Aaftink, Skyler Venema, Zoë op ten Berg, Imke van Dam, Leanne van Kampen, Effie Ophelders, Eduard Faessen, Hester de Jong, Lotte Inkenhaag, Isolde van Gog, Anna de Roest, Cecilie Balemans-Højberg

### Special Thanks

DaFont, Canva, VSCO, FlatIcon

### Subscriptions

Every issue will be published online at [www.albionutrecht.nl](http://www.albionutrecht.nl) and hard copies are available for purchase independently.

Contact Albion Utrecht

Trans 10  
3512 JK Utrecht  
030 - 253 66 69

The Shack  
Drift 21, 2.08

Phoenix is published independently every academic quarter. All rights reserved.

## t h e p e r k s o f b e i n g a n a l b i o n m e m b e r

### *Eazie*

If you feel like having a fresh wakame salad, or crave some Bombay curry, Eazie is where you should go. The store opens at noon, so you can satisfy your hunger all day long. The fresh ingredients and fair prices guarantee to satisfy just about any student in search for a meal. Show your Albion membership card at checkout and receive a 10% discount.

### *De Stadsgenoot*

This cozy place, located just a few steps away from Neude, is where our monthly drinks take place. It's the best place in town to have some (or many) beers with your fellow Albioneers after a day of studying. Don't forget to show your membership when you order at the bar, it'll give you a 10% discount on your order.

### *Cecil City Bike*

As a student in Utrecht, you'll most likely travel through the city by bike, so we've arranged a nice discount at one of the friendliest bike shops near Drift. Celil City Bike is located at the Voorstraat and will give you a 10% discount on all bikes, and 15% off on all repairs.

### *DressMe*

Specialised in promotion, the people at DressMe (located at the Singeldwarsstraat) will print your shirts, sweaters and much more. Whether you want to get matching shirts for your pub quiz team, or you've just always wanted a 50% polyester heavymill poloshirt with your name on it, your time is now! Show your Albion membership card for a 10% discount.

### *Pampalini*

Founded in 2014, this lovely lunchroom offers fresh paninis and sandwiches, delicious Lavazza coffee and Persian cuisine. It is located at Wittevrouwenstraat 14, and as an Albioneer you can get every hot drink (except Persian tea) for only €2,50!

### *Poolcafé Hart van Utrecht*

While this English bachelor doesn't have the reputation of being extremely sporty, there is one sport which unites and brings together all the Albioneers: pooling! This charming poolcafe is located right in the city centre, and Albion members (with minimum group size being 6 people) are able to pool for 2 hours for only €13,50 or 3 hours for €18,50 with unlimited beer, wine (!) and soft drinks!



# mentor parade

During the first block, you will be assigned a tutor and various mentors to guide you through the English programme. Here's a handy who's-who to help you out.

photo disclaimer: pictures are taken from public social media accounts



tessa  
van  
westerop



daniel  
van  
der  
veen



myrthe  
neijns



lianne  
van  
doorn



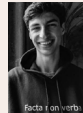
nikki  
groenenboom



loes  
boers



rodney  
van  
lienden



pieter  
storm



tessa  
van  
der  
heide



saskia  
van  
kamp



emma  
buijl



mijntje  
de  
pont

buddy

academic

## what we're reading

Dear firsties,

A very warm welcome to the fresher's edition of Phoenix, Albion's magazine for everyone who is enrolled in the English Language and Culture bachelor here in Utrecht! This edition was especially made for you. It contains all the necessary information regarding the introduction days, e.g. the schedule, a brief meet-and-greet with the committees and a custom-made map of the city centre tailored just for your needs! It also provides you with a glimpse of the magazine that will be published at the end of every block.

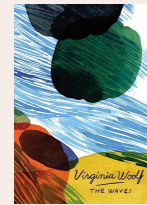
I would furthermore like to give you two pieces of advice which I found to be very useful when I was a firstie, the first one being: go join a committee!

We have a plethora of different committees, and they are all loads of fun and unique. Whether you want to organise pub lectures in a cosy Irish pub in Utrecht, play a part in student-written one-acts, plan itineraries for our upcoming trip to Scotland or help in preparing the Night of the Professors (where teachers of the English department will DJ for us Albioneers), there is something for everyone! It is a great way to develop your own skills and get to know your fellow Albioneers, which brings me to my second piece of advice: say "yes" to as many things as possible this year! The opportunities you receive here in Utrecht are one-of-a-kind. Try to participate in as many things as possible! Trust me, you will treasure the memories you make during your student life forever.

I hope you are as excited for the coming academic year as I am, and I'm sure you'll have a blast of an introduction time! See you soon!

Love,

PATRICK VAN OOSTEROM  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



patrick  
the waves  
by  
virginia woolf



tessa  
vox  
by  
christina dalcher

## footnotes on the phoenix board

patrick  
van  
oosterom



editor-in-chief  
bookhugger, cinephile, practicing  
daydrinker, existentialist

tessa  
karsten



creative director  
Lady Bird aficionado, Take  
On Me by a-ha enthusiast,  
professional John Mulaney fan



imke  
van dam

chair



effie  
ophelders

secretary



eduard  
faessen

treasurer



zoë  
op ten berg

commissioner of education



leanne  
van kampen

commissioner of internal affairs

photos by NINA VAN DER LINDEN

the XXIXth board of albion

# MEET THE BOARD

**imke van dam**  
**Nicknames:** Im From: Nieuwerbrug (Don't worry, nobody knows that place) **Born on:** May 1st **Favourite book:** I don't really know, but *Lord of the Flies* was the first literary work I really enjoyed, so that counts for something! **Favourite season:** Spring! (apart from the rain) **Guilty pleasure:** Home renovation TV shows (don't ask me why) **Can't live without:** Air No one knows that: I pretended to be a mermaid when I was eight years old **Hogwarts house:** Hufflepuff all the way! (Never got a different result on Pottermore) **The UK/Ireland/USA/Canada:** UK **Literature or linguistics:** Literature (sorry Koen)



from left to right: eduard faessen, imke van dam, effie ophelders, leanne van kampen, not pictured: zoë op ten berg

**eduard faessen**

**Nicknames:** Ward, Eddie, EduWard, Eduardo, Bart **From:** Geleen **Born on:** April 4th **Favourite book:** *Written in Bone* by Simon Beckett **Favourite season:** Summer, because then I get to go on trips to my favourite places, like Portugal and California **Guilty pleasure:** Very cheesy music and films and series like Demi Lovato and *Titanic* and *Shadowhunters* **Can't live without:** Music, cats, and food **No one knows that:** I'm asexual **Hogwarts House:** Ravenclaw, but I used to be a Slytherin so I usually call myself a Slytherclaw **The UK/Ireland/USA/Canada:** I like them all but I have more of a connection with the US (California) and Ireland **Literature or Linguistics:** Linguistics! Reading historical literary works that you don't get and having to form an opinion on it is not really for me. No, linguistics fits me better: how we speak and why we do it the way we do it

**zoë op ten berg**

**Nicknames:** Zo, Zoo, Tsunami, Salami (it escalated) **From:** Almere (just like Ali-B and Famke Louise, so yeah) **Born on:** May 25th **Favourite book:** *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson **Favourite season:** Spring! **Guilty pleasure:** Any boyband, but I don't feel guilty at all. **Can't live without:** Coffee and Profanities **No one knows that:** Red/purple is not my natural hair color **Hogwarts house:** Due to my disinterest in Harry Potter (you can hate me later), I choose Haus of Gaga **The UK/Ireland/USA/Canada:** Canada! (I'm actually Canadian eh) **Literature or Linguistics:** Linguistics! Literature should be avoided at all costs, because it hurts my brain. Also, I'm an English teacher, so understanding how language works is key

**leanne van kampen**

**Nicknames:** Lee **From:** Leusden **Born on:** May 7th **Favourite book:** At the moment it is *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller **Favourite season:** Spring! Give me that nice temperature, but with a breeze **Guilty pleasure:** Milka Peanut Caramel, I don't feel guilty about the tv shows I watch **Can't live without:** Podcasts **No one knows that:** I like to pretend I'm emotionless but I have at least 200 moodswings a day **Hogwarts house:** Slytherclaw (a Slytherin/Ravenclaw hybrid, because I Am Like That) **The UK/Ireland/USA/Canada:** The UK but I want to run off to Ireland **Literature or Linguistics:** Linguistics, especially language history and the way in which language changes over time (etymology is my bitch)

**effie ophelders**

**Nicknames:** Ef, Inefficent, Euphemia, Eff Off **From:** Rotterdam, ken je da nie hore dan **Born on:** July 31st **Favourite book:** *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons **Favourite season:** Spring is when my winter depression pisses off again so... **Guilty pleasure:** Pokémon Go **Can't live without:** The Snyder Cut of Justice League **No one knows that:** I was polymorous for a while **Hogwarts house:** I used to think I was a Gryffindor, what with the glasses and forehead scar, but I'm actually a Hufflepuff **The UK/Ireland/USA/Canada:** The US, but like, the okay-ish parts **Literature or linguistics:** Literature, clearly, I'm not insane



# A u e t GUIDE r to



## utrecht essentials

1. Station Utrecht Centraal
2. De Dom
3. Neude
4. Centraal Museum
5. Griftpark

## uni locations

1. Janskerkhof
2. Drift
3. Trans
4. Kromme Nieuwegracht
5. University College Utrecht

## phoenix' favourites

1. Park Lepelenburg
2. Louis Hartloopercomplex
3. De Stadsgenoot
4. Eazie
5. Pampalini

On a cold November afternoon, the delightful Cathelein Aaftink picked us up at the train station in Deventer. On the way to her home, she gave us a tour of her neighbourhood: the Havenkwartier. We began the trek up the stairs in her gorgeous four-story house, stopping along the way to make some tea in her kitchen. When it was ready, we climbed the final set of stairs to her study on the fourth floor, bringing with us her dog, Gijs. Surrounded by bookshelves and a view of the city through the windows, we began the interview.

*What did you study?*

"I studied Literary Studies, at Utrecht University, but I started out studying Liberal Arts and Sciences. One of the first courses I took was 'An Introduction to Literary Studies.' The ways of thinking and the topics touched upon in that course: that's where I wanted to be. So, I switched to Literary Studies in my second year."

"Before I went to university, I studied Modern Dance in Rotterdam. I wanted to become a dancer ever since I was five or six years old. I studied at the Conservatory while going to secondary school, and I was accepted into the Modern Dance Academy in Rotterdam, a rather prestigious school. But it turned out I didn't like it. The combination of going to school and using my brain, and then taking dance classes from three to six every day - even on Saturdays - that worked for me. Only dancing all day just wasn't my cup of tea. It took a few months to come to terms with what I already knew in the second week or so. Then I decided it was time to give university a go. It was only during my traineeship at the Istituto Olandese in Rome, that I became really serious about pursuing a career in academia. I then applied to the Ph.D. program of the University of Alberta in Canada, because I was interested in joining the Reader Response research group, and I got in."

*Where in Canada was this?*

"In Edmonton, way up north, with winter temperatures of minus 30. I was thrown in the deep end in my first week at the University of Alberta. I had to teach a big course about how to write essays, about all the different requirements. This wasn't something I had thought much about. Up until that point I simply wrote essays, some of which just turned out better than others. This made it super stressful for me to teach such a course back then. A little less so today, after teaching at university for almost 15 years."

**Since Cat also studied in Utrecht, she says it has made for some odd situations sometimes:**

"Some of my colleagues today used to be my professors when I studied at the UU. For example, years ago I wrote a paper for Paul Franssen about all the different kinds of mentions of Shakespeare in Oscar Wilde's oeuvre. And now we are colleagues. So that would be like you and me teaching a course in ten or twenty years. How much fun that would be!"

*What were you like as a student?*

"What kind of student was I? Well, I was definitely hungry for knowledge. I wanted to learn, not necessarily to get good grades, but to fully live this new world that I'd now entered. At the same time, I also really enjoyed student life. I chose to live in an international student house. Three Dutch people lived there, and the other people were from all over the world, from the US, England, Ukraine, Greece, and Germany. I ended up staying there for four years or so. We threw crazy wild parties. I'm talking 200 or 300 people at the house!"

**Still talking about her student years, we moved on from wild parties to the subject of love:**

"I had my first girlfriend in high school. Then at university I got into a serious relationship with another girl. My parents had



a hard time with it, so for years there was quite a bit of tension because of it. I looked up the Phoenix magazine in preparation for this conversation, and I found the Love Issue - I think it was from last year. I was amazed about how open students were about their preferences. I'm open now, but when I first started teaching, I was a bit more hesitant to go there. There appears to be much more openness now. Love, connection, happiness; these are the things we should worry about. Most students seem to get that so profoundly. That's beautiful."

**At this point, Gijsje, the dog, was demanding our attention. Naturally, we wound up talking about him for a while.**

"He's like a people magnet! When we walk him - obviously, people here in the neighbourhood are used to him now - but when we go somewhere new, we get asked all the time: 'What kind of dog is this? Is he a puppy?' Well, yeah, he's still a puppy, but this is it! He will stay this small, as he is a Kaninchen Dachshund. My parents have a standard Dachshund with the same colours, so together they are like one and a half dogs. Oh, and by the way, with my parents, all is good. It took a while but they're fine with it now. And they adore Floor, my current partner."



*One of your areas of interest is phenomenology. Do you pay a lot of attention to experience while reading?*

"When preparing for lectures or seminars, I think about the kinds of experiences that a text appears to offer. The kind of emotional experiences or the kind of questions the text raises or what kind of phenomena this text touches on. For example, you would have an old text, 300, 400 years old, but it talks about love. So, what resonates with us today? Is this a kind of love that is familiar to me, and what are the qualities and characteristics of love that are lifted out here?"

"A thing that has been on my mind a lot lately is what is called deep reading, or also sometimes slow reading. This is a kind of focused engagement that is geared towards becoming emotionally invested, to care. You're approaching the text in order to be affected by it, to learn something, to experience the perspective of someone else. Perhaps to feel like your own sense of self is spoken to or questioned a bit, to dwell in different meaning possibilities, and to think reflectively, critically, and creatively. Deep reading is one of my current research interests, including the question to what extent and in what ways our digital culture and habits foster those kinds of affective, cognitive, contemplative and ethical processes."

*What was your dissertation about?*

"After many detours exploring various topics, my supervisor and I ended up deciding upon the phenomenon of beauty. The dissertation is titled *Kaleidoscope: A Phenomenological-Empirical Study of Beauty*. I asked almost 500 people to describe a personal moment of beauty. Beauty is considered to be the "queen bee" of philosophy, also because it's such a complex phenomenon. There are many philosophical proposals attempting to characterise the nature of beauty. This is beauty, this is how it works, these are the things to pay attention to. It's subjective, it's objective, it's a bit of both. But we experience beauty all the time. So why not also ask people what it is like to live beauty? So, that's what I have done. The data and the method I have developed allowed me to articulate 4 different experiential profiles."

**As we were in Cat's study, we were surrounded by her books, CDs, and records, so eventually they became the topic of conversation.**

*What do you like to read?*

"I love reading Etty Hillesum, James Baldwin, Virginia Woolf, Salman Rushdie, and Nabokov. I think those are my favourites. As a teenager, I really appreciated Connie Palmen's work, and I read Jeanette Winterson often."

*What kind of music do you listen to?*

"I really love Led Zeppelin, George Michael, Philip Glass and Booka Shade. And a lot of soul: Stevie Wonder, Curtis Mayfield and Prince. Various hard bop artists. And Nina Simone, of course."

**While on the subject of music, Cat thinks of an anecdote she wants to share with us:**

**"Years ago I wrote a paper for Paul Franssen about all the different kinds of mentions of Shakespeare in Oscar Wilde's oeuvre. And now we are colleagues."**



"As a student, I bartended at the Winkel van Sinkel and at Tivoli. At Tivoli, we weren't paid, we were all volunteers and we had these debit cards we could use to buy drinks, which was all good. I forget what year this was, but Prince performed at Vredenburg. Back then Tivoli and Vredenburg were still two different venues. After the performance at Vredenburg, Prince was going to give an additional concert that same evening, but it was unclear where it was going to take place; Tivoli was one of the three options. All volunteers were asked to come in. And Prince chose Tivoli! I was so excited about the whole thing. And my colleagues were like: 'Just go to the stage, alright!' So, I went to the stage, the curtains opened and there was this guy playing the drums and it was Lenny Kravitz! Insane. They jammed for two and a half hours or so, and Candy Dulfer and Hans Dulfer, and all these other artists also performed. It was absolutely mind-blowing! But then afterwards, this is what happened, almost like that one scene in Dirty Dancing. We had to bring cases with bottles of Coca-Cola to this other bar location behind Tivoli. We walked through this room, backstage, and who were playing ping pong? Lenny Kravitz and Prince! It was surreal. After two and a half hours of performing, they had to cool down a bit, and that's how they did it. They played some ping pong. Which made for a very cool scene, let me tell ya. And I happened to catch them!"

**At this point, we had been talking for well over an hour. We finished our tea, chatted a little longer, and took some more pictures, before descending the stairs, leaving the house, and getting back in the car so she could drive us back to the station. Cat, thanks again for the hospitality, the fascinating interview, and of course for letting us pet your adorable dog!**

*The 26th of October was the epitome of a Dutch autumn day: it rained, the trees were a vibrantly coloured mix of yellow, red and brown, scarves fluttered, umbrellas fought against the wind, tea was sipped, and the NS had some technical difficulties. Because the railway between Rotterdam and Utrecht was conveniently being repaired, we had to make a slight detour. Several trains, buses, and subways between obscure stations and unheard-of villages later we finally arrived at Kralingse Zoom, where the ever-charming Hester de Jong was already awaiting us. After the necessary house tour and some delicious, home-made 'poffertjes', it was time to talk about the mutually beloved subject of books and reading, while she showed us her gorgeous shelves.*

**So, what's your most recent read?**

I most recently read *The Girls* by Emma Cline. It's a story about a girl named Evie, who is increasingly attracted to a cult-like group of girls. I really wanted to finish this one, but the novel didn't seem to capture my attention. I had to force myself a bit to finish it, as there were barely any exciting moments. Maybe my expectations were too high because of Lena Dunham's quote on the back that said: "This book will break your heart and blow your mind" really inspired me to read it. But when I finished it, I just didn't feel the same way Dunham felt.

**Do you have a favourite author?**

Oh, that's a very hard question. My favourite novel is *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy, so I think that he's one of my favourite authors, but I haven't read his other works yet. I like Jane Austen as well, especially *Emma*.

**What's your go-to book?**

I know it's cliché, but I can really enjoy popular Young Adult novels. I Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson for example, or *If I Stay* and *Where She Went* by Gayle Forman. The YA books I feel most attracted to are the more well-known novels that contain more depth than many regular, pulpy-ish YA novels. I really admire *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. I notice that as I grow older my reading level grows with me. I used to like books like *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell, but nowadays I appreciate books that have a bit more insights, depth, and historical relevance. A genre I currently enjoy is the autobiography. Icons like feminist Gloria Steinem and poet Maya Angelou all have fascinating stories to tell, which are really interesting to me.



**What's one author or book you haven't read yet but would really like to read?**

I would really like to read *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh. My father gave it to me, and it's just a classic. Many other books I want to read are from Emma Watson's book club, like *Why I'm No Longer Talking About Race* or Naomi Alderman's *The Power*. I think Watson is very inspiring in her choices, highlighting books that deal with many complex feminist and race-related themes.

I remember when I was on holiday in Norway with a few friends and I walked into a bookshop and a boy read the plot from Alderman's book to me out loud. He asked me disdainfully: 'What's your opinion on that?', and I thought to myself 'Well, if you're so skeptical about that I'm not going to talk to you about it'.

**What's your favourite spot to read?**

My favourite spot is in bed, during the evening or the afternoon. In the morning, I like to snuggle up in the corner of our living room couch. On Saturdays, I sometimes go swimming with my mom quite early in the morning. When I come home I also really like reading a bit, as I feel very comfy and energized.

**Which character do you most identify with?**

Emma, from Austen's eponymous novel *Emma*. She has a strong opinion about a lot of issues in public, which I aspire to have as well. Also, she does not view marrying a guy as a mark for a completed and successful life. I agree with her and think marrying is not necessary. She is a rebel in a time where the only goal for a woman was to find the best husband. That she revolts against that in her time is so modern, because even nowadays not marrying can be perceived by some as quite a strange or unusual thing.

**When did you ever feel inspired by a novel?**

I think with nearly every book about humans who go their own way and make the best of life on their own terms. I like characters that have a very strong personality and aren't susceptible to persuasion and influence from others, the individualistic wallflowers. That reminds me of Maya Angelou's *Me, Mom & Me*, which illustrates the importance of strength of character. Maya and her brother are abandoned by their parents, and they are continually haunted by their absence.

This was on Emma Watson's book club list as well, and many books on that list that I've read are provoking and inspiring in their own way.

**What book would you recommend to your fellow students?**

I haven't finished it yet, as I'm currently reading it, but the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. It's so good and fascinating and compelling to read, that I can recommend it to everyone.

Jung Chang's novel based on her grandmother's life in Mao Zedong's China, *Wild Swans*, is also really good, though quite shocking to read. Women were treated very poorly then and the conditions in which everyone lived are appalling.



## albioneers abroad

lotte inkenhaag



trinity college

It was the summer of 2016 when I found myself in Dublin for a week. A highlight for anyone who comes to this friendly city is visiting Trinity College. From then on, it was a dream for me to study there and this has finally come true! As I started to prepare, I became more and more nervous to move into my new home and meet my new housemates; a 60-something-year-old married couple who rent out bedrooms to international students. In hindsight, all the stress was, of course, not necessary and my so-called 'Irish parents' were more than delightful and extremely welcoming, even though their accent is so heavy it took me a couple of days to get used to it. After two weeks, however, I heard people telling me that I started throwing around Irish slang myself!

Next, of course, was the challenge of making new friends in this green country. As I had met some Irish students through international frisbee tournaments, I fitted in straight away with my new frisbee friends. Luckily, all of the societies in Trinity are very active and have a full schedule so there's no time to be bored. Every week, we do fun things like go to the theatre or, as this is Ireland, go for pints after practice. There are also themed house parties on the regular and if you are not dressed up properly, you have to do a forfeit which inevitably means more alcohol: sláinte! Whenever we have a free weekend, there are people going on trips to the countryside for a hike or to other cities to do some sightseeing, so there are loads of opportunities to become familiar with the locals!

Now, it's not all partying. Studying is, of course, the real reason I came here. While I was in Utrecht, I followed the Irish Literature module. I was extremely interested in this course and that's why I chose to follow more classes on it here in Dublin, because what better place to learn about Ireland than in its very capital? I'm currently following a course on The Troubles in Northern Ireland. The professors expect you to do a lot of extra reading besides the reading they assign. After all, I only have 6 hours of class so the other 34 hours are basically reading and studying by myself, which all the students obediently do (or not, you can fill that in yourselves). All in all, this might truly be one of the best experiences in my short life so far. Erasmus is great craic!

## that which was lost in the forest

A Tristan and Iseult retelling  
by Isolde van Gog

The forest seemed to reach the edge of the world, a place where time no longer existed. The trees stretched higher than the lowest clouds, and the bushes were so close-knitted that animals saw no use in hiding. In one of the many meadows, a couple lay on their backs looking at the sky. It had felt as if they had been there for ages.

As she turned to look at him, she wondered if flowers would grow over his face if they stayed there any longer. When the sun disappeared behind a cloud for a second, it would already look like the grass that tickled his cheek grew the tiniest bit closer to his nose. It was only a matter of time, she thought, until it would touch the freckles sprinkled across his face.

She lifted her hand and moved to touch his face, but his hand caught hers and their eyes met. His gaze, as intense as when they first met, was drenched in fear, longing, and something that felt like home. Before they met they had been so lonely, so lost. They were found the moment their hands met. Every touch still felt like finding an intangible but crucial thing.

The heat of the sun was warmer than what could be considered comfortable, but they didn't move. Her fair skin, prepared for dreary mornings and overcast afternoons, almost sizzled in the hot midday sun. She deserved the pain, the slow burn of it. She imagined that her affair must feel like a raging, burning slap across the face to Mark. She had promised they would suffer together, therefore she deserved every damned ray of sunlight that fell upon her body.

As they looked at each other, tears began to form in her eyes. He gripped her hand tighter because he understood. They

couldn't hide here forever, this was merely an interlude, a short break before the end. The air hung around them, warm and full. Liquid sorrow leaked out of her eyes, every drop fighting for its right to make so soon an appearance. With his thumb, he gently pushed them away as if pushing away the curtains of worry surrounding her thoughts. He caressed the back of her head, his fingers getting caught in her slightly tangled hair, and brought their faces as close together as possible. Their lips touched ever so softly, only to be pressed together with a force fueled by desperation. "I have to return you, don't I," he murmured. She gave him the smile only the hopeless can give. The light reflected in her eyes mimicking the faith they both wished they could have. She knew he would find someone else. He couldn't imagine he would, she had bewitched him. He had walked into her trap and taken her down with him. Nothing would be able to compare to this.

His angry arms circled around her like ropes, and he held her so tight it would cause bruises. Her nails dug into his back and her tears seeped into his shirt. They were slowly losing themselves. Between every choked-up breath, they braced themselves for the worst possible outcome.

The trees felt as if they were closing in and he released her from his hold. He thought he could taste the ending, but it would end up taking longer than anticipated to come to a close. How similar it would be though, her hands clawing at his rigid figure, tears drowning her features. Her last look being one of fear, longing and the loss of a place like home.

# ma rk et committee

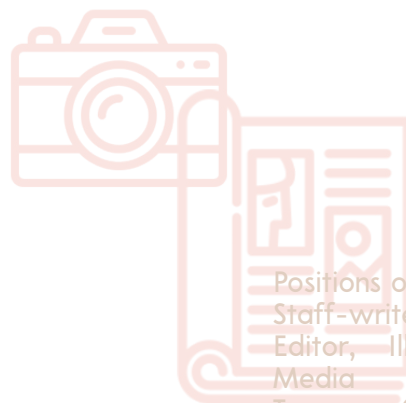
Albion would be lost if there were no committees to organise every splendid event. Every member of Albion is allowed to participate in a committee, so as a firstie you can also be part of Albion's organisation. It is even very much encouraged! Committees are, beside a very fun preoccupation, also really informative. You will be able to learn what it takes to organise vents like a symposium or a one week trip abroad for a number of people. So, getting involved can also be a boost on your own organising skills. There is a great diversity in committees you might join, varying from the academic committee to the party committee. You can find more detailed info about them below:

## INTROCIE

The Introduction Committee is the committee that organised your introduction to the world of Utrecht University. The committee begins planning all activities in the second half of the academic year so everything is ready for the new batch of firsties. If you want to help those scared youngsters settle in, do join the Introduction Committee!



At Phoenix Magazine, we strive to document the life and the culture of the English student in Utrecht. It's an encouraging space where aspiring writers, photographers and designers can channel their creativity into an end product every academic quarter, under the guidance of an editorial board. We value commitment and originality, and encourage taking initiative - and we promise that the deadlines don't negate the enjoyment. After all, the fun is in creating something together as a team. So, if you're looking to improve your already acquired skills and develop some new ones on the side, be sure to sign up and hopefully we'll see you at the first meeting!



Positions open to apply for:  
Staff-writer, Photographer,  
Editor, Illustrator, Social  
Media Manager and  
Treasurer (the last two only  
in combination with another  
position). Writers can also  
apply on freelance basis.

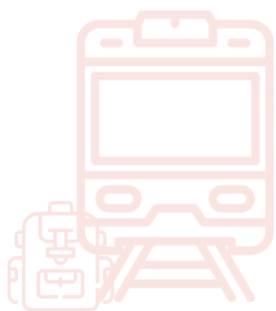
## PHOENIX

## KAMPCIE

Every year our introduction camp for first year students is a weekend full of fun activities, laughter, and, of course, making new friends. Being part of this committee means being in charge of choosing the theme, activities, location, food, basically everything. So whether you want to relive your own introduction camp because it was amazing, or if you didn't like it, make it even better than the year before, this is your chance to sign up!



## SHORT TRIP COMMITTEE



Near the end of the Academic year, the Short Trip Committee organises a weekend for all Albioneers to just relax, make campfires, drink beer and talk about the ins and outs of life. This camp will be somewhere in the Netherlands, and it will be full of fun activities organised by the Short Trip Committee.

Every year the SportCie organises various sports-related activities, ranging from mini-golf to the autumn fall hike. We are a bunch of the most fun and energetic people of Albion, and are always in for trying new sports and niche games! Apart from the development and strengthening of your organisational skills, joining this committee will be a great outlet for your own sports-related desires and a lovely way of sharing your passions with your fellow Albioneers.



## SPORTCIE



The Activity Committee is a very active committee within our association. We organise a variety of activities every single month. This makes the committee perfect for those who don't have a lot of experience organising big events (like the travel committees) or are a little hesitant about their capabilities to do so. Every month, we organise up to 3 events. We have active events, like bowling, laser gaming, etc., and provide our members with a discount. We also create our own fun and free activities. These activities include, for example, movie nights, pubquizzes! If this has made you all artsy stuff (Bob Ross!) or even a dropping.



ACCIE

Furthermore, we also organise a themed study-afternoon near the end of the block. This way, first-years can ask help to second- or even third-years for help with the oh so familiar paper-submitting deadline-stress. Last but not least, we organise each year's include, for example, movie nights, pubquizzes! If this has made you all excited, please, sign up to be part of this year's Activity Committee!

Looking to join a fun committee? Well, let's stop the clichés here. Albion's Party Committee is one of the most diverse committees out there. Albion collaborates with a lot of other study associations to organise different theme parties. So, you will meet a lot of different students! Moreover, being a part of Albion's Party Committee means that you will have benefits such as free entry and/or consumptions (FREE BEER).

Besides, Albion hosts a lovely party uniquely for Albion members in May called the Night of the Professors. Teachers of the English department will DJ for us Albioneers during that party. It is the perfect chance to get to know teachers on a different level. Next to that, being part of this committee is unbelievably fun. You get the chance to come up with fun themes, drink a lot of booze and dance the night away! If you like organising, dancing and drinking, then this is the committee for you!



FEESTCIE

## ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

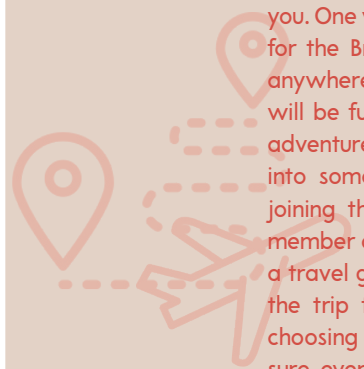
The Academic Committee mainly organises events that focus on the orientation of the labour market and events that tie in with education. Throughout the academic year we organise some field trips for the students of Albion to let them get to know the labour market. Past field trips have been to, for example, independent publishers and high schools. Apart from that we also organise pub lectures and a poetry reading where the teachers and creative writing students of our bachelor can read us their work. Together with the department of our degree the AC organises thesis workshops for the students and for the firsties there will be an information night at the end of the year where help will be offered about the second year courses.

This committee was only launched last year, but has already accomplished a lot thanks to its excited and enthusiastic members. It has started a Buddy Project that connects Alumni with current English students. This project was and can be tremendously helpful for students who are in doubt about their career. Apart from running this project, the AlumCie also tries to actively engage with and keep track of all the Albioneers that came before, and thus forms a great way of meeting lots of different and unique people!



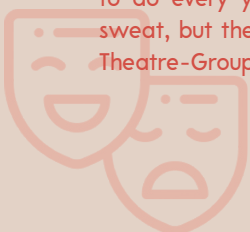
ALUMCIE

This is a call for the travellers amongst you. One week each year, Albion leaves for the British isles. The trip can go to anywhere in the UK or Ireland, and will be full of interesting activities and adventures. You can turn this experience into something even more special by joining the Big Trip Committee! As a member of this committee you become a travel guide for a week and you plan the trip from beginning to end: from choosing the destination to making sure everyone gets back home safely.



BIG TRIP COMMITTEE

Welcome to the Students of Utrecht Drama Society! SUDS was founded in 1969, so that means we have our fiftieth anniversary in the fall! Every year we have a one-act festival (with four student-written one act plays) and a big play, and we do drama, comedy and everything in between. The only constant is that they are incredibly fun to do every year, and you will laugh, work and sweat, but the result is so worth it! Visit the SUDS Theatre-Group Facebook page for more info.



SUDS

The task of the Symposium Committee is to organise interesting symposia for everyone who's interested throughout the year. These symposia consist of lectures and talks on a large variety of subjects, for example, dystopian literature or forensic linguistics. As a member of this committee you brainstorm on a theme, approach possible speakers and make sure the event will run smoothly.



SYMPOCIE

Sign up before the deadline at <http://albionutrecht.nl/committee>.

All committees require a motivation letter. Where needed, specify the position you'd like to occupy.

monday

The assembly will take place at Drift 21 0.32, located near the university library in the city center. TGIFridays can be found at Stationsplein, conveniently near Utrecht CS.

# the introduction agenda



**15:00**  
picnic

**17:15**  
pubquiz

**19:00**  
dinner at Le Connaisseur

**21:00**  
karaoke

## thursday

This day is completely voluntary. If you do decide to join us, we will see you at the International Campus Utrecht at 15:00. This is the grounds of University College Utrecht, located near busstop De Kromme Rijn.

We are the Introduction Committee (or IntroCie for short), and we're the people in yellow shirts you'll see running around today. We're a bunch of students, just like you, who have organised these first couple of days for you, just to make sure you feel at home here at university! We've all been looking forward to this day since we started planning, and I hope that we've successfully planned some pretty fun and useful days. A tip I feel I should give as a firstie myself (at the time of writing): if you have questions or uncertainties about anything whatsoever, don't be afraid to ask anyone of us. Most of us won't bite, I promise! And finally, I want to encourage all readers to apply for a committee, since it's not only great for your CV, it's also great fun and an amazing way to get to know more people that study the same as you. I wish you a lot of fun these first few days, and I'll see you roaming the halls of the Drift!

Welcome firsties!

Yours truly,  
Bram van Bearendonk,  
IntroCie Promotions 2018-2019

word from the  
introduction committee

**09:00**

walk in for students

**09:20**

teacher's introductions, round I

**11:00**

tutor group meetings

**12:00**

lunch at the park

**12:45**

tour through Utrecht and committee market

**16:00**

teacher's introductions, round II

**17:00**

end of compulsory assembly

**17:30**

dinner at TGIFridays



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGELA KROES