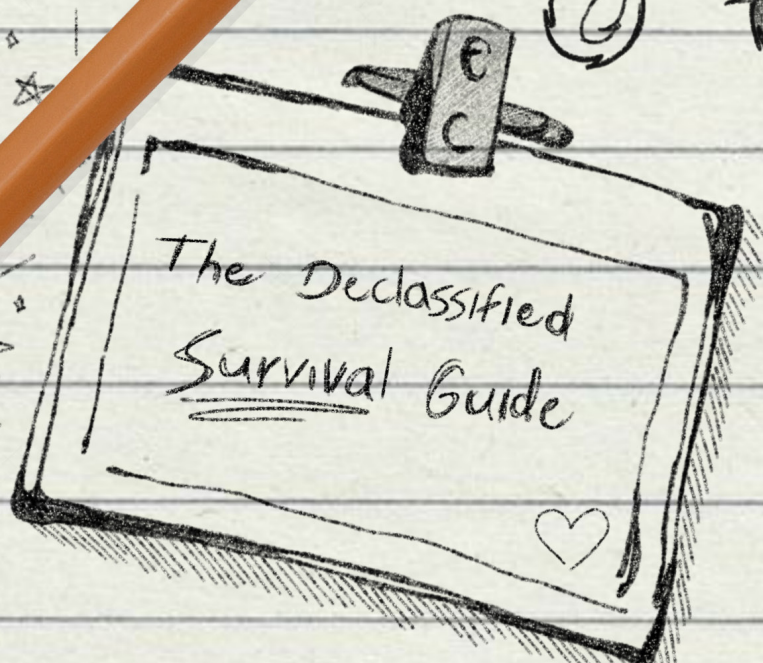


PHOENIX

Fresher's Issue '22



the Academic Tutors



CAROLIN
SCHNEIDER



HIELKE
VRIESENDORP



JOCHEM
RIESTHUIS



JOHANNA
HOORENMAN



LAURA
SMORENBURG



NYNKE
DE HAAS



TIMOTHY
HEIMLICH

THE MENTORS



ABEL



CHARLIE



CHRISTEL



HANNAH



LYSANNE



NOVA



YULE

Dear firsties,

Welcome to Utrecht University! The UU has been a place where both of us managed to flourish and thrive in our own ways. The influence of the university and the English Language and Culture BA has given us the confidence to start paving the paths of our futures. We can only hope that this will also be the case for all of you first-years. To make your settlement in Utrecht easier, we put together this Fresher's Issue which contains all kinds of information on the study association Albion, some insights into student life, and lots more! The issue is also a perfect example of what Albion's very own Phoenix magazine looks like. Put together by students and meant for everyone who might be interested.

If you have a way with words, don't hesitate to sign up for Phoenix as a writer. If you translate words into pictures, do join us as an illustrator or photographer. Maybe you just want to help out as an editor, there is place for you, too! Together we create a quarterly issue filled with lots of interesting articles and other fun tidbits, all based on a theme. Take a look at the Albion website for all previously published issues and see for yourself if you're interested in helping us out.

Hopefully, this Fresher's Issue serves as a small guide during your first weeks at the UU, and, who knows, maybe we'll see you soon during our very first Phoenix meeting :)

Love,

Helenie Demir, Editor-in-Chief
Zuzia Gelauff, Creative Director

2022-2023



Phoenix

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

Fresher's issue - September 2022

Cover by Zuzia Gelauff

Logo by Cecilie Balemans-Højberg
(adjusted by Zuzia Gelauff)

This edition of Phoenix Magazine was assembled
and edited by members of **the 2022/2023**

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Thank You

Soraya, Marlies, Anna, Mar & Lisanne from
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Pexels, Pinterest.

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Contact Albion Utrecht

Trans 10

3512 JK Utrecht

030 - 253 66 69

The Shack

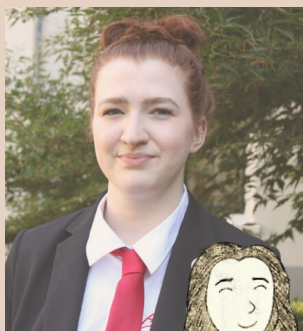
Drift 21, 2.08

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Commissioner of Internal Affairs - Anna "Vanilla Addict". 19, from Lanzarote, SP
Favorite... Book: Las Ataduras, **Artist:** StrayKids, **Song:** Tú - Umberto Tozzi, **Show:** Trigon,
Movie: Howl's Moving Castle, **Place:** Anywhere in continental Europe.
Childhood Dream Job? Ballerina. **Current Obsession?** StrayKids.
Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day? It might sound bizarre, but a nun.
Pick: *Literature* / Linguistics. *Leviathan* / *Kraken*. *Fantasy* / Contemporary.

"Ma quale paura? Nel mio vocabolario non esiste questa parola, a meno che non si tratti di un errore di stampa." - Toto



Commissioner of External Affairs - Lisanne "Daddy D". 24, from Utrecht, NL
Favorite... Book: Emma, **Artist:** Queen, **Song:** Mushanga - TOTO, **Show:** Avatar: the Last Air-
bender, **Movie:** Grease, **Place:** Disneyland.
Childhood Dream Job? Writer. **Current Obsession?** Marlies.
Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day? Soraya.
Pick: *Literature* / Linguistics. *Leviathan* / *Kraken*. *Fantasy* / Contemporary.

"Prutsers, allemaal prutsers." - Jeroen Cornelissen



Chair - Soraya "Dora". 22, from Ede, NL
Favorite... Book: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, **Artist:** MIKA, **Song:** If I Had You - Adam
Lambert, **Show:** Brooklyn 99 or Bojack Horseman, **Movie:** Requiem for a Dream, **Place:** I don't
really care. Company is more important.
Childhood Dream Job? Vet/Soldier/Mom. **Current Obsession?** Gladde Paling.
Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day? Ursula von der Leyen or a magpie.
Pick: Literature / *Linguistics*. *Leviathan* / *Kraken*. *Fantasy* / *Contemporary*.

"The noblest of art is that of making others happy." - P.T. Barnum



Secretary - Marlies "Edgelord". 21, from Breda, NL
Favorite... Book: Salt to the Sea, **Artist:** Lord of the Lost or Nightwish, **Song:** Rose Tint My World,
Show: Narcos, **Movie:** Christopher Robin, **Place:** Ontario, with family,
Childhood Dream Job? A giraffe. **Current Obsession?** My freshly acquired motorcycle license!
Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day? Lisanne.
Pick: *Literature* / Linguistics. *Leviathan* / *Kraken*. *Fantasy* / Contemporary.

*"You fool. You absolute buffoon. You think you can challenge me in my own realm? You think you
can rebel against my authority?..."*



Commissioner of Education - Mar "the Gay Agenda". 20, from Bergen op Zoom, NL
Favorite... Book: The Perks of Being a Wallflower, **Artist:** alt-J, **Song:** Futile Devices (Doveman
Remix) by Sultan Stevens, **Show:** Fleabag, **Movie:** Fellowship of the Ring, **Place:** Medieval/Fan-
tasy festivals, such as Elfia.
Childhood Dream Job? Writer. **Current Obsession?** Manga about cats or about cute queer
relationships.
Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day? a cat.
Pick: *Literature* / Linguistics. *Leviathan* / *Kraken*. *Fantasy* / *Contemporary*.

"The Rest is Silence." - William Shakespeare, Hamlet

ALBION BOARD

2022-2023

Photographed by Germiné Koek

Hey everyone!

WORD OF THE BOARD...

Welcome to Utrecht University, and more importantly to the bachelor of English Language and Culture.

A very long time ago I was in your shoes and the nerves you are probably feeling right now are only a vague memory to me, but I will never forget those first moments after walking into uni. You have a new chapter of your life in front of you (cheesy, I know, but true), and all the freedom to shape it to your preferences.

When I first started studying in Utrecht, I was not an active student. It was only when I started studying English Language and Culture and joined Albion last year that I created a social life in Utrecht. Everyone in the bachelor was so welcoming. Going to activities really made me feel at home and helped me make some of the best friends I ever had. Of course, I hope that Albion can start to mean the same to you all. After a few years of restrictions, you deserve to have as much fun as possible. Board XXXII will do everything to ensure that the coming year will be amazing.

I'm sure each and every one of you will find exactly what you want and need during the amazing years you have in front of you, and I will see you soon!

Love,

Soraya van den Steen
Chair 2022-2023



THE PERKS OF BEING AN ALBION

DE STADSGENOOT

On the beautiful Breedstraat, just minutes away from the Drift, you can find our favourite pub Café de Stadsgenoot. With a 10% discount, this cosy pub is a great place to drink your fellow Albioneers under the table.

DRESSME

Specialised in promotion, the people at DressMe will print your shirts, sweaters, and much more. Whether you want to get matching shirts for a pub quiz team, or if you've just always wanted a shirt with your name on it, your time is now! You'll even get a 10% discount if you show your Albion card.

EAZIE

Whether you feel like having a fresh wakame salad, or crave some bombay curry, Eazie (located at the Voorstraat) is where you should go. They open at noon so you can satisfy your hunger all day long. The fresh ingredients and fair prices guarantee a guilt-free meal. Your Albion membership card will get you a 10% discount on your order.

BOEKHANDEL BIJLEVELD

Want to add even more books to your bookshelf? In need of that one piece of classic literature for one of your courses? Stop by at Janskerkhof and step into this lovely bookshop called Bijleveld and get a 10% discount on your English, German or French book!

CHIDÓZ

Need a snack? A full meal? Five minutes from the City Centre University Library are our friends from Chidóz. For all Mexican food, Chidóz is the place to be. Especially their burritos are to die for! If you bring your Albion membership card, you'll be able to profit from the following deals (all prices excluding extra toppings/options): 1 burrito for €7,75, 2-9 for €7,25 each, 10+ for €6,75 each, and €6,- per burrito if you order 50 or more (for when you're really hungry).

STUDYSTORE

One of the special privileges of being an Albion member is the discount on your study books. By working together with Studystore, Albion can offer all the books you could possibly need for your English Language and Culture courses at a lower price. Keep in mind though that you have to be an Albion member to use our special discount!

WINE&WELLNESS

Need a break from all that studying? Treat yourself to a wellness day at Wine & Wellness! This unique location in the city centre of Utrecht will guarantee some relaxation. If you flip around that dashing membership card of yours, you only pay €12,50 for a well-deserved self-care day. Not convinced yet? Well, they have wine. There you go.

COMMITTEE MARKET

The AC

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 familiarise them with 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 English department, the AC organises thesis workshops for the students. 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. The AC has started a Buddy Project that connects Alumni with current English students. This project is tremendously helpful for students who are in doubt about their careers!

AcCie

The Activity Committee is a very active committee within our association in which 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. We have active events, like bowling, laser gaming, etc, but also create our own fun and free activities, such as movie nights, artsy stuff (Bob Ross!) or even a dropping. Last but not least, we organise each year's pub quizzes! If this has made you all excited, please, sign up to be part of this year's Activity Committee!

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!

FeestCie

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 may have benefits such as free entry and/or consumptions. Besides, Albion hosts a lovely party exclusively 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 and dance the night away! If you like organising, dancing and drinking, then this is the committee for you!

SUDS

Welcome to the Students of Utrecht Drama Society! SUDS was founded in 1969! Every year we have a one-act festival (with four student-written one-act plays) and a big play within the genres 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.

Grote ReisCie

This is a call for the travelers amongst you. One week each year, Albion leaves for the British Isles. The trip can go 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.

Kleine ReisCie

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.

Phoenix

At **Phoenix Magazine**, we strive to document the life and culture of the English student in Utrecht. It's an encouraging space where aspiring writers, photographers, and illustrators 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! Hopefully, we'll see you at the first meeting.

CampCie

Our annual introduction camp for first-year students is a weekend full of fun activities, laughter, and, of course, making new friends. Being part of the **Camp 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!

SympoCie

The task of the **Symposium Committee** is to organise interesting symposia throughout the year for everyone who's interested. 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.

MerchCie

The **Merch Committee** will coordinate the design and distribution of Albion merchandise. The committee is chaired by the Commissioner of External Affairs and will endeavour to have two moments of distribution per academic year.

SportCie

Every year the **Sports Committee** 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.

UTRECHT ELC ESSENTIALS

Illustration by Zuzia Gelauff



1. Utrecht Centraal Station
2. Drift 21-27
3. Kromme Nieuwegracht 80
4. Trans 10
5. Israëlslaan 118
6. Campusplein
7. Janskerkhof
8. Neude
9. Café de Stadsgenoot



TIP: GET THE NS PLANNER
OR 9292 APP FOR EASY ACCESS
TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT
SCHEDULES AND COMMUTE
ROUTES



ALBION ABROAD

A DUBLINER'S EXPERIENCE

Written by Rose Özüm

Originally Edited by Jamie Pilon

Re-edited by Helenie Demir

Illustrated by Zuzia Gelauff

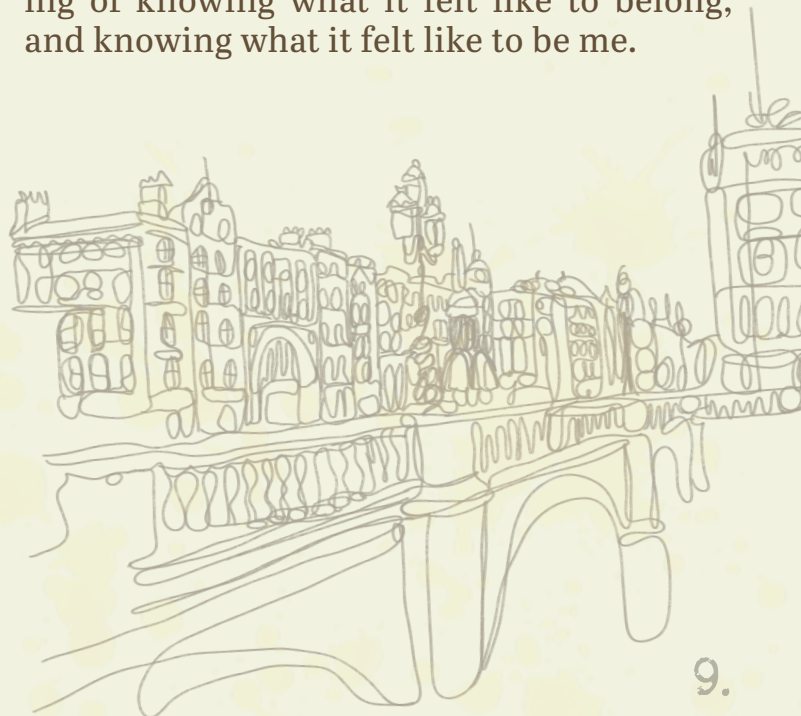
Winston Churchill once pointed out that: "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." While I can honestly say that I don't believe in achieving perfection, I do very much agree that in order to improve, we must change. About a year and a half ago people were already asking me what it was that I wanted to do for my third year of my Bachelor. At that time, I was incredibly introverted, kind of a loner, and spending most of my days either studying, reading, or gaming. My first reaction was panic, as my second year had just started, so how the hell was I supposed to already have decided what I wanted to do the next year? Fortunately, the first choice you have to make only exists out of three choices: you either do a minor, an internship, or you go to study abroad. While the latter of the three sounded absolutely adventurous, it also sounded completely terrifying. Going to a whole different country, moving there, living there for over five months, maybe even speaking a different language, etc. The cons were piling up and (especially due to Covid) I started doubting if I should even apply for a position abroad. But, I had this inner voice telling me to go for it. I mean, even if I got in, I could still decline anytime I wanted!

To make a long story short, I got accepted at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Let the adventure begin, I suppose. You know that scene from *The Hobbit* where Bilbo runs off with his signed contract and yells "I am going on an adventure" with sparkling eyes? Well, that is what ran through my mind when I got the news. And with every adventure, a personal change is often involved (at least from almost every story that I have ever read or watched anyways). So, to feel like my own true protagonist, I decided to make a commitment to change. I wanted to be more open, to say yes more often, to actually go to student parties for once, and just to really

take advantage of the fact that I was in a foreign country where no one knew me. Basically: to discover who I wanted to be. I am not going to lie, I was terrified of going on that plane. All these nightmare-ish scenes were going through my head: what if Irish people aren't as welcoming as they'd said? What if I fail at everything I do there? What if I can't escape my introvert bubble? What if no one liked me? I could go on and on about all my insecurities that were running through my head while I was already seated in the plane, not ready for take-off.

However, the most indescribable feeling came over me when we landed in Dublin. I later discovered that it was a sense of feeling home. There are so many things that I could talk about of what I did in Dublin, of all the people I met, of all the new experiences I gained, but in the end all I have to say is this: Dublin changed my life, changed my perspectives on humans and on life, changed my behavior, changed me. Maybe I was just very lucky or this is just one of those things in life that some of us are meant to do.

And when I took the plane back to The Netherlands my mind wasn't running through all of my insecurities or any other negative emotions that I entered the country with. The only thing my mind was set upon was that it knew, that I knew, I had gained a feeling of knowing what it felt like to belong, and knowing what it felt like to be me.



Tea Time with Jochem Riesthuis

Interviewed by Anna Maria Popo, edited by Nina van Veen, re-edited by Helenie Demir

In this issue's Tea Time, we invited Jochem Riesthuis. In a Teams meeting, we talked about Jochem's studying experiences in Utrecht and in Chicago, his experiences in teaching at Utrecht University, and we got the chance to know him a bit better!

What did you study and where?

Well, I did my undergrad in Utrecht, in what I would always translate as Liberal Arts. I think that's what it's called now as well. It basically meant that you could pick and choose from the entirety of the Humanities Division. I did Modern Western Literature as my specialisation, which meant that I could pick classes from the Western European Languages from 1880 onwards. So things like Emile Zola in French, and some in German etc. That was really fun.

I did my PhD at the University of Chicago, in Comparative Literature. The American system works a bit differently than ours: You first are given two years of study, then you propose your own research project, and then after those two years, you take an oral exam, which was described at the University of Chicago as Beowulf to Virginia Woolf. Basically two thousand years of writing!

Why did you do your PhD at the University of Chicago?

I was working in marketing and then realised that I wasn't having much fun. I wanted to get back into the university and continue studying literature. I looked around and asked my supervisor, who was then the head of literary studies, and he said that it was unlikely that there would be any new places in the Netherlands for at least the next five to ten years. So, I needed to look outside of this country, and the easiest place to find an open PhD spot is the US. Besides, I was working on US literature. We scouted out a few places and then I applied, and basically, you go in, you apply, and you take a few tests. You have this whole stack of tests and recommendation letters from different professors. I sent mine to Princeton, Cornell and the University of Chicago and I was accepted at Chicago. The experience was amazing,

What genre in literature do you enjoy reading/teaching the most, because these can be two different categories?

That is difficult to answer, but I like teaching slave narratives because I think it's really important. It's a genre that is highly interesting and there's all this stuff that people don't know. It's also

probably the most difficult to teach because it's about really horrific experiences and so you often get students who leave during the class or who don't show up for the class or come to you afterwards with tears. However, I'm mostly interested in the 20th century, but now I'm teaching the 17th century and I discover how much fun Shakespeare is, or Lady Mary Wroth, or Ben Jonson, or 17th-century poets who are so interested in these conceits and being clever, and again there are these moments where students sort of turn on like light bulbs.

On the other hand, I really like the poetry of Ezra Pound, a 20th-century modernist. I dislike the man profoundly. He is probably the worst person (a full-blown fascist, follower of Mussolini, horrible anti-Semite) in literature, but he makes this brilliant poetry and he's a sort of central figure in modernism. He helped create The Wasteland, where basically T.S. Eliot is writing the poem and then Ezra Pound comes by with scissors making an actual poem out of it. His work helps me to understand that great literature is not about making great moral choices. Of course, there is great literature that is morally just, helpful, and liberating. I mean, there are authors now that are not great, but their texts are. So, we do need to separate the work and then still punish them for the things that they did wrong.

What would you say to your past and also future students?

The one thing that life has taught me is to always say yes. I was doing theatre in high school, and we were doing a lot of improv and in improv that's the standard rule; to always say yes. If somebody has a weird suggestion you say yes, and you run with it, if you say no there is no improv. That might be a really good way of living your life. If you only do what you need to do, your life will get more boring. Same with teaching. I try all these new ways of getting material across and sometimes it works and sometimes it goes horribly wrong, but you get fun results.



Firsties DO'S and DONT'S

Written and Edited by Helenie Demir

DO enjoy your student life, in all the sense of the word. Try to take in your surroundings—the architecture of the city, especially around Drift, the Dom aka one of the Netherlands' biggest tourist attractions, the fun pubs where you can go for a drink with your fellow students. Utrecht is a beautiful city with lots to see, let the city be part of your student experience. But also try to enjoy your study contents. A lot of what you learn in class is very actualized and can be applicable to real life. Look around you and appreciate the importance of what you're doing right now because maybe someday it'll make a difference.

DON'T hesitate to approach your fellow students. Everyone is in a new environment with very few people they really know and feel comfortable with. Open up a conversation about where someone's from, what their favorite book/show/movie is, or what they did during summer break. Why be awkward alone when you can be awkward together? Find comfort in each other and together you can grow more familiar in both your studies and social life.

DO allow yourself moments of rest. We're all diligent students who want to get the highest grade possible, but it's important to once in a while give yourself a break. We come from a generation that indirectly pushed us to measure ourselves by productivity, but that doesn't mean that doing nothing for a day, or maybe even a simple hour, is the end of the world. Take a nap, watch that show, read your book, listen to music, dance around—if it refills your heart with joy and motivation to tackle your next task then you can't call your break a waste of time.

DON'T feel stressed about all that involves university. My piece of advice is that it's sometimes better to let things come at you rather than try to control every single aspect regarding the future. I realize as a fellow perfectionist that this is hard advice to take, but very helpful, nonetheless. Live in the moment, only then can you really enjoy and appreciate the things in your life. When issues need to be addressed, the university will timely inform you of what needs to be done and how to do it. Your mentors and your tutors are also there to advise you for the whole year, so do approach them if you feel like you need to be put at ease.

MEET THE PHOENIX BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Helenie "Hele"
20
from Oldenzaal, NL



Favorite... Book: The Great Gatsby, **Artist:** Michael Jackson, **Song:** Wicked Games by Chris Isaak, **Show/Movie:** One Tree Hill/Inception, **Place:** Midyat or Paris. **Childhood Dream Job?** Fashion designer. **Current Obsession?** Re-entering my George R.R. Martin era. **Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day?** Ryan Reynolds, must be nice being married to Blake Lively. **Pick: Literature** / Linguistics. Leviathan / **Kraken**. **Fantasy** / Contemporary.

"We don't say 'rising into love'. There is in it, the idea of the fall." - Alan Watts

Creative Director

Zuzia "Zus"
20
from Gouda, NL



Favorite... Book: Good Omens, **Artist:** Harry Styles, **Song:** Edge of Seventeen by Stevie Nicks, **Show/Movie:** Derry Girls/Scream, **Place:** Polish coast towns. **Childhood Dream Job?** Tattoo artist. **Current Obsession?** Stranger Things. **Who Would You Switch Lives With For A Day?** Who ever is cancelling all the good shows at Netflix so I can fix that mess. **Pick: Literature** / Linguistics. Leviathan / **Kraken**. **Fantasy** / **Contemporary**.

"Forced conforming, that's what's killing the kids!"
- Eddie Munson

A letter from IntroCie

Hiya!

First things first, the Introduction Committee wants to offer you a warm welcome at our lovely Utrecht University. We are excited to be guiding you through your first moments as an English Language and Culture student. Today is going to be filled with first impressions, a lot of information, and opportunities to get to know the city, the programme, and—most importantly—each other.

When I first started at Utrecht University, we were still in the middle of the first waves of Covid. So, at first, it felt incredibly overwhelming and difficult to connect with other people and find my way around student life. In addition to that, I was an international student who didn't speak a single word of Dutch and knew no one within a three-hour radius of Utrecht. So, don't worry, I really get how nerve-racking all of this can feel for you. However, all my overthinking and concerns were soon rendered pointless, as both the University and Albion made me feel welcomed and supported at every step of the way so far.

I truly hope that each and every one of you will find your place within this programme and I look forward to seeing where your path will take you from here on out. Enjoy today as well as the rest of your degree!

Jenny Biersbach, Secretary Introduction Committee 2021-2022

INTRODUCTION SCHEDULE

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

10:15 - 10:45 TEACHER INTERVIEWS

11:00 - 12:00 TUTOR MEETINGS

12:00 - 13:00 LUNCH

13:15 - 15:00 COMMITTEE MARKET

15:00 - 16:00 TOUR OF UTRECHT

Monday Morning*
09:00-09:15 walk-ins

09:15-09:35 Talk from
Department Head, Albion Chair
and IntroCie

09:35-10:00 Talk from the
Study Advisors

10:00-10:15 Break

Monday afternoon*

16:00-17:30 Drinks and Games
at Griftpark

18:00-20:00 Dinner
at TGI Fridays

20:00- Drinks at Stadsgenoot

Thursday, September 8th*

15:00-17:00 Outdoor Games and Picnic

17:00-18:30 Pubquiz

19:00-21:20 Dinner at Humphrey's

21:30-23:00 Karaoke at Weerdzicht

23:00- Partying at Tivoli

* These activities may be cancelled in relation to Covid regulations