



Word of the Board

Hey Firsties,

I wonder when you'll be reading this. I remember I read my first Phoenix on the way back home at the end of the first introduction day. I had stayed until the end of the introductory drinks with the Albion board and the introduction committee after a tiring day of listening to a lot of new information and meeting a ton of new people. And although that was all overwhelming, I recall feeling very cheerful and content. For I felt like I had found my place and my people, which made me very excited to start a new adventure. And I completely agree with my younger self, but I do have some very basic advice to give to you which I have learned since:

Don't fuss too much about all the work you'll have to do for class, the most important thing is to give yourself time to relax and have fun.

Talking about enjoying yourself, do make the most out of what Utrecht and Albion have to offer you. Go out, go wild, make mistakes because that is exactly what this period of your life is for. However do remember to drink responsibly, and it is not always a smart choice to show up hungover to your classes ;).

Although I have found my place, not all of you will of course feel such a connection to Albion or even the bachelor and that's all right too. Or maybe you have already gone through all of this before and there is little new and exciting about it. Luckily this is a time of figuring stuff out for all of us. Although you might see people and you'll think they have their life together. I can tell you, they truly don't.

We're all in this together ;). I hope this Phoenix issue finds you well.

- Love, Nova on behalf of the board of Albion

Contact Albion Utrecht

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2.08
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Perks of being an Albion member...

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.

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)

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.

BOL.COM

Haven't ordered your books yet? Worry not! Bol.com will be able to get them delivered to you shortly and with a discount if you are an Albion member and the book is sold by bol.com directly!

HART VAN UTRECHT

Did you enjoy playing pool with your peers so much you can't wait to do it again? Hart van Utrecht will give a discount on their drinks including arrangements for 2 or 3 hours if you're with a group of 6 or more Albioneers!

Phoenix Magazine

A magazine for English Language and Culture students at Utrecht University.

Fresher's issue - September 2023

Cover by Zoya Tashi

This edition of Phoenix Magazine was put together by Aitana Montoro and Zoya Tashi (2023-2024 editorial board)

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Thank You

Nova, Charlie, Amelia, Nina, Thom & Thijs from our 2023/2024 Albion Board, our IntroCie, Sajed Chowdhury and Elise Brouwer.

Special Thanks

Fotor, Pinterest, Cutout Pro, RawPixels

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Phoenix is published independently every academic quarter.

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Dear firsties,

It is a truth universally acknowledged that beginnings are beautiful, yet scary. A blank page, a new chapter, the first line of a poem. The heart beats in the chest as the hand grabs a pen, uncertain and trembling, faced with a horizon of paper dreams and endless futures. Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board, so just plunge in, and let the waves carry you to faraway lands and uncharted waters yet to be discovered.

Welcome, welcome, to Utrecht University. Your experience at UU will be one for the storybooks. It'll be the best of times, it'll be the worst of times. It'll be the age of wisdom, it'll be the age of foolishness. But, above it all, it'll be a time of learning. Try to make the most of it, to enjoy every moment before it becomes a legend in a dusty diary.

Two households (linguistics and literature), both alike in dignity, in fair Utrecht, where we lay our scene. In your first year, you'll be able to wander through both paths, to close read poems and do syntactic trees. You'll have the pleasure (or disgrace) to make acquaintance with Keats and Krashen, Carlyle and Chomsky, and other peculiar personalities. The English Language and Culture BA is wonderful and weird, you'll see.

What does it take for a beginning to be memorable? To echo in the memory of time, centuries after its publication? Ask Austen, Hurston, Dickens or Shakespeare because we don't have an answer. We can only hope that you'll start writing your own story in these walls. If you like to write, draw, or capture beauty through the lenses of a camera, Phoenix is the place for you. Phoenix is a magazine written by and for students, which encourages imagination to run wild. This Fresher's issue is an example of what we do, of the love and care that we put into its creation. We hope to see you soon, whether it'll be in a lecture hall or in the next Phoenix meeting it's up to the stars.

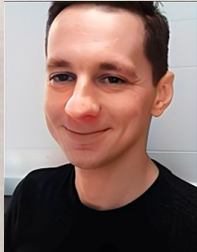
Sol Iustitiae Illustra Nos,

Aitana Montoro, *Editor-in-Chief*

Zoya Tashi, *Creative Director*



Tutors



Aleksandr



Johanna



Anjali



Nynke



Laura

This year's wonderful group of tutors will be there to guide you through the academic specifics of your first year. This can include advice on things such as organisation, studying for exams, and how to write top-notch essays.

Mentors

These lovely peeps will be your go-to for any questions about your courses, Uni life, and the city in general. They've been firsties once before, and will always have useful tips to survive the first year :)



Christina



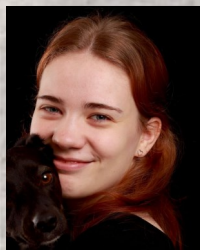
Marc



Tobias



Silke



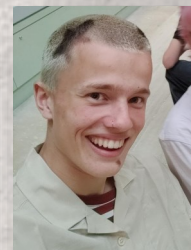
Mariska



Marèl



Elise



Abel



all too well



Charlie
Commissioner of External Affairs

Favourite Book: Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
Favourite Song: Call Me What You Like - Lovejoy
Me as an aesthetic: Chaotic Academia
Me as a time period: 1970s
Linguistics or **Literature**?



Nova
Chair

Favourite Book: Call Me By Your Name - André Aciman
Favourite Song: Little Lies - Fleetwood Mac
Me as an aesthetic: 70s
Me as a time period: Renaissance
Linguistics or Literature?



Thom
Commissioner of Education

Favourite Book: The King of Elfland's Daughter - Lord Dunsany
Favourite Song: Viva La Vida - Coldplay
Me as an aesthetic: Dark Academic
Me as a time period: Ancient Greece
Linguistics or **Literature**?

Meet The Board



Amelia
Commissioner of Internal Affairs

Favourite Book: The Watchmaker of Filigree Street
Favourite Song: That's Life - Dennis van Aarssen
Me as an aesthetic: Arcadecore
Me as a time period: Victorian Era
Linguistics or Literature?



Thijs
Treasurer

Favourite Book: Gideon's Travels - Ann Rutgers van der Loeff
Favourite Song: That's Life - Dennis van Aarssen
Me as an aesthetic: Casual Chique
Me as a time period: 17th Century France
Linguistics or Literature?



Nina
Secretary

Favourite Book: Alias Grace - Margaret Atwood
Favourite Song: I Saw Her Standing There - The Beatles
Me as an aesthetic: Dark Academia
Me as a time period: 60's Hippie Era
Linguistics or **Literature**?

History and Legends of Utrecht

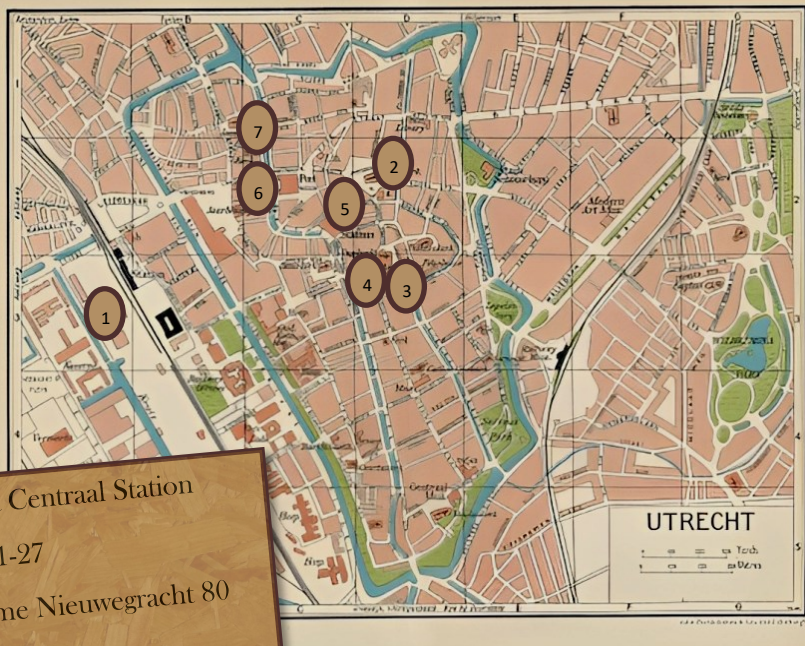
Written and Edited by Aitana Montoro

The Closed Stone

If you stroll along the canals, you may stumble across the Devil's stone, a boulder chained up at Oudegracht 364. The legend of the Closed Stone says that the devil and his servants would play at night, throwing the stone as if it was a ball, and making the houses on the street tremble with thunderous fury. The people of the neighbourhood, unable to sleep at night, called a priest. The priest decided to chain the boulder to prevent the devil's games.

The Dom Church's Ruins

The Dom Church's nave collapsed in 1674 due to a devastating storm. The ruins of the church became a place for secret meetings between homosexual men. However, after the city authorities started investigating at the request of the Dom's sacristan, they were discovered. Many men were tried for sodomy, and executed. As a result of the trials, the gentile *Utrechenaar* gained a second meaning as a slang term to denote homosexuals.



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



Meet the Phoenix Team

Aitana

Favourite book: Piranesi - Susanna Clarke

Favourite Quote: Midnight shakes the memory as a madman shakes a dead geranium - T.S. Eliot

Favourite Song: That Unwanted Animal - The Amazing Devil

Me as an aesthetic: Steampunk

Me as a font: Book Antiqua



Zoya

Favourite book: Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

Favourite Quote: This is a charming house - Pride and Prejudice (2005 Movie)

Favourite Song: Live On - Pulp

Me as an aesthetic: Grunge / Cottagecore



O Me! O Life!

Written and edited by Aitana Montoro

I'm going to assume, since you are studying English Language and Culture, that you'll have watched Dead Poets Society more than a few times, and probably fantasized about joining a secret society with whom you read poetry inside a cave by the tarnished light of a lantern. As far as I'm aware, we don't have a cave for secret literary meetings in UU yet but we can guarantee you that you'll have the experience of being able to share your love for literature with fellow booklovers. Dead Poets Society teaches us the importance of finding our own voice, something that is deeply encouraged in this bachelor, and of seizing the day to make an extraordinary thing out of life. Many quotes from the movie offer great advice on how to navigate the English Language and Culture BA:

"When you read, don't just consider what the author thinks, consider what you think."

"Savour language and words because no matter what anyone tells you, words and ideas have the power to change the world."


"We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion."

"So avoid using the word 'very' because it's lazy. A man is not very tired, he is exhausted. Don't use very sad, use morose. Language was invented for one reason, boys - to woo women - and, in that endeavour, laziness will not do. It also won't do in your essays."





SympoCie

The SympoCie organises four symposia throughout the year with varying topics, from 'L2 development' to 'the Golden Age as Vegetarian.' You'll be in contact with our teachers and you'll be provided with interesting topics outside of our regular studies. You'll be making learning fun!




IntroCie

The Introduction days are very important for our lovely new students: they will be led through the streets of Utrecht, meet their fellow first-year students, and get to know the English department of the UU as well as Albion of course.



MerchCie

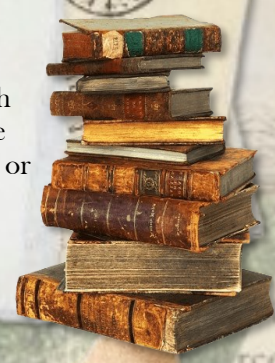
The Merch Committee will coordinate the design and distribution of Albion merchandise. The committee is chaired by the Commissioner of External Affairs. The committee will endeavour to have two moments of distribution per academic year.



Committee


The AC

The Academic and Alumni Committee is dedicated to providing Albion alumni with some activities, writing alumni updates, and coordinating the Buddy Project, where alumni are paired with a student. AC also organises study and career-related activities, serves to get more of your feedback to the university, and discusses all things to do with studying in Utrecht. Whether it's the course material, the room that the seminars are in, or the limited number of spots available in the library, the AC is the place to go.




Small TripCie

The SmallTripCie organises another trip during the academic year. This one is shorter and closer by, and is often realised in the form of a member weekend. It is a nice way to hang out with your fellow Albioneers and get to know each other better.



SUDS

Students of Utrecht Drama Society (SUDS) is an independent committee of Albion, which means that even non-Albion members are more than welcome to join. They have their own board and organise multiple activities each year, including a big play at the end of the year, and a One-Act Festival.



Market

PartyCie

The FeestCie organises amazing parties year-round. Usually, these are in collaboration with other associations, so you can actually get to know people from other studies! But, once a year, Albion organizes its own party, 'Night of the Professors,' where your own professors play their favourite tunes.

Phoenix

Phoenix is the magazine that focuses on a theme every quarterly issue. A team of writers, editors, and graphic designers works hard throughout the year to provide you with four issues, all filled with interviews, creative pieces, book recs, and more! Positions open to apply for: staff-writer, photographer, editor, and illustrator. Writers can also apply on a freelance basis.

SportCie

Every year, the SportCie organises various sports-related activities, ranging from mini-golf to the autumn hike.

Big TripCie

Every year, the BigTripCie organises a long trip away from all the studying! You might visit a museum, go on a pub crawl or do a picture hunt at the place you're visiting.

CampCie

Each year, the CampCie organises the best way for the new first years to get started with their university life: the Introduction Camp! This weekend is filled with fun activities and games, all designed around a special theme. The camp is perfect for getting to know other first years as well as the older Albioneers and getting an introduction to our lovely association itself. The camp will provide you with some of the most treasured Albion memories you'll ever have.

AcCie

Who doesn't love some time off? The Activities Committee is here to guarantee that you have something to do during those hours that you really do not want to spend studying. The AcCie organises a wide variety of activities during the academic year. These range from pub crawls to whatever else the committee may come up with this year.



Tea Time with Sajed Chowdhury

Interviewed, Written and Photographed by Mohana Zwaga, edited by Marit Vogels, re-edited by Aitana Montoro

In this issue's Tea Time, we invited Utrecht University's new addition to the English Literature Department: Assistant Professor of Early Modern Literature, Sajed Chowdhury. We talked for hours about his time in academia, his interest in early modern poetry, and the art of perseverance.

What did you study, and what was your background for that?

I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. The atmosphere at St Andrews was very traditional: your readers would probably label it as #darkacademia. I then completed my PhD at the University of Sussex. I was drawn to Sussex because of the wide variety of scholars working there on gender and sexuality studies and cultural theory of the body. Prior to my doctoral study, I worked as a Theatre Administrator at the Barbican Centre in London (where I was part of a small team that produced an international dance, opera and theatre programme). I also worked as a Script Developer for various new writing theatre companies in London, including the Soho Theatre and Writers' Centre and Paines Plough. After this, I decided to apply for funding with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to pursue my MA and PhD, which I then got.

Can you talk a bit about your current research project on women and alchemy?

I did my PhD on early modern female poets' conception of the 'metaphysical'. We think of metaphysical poetry as pertaining to John Donne, George Herbert, and Andrew Marvell, predominantly focusing on the soul and the body, scientific imagery, and the use of tightly controlled poetic forms. I was interested in how women poets (such as Katherine Philips) deployed metaphysical ideas and concepts in their verse. I found that a lot of the time early modern women writers were alluding to alchemy – the craft of chemical transformation. When I researched this further, I discovered that many women were using alchemical and chemical techniques in the running of their households, and that's when I realized this could really be a book!

What is it that continuously draws you to poetry?

Partly it's strategic: it's much easier to re-draft an essay on lyric poetry than it would be on a long prose work. But the other reason, I think, is that poetry reminds us of the importance of close reading: we have to think very carefully about why poets choose specific forms and words to articulate their sentiments. Poetry also solicits slow reading: this is why I try to encourage my students to engage with it—many undergraduate students prefer the quick reading of fast-paced novels—poetry forces us to slow down.

What would be your advice to young, aspiring academics?

If you're interested in doing a PhD, it's going to be a slog, especially with the continual redrafting. I think it is important to really love your topic because you're going to be spending a lot of time with it! In terms of funding applications, ask yourself two key questions: why is your work important and why does it matter? Prior to joining Utrecht, I had a Marie Curie fellowship at Leiden University where I completed the first draft of my monograph, *Women Writers and Alchemy in Early Modern Britain*. When I applied for the Marie Curie grant, I had to think carefully about how I could make alchemy accessible to a panel that would not necessarily know about women's writing or early modern science. Perseverance is also crucial! If you are committed to your research—don't give up!



Albion Abroad

Written and Photographed by Elise Brouwer, edited by Luka van den Berg, re-edited by Aitana Montoro

Hi there! It's been a while... I'm writing this right in the middle of exam/deadline season from a very busy library (open 24/7) in the lovely city of Newcastle upon Tyne. Sitting here in the Phillip Robinson library, surrounded by shelf after shelf of books on politics, arts, language, and poetry, there's no place I'd rather be. In January of 2022 I decided to take my chances and apply for the Harting scheme. It honestly didn't matter much to me what university I would be placed in if they accepted me, I just really wanted to study in England for a full year.

Even though it's only been a few months, so much has happened already. I have taken three wonderful modules during my first semester (American Poetry Now, Literatures of Decolonisation, and Introduction to Creative Writing) and they've really made me excited about new areas within the English programme—I find myself wanting to do much more reading (and writing) than before. On top of this, I've been teaching on the module Beginners' Dutch and leading its seminar group. I absolutely love seeing all the progress that my students are making, and I'm really excited to continue doing this next semester. The position even came with a shared office and the sweetest colleagues.

I've seen so many beautiful places already, and when the Easter break starts I'll hopefully explore the country even more. I'm just incredibly grateful for the opportunity and for all the wonderful people I've met so far; I can't wait to see where this year will take me!



Zugvogelseele

Written by Alice Dribnokhod, edited by Hester Schneider, and re-edited by Aitana Montoro

today I met
in autumn's calm, the colours
of the sky
saw distant lands
took both my hands
and made me gently cry

today I met
the cicadas' longing tale
enticing me with siren's might
the sunrise, tired and pale
was my reward for endless
night

today I met
another wild-haired traveler
torn cotton on the knee
barefooted, and child faced
missing two front teeth

today I met,
the buried spark,
the prospector struck gold,
unplanned i ventured in the dark
and plunged into the cold
today I met,
myself again,
blinded by the sun
felt comfort, felt the warmth of rain, adventure has begun

A word from IntroCie...

Hello there!

Welcome to your first year at Utrecht University! I want to start off by saying that I hope you all have an amazing day today, the introduction days are filled to the brim with information, but as important as that is, I mostly hope you all have fun and meet some fellow firsties with whom you can form beautiful budding friendships.

When I arrived at UU last year I remember being incredibly nervous, I had already met some ELC students during my electives the year before, but those people would be entering their second year, while I would have to start fresh in the first year. So although it was, by then, a somewhat familiar city for me. The people I was going to be meeting were not quite so familiar. In hindsight, it wasn't necessary to be nervous at all, the mentors and the Albion board did a great job of making everyone feel welcome and accepted. So here I am today, very much looking forward to giving you an equally amazing day!

I look forward to meeting all of you today and making sure you have an unforgettable day, I hope all of you find your place in your groups today and I hope you all enjoy our gorgeous city and amazing degree!

Tobias Blokhuis, Chair Introduction Committee 2023-2024

Monday 4 September 2023

Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 - 006

09:00 - Walk in & Sign in
09:15 - Opening talks
10:15 - Meeting the teachers
11:00 - Meeting the tutors
12:00 - 13:30: Small tour
12:30 - Lunch
13:30 - Committee market
16:00 - End of the mandatory part of the day
16:15 - Relaxing / Socialising
17:30 - Dinner
20:00 - Playing Pool at Hart van Utrecht

Tuesday 5 September 2023

15:00 - Games at Wilhelmina Park organised by the SportCie
18:00 - Optional dinner
20:00 - PubQuiz and drinks at the Stadsgenoot

- Stay hydrated
- Stick together with your friends
- Open your heart to a new world :)

