



## Party Program 2023–2024

### Content

This program includes the following topics:

1. Student well-being;
2. Safety;
3. Quality of education;
4. Sustainability;
5. Active student;
6. Integration;
7. TBR-hotline.

### 1. Student well-being

Good health is important to perform well. For us students, mental health is an important part of this. In order to be able to study optimally at the University of Groningen, Ten Behoeve van Rechtenstudenten is committed to the well-being of all students. With this we hope to achieve that you get everything out of yourself and your student days.

We want to achieve this goal by giving you an **active voice**. To actually bring about change, students need to be heard. Open **conversations between students and teachers** during meetings where we get to know each other's points of view and interests. This way we can formulate common goals.

In addition, TBR wants first-year students to be properly supervised at the start of their studies. You have to learn to study, and TBR wants to help with that. We want to do this by **connecting enthusiastic and experienced senior students to a group of first-year students**. First-year students can come to them with all their questions, so that everyone quickly feels at home at the RUG. This way, the study can start right away.

Finally, we want you to always have access to a **study advisor or psychologist** if necessary. There are plenty of resources available at the university, but TBR would like to improve their use and findability. Students have experienced increasing stress in recent years. A good network, a safe start and access to help make the UG a trusted place where you can focus on your future in peace.

### 2. Safety

Safety at a university is of the utmost importance, for both students and employees. A university should provide an environment where everyone is free from threats and sexual harassment and where everyone involved feels safe and supported. A safe environment enables students and staff to reach their full potential and deliver the best possible academic performance. At our university there is a hotline and a confidential counsellor for students who have felt unsafe at our faculty.

TBR notices that law students find it difficult to find their way there. That is why TBR advocates more **visibility for the hotline and the confidential adviser**. After all, everyone should feel safe at our faculty. Even if the sexually transgressive behaviour does not take place at the faculty, it must be clear to students where they can go. TBR is therefore considering advertising this in visible places by means of **posters and flyers**. So that as many students as possible know where to go if they have had to deal with an unsafe situation.

### 3. Quality of education

High-quality education is of paramount importance to universities. While it is desirable that other aspects are also of high quality, the most important task of a university is to educate and prepare its students for a successful career. This is therefore an important point of attention of TBR for both Dutch and international students.

#### 3.1 Video Policy

Students cannot always be physically present at the lecture due to special circumstances. They want to watch the missed lecture so as not to incur a study delay. The current recording policy prevents optimal preparation for the exam. TBR takes the following positions:

- The lecture recordings are recorded and made available at least two weeks before the exam;
- For students who missed a lecture due to **personal circumstances**, the lecture recording is open until one week after the missed lecture;
- For the **active student**, the lecture recording is open until the next lecture of the relevant course.

#### 3.2 Exam Policy

The **procedural rules** regarding the exams are not unequivocal. First of all, not every department adheres to the deadline for announcing the exam results. As a result, students do not know what their study progress looks like, while the next lecture block has already started. For this reason, TBR is of the opinion that each department should **not exceed the deadline for announcing the exam results**. In addition, TBR advocates reducing the evening and weekend exams. These stand in the way of good study planning for the students. Not every student can be expected to be able to concentrate during the evening hours and students cannot be forced to take an exam at the weekend.

Secondly, not every department places a **practice exam** with answers on Brightspace. TBR is currently already working on the implementation of a policy that requires course coordinators and teachers to provide students with at least two practice exams with answers prior to an exam. This will ensure that students understand how to answer exam questions and that they are tested on their knowledge of the course content rather than their ability to decipher what a question actually asks.

Thirdly, TBR signals that the doors of the **exam rooms open too shortly** before the start of the exam. TBR is of the opinion that the doors of the exam rooms open at least ten minutes before the start of each exam, so that students have time to settle in. This will alleviate the current situation where the doors of the exam halls are sometimes only opened five minutes before the exam, as a result of which students do not have enough time to catch their breath after finding their table.

Fourth, with a view to improving the quality of education, TBR advocates **compulsory course evaluations for subjects with a low pass rate**. This is already the case at the moment, as the faculty assesses courses where the results are lower than usual. However, this is not done transparently. TBR believes that students should be informed of the content of such an assessment, for which subjects and when the assessment takes place and the result of the assessment. In general, greater transparency of the assessment procedure - however conducted - is desirable.

Finally, there is currently no fixed policy with regard to the **inspection of examination results**. Some exams can only be viewed digitally for a certain period, while other exams can only be viewed physically. It is unreasonable to require students to view their exam at a specific, unannounced time. TBR is of the opinion that every exam result must be available digitally within a reasonable time frame. In addition, if digital inspection is not possible, the moment of physical inspection must be communicated to students in advance within a reasonable period of time.

### *3.3 Soft cut*

The past academic year was the last in which there was talk of the 'soft cut'. In this way, up to fifteen Bachelor's/Pre-Master's ECTs could be included in the Master's phase, subject to certain conditions. On the other hand, there will be a hard cut in the coming academic year. No Bachelor's/Pre-Master's course may be transferred to the Master's phase. TBR advocates reintroducing the soft cut. It is unreasonable to withhold access to the Master's phase if students only miss a few courses. In addition, the consequences of the corona pandemic are still noticeable for some students.

### *3.4 Working groups*

In the coming year, the working groups in the first block of the first bachelor year will become compulsory for students. TBR takes the position not to make participation in working groups compulsory. It is not reasonable to exclude students from participation if they have not participated in a working group. TBR therefore wants to emphasize the academic character of our study. After all, the academic character refers to the personal responsibility of our students.

### *3.5 Neurodivergent students*

TBR stands for **better facilities for neurodivergent students**. Currently, neurodivergent students are given more time for the exam. Due to the nature of neurodiversity, this is not helpful. It can be difficult for a neurodivergent student to concentrate when other students are walking in and out of the exam room. That is why TBR will give more publicity and transparency to the other services that the faculty currently offers. In addition, TBR will investigate the possibility of providing lecture slides earlier to neurodivergent students and what changes can be made to the exam requirements for such students. Finally, TBR wants to establish a forum where neurodivergent students can express their wishes and what they consider useful.

### *3.6 Internship places*

Some of the students would like to do a legal internship to build up a CV. TBR believes that the faculty could do more to **inform students about available internships**. The lecturers can inform students during the lecture which internships are possible.

### *3.7 Studybooks*

Many students struggle with student debt. This can increase due to having to buy the necessary textbooks again and again. TBR would like to see students have the opportunity to sell their textbooks at the faculty. We want to ensure that students can buy **second-hand textbooks** at the faculty before the start of each block.

#### 4. Sustainability

Sustainability remains an important theme in society to this day. This aspect is becoming more and more important every day. In recent years, the faculty has already taken many measures to make the faculty more sustainable. For example, plastic items are no longer provided, but we use paper cups, plates and wooden forks. The waste is also separated and the faculty strives to raise awareness of a greener faculty among students and teachers. Nevertheless, TBR believes that there is room for improvement with regard to making our faculty more sustainable.

First of all, TBR strives for the faculty to **use as little paper as possible**. Many departments still require the purchase of paper folders. These must be provided digitally by the department. TBR also advocates further online examinations. On an open book exam, notes should be readily available digitally. The questions will also be provided digitally. There must also be an option to obtain a paper version on request. With these measures, the faculty will have much less paper in circulation on an annual basis. All this to prevent paper waste.

This summer our faculty will move to the Röling building. This building is already focused on the most sustainable choices and equipped with the latest technologies. TBR will keep an eye on possible issues encountered.

Finally, TBR stands for **combating food waste**. There is a lot of food in circulation in the canteens of our faculty. As a result, leftovers are often thrown away at the end of the day or week, which is a shame. This food can be donated to the local food banks, so that the faculty contributes to the world and society around us.

#### 5. Active student

Society is constantly changing, internationalizing and at times demanding a lot from our students. In addition to a (nice) list of grades, the practice attaches more and more value to social and experienced students. That is why TBR stands for the active student. Not only achieving grades is important for this, but also the opportunity to develop yourself alongside your studies. Extracurricular activities are important for this. Consider, for example, a committee or board year, studying abroad or doing an internship at offices. TBR considers the possibility to do these **(extra curricular) activities** in addition to the study very important. TBR will therefore, as in previous years, dedicate itself to the active students and will continue to talk to the faculty in order to maintain the extra curricular activities.

#### 6. Integration

The Faculty of Law is a modern and internationally oriented institute. That is why she looks forward to the arrival of international students every academic year. TBR wants to contribute to the integration of these students, so that they feel welcome at our faculty. At the start of the academic year, TBR wants to organize a **festive introduction** to our faculty for all new national and international students. This offers national and international students the opportunity to get to know each other and become acquainted with the faculty. TBR also thinks it is important that the faculty inform international students in September about where they can go if they run into problems. The Faculty of Law attracts new students from the Netherlands and abroad every year. Because of their education at our law faculty, they want to live in or around Groningen. TBR notes that they are facing the housing problem and advocates good cooperation between all parties involved in student housing in order to find a solution.

**Your Law Faculty. Your Future.**

**7. TBR-hotline**

Do you have reasons to believe that a lecturer or a department is not keeping to the agreements made? Let one of our council members know and they will raise this in the faculty council. Do you have any other ideas to improve our faculty? We would like to hear it! Your Law Faculty. Your Future.