


HOW INTERNATIONAL IS THE CAMPUS? / AN INTERVIEW
WITH ROBBERT DIJKGRAAF IN PRINCETON /
HOOGEVELDT CORRIDOR 92: SANGRIA AND PALÍNKA
/ 'THE NETHERLANDS IS NOT REALLY FLAT'

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VOX

Independent magazine of Radboud University Nijmegen

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ENGLISH
EDITION

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Radboud University Nijmegen



VOX

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NR. 9
04/2013
CONTENTS

P.11 / MANY NATIONS /

'The library here is like a living room'

P.16 / INTERVIEW /

Robbert Dijkgraaf feels at home in Princeton

P.22 / REPORT /

A whiff of cultures on the international 'corridor 92'

P.26 / PORTRAITS /

Drawn to Nijmegen by outstanding facilities for research

AND MORE / P.4 / **PHOTO IN THE NEWS** / P.6 / **A TALL POPPY** / P.7 / **OLD NEWS** / P.8 / **OPINION** / P.20 / **MAP OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS** / P.32 / **INTEGRATING IN NIJMEGEN** / P.38 / **VOX CAMPUS** / P.40 / **BLIND DATE**

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EDITORIAL

INTERNATIONAL

I spent one of my first nights in Nijmegen at the Hoogevelde complex, at Professor Bromstraat 78. The sun was already high when my mentor-daddy and I rolled out of bed (must I explain that?). He was from Rotterdam. In the kitchen, a Palestinian from England, a Swede, an Iranian and an Antillean were talking together, in English. The English-language club went out through the doors and onto the lawn in front of the accommodation complex. With a packet of biscuits in my hand by way of breakfast I went to join them. That was a baptism of fire for the girl from the country. If I wanted to join in, I had to switch to English. "Helleu, I am Ennemeurie." That's long ago. Since then, the campus has become even more international and we wanted to let that show in Vox. That explains this once-only English-language issue, in which people with about 25 different nationalities have their say, about living, working and food, and about the Dutch. Robbert Dijkgraaf, the only Dutch person we interviewed, involved the most travel for us. He will soon receive an honorary doctorate from Radboud University Nijmegen, but he lives in Princeton now. It's a cosmopolitan world.

Annemarie Haverkamp
editor in chief of Vox



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**NO INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MAY
LEAVE NIJMEGEN WITHOUT EXPERIENCE
THE FOUR-DAY MARCH PARTIES.**

Culture / P. 36

TWO TIMES TEDX

Two institutions in Nijmegen are organising their own TED-style conference this year, known as TEDx events. On 8 April the UMC St Radboud organized a conference on durable and affordable health care in the City Theatre. One of the speakers was Marcel Olde Rikkert (see photo), a Professor of Geriatrics. Accompanied by his father and son (aged 92 and 16), he made an interesting point: "You don't stop playing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop playing."

On Tuesday 23 May, Radboud University Nijmegen will present a varied programme on the theme of 'rebuilding trust' at the music centre *De Vereeniging*. This TEDx conference is a highlight of the University's 90th anniversary, to be celebrated this year. The speakers include Robbert Dijkgraaf, Mark Lewis and Step Vaessen. See www.tedxradboudu.com

Photo: TEDx







PAUL VAN DEN BROEK

In the Netherlands, the name Radboud is now understood

– partly thanks to the reputation of the hospital – but the University's allure has not yet shone through in other countries. In a world where reputations matter, an image boost is not such a bad idea. It helps if foreign students and researchers spread the word about us when they return home. But an image boost is no easy matter.

The problem isn't the quality of the University. The quality is there, as various rankings demonstrate. But that doesn't get us onto the lips of people in the street, rue, calle and Strasse. What's the answer? In recent months I've been slogging through the morass of the phenomenon called 'reputation'. I've learned that one good image often hitches a ride on another, like Nespresso on the shoulders of George Clooney. Radboud is linked to the city of Nijmegen. But Nijmegen is no Clooney, and thus far we haven't been able to make "Radboud, what else?" the popular slogan of the day.

The problem is also not the 'content' of the Nijmegen brand. The city has a liveliness that many big cities are jealous of, although

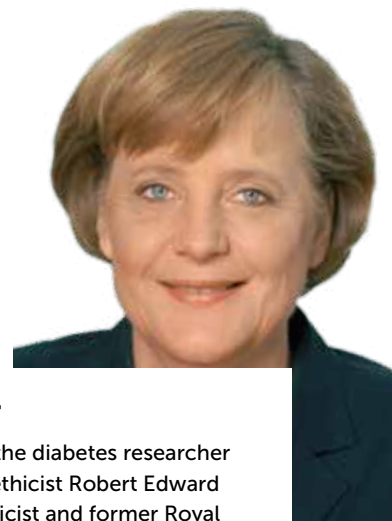
it has less than 170,000 inhabitants. The city's surroundings are more beautiful every year. But who knows that? Despite, or perhaps because of, the city marketing that Nijmegen has been conducting, it has not been possible to pin an image on the city. Nijmegen wants too much. Not long ago we wanted to be associated with health care. Now we're a city with a green heart, or we're flirting with our medieval past and we pride ourselves on being the 'oldest city in the Netherlands'. The confusion was compounded when Nijmegen in turn tried to hitch a ride on the image of the eastern part of the Netherlands, using labels such as Food Valley and Health Valley.

Whoa! Take a break, I say, and let the city's surroundings do their work. If all of our visitors from around the world were to make a quick visit to the picturesque hotel/café Oortjeshekken, that would bear fruit in the wonderful stories they would tell back home. But I also understand that marketing without a teaser doesn't work. So if you must hitch a ride, then think big: 'Nijmegen: Europe's most beautiful river landscape, and just 90 minutes from the Rijksmuseum'.



More than four thousand students (4,222 to be exact), filled in the general survey of students at the University. What did we learn from it this time? Students are devoting more time to their studies: no less than 34 hours per week. In a few years, they will be more industrious than civil servants, with their 36-hour week.

More time spent studying; that must be at the expense of other activities? Yes indeed, students are doing less paid work. Seven out of ten students have a job in addition to their studies, but they are spending less time on it.



A TALL POPPY

Angela Merkel

We already knew that the diabetes researcher Frances Ashcroft, the ethicist Robert Edward Freeman, and the physicist and former Royal Academy (KNAW) Chairman Robbert Dijkgraaf would receive honorary doctorates during the celebrations of Radboud's 90th anniversary. In mid-April, a fourth name was added to the list: Angela Merkel. Before she went into politics, Merkel was active in the sciences. She did her PhD in physics and worked for the Academy of Sciences in Berlin for over ten years. Since 2005 she has been Germany's first female Chancellor.

The most important argument for her honorary doctorate is her profile in Europe. Rector Magnificus Bas Kortmann, who presented her name for the honorary doctorate, says, "The recognizable leadership she provides contributes to the renewed confidence that is essential for internal relationships in Europe." The fact that she is not equally popular everywhere (read: in Greece) made no difference for the Board of Governors. Merkel will receive her honorary doctorate during a special academic ceremony on 24 May. She is not able to come on 23 May, when the other luminaries will receive their awards.



TWEETS



Klaasjan Boon @klaasjan_boon
@siamnijmegen calls it quits. A brave decision. Shame though. RU is losing an important piece of participation history!

OLD NEWS

FOR NEW NEWS: VISIT **VOXWEB.NL**

LONGER HOURS AT THE UB

At last! The UB's opening hours have been extended. During examination periods you will be able to use the library until midnight. In the weekends you can work until 8 p.m. The University Student Council (USR) has been asking for longer hours for a long time. Achiel Fenneman, student of Economics and Psychology, thought the change came none too soon. "I practically live in the UB. If it was up to me, I'd have a bed and refrigerator here."



FOUR GOLD MEDALS

According to the annual report Keuzegids Masters 2013, which was published on 18 April, 13 Masters programmes at the University have been judged as the best of their kind. The Faculty of Arts is particularly well represented with four 'gold medals'. "This was just what the doctor ordered," says Dean Theo Engelen. He hopes that it will prevent Bachelors students going elsewhere to get their Masters degree. Two programmes – Cognitive Neuroscience and Theology– received the distinction 'top education'.

RAISED BICYCLE PATH AT THE ROUNDABOUT

In the coming summer, Nijmegen municipality will finally do something about the dangerous roundabout at the corner of Heyendaalseweg and Erasmuslaan. The bicycle path will be raised, and buses will join the traffic in the main lane, so that they do not have to make such a tight turn. Earlier there were plans to place an artwork in the middle of the roundabout, to draw drivers' attention to the roundabout. That idea faced too much criticism in the city council.

TEN YEARS OF GYMNASION

This month the University Sports Centre is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Gymnasion. In those ten years, the Sports Centre has grown to be the second largest in the Netherlands. Only Groningen has more members. There are also expansion plans. Director Rob Cuppen says he is hoping for a third sports hall.

CREDITS FOR TOP SPORTS PERFORMANCES?

Should we give more help to top-sports students (or top sportspeople who study) by offering them flexible study schedules and financial support? The umbrella organisation for sporting bodies, NOC*NSF, thinks so. They have drawn up an action plan, which argues that top sportspeople should get credits for the life experience they acquire from practising their sport. Whether the University will agree, remains to be seen. The proposal has been presented to the Board of Governors for a decision.

DULY NOTED

"Immigrants are asked to conform to an idealized picture of the Netherlands as a neo-liberal society, based on secular and sexual freedoms. The paradox is: they are all supposed to become the same type of free individuals."

Anthropologist **Martijn de Koning** states that minorities are required to conform to an imaginary ideal, and that we'd do better to give up on integration, in the *Volkskrant* of April 13.

OVER THE FENCE:

what other tertiary education media are saying



My word! If it were not for the international pages of our friends at SAX (Saxion Technical University) we might have missed the point. The abdication of Queen Beatrix also means the end of that awfully in-groupy Orange-ogastic phenomenon, Queen's Day. Of course we'll get a King's Day instead, but still... 'Nail in the bottle' and toilet pot throwing will never be the same.

Folia takes a critical look at the extensive co-operation between the Amsterdam universities. In particular, at the plan to combine the science Faculties at the UvA and the VU to form one Amsterdam Faculty of Science (AFS). On the one hand, there are some advantages to working together. Kareljan Schoutens, Dean of the UvA Faculty of Science says, "We offer joint programmes, but we also compete

for the same contracts and grants. That leads to friction. [...] Working together, we have more to offer as a research partner [in contracted research -ed.]. Schoutens also sees opportunities to improve the universities' teaching. But is the VU a reliable partner? Teachers and researchers complain that the teaching level is too low, and the Rector Magnificus has resigned after the College of Deans passed a motion of no confidence in the University Board.

The question is now being discussed by the Supervisory Boards. If they agree, it has to go to the Universities' Worker Participation bodies. *Folia*: "Half the members of the worker participation bodies are from student parties, who have said they have no confidence in the plans. If the majority of these bodies vote against the plan, the Supervisory Boards have three options. They can seek support for the plans from the courts, or persuade the worker participation bodies to change their minds, through mediation, or cancel the whole exercise." We have this tagged as a long-running story.

Finally, we come to *Transfer*, which focuses on the internationalisation of tertiary education. *Transfer* has an interview with Andrei Barashenko, from Russia, who is very positive as he looks back on his stay at Erasmus University. He was enamoured by the flexibility he found there. "All the course materials are online, you could download everything whenever it suited you."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABOUT COMMUNICATING IN ENGLISH, THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR MOTHER TONGUE AND EXAMS WITH AN EXPIRY DATE

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COMMUNICATING IN DUTCH AND ENGLISH

Dutch verbal communication is generally very direct, sometimes to the point of being rude. But written communication is often very formal, abstract and littered with escape clauses. This 'hedging' inhibits clarity in scientific discourse. In spoken English, however, you should not be too quick to express your opinions, especially with international colleagues. Rather, try to feel what is important for *them*. Academics at the University are often too formulaic and stylised in their written communication. That's a striking contrast: verbally

blunt, but formal when writing. Good reason, I think, to recommend the Cluetrain Manifesto (www.cluetrain.com). The authors present 95 propositions, which are all about recognizing people as individuals, and speaking to them in open and natural dialogue. I miss that in much Dutch written communication.

In verbal communication, the Dutch generally say precisely what they mean. It's a "low context" culture: only the words count. One problem with English communication is that people don't always say what they mean. And in "high context" cultures in South America, Asia and Africa, not only the words but also gestures, tone, rank and status symbols play an important role in communication.

Culture is important. Even colours can be positive in some cultures, while being seen as negative in others. Green and blue are considered positive throughout the world, but red and white can be tricky. There are also differing etiquettes in communication. In French-speaking cultures, it's impolite to begin a letter at the top of the page. The more white space above your text, the more polite you are. Whereas Americans like to begin at the top, as they want to fit everything on an A4 (for the pedant: on one US Letter size sheet). Each of us has a map of social and psychological structures in our minds, so communication clearly involves a lot more than language alone.

Mike Gould, a communication consultant based in Arnhem

SAVE THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

English is taking over at Dutch universities; that much is clear.

But don't let English become the only language in your academic repertoire. Your language is part of your Dutch identity. You have your country, your skates, your tulips, your cheese ... and your language. If we all switched exclusively to using English, we would become little more than a glorified English or American province.

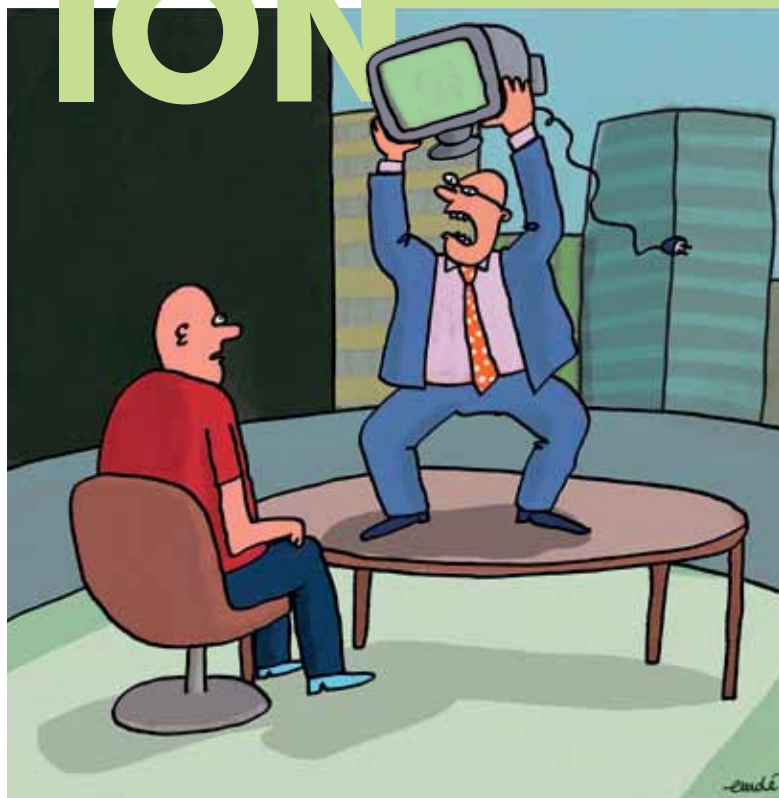
Dutch is also important because multilingualism is so important. Every language has its own way of expressing meaning. Mastering only one language forces you to think exclusively within the system of that language, which is extremely restrictive. Multilingualism, on the other hand, encourages you to think from different perspectives. In my opinion, language and thought are intimately connected. We have our advanced language system to thank for our imagination. We can reflect on the perspectives of others, we can show empathy and we can contemplate other worlds. This is equally important for scholars, as hypotheses are little more than fantasies about how the world works.

So cherish your multilingualism. Write in different languages and translate your own work. But keep working in your mother tongue, too. If you were raised in Dutch, keep writing in Dutch. This really helps when examining difficult concepts.

Anneke Neijt is Professor of Dutch Linguistics

THOSE ROTTEN EXAMS

New regulations have put a use-by date on completed exams, as if a pass grade is a can of beans. The regulations come in three flavours: b-in-4, b-in-5 (Bachelor's in 4 years,



THE PROFESSOR'S BODY LANGUAGE
SUGGESTED TO THE YOUNG SWEDISH PHD CANDIDATE
THAT THE DISCUSSION WAS ALMOST AT AN END.

COLUMN

PH-neutraal

PH-neutraal is a **professor** and **researcher** at Radboud University

Why?

Every time I see those groups of exchange students, I ask myself: why? Why on Earth would you come to Radboud University? Why Nijmegen? The Germans I can understand: they were just following their old holiday route to the sea and didn't quite get to the beaches. But the Spanish? It beats me.

Not that it's so terrible here; far from it. But how does the idea of studying at Radboud University for six months or a year come into their heads in the first place? It seems unlikely that they'd ever heard of Nijmegen before they came here, because the fact that Nijmegen is the oldest Dutch city is even less well known over the border than in the Netherlands. When I'm in other countries, I always have to add 'Near the German border,' when I reveal that I come from Charlemagne's city, as Nijmegen is proud to style itself.

I'm glad we aren't called the 'Catholic University' any more, because in most countries that means a seminary and people today are a bit suspicious of what goes on in seminaries. And no, Nijmegen is not near

Amsterdam – the only place name that doesn't raise eyebrows abroad, with Rotterdam perhaps coming in second. But Nijmegen must have a prominent place in the *Lonely Planet* for the Netherlands? If it exists, it's one of the few *Planets* that's not on my shelf.

Maybe I should just ask one of these Erasmus students, but I don't dare. I'm afraid I would hear nothing but pragmatic reasons. There was no room in Amsterdam, Nijmegen was cheaper, that kind of thing. But still, maybe they do come here for the intrinsic value of Nijmegen and our university. There are good reasons why I came here thirty years ago and I still live here. And why I've had something to do with the university for all of those thirty years. There must be something special about the city and Radboud, because nothing else has held me for long. But what is it exactly that's so special? I'll have to ask those international students that, one of these days. Their fresh outsiders' perspective might enable them to find words for what I feel, but can't find the right words to express.

Bachelor's in 5 years) and, for some Master's programmes, the M-in-2. That means that exams passes for some Master's subjects become invalid after just two years. After that, the student must sacrifice the possibility of completing the degree or sit the expired exams again. Now that does leave a rotten taste.

The natural question is: why was it decided to limit the validity of exam passes? What can decay in an exam, once it has been passed? The Executive Board of the Radboud University says that it must be *possible* to limit the validity of exam results, for pedagogical reasons or in the light of the course contents. That is all well and good, but what we see in practice is something quite different. Every jar and can now bears a date stamp and it seems every exam has also

been given a use-by date, but for no valid reason. Why would anyone think that a history student's examination pass is no longer good? Nothing's going to change in the Roman era, or the Middle Ages, is it?

No one can tell me that the knowledge acquired in every Master's subject is outmoded after two years, and especially not in the case of courses that compare scientific theories and where no radical new insights can be expected in the short term. It's strange that we assume that a Bachelor's or Master's degree is good for life, but the exams that constitute the degree can go off.

Pepijn Eymaal – a member of the University Student Council, on behalf of the AKKURA student lobby.



PLATE SURFING

RIKA NEVARA, FROM JAPAN, HAS LIVED IN NIJMEGEN SINCE SEPTEMBER 2012. SHE STUDIES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Meal: various kinds of sushi, sashimi, small vegetable dishes, dumplings and Ika Kushi (octopus on skewers), at Restaurant Shabu Shabu. Orchids and red and black lanterns generate a stylish, Asian, lounge atmosphere.

"It's a bit odd to name your restaurant after a dish you don't have on the menu. Shabu Shabu is a type of soup, but they don't serve it here. Anyway, it's better than the name of the other sushi restaurant in Nijmegen, the Yukimi. That's a girl's name. That's no problem in itself, but in Japan it isn't the custom to give your restaurant a female name. The only places that do are the *kyabakura*: bars especially for men, who pay to drink with beautiful young girls.

A Japanese friend told me about this restaurant. It's Japanese, but the staff are all Chinese. You can see that from the menu. Along with the sushi they sell dumplings and spring rolls.

About 95 percent of the dishes look Japanese. *Edamame* (steamed soybeans), for example, are typically Japanese. The sushi tastes good, by and large. The Dutch like dry loose rice grains, but in Japan we prefer sticky rice. The rice in the sushi is a bit dryer than I'm used to, but not bad at all. Maybe you don't even have real Japanese rice in the Netherlands. I haven't been able to find it, in any case."

Enjoyed at:

Restaurant Shabu Shabu Sushi & Grill
(Klein Mariënborg 24)

How authentic are foreign restaurants in Nijmegen? Vox let international guests sample 'their' cuisine. Also see page 15, 25 and 35

All quiet on the digital highway

WEB COURSES AT PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES CAN BE FOLLOWED ONLINE. DUTCH ACADEMICS ARE SIGNING UP TO GIVE E-LECTURES AT THE 'UNIVERSITY OF THE NETHERLANDS'.
SO WHERE IS RADBOUD'S WEB-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME?

Text: Mark Merks

"What's become of the committee that's looking at the desirability of web lectures?," Rector Magnificus Bas Kortmann wondered, during the university council meeting in March. For those who don't read our council meetings' monthly reports from beginning to end: in the course of the last academic year the Board of Governors decided to set up a web lectures committee, to examine whether it is desirable and practical to record the University's regular lectures and make them available digitally via the Blackboard web portal.

At the end of the summer, the committee gave a positive report

and the issue was passed on to the College of Deans. Alas, it seems the dream of university-wide web lectures ended there. Some Faculties are for it, while others are against. The Faculty of Law is opposed. "A student at our university studies in a social environment," says Dean Paul Bovend'Eert. "Lectures in a lecture hall play a crucial role in this. In the first place they guide the student through the material, but they are also an exercise: how to make good notes, quickly distinguishing what is essential and what is incidental. Those skills are needed in practising law, and you don't learn them at home behind the computer." So the Faculty of Law is not planning to offer web lectures to full-time students. Bovend'Eert: "Other faculties are free to do what seems best to them. We don't need to turn web lectures into a straitjacket do we?"

Although the Faculty of Science supports the use of web lectures, and has offered them for many years, Dean Stan Gielen agrees with Bovend'Eert on the last point. "I don't try to tell other faculties what to do. We're already doing it: web lectures are valuable for our students and experience has shown that it has no effect on attendance at lectures. Students go to lectures and then look at the web lectures again before an exam."

Unless the Board of Governors decides otherwise, the debate about web lectures is over, at least among the Deans. So it's up to the Board of Governors. Our enquiries discovered that the Board is waiting for a study of

practical feasibility. If the Board has a standpoint on the question of principle – whether university-wide web lectures are desirable or not – it has kept it to itself.

There's one interesting development on the digital front: a working group for massive online open courses (MOOC) has been formed. It will study whether there is good reason for Radboud to enter the field of massive online open courses: courses of video lectures that are publicly available. The committee will examine the practical feasibility of the idea (that sounds vaguely familiar). No decision has yet been made on the question of principle – do we actually want this? So, dear readers, next year: same place, same time, same discussion.

Vox has since talked to the two deans. Both are moderately positive. Bovend'Eert: "We certainly want to be part of weighing up the options. I wouldn't advocate recording a complete study programme, for example the Constitutional Law course and then opening it to the public. Then you would be competing with yourself." Stan Gielen: "It could be good for the university's public profile, but right now we're not ready for it. The web lectures are good for internal use, but if we offer them to the public the production techniques need to be better." Gielen raises another issue for the MOOC committee to consider: "Suppose our students do a course in statistics at Stanford: can they get credits for it?"

HOT TOPIC



ABROAD

'The library's like a living room'

You can get croquettes out of a dispenser in the wall! But that is not the only thing that foreign guests notice in the Netherlands. Last year there were 2093 international students on the Radboud campus. How do they like it here? Vox spoke with students from twenty countries.

Text: Linda van der Pol en Soesja Verheijden

"When we greet one another in Brazil, we do it noisily," says Juliana Nogueira Garcia, an exchange student. "And we cuddle and kiss. You just give a little wave." Fortunately, we are co-operative, friendly and helpful in the Netherlands. Not very approachable, perhaps, but we are direct and open-minded. For example, we find it easy to talk about sex and homosexuality.

If Dutch students are standoffish, how reserved our professors must be! But that appears to be no problem; they distinguish themselves by displaying just the opposite characteristics. They are interested, approachable and give each student a lot of attention. And how personal they can be! One student is surprised that some lecturers are called by their first names; another thinks it's remarkable that a professor responds to e-mails in the middle of the night. That's just as well, because southern Europeans in particular are not charmed by our super-serious agenda.

Where are the international students when they are not working on an essay? The sports centre is the place to be on campus. No doubt about that, because it's cheap, pleasant and offers a fantastic range of sports. The town centre also wins approval. "A little on the small side," say students from big cities such as Brasilia and Zhengzhou. But at least you can find your way here. You're not likely to meet foreign students in restaurants. "Two euros fifty for a cappuccino!" our Italians exclaim.

Opinions about Dutch food are divided. One loves our curly kale and sausage; another thinks we have too little variety. Not to mention sandwiches for lunch: "That's the time for a hot meal, isn't it?" Two other things all of our guests find strange: Who takes a lunch box to university every day? We're not school kids! And the fact that our meal times are very strict – every six hours by the clock.

Finally: finding rooms. This seems normal to Dutch students, but in many countries students continue to live at home. Unless, of course, you decide to pack your bags and move to Nijmegen, like the foreign students interviewed on the following pages.




JULIANA NOGUEIRA GARCIA (20)
From: Brazil
Studying: Various courses in Medical and Biomedical Sciences
In the Netherlands since: February 2013.

"The Dutch think differently about distances. 'Wow,' they say, 'Nijmegen is really a long way from the Randstad!', whereas by Brazilian standards it's just around the corner. There are other differences as well. Here, it's quiet on the streets – people seem to prefer to stay inside most of the time. In Brazil, we live most of our lives outside. This has probably got a lot to do with the weather. Another thing: you can't really take it for granted that a Brazilian university will be good. Education is mostly free, and the quality sometimes suffers as a result."

KOSTAS PAPAGIANNOPOULOS (24)
From: Greece
Studying: Computer Security
In the Netherlands since: the Summer of 2011

"I was also accepted for programmes in Finland and Sweden, but I chose the Netherlands because it's not so cold here. I also think my Master's programme is very good. It's a partnership between Radboud University Nijmegen and the Technical University of Twente and Eindhoven and it takes two years. I will



graduate soon. If I can find a job here, I would very much like to stay in Nijmegen. My Greek girlfriend is already living here: she works at the Donders Institute. Nijmegen is a very lively city, and there are many pubs. Other European cities of the same size are much less dynamic."

DYANNE TIMMERMANS (20)
From: Aruba
Studying: Dutch language and culture

In the Netherlands since: August 2011

"In Aruba you can only study Economics and Law. That's not what I wanted to do. My father is Dutch and we have family here, so I came to the Netherlands. My two best friends are also studying here. We share a house in Nijmegen. In the Dutch Antilles everyone is very hospitable. When my mother thinks the house is too quiet, she invites all my friends for a sleepover. When you're waiting for the bus, you talk with the person next to you. That happens much less here."

LISA SCHUBERT-ZSILAVECZ (23)
From: Austria
Studying: European Law
In the Netherlands since:
February 2012 (Lisa has recently returned to Austria)

"I'm very happy that Radboud University Nijmegen offered me the option of starting in February, otherwise I couldn't have come. But starting then meant I had to write my thesis during the semester in which I had the most difficult



course. That made my Master's programme much more difficult. I got a room very quickly through the SSHN – in an international corridor. The Dutch students have their own lives and aren't

keen to mix with the international students. I would have been very lonely if there were only Dutch students here. As it is, there are plenty of parties!"

LAIA TALARN (21)
From: Spain
Studying: International Economics & Business
In the Netherlands since: January


"I actually wanted to study in Amsterdam or Utrecht, because I knew that these cities have many good judo schools. I practice judo at a high level, and naturally it's important for me. Alas, they didn't offer me a place. When I discovered that there's a good judo

ELLA MICHIELS (20)
From: Belgium
Studying: Courses in English and Dutch Language and Culture
In the Netherlands since: January 2013

"I come from Flanders, which is close geographically, but feels a long way away. The Netherlands is much more convivial. Flemish people sometimes respond rudely, while the Dutch are more willing to start a conversation. We have a common language, but some Dutch people don't know words like *zeveren* (talk drive!), while I didn't know words like *meuren* (to fart) or what a take-home exam is. The university is different, too. Here I have to write much more, while in Belgium I simply memorised much more material. Here I have many more free periods between classes and many more optional subjects. Oh, and it's brilliant that you can get croquettes from a machine!"



SATOMI TSUJII (48)**From: Japan****Studying: Linguistics****In the Netherlands since: September 2012**

"This is a small university, so I expected that the teachers would pay more attention to their students. That's why I chose it, and it turned out to be the right decision! I'm not just learning things about my field while I'm here – I'm also learning a different style of teaching. In Japan the focus is on memorising. Here I get a lot of written assignments, which make me go deeper into the material. The lectures here are more interactive. What really amazed me here is that you're allowed to call your teachers by their first name. That is absolutely *not done* in Japan."



required to be present at the lectures. That's not the case in Egypt. I'm trying to learn Dutch, but for me it's a very difficult language. I've mastered the Dutch 'g' though, as we have the same sound in Arabic – my mother tongue. I find it striking that everyone here has everything planned in such detail. That's not the case in Egypt. Here my friends sometimes invite me to their birthday a month in advance. I'm used to deciding whether I will go on the day itself."

room. Even water bottles with labels on them are forbidden. At our university there's a fixed day when the exam results come out. Here you just have to wait and see. Very strange."

AUDE PRENASSI (22)**From: France****Studying: Political Science****In the Netherlands since:****September 2012**

"I wanted to go to England. But unfortunately that wasn't possible, because of the limited number of places. But I still wanted to go to a country where people speak good English, so the Netherlands seemed to be a satisfactory alternative. And, I must say, I'm pleased with that choice now. At first I was afraid that Nijmegen would be just a crossroads with a pub. The first thing I did – in this at least I'm a real woman – was run a

association here, I chose Nijmegen. I had read on a forum that the Spanish students in the SSHN complexes tend to stick together, but I wanted to meet other nationalities. So while I was in Spain, I searched for a room through the website Kamernet. My flatmates are both Dutch. We skyped and it clicked. Sometimes I eat lunch around 4 o'clock in the afternoon; and they ask me whether it's my dinner. Dutch eating habits are very different to those in Spain."

partnership with the SSHN. The living situation here is much better than in Lithuania: there you often have to share a room. I'm living in a complex with a lot of international students. I'm very glad about that. I've encountered many other cultures and languages. But I also have a lot of contact with Dutch students. They make an effort to speak English – even outside the lectures – so I can understand them. I felt very much at home from the start."

MELANIE HALE (21)**From: England****Studying: Dutch and German language and culture****In the Netherlands since: August 2012 (Melanie has recently returned home)**

"The Dutch are often shocked when I speak Dutch and tell them that I come from England. They don't expect me to know their language. Nijmegen is near the German border, so for me it's the perfect location to practise my Dutch and my German. Some things work differently here, like the examinations. In England these are much stricter. You aren't allowed to take bags, jackets, mobile phones, iPods or even translucent pencil cases into the

search to see what shops there are here, and that made me very enthusiastic.

The University seems very tidy to me: there's no graffiti on the tables and chairs. It reminds me somewhat of a secondary school: the students are quite close to their teachers. Here, I can actually ask my lecturers questions! At my university in Toulouse you wouldn't do that."

**BAIBA BĒRZIŅA (24)****From: Lithuania****Studying: Human Geography: Conflicts, Territories and Identities****In the Netherlands since:****September 2012 (Baiba has recently returned home)**

"I enrolled for a 'student package.' Part of that was that the University would arrange a room for me, in

AYA EMAD (23)**From: Egypt****Studying: Molecular Mechanisms of Disease****In the Netherlands since:****September 2012**

"My course requires me to be in the lab a lot. That means I can't go out as much as other Erasmus students. What's more, I'm



CHRISTEL STEWART (23)**From: South Africa****Studying: Language Policy
In the Netherlands since:
February 2012**

"In South Africa, I studied Dutch and Afrikaans. So I wanted to spend some time studying in the Netherlands. I chose Nijmegen. Life is a lot less safe in South Africa. I couldn't walk in the streets alone in the evening. That difference feels very liberating to me. The snow and the cold here are tremendous. In South Africa at this



time of year it can reach forty degrees. I also like all the bicycles, although I've often fallen off mine."

CANAN KIRAN (26)**From: Turkey and Germany****Studying: Linguistics
In the Netherlands since:
September 2012**

"At Turkish universities, everything is more regulated. For example, students have to show their ID and explain what they've come to do, before they may enter the campus. The lecturers there are also a lot more formal. The Netherlands is

**DYAH
KARJOSUKARSO (21)****From: Indonesia****Studying: the Molecular
Mechanisms of Disease
In the Netherlands for
over four years**

"Before I joined this Master's programme I studied life sciences at the HAN (Technical University of Arnhem and Nijmegen). I wanted to go further, so I decided to do a Master's here. But studying here is different to in Indonesia. Here you're encouraged to participate actively in lectures and to communicate with the lecturers. You can even get into discussion with them. In Indonesia that would seldom be acceptable. And the facilities, such as the library, the computer network, the laboratories and the sport centre, are also much better here."



more liberal. For example, here you can wear what you like and nobody will give you a second glance. I came to Nijmegen partly because I once got an e-mail from a lecturer here in the middle of the night, in answer to a question. I thought, "Wow! That's informal, I like that!" I do have my doubts about the grading system though: from 1 to 10. You're never going to get a 10, are you?"

ROMAN ZHILYAKOV (22)**From: Russia****Studying: International Business
Communication
In the Netherlands since:
September 2012**

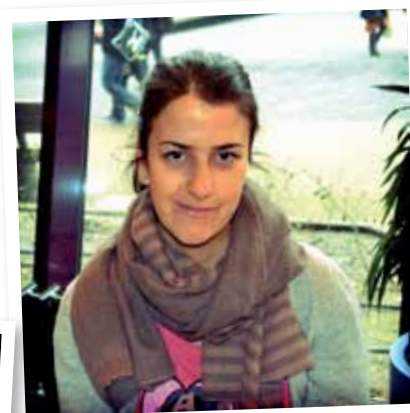
"I find it striking that many young students here are already doing serious research. Apparently that's possible here. That's also why I chose this university – for its strong emphasis on theory and research. Nijmegen is a small university town, where everybody knows everybody. In fact it's one big network of friends. I like that. And the Dutch students and lecturers have a good sense of humour. For example, the lecturers in my Master's programme decided to give the first lectures in Germany, to emphasise the programme's

international character. I found that quite striking."

**AGNESE MATURI (23)****From: Italy****Studying: International Business
Economics
In the Netherlands since:
January 2013**

"Before I came to the Netherlands, I knew absolutely nothing about the country. That was just what appealed to me: I had no idea what to expect. I find Nijmegen very beautiful. Modern structures such as the bridge over the Waal are combined with historic buildings such as Saint Stevens, in the town centre. And it's very green here! I also like the library very much. In Italy I had to get up very early to get a desk in the library, but here it's no problem. And the library is more like a living room than a place for study. That's a

plus for me. I find it striking that everyone here appears to be really committed to their work, including the people at the stu-



dent office. In Italy, people are often quick to moan or get frustrated, but here everyone is so calm and relaxed."

LUISA OSSMANN (21)**From: Germany****Studying: Business Communica-
tion
In the Netherlands since:
August 2011 (lives in Germany)**

"Nijmegen was part of my childhood. As a child I came here for shopping or for takeaways. Perhaps I know the Netherlands better than I know Germany. I decided to study at this university because I think it makes sense to speak more than one language if you live close to a border, and naturally because of the course I'm taking. It was easy to study here, because I have a car and my parents live in Kleve, just half an hour away! Personal contact with teachers is what I find most striking. In Germany you're treated as if you



were merely a number in a system, in my opinion."

GEORGE SEMANGO (29)

From: Tanzania

Studying: Biomedical Sciences, specialising in Human Pathobiology

In the Netherlands since: August 2011

"In Tanzania I work as a lab researcher at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre. The Centre has academic exchange links with Nijmegen. I think Dutch

The working groups here are often small, which makes studying more challenging. Lecturers involve you more in class and I often have to answer questions. The professors are also more informal and very approachable. I do find three-hour lectures very long. In Glasgow we have blocks of 55 minutes. Perhaps that's on the short side, but two hours would be perfect. Oh yes: if you think the weather in Scotland is bad, it's got nothing on the weather here! Whichever way you cycle, the rain is always in your face."

APRIL WANG (24)

From: China

Studying: Linguistics

In the Netherlands since: September 2012

"A while ago a Russian girlfriend told me, 'April, you're not Chinese!' Asians often hide their feelings, but the Dutch are very direct. I like that, so I've adopted it myself. Your life here is also more balanced: you really do have time for your family and to relax. In China I was totally focused on my studies, but now I live here, I see there's more to life. You will often find me at the Student Church, eating or playing music, or in the sports centre. And sometimes I go on excursions with other international students – to the Efteling, for example. What's more, I'm doing a Dutch language course and I cycle a lot. Chinese students live at home for a long time and their parents' opinions always weigh heavily. You develop much faster here, because you leave home when you're younger. People are also helpful. When I'd just arrived, I didn't even know how the coffee machine worked. However, I was shown quickly enough!"

EILIDH TURNBULL (20)

From: Scotland

Studying: Various subjects in Law and English

In the Netherlands since: January

"In Scotland there are always 200 students in a lecture hall.



stu-

dents are more critical and get into discussions with their lecturers more often. Students in my country are more conservative and much less confrontational. The Netherlands is also a developed country, a status that Tanzania has not yet attained. The hospital here has much more extensive facilities. I'm living in the Radboud Hotel, which is ideal, because I can walk through a tunnel to the lecture rooms. That way I don't have to go out in the cold ... At the foot of the Kilimanjaro it's always perfect warm weather, between 22 and 28 degrees."



PLATE SURFING

KRISTOF JACOBS, WHO'S FROM FLANDERS, HAS LIVED IN NIJMEGEN SINCE 2006. HE EARNED HIS PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND IS NOW A RESEARCHER AND LECTURER.

Meal: French fries with stewed meat and a *frikandel* special (spiced sausage with topping), at the Cafeteria Vuurens. Not in plastic containers, but on real plates.

"These are good fries, homemade. Not that all Belgians still cut their fries by hand. That's only done in the best fish and chip shops, listed in all the guidebooks. Antwerp and Brugge even have chip shop museums. The stewed meat at Vuurens also tastes very good: plenty of meat and not like gelatine, which you often find in the Netherlands. And I always enjoy a "frikandel special." In Belgium we use tomato ketchup on it, not curry sauce. You taste the onions better that way. By the way, we call a frikandel a curry sausage, and we call our meatballs, *frikandels*.

As a child, I would be sent to the fish and chip shop with a saucepan. I would get the fries in the saucepan, and we would eat them with meat and vegetables at home. The fish and chip shops didn't sell much of anything, except fries. Dutch takeaways today are exactly the opposite, in my opinion: they sell anything unhealthy. Not just fries, but all sorts of snacks, cream freeze, cigarettes and chemically coloured hushpuppies.

When I was a student I often had fries after a night out. In recent past years I've hardly eaten any: I think I've become Dutch. But I'll keep this place in mind. Cafeteria Vuurens has the atmosphere of one of those old-fashioned fish and chip shops."

Enjoyed at:

Cafeteria Vuurens (Smetiusstraat 16a)

Robbert Dijkgraaf is the Netherlands' best known scientist, but last year the former President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences moved to the famous Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He had to cross an ocean to discover that life can be very simple. In May, he will return to Nijmegen briefly to receive an honorary doctorate and to speak at TEDxRadboudU. Annemarie Haverkamp visited him in New Jersey.

'Now I have



Photography:
Tom Grimes

time to think'

Robbert Dijkgraaf has never lived so close to his work as he does now. Every morning he shuts the door of his wooden house, crosses Einstein Drive, walks across a lawn, and over a tree-lined avenue to reach his workplace, the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). The front door is directly opposite his house.

A picture of Albert Einstein and J. Robert Oppenheimer, taken from behind, hangs in his house. Walking under the same trees, conversing – about science, most likely. For this is Princeton, a university town in New Jersey that lives and breathes science. The Institute, where Dijkgraaf was named Director in July, has been described as the ‘penthouse on top of the Ivory Tower’. It has also been referred to simply as a ‘Utopia’. Just to clarify: the Institute is not part of Princeton University. This common misconception arose when the Institute, which was founded in 1930, took up residence in a wing of the university. The confusion was not helped by IAS’ recruitment of leading professors from Princeton. Nevertheless, the Institute for Advanced Study is something entirely different. It’s a place – a completely independent place – where brilliant minds come to relax and concentrate wholly on science, free from all distractions. In the more than eighty years since it was founded some 22 Nobel laureates have been affiliated with the Institute.

In 2013 the IAS is no longer a penthouse on top of the Ivory Tower. Were Director Dijkgraaf to restrict himself to those elite circles, he would not be up to his appointed

task. After all, part of his job as the new face of the renowned institute is to let the world know that the IAS exists. Previously “ambassador for science” in the Netherlands – he was president of the Royal Academy from 2008 to 2012 – he’s now a member and representative of an elite group of academics in the United States. And, because he works for a philanthropic organisation, he’s also charged with reeling in new donors. “This is a new world for me”, he says in his office overlooking the sprawling

**‘IF YOU HAVE A
PLAN, YOU JUST
LOOK AROUND
UNTIL YOU HAVE
THE FUNDS TO
REALIZE IT’**

park behind the Institute. “There’s a huge culture of giving in the United States. My two sons joined their school football team within two days of our having arrived in Princeton. They didn’t even have their uniforms on, but were still sent off to sell cookies. Team fund-raising.”

The basic attitude is, if Neighbour A doesn’t want to buy cookies, then try Neighbour B. “It’s normal here. If you have a plan, you just look around until you have the funds to realize it.” And so Robbert Dijkgraaf goes door-to-door

with his “cookie jar.” His Institute recently received a \$100 million challenge grant from Microsoft’s Chairman and from mathematician and billionaire James Simons. The challenge? This grant must be matched dollar for dollar by funds from other donors. “We’ve raised about 52 million so far”.

Dijkgraaf relishes his role as representative. “I can be as enthusiastic as I want to be.” And “Enthusiastic” is his middle name. “In the Netherlands, you tend to tone things down, since we’re all professionals anyway. Here it’s ok to say that what we do here is unique.” Because it is unique. Members who come to the IAS to work (note from the editor: as temporary researchers) have no defined research mission; they are given total freedom. Professors are not judged by output or citations and there are no academic requirements. The IAS also refrains from favouring specific sectors. “Our policy is that we do not accept research funding or grants that prescribe research topics. We want to remain an entirely independent academic institution that practices what it preaches. The second we start letting people impose their agenda, the entire premise of this institute, this niche, is lost. In the current global academic climate, this is like cycling into a headwind.”

This philosophy means that the Institute’s staff – with Dijkgraaf at the helm – have to carefully consider the selection of researchers and allocation of funds. Who should be invited to conduct research at the IAS? The Institute must undergo a process of renewal, anticipating change to such an extent that the world’s new

'THE RADBOUD UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS OF LATE'

Einsteins will continue the tradition of making groundbreaking discoveries at Princeton.

When Robbert Dijkgraaf was offered the position in the US over a year ago, he had just been reading a book about Oppenheimer, the Jewish-American physicist known as the father of the atomic bomb. Oppenheimer served as the Director of the IAS from 1947 until 1966. "When he was offered the position, he said: 'That's nice. I can spend a third of my time on physics, a third on policy development and a third on management'. I thought that was funny because those are my three areas of interest. I'm happy when I have my own research projects but I also like to keep in touch with the outside world, like a hotel manager whose task it is to keep people happy".

This tall, Dutch director is indeed in charge of his hotel. I arrived at the Institute two days before the interview. The next day, all of the Institute's members flocked to the Common Room for 3 o'clock tea, a daily ritual since the Institute was founded. Robbert asks me whether I like my room and invites me to a public lecture. That evening, he's sitting down at a large round table, eating with his colleagues in the dining hall on campus. His wife, the writer Pia de Jong, is also there. She's the one who goes from table to table and chats with the guests. It's this combination of brilliant scientific understanding and excellent social skills that makes him so suitable for the job, says physicist Peter Goddard over a glass of Chardonnay. Goddard, who is the former director of the Institute, recommended Dijkgraaf for the position. "I don't know anyone in the world who could do this better

than he can", he says. "We wanted him and only him".

The time was right for Dijkgraaf. There had been offers from the US before. "But I felt like I still had unfinished business in the Netherlands. I wanted to give it my all." And that he did. Not only as head of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, but also as a columnist for various publications, as a regular expert on the Dutch TV programme 'De Wereld Draait Door', and the creator of *proefjes.nl*, a website designed to kindle children's interest in science. "It's important that others keep the ball rolling now. That's how science works. You continually motivate others and you work together to keep the momentum going".

Six months later and an ocean away, what does he think of the academic climate in the Netherlands? He's a bit worried. Not about the level of education. There's nothing lacking in this regard, certainly not in comparison with the US. "You have a few high-ranking universities here, but there's also a lot of junk. In the Netherlands, large numbers of students are given access to universities, all of which deliver quality education." But the way Dijkgraaf sees it Dutch academic institutions lack one crucial element: "A place where people can get a taste of true science, where the individual is central and the whole world is welcome." Academia in

the Netherlands tends to take a large-scale approach. Students are required to fit within the overall system. But what about young talents who need more of a challenge? Talents who hate being pigeonholed, but can make a difference. Is there a place for them? In Dijkgraaf's opinion, it's just too easy to say there's no money for such a place. The government is not providing funding, so we become complacent. "If you want to compete with the rest of the world, however, you have to take that extra step. And then you need to look for other resources." What strikes Dijkgraaf is the affection with which the Netherlands is talked about worldwide as a country of science. "The Netherlands has always played an important role in international trade and is known for its language skills. Many talented researchers have spent some time working there but they never stay. Whereas at IAS, I could be having lunch



The Institute for
Advanced Study

CURRICULUM

NAME Robbert Dijkgraaf
BORN in Ridderkerk in the Netherlands in 1960
EDUCATION BSc Physics (*Cum Laude*), Utrecht University (1982); Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam (painting) (1982-1984); MSc

Theoretical Physics (*Cum laude*), Institute for Theoretical Physics, Utrecht University (1986); PhD Utrecht University (*Cum Laude*) (1989).
POSITIONS AND PRIZES (A SELECTION) Dijkgraaf is a string theorist.

Between 1989 and 1991, he was a Research Associate at Princeton University. In 1991, he became a Long-term Member at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). In 1992, he was hired as Professor of Mathematical Physics at

the University of Amsterdam. In 2003, he won the Spinoza Prize. In 2008, he was appointed President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Last summer he returned to Princeton, New Jersey to become

COLUMN

STUDENT2013

Lieke von Berg, a 5th year student at the University, writes a critical column about the campus, student life and education in each issue of Vox.

English for English's sake

"Wait a minute. In English? But I thought you studied Dutch?" Once again, I have to explain that, yes, I *am* still doing Dutch Literature, but the Research Master's programme in *letterkunde* is now called a 'Research Master's in Literary Studies' and it's taught in English. At the beginning of the academic year I dragged myself to the lectures, helpless and in tears. A literature student's special powers are already limited: no curing people, no statistical calculations, no warding off cyber attacks. So, when you encounter an obstacle to your reading and writing skills – the one thing you can do – you feel handicapped. It's different for science students. They aren't known for easily readable essays, and it doesn't matter so much whether you write incomprehensibly in Dutch or in English. But, as a literature student, the change in the teaching language initially gave me the gnawing feeling that I was very small and insignificant, while the others were so brilliant. Initially. My objection to English being the main language in my Master's has long evaporated and not from any submissive acceptance of my fate. No, I've seen the light. Give me English! It's no longer a dent in my self-esteem – it's become a boost for my ego. When I write or debate with other students in English, I feel more studious, more intellectual. More the *real thing*. As if I am *really* studying. Studying? I'm engaging in scholarship! Participating in the academic community! Cultivating the cosmopolitan! It's the same effect that makes studying in the University Library feel more productive than studying at home. Not that studying in the library is better, per se. On the contrary, what I do there is mostly cultural anthropology. The final exams are almost upon us: a wonderful opportunity to study masses of high school students outside their natural habitat. Sometimes I don't do a thing, but I do it very pleasantly, in an environment that gives me the feeling of being very busy. It's the effect of being in an environment or in a language that – for me – is purely meant for scholarship. Perhaps the same mechanism applies to international researchers? That you feel more of a researcher because you're doing your research abroad? Time for a study of the correlation between internationality and academic self esteem. In English.

with twenty people around me, while not a single one of them is American. I hope the Netherlands will be like that someday". It's a difficult discussion; Robbert Dijkgraaf knows that. The thirteen Dutch universities all fly in formation, without a single one breaking rank to outpace the others. But if the Netherlands doesn't want to miss the boat, then something will have to change. As borders increasingly disappear, the Netherlands should be asking itself how it can attract and retain international talent.

He finds it especially remarkable that the United States, the land of fast food, is so committed to the academic ideal. An impressive number of American institutions consistently rank at the top of many international 'Best University' rankings. And these are not necessarily all major universities. On the contrary, quality often comes in small sizes. Dijkgraaf, again, makes a comparison to the IAS. "This Institute is like a snow globe with a tiny little town inside. There's one garbage collector. One bus driver. There are 27 professors and 200 members. You get to know everyone very quickly. During lunch or tea you talk to each other. That's when the sparks fly. You just might come up with that new idea that will later prove to be right".

Dijkgraaf himself first became well known when he arrived at the IAS as a researcher twenty years ago. Princeton was a place that encouraged him and led him to ask the question 'What do I want?' "It was liberating. But it was also discomfiting. The onus is on you. It's like stepping up to the podium with a full house looking at you, and thinking to yourself, 'I really have to say something...'" His experience in the United States has made him who he's today. He was given an opportunity, he took it and he's achieved success.

When he returned to Princeton, he decided to keep a low profile, as he was a long way from his fame in the Netherlands. In New Jersey,

he's not a celebrity and that suits him just fine. It's providing him with the opportunity to reflect on scientific issues. He knows from experience that the incubation period for new ideas can be long. Sometimes he paints, since he's also an artist (note from the editor: Dijkgraaf studied two years at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy). Like his wife and three children, he feels at home in the house where Oppenheimer once lived and where Einstein's grand piano still stands. "We're a close-knit family. We're all starting from scratch and so sharing in each other's inexperience. But we're also all outsiders who get to laugh together sometimes at those 'strange' Americans".

He's moved to be receiving an honorary doctorate on 24 May in Nijmegen. The reasoning behind the award? It's not only because of his scientific achievements, but also because he makes science accessible to the general public. "Those are precisely the elements I find important in my life; I think it's great that this quality is recognised." He has a soft spot for Radboud University Nijmegen: "This university has I believe been making the right decisions of late. They've consistently looked at what is and isn't good for the institution from a scientific perspective. At a time when mathematics and physics have not had it easy, they persevered. And there have been several really good international appointments in recent years."

Life has slowed down a little since moving to Princeton, Dijkgraaf says, after a pause. The future is a blank sheet of paper. "My journey here has taught me that sometimes you just have to stop. Not just reach the end of the path but listen to the birds along the way, all of the while, excitedly anticipating where that path will actually lead. This Institute is a place that tries to get people out of their routine and get them back to thinking about things that really matter". ★

Dijkgraaf's house:
Olden Farm



the Director of the IAS. He writes a monthly column in the NRC and Folia and launched the science education website proefjes.nl. He's the editor of various scientific journals and adviser to a number of institutes.

PERSONAL TITBITS

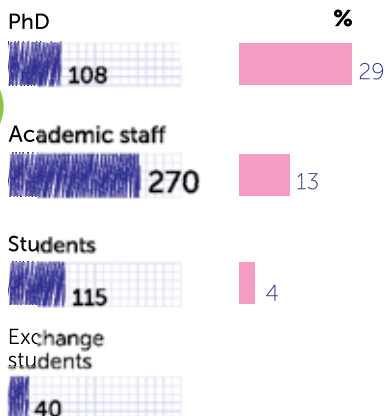
Married to writer Pia de Jong, who writes about life in Princeton in the NRC. Father of three children. Has synaesthesia (perceives words, numbers and objects as colours). The colour of the IAS? "Dark green".

International students (total)

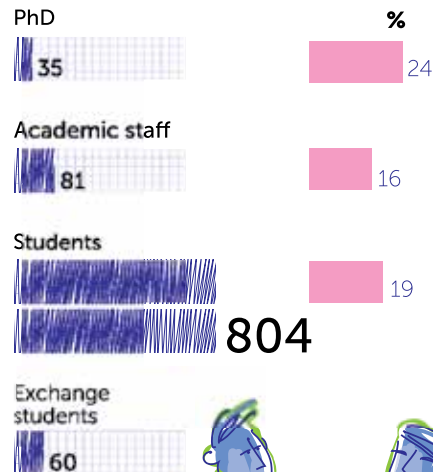
% international students



UMC Faculty of Medical Sciences



Faculty of Social Sciences



International campus

Text: Paul van den Broek, Infographic: Anne Luchies

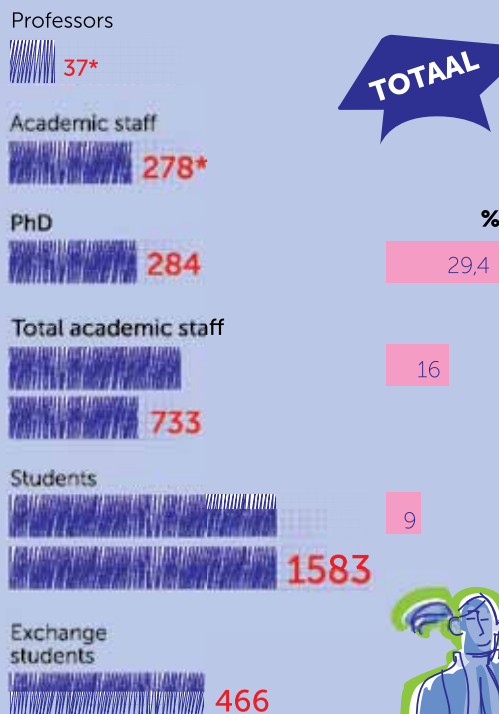
Top 10 Erasmus students 2011/12

	total
1 Spain	71
2 Italy	58
3 Poland	46
4 Germany	38
5 France	38
6 USA	33
7 Un. Kingdom	21
8 Hungary	20
9 Belgium	16
10 Turkey	13

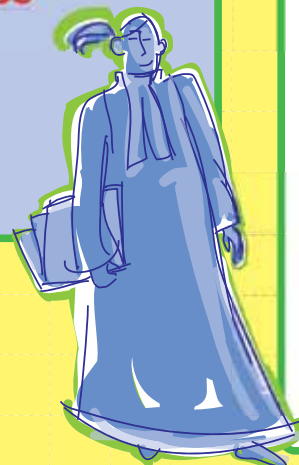
A total of 37 international professors

Apart from the staff of the Faculty of Medicine, Radboud University Nijmegen has about 270 professors, of whom 37 have come from other countries. Germany is our main international supplier, as is also the case with the students. Thirteen professors are from Germany, six from Belgium and five from the United Kingdom. Italy has provided us with three professors, and Russia and Turkey with two.

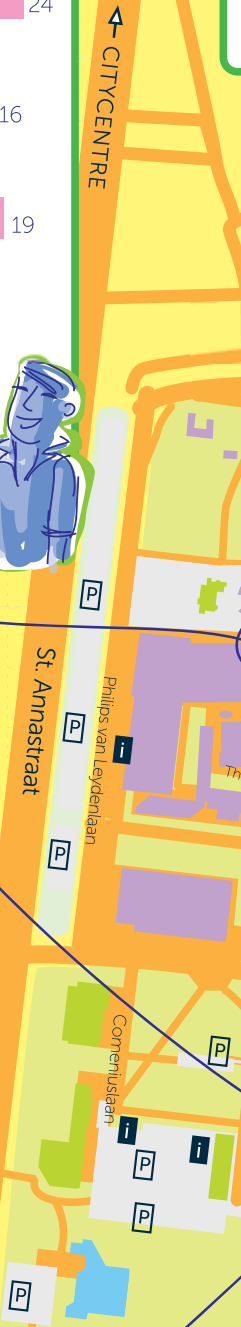
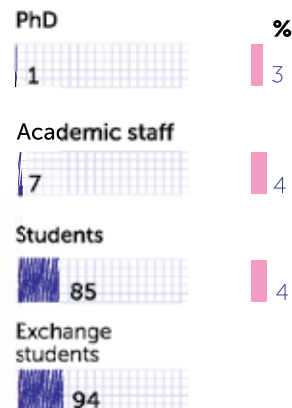
Radboud University Nijmegen

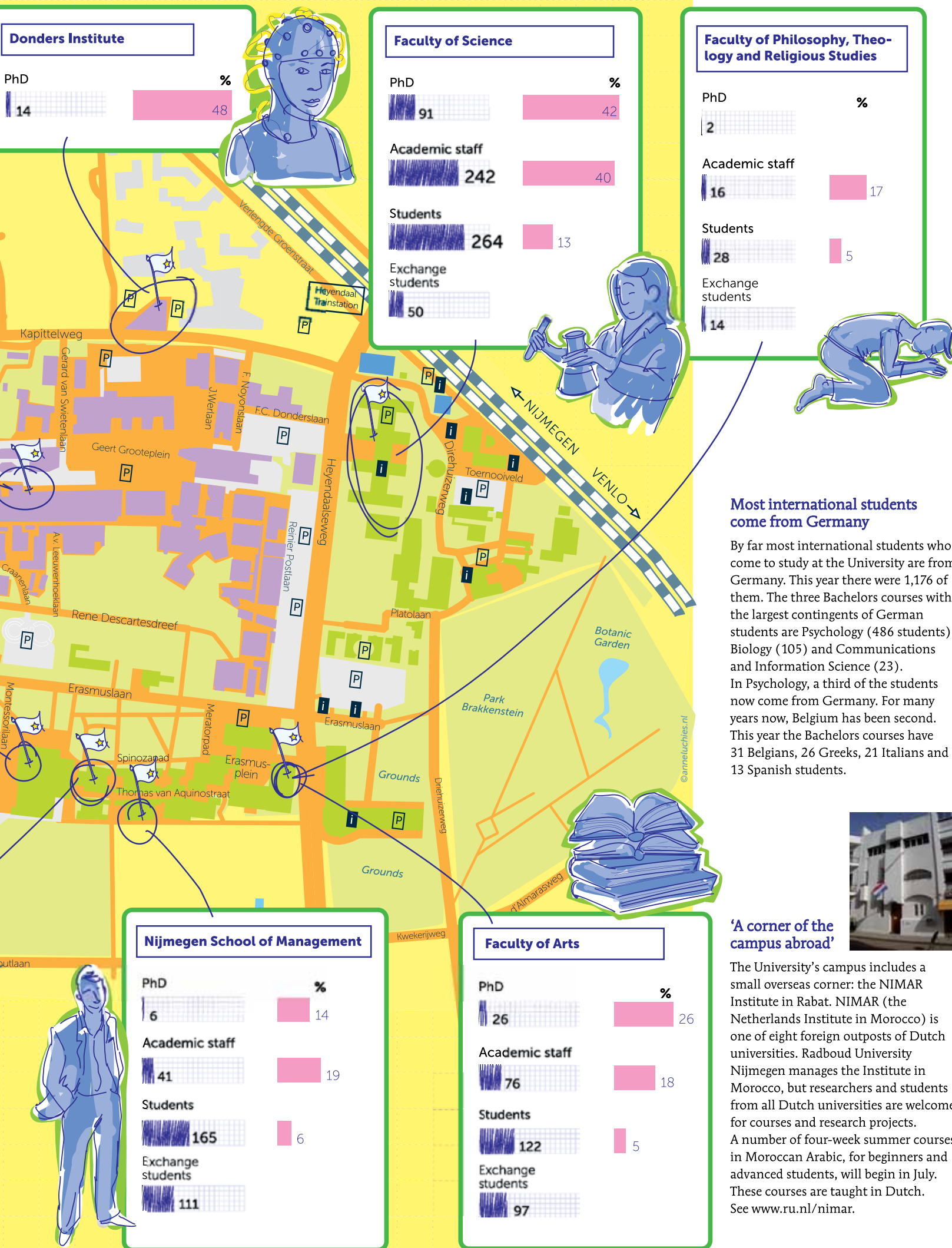


TOTAAL



Faculty of Law





Most international students come from Germany

By far most international students who come to study at the University are from Germany. This year there were 1,176 of them. The three Bachelors courses with the largest contingents of German students are Psychology (486 students), Biology (105) and Communications and Information Science (23). In Psychology, a third of the students now come from Germany. For many years now, Belgium has been second. This year the Bachelors courses have 31 Belgians, 26 Greeks, 21 Italians and 13 Spanish students.

'A corner of the campus abroad'

The University's campus includes a small overseas corner: the NIMAR Institute in Rabat. NIMAR (the Netherlands Institute in Morocco) is one of eight foreign outposts of Dutch universities. Radboud University Nijmegen manages the Institute in Morocco, but researchers and students from all Dutch universities are welcome for courses and research projects. A number of four-week summer courses in Moroccan Arabic, for beginners and advanced students, will begin in July. These courses are taught in Dutch. See www.ru.nl/nimar.





Alejandro and Emilio cooking

LIFE IN HALL

Hall 92 at the Hoogeveltdt student residence is a place where aromas of garlic and olive oil waft around at the strangest times. Students from all over the world live here. A 'multi-culti' mini-week report including a trip to the popular Dutch theme park the Efteling.

Text: Jolene Meijerink and Freek Turlings / Photography: Bert Beelen

TUESDAY 2 APRIL: 7 PM

It's quiet in Hall 92 at the Hoogeveltdt student residence. In a dingy kitchen sit two Spanish students, Alejandra and Emilio, peeling potatoes and slicing aubergines. They're making typical Spanish dishes for their international hall-mates: potato tortillas, fried aubergines and melted brie. Every so often, Alejandra drizzles some olive oil into the pan. While the eggplant and brie simmer gently in the oil, the kitchen begins to smell delicious. Alejandra, a journalism student, laughs: "I'm Spanish, eh? We usually eat late. My hall-mates know that by now. Plus, it's exam time, so they're still studying hard."

Kate from Hungary walks in around 8 o'clock. She studies English and has spent the entire day in the library. "I have exams this week." Behind her are students from all over the world: Brazil,



92

Japan, Poland, Spain, South Africa. They all speak English with each other, but that doesn't always work out so well. Emilio, a Spanish Multimedia and Communications student, asks Ali, a Turkish dentistry student, "Do you have paper?" "Yes, I have pepper. Do you want the green or the red one?" They look at each other, puzzled. Then Emilio calls out, "Nooo! I meant paper napkins! You know? To wipe the table?" Loud laughter echoes through the kitchen. Such misunderstandings are not uncommon. Ali seizes the opportunity to learn a new word: "How do you call them? Paper napkins?"

Bernadette, a recent psychology graduate, is the only Dutch person who lives in the hall. "It's a cool way to live. Every Tuesday, a different hall-mate cooks something from his or her country for our international dinners. So far,

we've eaten Japanese, Polish and South African."

9:30 PM

The kitchen is now full. In one corner, Enrica from Italy lounges on the sofa, smartphone in hand, Google Maps on the screen. A few hall-mates are looking over her shoulder. Enrica is explaining to them where Nijmegen's red light district is. "You can see women just sitting in the windows there," she says animatedly. And this is how the group hastens back to all those perennial clichés about the Netherlands. Enrica: "I really like the Dutch coffeeshops. The atmosphere is nice and there's no taboo around toking. The last time I was there I even saw a businessman pick up a few joints." Alejandra from Spain comes over. She has a plastic cup in her hands filled with home-made

sangria. She has just heard from a classmate that she has an exam in Spanish Cinema tomorrow. Shouldn't she get some studying done? "No, I'll do that tomorrow morning."

Most residents of this hall didn't necessarily want to come to Nijmegen. Gabriëlla, an environmental social sciences student from Brazil, originally wanted to go to Spain. "I wanted to go to Europe. But I needed a scholarship and many countries offer just a few of them. I wanted to go to Spain, but so did a lot of students. So the chances of me getting one of those scholarships were small. The Netherlands was a strategic choice. And now I'm happy with my decision. The people are friendly and it's really multicultural here."

Kate from Hungary *did* consciously choose Radboud, however. She's been studying in Nijmegen since the end of January. "One of my professors in Hungary recently got his PhD

"IT'S GREAT THAT EVERYONE SPEAKS ENGLISH HERE. YOU CAN NEVER GET LOST IN THE NETHERLANDS"

here. He was excited and regularly invited Radboud professors to visit Hungary. These guest lecturers were very knowledgeable. So I chose Nijmegen. I also wanted to improve my English and experience another culture. And of course, studying abroad looks good on my CV. It's also important, because it's really difficult to find a job now in Hungary, what with the economic crisis."

11 PM

Kate and Alejandra are standing by the snack table. It's piled high with plates full of Spanish tapas and a big bowl of sangria. They feel at home. Kate: "It's great that everyone speaks English here. You can never get lost in the Netherlands, because there's always someone who can show you the way in English." It's a shame that the contact she has with most of her Dutch classmates is limited to a few sentences. "Dutch people always ask you how you're doing. But once they see other Dutch people, they switch to Dutch." Fortunately, there are some exceptions. "A girl from Utrecht is also enrolled in a few courses in Nijmegen. She often tells me what typical Dutch things I need to do or eat, like

frikadellen and hutspot. I learn a lot about the culture from her."

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL, 11 PM

It's mad crowded in Café Dollars on Grotestraat. The pub is popular among international students; on Friday nights, a large group invariably comes to this rock bar. Kate: "During student orientation, we sometimes went to Molenstraat, but they play a lot of pop and techno there. Most international students don't really like that kind of music. I prefer rock and folk. There's often live music here, something you'd also hear in Hungarian pubs."

Dollars is also Alejandra's favourite pub, but she's not here tonight. She has to study. She's already spent the last few nights studying, because she has exams. There's a great deal riding on this. "I need to earn at least half of my total required study points in Nijmegen. Otherwise, I have to pay back the entire Study Abroad scholarship." She laughs a little uncomfortably. "At least I think so... I'm actually kind of wary of finding out what the actual rules are." In any case, of the three exams she has this exam period, she has to pass two to be on the safe side.



Kate in the Efteling

That she can't spend an evening out in Dollars is unfortunate, but what Alejandra is really gutted about is that she has to miss the post-exam hall bash. Her hall-mates have christened the party 'Project 92', after 'Project X'. Sounds very promising ... Adds Kate: "It's going to be very big. Housemates, their friends, international students and Dutch students: all are welcome. Project 92 is going to be a mega party." Unfortunately for Alejandra, she'll be back in Spain by then.

SATURDAY 6 APRIL, 8:45 AM

A large coach turns onto Comeniuslaan. Ninety-one international students eagerly await it. They are going to spend the day at the Efteling theme park, 'known to every Dutch person as the theme park where fairytales do exist', according to the website of the International Office, which organised the outing. Efteling is a big hit among international students. And Holle Bolle Gijs gets high marks from Kate, as there are no big amusement parks like this in Hungary. She visits all the attractions. "George and the Dragon is the coolest!"

Kate plays quite the tourist in Efteling: she takes no less than 186 photos. While tagging the photos on Facebook, she finds two Hungarian friends in Nijmegen. "I just sent them a message. A Hungarian band is going to play in Doornroosje; we're all going to go there together."

She will also go to the Keukenhof with the International Office. "And in about two weeks,





I'll be going to Berlin with a student organisation. I'm really excited!" Even so, she goes on fewer mini-breaks than most international students do. Kate: "The American and Asian students visit another country nearly every weekend. The Americans especially! They love it. Europe is so small for them, so they travel a lot. I come from over here so I can visit all these European countries later."

Her parents are visiting soon as well. "We're going to Amsterdam to spend a day there and then to the bicycle museum in Nijmegen. On Saturday, I'm taking them to the centre. I love Saturdays in Nijmegen. The market, the street musicians, the crowds, the atmosphere..." Has she asked her parents yet to bring over some typical Hungarian stuff? "Paprika and cottage cheese. I miss that food." And Pálinka, a Hungarian fruity brandy. Kate's turn to cook for the Hoogevelde hall's international dinners is coming up soon. "Pálinka is a typical Hungarian drink that you have to try. It contains 51 percent alcohol. We drink it in shots. I wonder what my hall-mates will think of it."

TUESDAY 9 APRIL, 4 PM

Alejandra sits at home in the communal kitchen. Although the weather outside is pretty cool for this time of year, she's wearing a short summer shirt. The heating in the kitchen is creating

tropical temperatures. In a week, she'll be gone from this cold that she just can't get used to. By then, her Erasmus adventure will be over and she will have flown back to Málaga.

Whether it was a successful adventure remains to be seen. Yesterday, she sat her last two exams. "One went very well; the other one was quite difficult. I have great difficulty with the English language. I didn't get enough English lessons in high school." Second semester courses have already begun in Spain so she'll have to wait until next year to enrol. This means that, until October, she will have nothing to do. But she's not sorry. "I hope to find a temporary job in Spain. Or maybe I'll go to the UK to work; I'll be able to improve my English there. In any event, I'm going to try to put off my graduation. I could never find work as a journalist in Spain right now anyway."

Kate is staying in the Netherlands until June. She hopes her new international friends will come to Hungary. "A ticket to Budapest is not that expensive. A few friends have already promised to come in the summer. That's when the Sziget Festival opens (editor's note: Sziget is the Hungarian version of Lowlands). It would be nice if we all went together." *



PLATE SURFING

APRIL WANG, FROM CHINA, HAS LIVED IN NIJMEGEN SINCE SEPTEMBER 2012. SHE STUDIES LINGUISTICS.

Meal: Sew Ap (roasted Peking Duck), Tjuang Ka Fou (a dish with meat, fish and vegetables) and Mo Po Tau Fou (tofu with vegetables), at Restaurant Hoo Wah

"Hey, there are no pictures of the dishes on the menu. That's odd, and un-Chinese. Anyway. I won't choose an appetizer, main and dessert. We don't eat like that in China. We order soup and four or five different dishes, all at once. The more there is on the table, the better. It is a mark of hospitality.

The real *Mo Po Tau Fou* is redder: it's full of chillies and it's very hot. This one is milder, but except for that, it tastes very Chinese. There's tofu in it. Chinese people eat that a lot. Tofu is made from soya, and it makes your skin colour lighter. We think that's beautiful. We think it's very odd that so many western people sit in the sun to get a tan.

The Peking duck is good. The skin is nice and crispy, just as it should be. But that idiotic sauce (the red, sour-sweet tomato sauce that most Chinese takeaways pour over most dishes. - ed.) doesn't go with it. Is there tomato in it? We hardly ever use those in China. I come from central China, where we usually eat duck differently. My mother boils it very long and slow in broth. That also tastes very good.

The *Tjuang Ka Fou* is reasonably authentic. It's a real restaurant dish. People don't make it at home very often. The chef here cooks pretty much real Chinese. I'd say: this food tastes 85 percent Chinese."

Enjoyed at:

Oriental Specialty restaurant Hoo Wah (Plein 1944 number 52). With a view of the construction excavations on Plein 1944, and surrounded by red and gold dragons.

WE LOVE THE LABS

Text: Martine Zuidweg / Photography: Duncan de Fey

Three researchers tell us what makes the Nijmegen formula so attractive. They have come here from the far corners of the earth because of the super-magnets in the High Field Magnet Laboratory or for the way research groups work together in the Baby Research Center, or perhaps

because of the good technical support at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour. All three benefit greatly from contacts with the many international researchers here. "My dream is a Baby Research Center of my own, back home."

Sarah Gerson is a postdoc at the Baby Research Center.

Sarah Gerson is a postdoc at the Baby Research Center. "I've visited many baby centres at universities, especially in the United States, but this is one of the best. Here people from the various relevant disciplines all work together in one location. One group looks at child development from a behavioural perspective, another from a neuro-logical perspective and yet another takes a linguistic approach. We share equipment, use the same research spaces, use the same database and we have a single secretariat. That's very special and fruitful: we give each other ideas for new approaches and research techniques. At the University of Maryland, where I did my PhD, the research on child development was much more scattered over the faculties. And there was less collaboration between the different fields. When I heard how they work at Radboud University Nijmegen I knew: that's where I have to go. I work on children's ability to make plans and solve problems, how they do that with others and what they learn from others. In 18 months, when my project is complete, I will go back to the US. My dream is to set up a Baby Research Center of my own, back home, and preferably using the same formula I've experienced here. Ideally, we could use the huge database of children they have here. If I want to look just at three-year olds, the database comes up with that selection. Many, many Dutch parents come to our Lab with their children. American parents are much less willing to participate, in part because more of them work full-time."

SARAH GERSON (28)
'I WAS ATTRACTED TO
THE RADBOUD FORMULA'



**VEERENDRA
GUDURU (28):**
'FEW PLACES IN
THE WORLD HAVE
THE FACILITIES
THAT RADBOUD
HAS'



Veerendra Guduru is doing his PhD at the High Field Magnet Laboratory.

"I did my Bachelor's in Physics at Pondicherry University, near Madras in the South of India and I did my Master's in Nanotechnology in Stockholm. When I came to Nijmegen for an interview, I was given a guided tour of the High Field Magnet Laboratory. I was astonished. The facilities and equipment were better than any I'd seen! Magnets of this type – and the experiments you can do with them – are very special and alarmingly expensive. I was fascinated to see what scientific results they might yield. I'm now in the fourth year of my PhD. I'm studying two recently discovered materials, each of which is an electrical insulator, but if you bring them together they conduct. I'm trying to find out why and the high-field magnets make that possible.

There are only four places in the world where you can generate such strong magnetic fields: the US, France, Germany and here. I've learned so much: experimental techniques, for example. Working with people from the most diverse range of countries has been an education, too. I've worked with Germans, Hungarians, Israelis and Portuguese. They're involved in very different fields and they all have their own approaches. That has widened my scope enormously. At first I had to get used to Dutch directness, but now I like it. It's good to know what you're up against. After this, I want to work in a company. I know the ins and outs of fundamental research, now I'd like to move into industry. In the Netherlands, if possible."

ATSUKO TAKASHIMA (44): 'I PAID FOR THE FIRST 18 MONTHS MYSELF'

Arsuko Takashima is a postdoc at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour and at the Behavioural Science Institute (BSI).

Atsuko Takashima is a postdoc at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour and at the Behavioural Science Institute (BSI). "I really wanted to do research at the Donders Institute. So when no paid position was available – just a workspace with a computer – I decided to pay for myself for the first 18 months. I had been working as a psychiatrist in Tokyo for 10 years and had some savings. In addition to that position, I was a part-time researcher. But you can't really commit yourself to research if you spend half your time on something else. The patients were always top priority. That's why I started looking around. The Donders Institute had just opened then and it was very innovative: techniques such as

MRI, EEG and MEG – all in a single institute – and not for hospital use, but fully available for research. What a luxury!

I've been here almost ten years now. Right now I'm studying memory: how we learn new words and how they are stored in our brains. My current project is for two years and I'm already looking for funding for the next period. I really want to stay. I have a great working environment – colleagues who inspire one other, enough equipment for me to do experiments without having to wait for my turn, and technical staff who are always available when there's a problem. Colleagues who've moved on from here tell me you don't find that at other universities. I have drawn my wish to continue my research here on my Daruma doll, a popular Japanese good-luck charm. You draw one eye on the doll while making a wish. If the wish is fulfilled, you draw the other eye."



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PUNT!

NEWS

Open Access

Open Access is a sustained, international attempt to create an alternative to scientific publishers: it offers wider access for less money using other publishing channels. Our university supports this development and a great deal of effort has been invested in changing mindsets in this area. Recently, an action was organized to enhance awareness of Open Access in the university. This resulted in a question in the University Council about the costs and benefits of this action: how efficiently is the invested money used? The concept is, of course, sympathetic, but the trick is to get scientists to really change their habits, to publish in different (sometimes lower impact) journals and pay for that privilege. And the question now is how the Executive Board intends to bring about this change. It takes more than an awareness campaign, stimulated by

the Library. Research institutes need to be involved as well.

Research in an international setting

Radboud University Nijmegen aims to become a very high ranking university worldwide. As such, it encourages researchers to work together with other top research groups around the world. But this also means publishing in high-ranking international journals and writing research proposals with large international consortiums. This global focus results in paying lesser attention to local and national debates, on meaning 'something' for our own society. Of course, we have to do both kinds of research, thus, the big question for the University's next strategic plan will be how we can balance both sides of the research coin.

Food for thought

Over the past few months, the University's Student Council has produced a thorough report on the restaurants and cafes on the campus. During the University Council meeting with the Executive Board on 15 April this report, which contains a list of recommendations to improve the price/quality ratio of the restaurants, was discussed. The Executive Board has promised to reduce the price for a hot meal from €5.00 to €4.50 for students from 1 May (International Workers' Day!). In addition, improvements to the interior of the Refter will be considered to make this restaurant a more attractive place to meet friends and spend free time. Finally, students, employees and guests will be asked to participate in a taskforce to share their ideas and suggestions for improvements to the quality of the restaurants and cafes at the university.

INTERVIEW

Each month, one member of the Employees Work Council
and one member of the Students Council are interviewed.
This month it's Louis and Nienke's turn.

LOUIS KONINCKX, Department of Occupational Health & Safety
and Environmental Service

What was your main reason for becoming a member of the Works Council?

"I was captivated by a real interest in the policy and organisational dynamics of the University."

What would you advise the Executive Board to invest more money in?

"Facilities which really support researchers and teachers."

Who's your hero?

"I'm impressed by Robbert Dijkgraaf."

What frustrates you the most at this university?

"There's nothing worth mentioning."

What is your involvement with internationalisation?

"Not that much in my job at the University. But I am an international course designer in equestrian sports and that gives me the opportunity to travel all over the world and work intensively with people internationally."

What should the university do to become more international?

"Encourage and support international networks among students."

Why is internationalisation so important for the university?

"Because it will be crucial for students as employees: the playing field will be abroad! I know all about that!"

What kind of student were you?

"Perhaps I didn't always concentrate, so it took me time to graduate."

What's your favourite spot on campus?

"The 20th floor of the Erasmus building, because of the panorama view from there."

NIENKE AANGENENDT, Student of Comparative Arts

Fraction AKKURAatd

What was your motivation for becoming a member of the Student Council?

"The main reason was the number of new measures that the Executive Board



took or had to take to urgently increase the number of students who graduate. Sometimes it seems to be all about the numbers and efficiency."

What would you advise the Executive Board to spend more money on?

"Apart from facilities and good education, I would advise investing in more modern approaches to education. The university is already working on web lectures (i.e. lectures are recorded or filmed for students to watch them again at home, for example in preparation for an exam)."

What do you want to achieve in the rest of this year?

"Together with the Student Union AKKU I am lobbying for a Green Office on campus, to make our university more sustainable and environmentally friendly. A Green Office can help create awareness and integrate sustainability into every aspect of the university, using research to help reduce wastage and ensure a smaller carbon footprint."

What should the University do to become more international?

"The Executive Board encourages students to go abroad during their study. However, in some faculties it's not easy to combine this with the curriculum. 'Mobility windows' should help to solve this problem. Every student should be able to go abroad without fear of missing important courses in their Bachelors or Masters program and be able to graduate without any delays."

'NIJMEGE

WHAT DOES WIKIPEDIA SAY?

Bahadır Kasap studied in Istanbul and Berlin. Now he's doing his PhD in Nijmegen. When he first heard the name Nijmegen, he had to look it up in Wikipedia. We asked him how he liked the town now and how welcoming he had found Radboud University.

Text: Lydia van Aert / **Photography:** Erik van 't Hullenaar

"A friend helped me with the move from Berlin. We zipped down the motorway to the Dutch border. Then suddenly there were speed limits and speed cameras. Like it or not, we had to finish the trip at a snail's pace. To my surprise, I liked it. I relaxed and thought: this is the Netherlands. In Nijmegen we went to check out the town centre. We admired the market and did some shopping in the HEMA, just to see something typically Dutch."

Bahadır "call me Baha" Kasap (27) is doing a PhD at the Donders Institute. "I'm developing a computer model of part of the brain. If you hear something, you automatically turn your head and eyes to the source of the noise. I want to explain how that works." We are talking together in Samson, Baha's favourite café, in a comfortable corner of the sun lounge. He orders a brand-name beer. "Although Turkey is a Muslim country, many people drink alcohol. But we only have one brand of beer: Efes."

Baha was born in the Turkish city of Kayseri. At the age of twelve he moved with his parents

and sister to the capital, Ankara. He studied Physics in Istanbul. For his Master's degree he went to the Technical University in Braunschweig, Germany, which works closely with the Volkswagen factory. Bahadır discovered that he likes to program, but cars do not interest him. So he moved on, to a Master's in Neuro-informatics in Berlin.

Then he came to Radboud. How did that happen? "I was looking for a paid PhD position. I applied in Italy and Poland as well. I did go for an interview in Warsaw, but the city made me feel depressed. I knew the Netherlands from two visits to Amsterdam." But he knew nothing about Nijmegen. "My supervisors told me that the Donders Institute has a good reputation for its publications and top names. But I had to look Nijmegen up in Wikipedia." The Wikipedia page left him with mixed feelings. "I was pleasantly surprised to see that the Socialists, Social Democrats and Greens dominate the city council. But I also read that it rains fifteen days in the month."

Despite the climate, Bahadır had an interview via Skype, and he was taken on. He was

given a tip to look for a room via Kamernet. "That didn't work out, because I couldn't come on the open house evenings." He asked his PhD supervisor, John van Opstal, Professor of Biophysics, for help. And he arranged a room in the Albertinum Dominican Monastery, behind the Hoogeveldt student accommodation block.

The key

Baha arrived in Nijmegen on a Sunday in December, a day when the manager of the complex was not available to hand over the key. "I do couch surfing, which makes me part of an international community of people who room with one another when they are travelling. Max, a student, is part of that community and he picked up my key for me. I got the key from him on the Sunday and Max became my first Dutch friend. He's now studying in Utrecht, but we keep in touch."





RESIDENCY PERMITS

The University helps researchers to get a residency permit, which you need to apply for a Citizen Service number from the Taxation Department. And you need a CS number to open a bank account. The University can help with this too. Beyond that, everyone has to rely on their own ingenuity or call in the help of experts. Experience shows that the Taxation Department is the biggest obstacle. It's hard enough for the locals but, as the Department's information is provided only in Dutch, it's a minefield for many foreigners. The University's advice is: work through a tax consultant.

FINDING YOUR WAY

Every researcher from another country who is appointed at Radboud is offered the *Holland Handbook*, a thick volume produced by Nuffic, an organisation that supports international cooperation in higher education and research. In addition, researchers and students can use the *Information Guide* to find their way within the University and the university staff have the *Guide for welcoming a new international colleague*. Twice a year there's a Dutch Day (including a Campus Walk). An excursion for students and staff is organised four or five times per year: the next is a trip to the Keukenhof gardens in May. Finally, the International Office produces a monthly digital newsletter, with a programme of activities and other useful things to know. Do you not get it? Send an email to F.Jensen@io.ru.nl. For social activities, see www.ru.nl/ris

PhD place organised. Rooms organised. The third thing for Baha to do was get a bike. Or rather, his PhD supervisor organised a bicycle. With a degree of embarrassment Baha points to a classic Gazelle parked outside the café. "I got that to borrow for a while, from John van Opstal. But in the bicycle shop I fell in love with a brand new racing bike and I don't dare to leave it parked in the city. So John still hasn't got his bicycle back..."

The next thing to do was to explore the surrounding area on his racing bike. "As soon as I got to the Nijmeegsebaan, I found that the Netherlands is not really flat. The surroundings are beautiful and the little houses with handkerchief gardens are so cute. In Istanbul and Berlin all the buildings are tall. It's a bonus that everyone leaves the curtains open, so I can see their interiors. They seem to make them look as old-fashioned as possible."

So the Netherlands is cute? "No, I think it's an attractive, liberal country and Nijmegen is a wonderful place. It irritates me when other foreigners complain about the cold and the small size of the city. I'm always positive. And Nijmegen may not be very big, but it has everything: shops, movie theatres, museums and clubs. And you can get on the train and be in Amsterdam in no time. After Istanbul, with 13 million people, and Berlin with 3.5 million, I'd had quite enough of big cities: you're always travelling just to get to the university, to the city centre or to visit friends. Here, you can easily arrange to meet ad hoc."

A bit of bother

Once the practical matters were arranged, the administrative rigmarole had to be faced. Bahadır needed a residency permit, a Citizen Service Number and a Dutch bank account.

USEFUL WEBSITES

ru.nl/io/english/
ru.nl/masters/service-package/service_package/
ru.nl/students/exchange_student/welcome/
ru.nl/newstaff/



EXPAT PLATFORM

The University and the UMC St Radboud are part of the Expat Platform, a network for expats in Nijmegen. This includes the municipality, the Chamber of Commerce, the University of Applied Science Arnhem en Nijmegen and some major companies (NXP, Heinz and Synthon). Every three months there's a Meeting Point, a chance for foreigners to meet one another in conjunction with a particular event. The next is the Music Meeting. Expats are invited to gather at this multicultural music festival on May 18. There's also a chance to meet via Facebook (Expats Nijmegen) and on Twitter (@expatsNijmegen).

ACCOMMODATION

Problem number one for every newcomer is: how do I find a place to live? Apartments for PhD candidates or unmarried researchers are available at the Guesthouse. Those seeking a flat or house in the city can rely on their own resources or seek help from the International Office, which will act as a middleman on behalf of students and researchers. The International Office is also the place to go for those who have a spare room or want to sublet a house. Housing@io.ru.nl

"The Personnel Department at the university helped me with everything." But not everything ran to plan. "I'd just picked up my residency permit in Den Bosch and as I was cycling home I lost my wallet with the brand new permit. What a disaster! I reported the loss at the Town Hall, but I didn't expect to see it again. To my surprise I got a message: my wallet with all its contents had been handed in to the desk of the Climbing Centre, for which I had a membership card. Tremendous! Unfortunately I have not been able to track down the finder, but I gave the staff at the Climbing Centre a bottle of wine."

The Netherlands is known as a cool country, and not just for its climate. Has the University done enough to make him welcome? Bahadır gives me a bewildered look: "I got a welcome packet with the Holland Handbook, and I was invited to the International Office's introductory meetings and the 'Dutch Day.' What more could they have done?"

He laughs: "Perhaps I'd been through the culture shock already when I arrived in Germany. In Istanbul, foreign students are received with some ceremony, but in Germany no-one gave me a second look: foreigners are perfectly normal there. And there's no doubt there's a difference in cultures. A German student friend who did some research in Istanbul was astonished at how often he was invited home by people thereto eat and drink tea."

International network

In short, Baha had realistic expectations of how he would be welcomed in Nijmegen. He also has a large international network for support: Europe is his home, and distances don't bother him. "Many of my friends from Turkey are scattered across Western Europe, in London, or in Brussels. One lives in Tilburg. In the Christmas holidays, she came to Nijmegen and we explored the city together. My family doesn't celebrate Christmas, and although I can entertain myself quite well, I would have been at a loose end without her. I still have a lot of contact with my former flatmates from Berlin. I want to look for a house or apartment in Nijmegen that I can share with others. In the corridor I'm living in now, we sometimes eat together. In the first week, one of the residents knocked on my door: he had fallen hard on his head and asked whether I would walk with him to the first aid post. So there is some contact, but I miss really living together. I want to be able to leave my toothbrush in the bathroom."

Although Baha has guests every weekend or is on the road himself, he's also building contacts in Nijmegen. At the Climbing Centre for example, where his beginners group often shares a glass after the session. "I played guitar during University Unplugged, an open podium at the University. I met a student there who I get along with. We meet to jam together, but we generally end up watching Game of Thrones on TV."

STUDENTS

Twice a year, there's an introductory day for students who come to Nijmegen for courses taught in English (exchange and Master's students). The university arranges residency permits and accommodation for them, where applicable.

SPEAKING
SOCIAL DUTCH

If you want to learn Dutch, try In'to Language, a language bureau linked to the University, with classrooms on the campus. For exchange students who need only get by in the supermarket or pub, there's the short *Social Dutch* course. For those who want to go a bit deeper, there are long courses or the option of a week's immersion in an Intensive Language Programme. Students receive a substantial discount on course fees. The courses in English, including a programme to brush up your presentation skills, may also come in handy. www.radboudintolanguages.nl

Does he have a lot of contact with his colleagues? Bahadır arrived in Nijmegen in mid-December and met his colleagues at the Department's Christmas dinner. Everyone in the Department calls him Baha now. "Bahadır is actually written with an i without the dot, which is pronounced 'uh.' Baha is easier."

In the corridor of the Huygens Building, where he works, there is a coffee corner with yellow benches from IKEA. There's also a table and chairs, but nobody uses it for eating. Everyone gathers on the benches to lunch together. It's quiet on a Friday. The Dutch researchers Lidwien and Daisy – and Rachel from Germany – drop in. An Indonesian col-

league goes for the coffee. The PhD candidates, interns and postdocs are all studying the part of the brain that responds to noises, from the perspectives of psychology, biomedicine or physics.

All of his colleagues have taken turns as test subjects in a darkened room, where they are put in a special chair and exposed to noises. For Baha it was an initiation. "I had my turn on my very first day," he laughs. Contacts with his colleagues are pleasant, and not forced. The whole department is addicted to the board game Dixit, but the idea of having a regular lunchtime game on Fridays never got off the ground. Baha and his close colleagues often miss the weekly Thursday drinks in the CultuurCafé as well, but have a garden BBQ at Professor van Opstal's house to look forward to.

Bahadır listens quietly to his colleagues. Does he want to stay in Nijmegen? "For four years at least. The duration of my appointment. I don't know yet what I'll do after that. Istanbul's economy is growing rapidly, but for research I'm better off in the Netherlands. Things are more organised here. I like the open atmosphere and the people are very friendly – and beautiful, with their blond hair and blue eyes. But that's just because it's all exotic for me. It's also handy that everyone speaks English, as opposed to Germany, where I was forced to learn German quickly. I'm afraid I'm not learning Dutch anytime soon." *

PLATE
SURFING

ELPIDA THEODOURIDOU, FROM GREECE, HAS LIVED IN NIJMEGEN SINCE AUGUST 2012. SHE'S TAKING THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN CONFLICTS, TERRITORIES AND IDENTITIES.

Meal: bread with *tzatziki* (a yoghurt-based dip), *taramosalata* (fish roe salad) and *melitzanosalata* (aubergine salad), *saganaki dodonis* (fried cheese) and *plaka* (seasoned minced meat) with rice, baked potatoes and cabbage salad at restaurant **Dionysos**. Under bunches of plastic grape, with a glass of **Ouzo** on the house.

"This restaurant doesn't look very Greek from the outside. In Greece, the traditional Greek restaurants are very recognizable. They are painted blue and white. This one is green, just like the Irish Pub on the other side of the street. But inside, Dionysos looks Greek. There are pictures of Greek scenes on the wall. That's a traditional Greek bead necklace, with the tassel on the end. They're usually worn by men. There are also grapes hanging from the ceiling. I'm struck by how few statues of Greek gods they have. At home that's different.

This *ouzo*'s very good! We usually drink it before the meal, to awaken the appetite. The menu looks very Greek to me. The *taramosalata*, made from fish roe, tastes good. We usually eat this before Easter because we don't eat meat then. *Saganaki dodonis*, fried cheese, is something you've really got to try. Or *keftedakia*, spicy meat-balls. That's also typically Greek.

I give the food here a nine, it's really Greek. The interior too. No kitsch and not over done. It's nice that they're playing Michalis Gatzigiannis, a Greek singer. I used to be a huge fan of him when I was sixteen!"

Enjoyed at:
Estiatorio Dionysos (Bloemerstraat 1)

HIT THE SCENE

WHICH CULTURAL EVENTS DOES NIJMEGEN HAVE TO OFFER IN THE COMING MONTHS, AND WHICH ONES ARE UNMISSABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS? WE'VE MADE A LIST FOR YOU. ON YOUR BIKE! THE CITY AWAITS!

Text: Marlon Janssen, Timo Pisart en Ateke Willemse

1. BIG_TRY_OUT

April 26-28 in Trans 6



You can't really say you've got Nijmegen in your blood, until Arnhem is the place you love to hate. You can try it for yourself at a hip event: the Big_Try_out exhibition for example, or the *Luchtkaasteel* podium for the arts. After that, of course you will conclude that Charlemagne's city is your favourite. (You will, won't you?)



2. QUEEN'S DAY

On April 30 you can kill more than two birds with one stone in Nijmegen. While closely following the succession ceremonies on your NOS App, you can shop for second hand nick-nacks in Goffert Park. After that, duck into a tipi at the Orange Pop festival (€5) in Hunner Park, and buy some rubbishy hippy souvenirs that you'll never use. Stare at the artists on stage through a groggy haze.

Then, for a truly Dutch atmosphere, go to see the musical performances on the Koningsplein. With your arm around the shoulders of a random new friend, you can have a quiet snigger at the crowds in Amsterdam, who don't have room to wave a flag. Long live the king!

3. SENTIMENTAL SONG DAY

May 13 in Valkhof Park

But if you add a substantial quantity of alcohol and nostalgia, you've got the golden formula for a really good party. That's what you can expect at the 30th (!) edition of the Sentimental song

day (*Dag van het Levenslied*).

Incidentally, visitors who survive this event are permitted to say they've been properly initiated in Nijmegen

4. NIJMEGEN, CITY OF SQUATTERS

You haven't seen the real Nijmegen until you've been inside one of our many squatters' palaces. Nijmegen is the most left-leaning, and somewhat anar-



chistic, city in the Netherlands, and it shows. Look at the history of the Doornroosje, a temple to pop

music, or drop into De Klinker, a political beanery, where you can eat biological food every Wednesday, for a voluntary contribution. The best dance parties are held in the cellar there (known affectionately as *De Onderbroek*, the underpants). Just around the corner there's arty-farty Extrapool and the Collective Café *De Bijstand* (Support), which hosts vodka Wednesdays! Just over the railway line you will find the Walhalla more-than-just-skating centre and the Vasim studio and gallery complex.

NIJMEGEN TECHNO-CITY

Is Nijmegen 'Little Berlin?' No Dutch city (all right, none but Amsterdam) has more progressive electronic music than our Havana on the Waal. For decades, the best techno DJs have been on the programme at the Planet Rose parties (coming soon: April 27 and May 11), held in the rather small, and always fully booked, space of the Doornroosje. Event organiser Darko Esser is our God. Nijmegen also hosts the Drift parties, which are very much worth the effort. Once a year, Drift does it on a big scale with a festival where you can dance all day to the best techno and house (May 18, €35).



Photo: Katja Rupp

5. FILMFLIRT

May 16 in the LUX film theatre

Whether you are looking for an exciting flirt, a good friend or just an enjoyable film, the filmflirt at LUX (€9) is the place to be. Miss Match Doro and Irene seat all comers strategically in the rows of the theatre, so you don't have to look too far to find your perfect match. On top of that, the film will be *Quartet*, a comedy directed by the virtuoso Dustin Hoffman. So why wouldn't you go?

6. MUSIC MEETING FESTIVAL

May 18-20 in Brakkenstein Park



Is World Music only for hippies in the haze of mind-expanding substances? Hell no, man.

The Music Meeting festival (full pass for €59.50) has been showing just the contrary for many years, with fresh, interesting, against-the-grain programming. What do you make of the Ghanese guitarist Ebo Taylor, who is almost eighty, but still funkking? Or the Chinese rock/throat singing band, Hanggai? This is one of the world's best international music festivals! And don't forget the after-party in Doornroosje, with the up and coming afro beat sensation Jungle By Night (DJ set).

7. NIJMEGEN, CITY OF COFFEE



Another reason for calling Nijmegen 'Little Berlin' is that every corner has a trendy or vintage retreat where you can drink the black gold. Our two favourite spots:

FOUR-DAY MARCH PARTIES

July 13-19

No international student may leave Nijmegen without experience the four-day march parties. The four-day march is by far the biggest happening of the year in Nijmegen. It turns the whole city upside down. If you want to escape the crowds and chaos, try St. Stevens Church (€12), where the billing includes the Dutch folkpop sensation Mister and Mississippi, and Nijmegen's most beautiful singer, Janne Schra. Not to mention the church's beautiful, serene setting. Or do you like it loud? Go to the Valkhof Festival, in the park of the same name, where the best alternative bands from the Netherlands and overseas will be playing, free of charge (for you).

+ Sid and Liv (with a very nice back garden), who host unique garden concerts with agreeable programming for the connoisseur.
 + The Fuzz, a retro joint run by a father and son pair, who like to talk with their clients.

Also nice: Bairro Alto, with good taste in china and the best carrot cake in the city, and Tati in Oost, with a genuine jukebox! For socially engaged coffee, go to Coffyn, which has a beautiful view of the Waal.

8. FORTAROCK XL

June 1 in Goffert Park

Last year we bayed "SLAYERRRRR" for the American thrash metal band, and this year again the FortaRock festival (€75) will offer a selection of the masters of metal from the Netherlands and abroad. More than that: the festival has moved to a larger venue, at Goffert

Park, and has therefore attached an XL to its name. And with good reason: Rammstein will put on an appearance. But our hottest tip is to be at Doornroosje one day earlier, when Buma ROCKS! promises to be unmissable for anyone interested in Dutch metal. It will also be a chance to see some export products we can be proud of, such as the heavy metal masters, Vanderbuyst.

9. NOTHING CHANGED FEST

July 5-6 in the Onderbroek and the Vasim

Nijmegen has been a left-leaning squatter's bastion from time immemorial. Immerse yourself in this rich, anarchistic culture during DIY festival Nothing Changed Fest. There will be bands (hardcore, grindcore, Dbeat and other vague genres), revelry and vegan food: scrumptious!

10. SWIMMING

The Dutch start to swim early in the year. In fact, the water is warm enough for us on New Year's Day. Now that the sun is beginning to appear again, we duck into a swimming hole whenever we can. If you want a cool swim, don't go down to the Waal, because the strong current makes it very dangerous. Go to the Bisonbaai (with a nudist beach for those who feel that way) or swim in the very pretty and much quieter lake, De Strang, near Bemmelen. If you don't mind cycling some distance, go to the Kraaijenbergse Plassen, where you can try some wind surfing at the Aeolus student clubhouse.

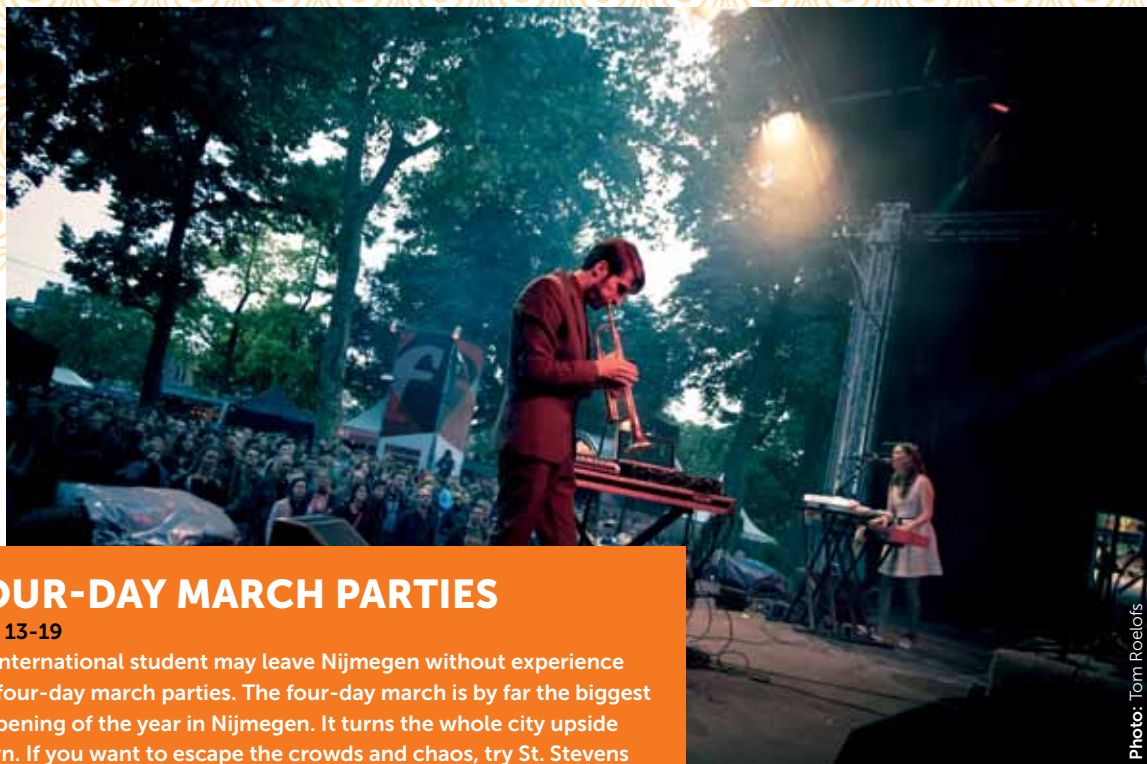


Photo: Tom Roelofs



ANNIVERSARY

WWW.RU.NL/ACTUEEL/LUSTRUM-90-JAAR

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Radboud University Nijmegen. And that calls for a celebration! From 16 May through 2 June a varied and festive programme will be organised for students, staff and alumni at the university and UMC St Radboud.

Radboud Sports & Radboud Rocks

The festivities will kick off on Thursday 16 May at 13.00 with Radboud Sports. This exciting sports day includes a ZUMBA XXL class, a university-wide competition and range of workshops. Join us at 17.00 that same evening for Radboud Rocks in Brakkenstein Park (sold out), an exclusive festival for students and staff with performances by Ilse De Lange, Raccoon, Fresku and DJ St. Paul.

TEDxRadboudU & Radboud Ceremony

On Thursday 23 May, inspiring speakers from home and abroad will come together for a TEDxRadboudU conference in De Vereeniging. The theme is trust. On Friday 24 May, several honorary degrees will be conferred during an awards ceremony at St. Steven's Church. This ceremony will honour esteemed members of the scientific community and individuals who have made a significant social contribution.

Radboud Kids & Radboud City

On Tuesday 28 May, 90 professors will visit 90 primary school classrooms in and around Nijmegen as part of the Radboud Kids event. On Sunday 2 June, the university will present itself to the people of Nijmegen during Radboud City, a university festival in the town centre. A series of debates, public lectures and scientific experiments will be organised in and around Mariënborg Square at the very heart of Nijmegen.

Keep up-to-date with the latest news by downloading the Radboud Lustrum app from Google Play Store, iTunes App Store or from the lustrum website.

AGENDA

SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION FOR VOX CAMPUS TO VOXCAMPUS@VOX.RU.NL. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON 30 MAY. 2013.

GENERAL

www.ru.nl/facilitairbedrijf

Modified opening times for campus restaurants during the spring break (29 April - 3 May)

With the exception of the Rafter, all restaurant facilities will be closed on Monday 29 April. All facilities, including the Rafter, will also be closed on Tuesday 30 April.

REFTER: open from 11.00 - 19.00 on 29 April - 3 May

RESTAURANT FNWI: open from 11:00 - 14.00 on 1 - 3 May

HET GERECHT: open from 11:00 - 14.00 on 1 - 3 May

SPORTCAFE: open from 19.30 - 23.30 on 1 - 3 May

CULTUURCAFÉ: closed on 29 April - 3 May

DE-CAFÉ: closed on 29 April - 3 May

CAMPUSSHOP: closed on 29 April - 3 May

SOETERBEECK: closed on 29 April - 3 May

AULA: open on 1 - 3 May

HUIZE HEYENDAAL: open on 1 - 3 May

www.ru.nl/verkiezingen

22-28 MAY: Elections for University Student Council, Faculty Student Council and Programme Committees
29 MAY, at 16:00: Results announced. Location: Cultuurcafé.

www.ru.nl/master/cns

29 MAY: Symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Cognitive Neuroscience Research Master. Ever wondered what neuroscientists really do? Now's your chance! Location: Hotel Erica in Berg en Dal.

www.ru.nl/studentenkerk

7 MAY, at 18:30: Start of new meditation course. Location: Studentenkerk.
8 MAY, at 20:00: Start of new meditation course. Location: Studentenkerk.
1 JUNE, at 10:00: One-day bike pilgrimage to Kranenburg and Kleve



Photo: Gerard Verschooten

The procession of professors during the Lustrum in 2008

with John Hacking. Meet at the Studentenkerk.

CULTURE

www.ru.nl/cultuuroopdecampus

6 MAY, at 20:00: Lola BAM Theatre Collective perform *MIST*. *MIST* tells the story of a young girl who lives in a world dictated by Facebook. One day, she embarks on a solo sailing trip around the world in an ultimate attempt to be seen. Location: De Rode Laars.

7 MAY, at 20:00: Singer-songwriter competition Nootuitgang. Wüstensturm, Yvonne Kuijpers, These People and Tom Hendriks compete for the title of best campus singer-songwriter. Location: Cultuurcafé.

14 MAY, at 20:45: Open-air film *Jules et Jim*. François Truffaut's romantic French classic from 1962 follows Jules and Jim as they compete, unsuccessfully, for the love of Catharine. With a lecture by film critic Constant Hoogenbosch on the Nouvelle Vague film genre.

Location: 20:45 in the Studentenkerk garden (19.45 in CC3 in case of bad weather).

22 MAY, at 20:00: Finale of Kaf en Koren band competition. Which student band will steal the hearts of the jury and the audience? Will it be the Rectum Raiders with their transcendental cock rock? Wolves Dressed in Sheep with their country/folk music? Or the progressive rock band Sane of Juicy Flavour with their funky pop? Come and check it out! Location: Doornroosje.

28 MAY, at 19:30: Screening of *Laurence Anyways* for Pink Week. In this realistic drama by Xavier Dolan, we follow Laurence Alia as he transitions from a man to a woman. The film will be introduced by the Nijmegen Transgender Group. Location: CC3.

29 MAY, at 20:00: Theatresports. Several theatre sport groups will stage improvisational performances that aren't afraid to tackle taboos. Schwung, Extra Stout and Buiten

SOETERBEECK PROGRAMMA

www.ru.nl/sp

25 APRIL, at 22:00: Lecture by philosopher Gerrit Steunebrink on Hegel's masterpiece *Phenomenology of Spirit*, following the translation of the German original into clear and accessible Dutch by Uitgeverij Boom. Location: Collegezalencomplex.

15 MAY, at 20:00: 'Hoe hoort het? Etiquette uit de plooi' (What are the Rules? Etiquette Explained). Lecture by Barbara Kruijsen, curator of the Old Masters collection at Museum Het Valkhof on how the rules of etiquette changed in the eighteenth century. Location: Collegezalencomplex.

22 MAY, at 20:00: 'Azië als mythe: westerse fantasieën over het Oosten' (Asia as Myth: the East in the Western Imagination). Lecture by Ian Buruma, leading British-Dutch publicist and intellectual, on the way we see Asia and the role of China as an emerging world power. Location: Collegezalencomplex.

24 MAY, at 20:00: 'De Bonobo en de Tien Geboden: moraliteit, religie en primaten' (The Bonobo and the Atheist: Morality, Religion and Primates). Lecture by primatologist Frans de Waal on evolution as the source of morality. Location: Collegezalencomplex.



Bereik will compete to see who can crack the best bad gay joke.
 Location: De Rode Laars.

SPORT

www.ru.nl/sportcentrum

29 APRIL - 4 MAY: an adjusted sports schedule will apply during spring break.

30 APRIL: The USC will be closed on Queen's Day.

5 MAY: Regular classes will not take place on Liberation Day. The gym will be open.

9 MAY: The USC will be closed on Ascension Day.

10 MAY: Regular classes will be cancelled the day after Ascension Day. The gym will be open.



16 MAY, 13:00: Radboud Sports. Sports Day in celebration of the University's 90th anniversary.

16 MAY, 12:00-18:00: The USC will be closed. An adjusted class schedule will apply before 12:00 and after 18:00.

19 MAY: The USC will be closed on Whit Sunday.

20 MAY: The USC will be open from 8:00 - 17:00 on Whit Monday. Regular classes will be cancelled, but the gym will be open.

STAFF

www.ru.nl/pv

27 MAY, at 12:45: Intermission concert with Lidia van der Vegt on oboe and Gan Sun on piano. Location: Aula.

APPOINTMENTS

DR V.A.W.J. (VINCENT) MARCHAU was appointed as Professor of Uncertainty and Adaptability of Societal Systems on 1 March (FdM).

DR H. (HARRY) VAN GOOR was appointed as Professor of Surgery on 1 April (UMC).

DR N.E. (NIGEL) HUSSEY will be appointed as Professor of Correlated Electron Systems in High Magnetic Fields and Director of the High Field Magnet Laboratory on 1 September (HFML).

PHD CONFERRALS & DEFENCES

PHD CONFERRAL ON 16 MAY AT 13:30: DR ELLEN WEBBINK (FDM) 'CHILD LABOUR IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE'.

What was your research?

"I conducted quantitative research on the different forms of child labour. I studied environmental factors and the qualities of children and their families which help explain the number of hours that children work and the type of work they do. I also examined the difference between working boys and girls and between the situation in Africa and Asia."

What were your findings?

"My research clearly revealed that the more economic resources a country has, the less likely their children will be forced to work. This does not mean that making resources available will necessarily lead to a reduction in child labour. If they no longer need a child to fetch water from a well, that same child may be forced to operate electrical equipment instead."



Photo: Grietje Stam

What does your future look like?

"I plan to move away from scientific research because I'm ready for a change. I currently work for the Central Bureau of Statistics and I really like my job."

3 MAY, 13:00: Ms. C.M. Gowda (FNWI) 'Solid-state NMR structure studies of polyisocyanodipeptides and functionalized polyisocyanides'.

6 MAY, 13:30: Ms. K. Hayano (FdL) 'Territories of knowledge in Japanese conversation'.

7 MAY, 15:30: drs. T.G. Bloembergen (FNWI) 'New warping and multivariate analysis methodologies for complex proteomic and metabolomic data'.

8 MAY, 10:30: drs. B.I. Buijck (UMC) 'Multi-dimensional challenges in geriatric rehabilitation; the GRAMPS study'.

8 MAY, 13:30: drs. I. Feenstra (UMC) 'Genotype-phenotype studies in rare chromosome aberrations'.

8 MAY, 15:30: drs. A.P. Sinke (UMC) 'Understanding the mechanisms of disorders in osmoregulation and their potential treatments'.

15 MAY, 10:30: Ms. V.N. Buchholz (FSW) 'Oscillatory activity in tactile remapping'.

15 MAY, 13:00: drs. G. Stege (UMC) 'Sleep and the use of sleep medication in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease'.

16 MAY, 10:30: drs. W.W.M. Fleuren (FNWI) 'Text mining and information

extraction for the life sciences: an enhanced science approach'.

16 MAY, 13:30: drs. E. Webbink (FdM) 'Child labor in the developing world: making the invisible visible'.

17 MAY, 10:30: Mr Z. Iqbal (UMC) 'Genetic elucidation of autosomal recessive intellectual disability'.

17 MAY, 13:30: drs. E.V. van Dongen (UMC) 'Sleeping to Remember. On the neural and behavioral mechanisms of sleep-dependent memory consolidation'.

17 MEI, 15:30: Mr M.B. Hansen (FNWI) 'Taming cell-penetrating peptides. A steering wheel for delivery vehicles'.

21 MAY, 13:30: Ms.C.M. Chiong (UMC) 'Early detection and screening for childhood deafness in the Philippines'.

21 MEI, 15:30: drs. X.M.R. van Wijk (UMC) 'Chemical biology of heparan sulfate. Development of tools, and use of sugar analogs to inhibit heparan sulfate biosynthesis and angiogenesis'.

27 MAY, 10:30: drs. F.C. Warmenhoven (UMC) 'Depression in palliative care. Normal sadness or disorder?'.

28 MAY, 10:30: Mr S. Orzada (FNWI) 'New excitation concepts for ultra-high-field human MRI'.

28 MAY, 13:30: drs. H.J.M. Meijer (UMC) 'Magnetic resonance lymphography and lymph node irradiation in prostate cancer'.

28 MAY, 15:30: drs. B.W.M. Weusten (FdL) 'Over een vogel die zich niet liet kooien. Leven en werk van John Baptist Knipping (1899-1973)'.

29 MAY, 12:00: drs. R. Dirven (UMC) 'Hands-free speech in laryngectomized patients. Innovation of medical devices and 3D stereophotogrammetry imaging'.

30 MAY, 11:30: Mr S.K. Vasa (FNWI) 'microMAS NMR: a study of nano liter volume solid samples'.

30 MAY, 15:30: drs. P. Vugteveen (FNWI) 'Connecting the dots in integrated water management. A critical analysis of a tangled concept'.

31 MAY, 13:00: drs. J. Noordman (UMC) 'Lifestyle counseling by physicians and practice nurses in primary care. An analysis of daily practice'.

31 MAY, 15:00: M. Bongio (UMC) 'Polymer-based injectable bone substitute materials: in vitro and in vivo evaluation'.



BLINDDATE

A STUDIO, A PHOTOGRAPHER, AN INTERVIEWER AND ... A CONVERSATION.
TWO PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY'LL BE TALKING TO. TIME FOR AN ADVENTURE.

Text: Bregje Cobussen / Photo: Erik van 't Hullenaar

What do you get into as an international student in Nijmegen? A relationship – that's what German student Manuela Osiander discovered. She met Dutch national Hans Simons on the Master's programme in Political Science and they've been a couple for a few months now. But really, are two different nationalities compatible when it comes to kissing ...? And what happens when the academic year is over? Vox invited Manuela and Hans on a 'blind date'.

This isn't exactly what you'd call a blind date, is it?

Hans: "No. We met at the start of this academic year, when we both started doing the Master's in Political Science." **Manuela:** "I sat next to him. I'd just arrived in Nijmegen. I didn't know the town or the university yet. Hans was very helpful and gave me

a lot of help." **Hans:** "Well, I liked her straight away. It took her a bit longer to be attracted to me."

Oh? Did you think being in love with a foreigner wouldn't work, Manuela?

Manuela: "That's right. I'd already been abroad for fairly long periods. I did placements for a few months in Brussels and Athens and I studied in France for six months. I always thought: that's too short a time for love. Now I'm in Nijmegen for a year. It sounds stupid, but before coming I'd already been thinking that this would be long enough to build a relationship with someone... As for the risks connected with falling in love – what do you do when you have to go back home? I haven't thought about it. You can be heart-broken anywhere. Before I left, my friends said: 'Don't bring a Dutch-man home with you! Because of the football rivalry, you know ...'"

Why did you choose Nijmegen?

Manuela: "I wanted to do a Master's programme in English and that was possible here. And, after a period in lively Athens, I didn't want too much distraction from my studies. I thought: the Netherlands is a quiet country, nothing much happens there. I'll be able to concentrate on my studies." *The Netherlands and Germany... well, they're not that far apart culturally. Do you still sometimes come across differences?*

Manuela: "In fact we only find similarities. For example, recently some German friends were over here. We wanted to cook something typically Dutch, but we couldn't think of anything that we don't already know in Germany." **Hans:** "Maybe it's because we both come from the south of our country – from a region that's disliked by the rest of the country. She comes from Bavaria and I'm from

Limburg. That creates a bond."

You're graduating this summer.

What's going to happen after that?

Hans: "We're both applying for work placements abroad, at embassies.

So we have no idea where we'll be after the summer. Maybe we'll end up near to each other." **Manuela:**

"That's what we're hoping for, but of course we're not completely in control of what happens." **Hans:**

"I do find that a bit scary." **Manuela:**

"The placements are just for half a year. Even if we're further away from each other, we'll manage." **Hans:**

"Even if we stay together, one of us will have to live abroad in any case.

We both have foreign experience, so we're not worried about that."

Manuela: "There's no guide on how to deal with something like this. I think that our relationship really can become serious. We'll just have to see how and where."