

VOX



Next stop:
Nijmegen



FRESHERS' SPECIAL

(DRAAI OM VOOR DE NEDERLANDSTALIGE VERSIE)



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Cover illustration: JeRoen Murré

EDITORIAL

BINDER

"Do I look like a binder to you?"

She gave me a wounded look and shook her head.

Only after she walked away I realised how blunt I had been to her. She had wanted to have her thesis bound (exciting!) and thought she'd arrived at the Copyshop. After all, this place had always been its home.

However, now it's just me in a company of boxes. I just moved into the Thomas van Aquinostraat 2 as the sole representative of the university magazine. All my colleagues were still out in the sun somewhere, the internet was not working, the printer seemed to be dead and the girl had been the twentieth visitor thinking this was still the Copyshop. All I wanted was to do some work. The introduction-Vox, the issue in your hands right now, had to be finished.

I grabbed a sheet of paper from the late printer and created a makeshift sign saying the Copyshop had moved to the Erasmus building.

The first article I then opened talked about our receptionists and their hospitality which I seemed to lack myself. I felt a little self-conscious as I worked on. The campus is getting a big overhaul in the next few years. The entire Thomas van Aquinostraat is scheduled to be bulldozed. As a freshman, you can expect to have to ask for directions on many occasions. This issue of Vox will give you some tips on how to make yourself feel at home in this city. It will include do's don'ts and places to be.

I hope this will absolve me of the guilt caused by my inconsiderate comment.

Annemarie Haverkamp
 Editor-in-Chief Vox



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COLOPHON

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Hello first-year students!

You have reached your destination. Welcome to Nijmegen! Now, your student life really begins. The good news: Nijmegen is the coolest student city in the Netherlands. It's a fact!

There is a good chance that you will still have to explore and find your way around your new city, but that will happen on its own with time. Like most new students, you will probably stick to cycling along Heyendaalseweg and St. Annastraat for the first few weeks to avoid getting lost (No, the fastest way from campus to the Albert Heijn in Nijmegen-Oost is not via Keizer Karelplein.)

A well-organised orientation is something that will stay with you for the rest of your life. Do not spend that much time thinking about it as that awareness will come to you later on. Now is the time to celebrate, make friends, and knock back one beer too many.

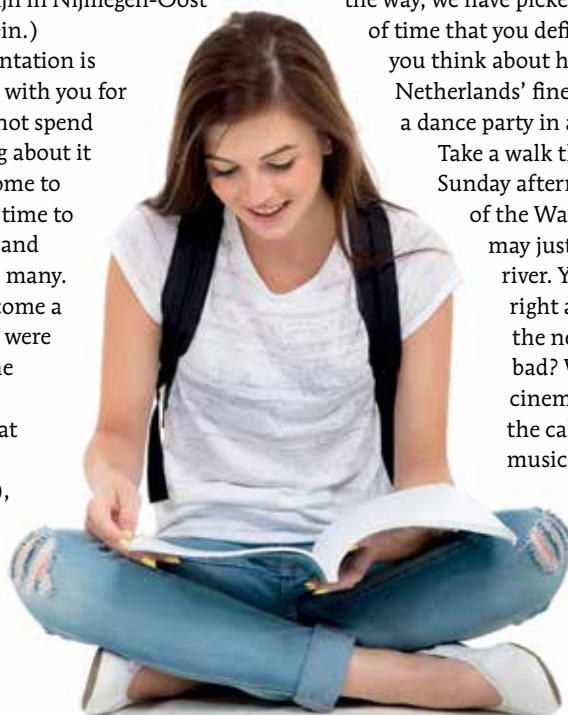
However, there may come a time when you wish you were back home, sitting on the sofa with your parents. After another night out at El Sombrero (When will that headache go away?), you suddenly feel the sting of missing your loved ones and pets - that is a part of the orientation, too. Feel

free to talk about it with your orientation brother/sister: there is a good chance that they feel a little less than comfortable sometimes, too.

After the orientation, it is time to discover more of Nijmegen. De Fuik, Camelot, and TweeKeerBellen have since become familiar territory. To help you along the way, we have picked out some other places ahead of time that you definitely have to try. What do you think about having a special beer in the Netherlands' finest pub, lunch at a cat café, or a dance party in an old factory?

Take a walk through Valkhofpark on a lazy Sunday afternoon - or head to the other side of the Waal. The best view of Nijmegen may just be on the other side of the river. You can get to work on your tan right away at one of the beaches along the new city island. Is the weather bad? Why not take in a film at LUX cinema, visit a literary night, or check the calendar for the Doornroosje music venue?

We hope you enjoy the years to come. Hopefully, in a few years you will also be calling Nijmegen the greatest student city in the Netherlands.



Lets's go outside



1. Waal beach

The Copacabana pales by comparison. Nijmegen's numerous Waal beaches offer weary students a unique opportunity to cool down in the river or relax in the sun. Disclaimer: swimming in the Waal is forbidden (although everyone does it anyway). And: Do clean up after yourself when you leave!

2. Kronenburger Park

It's no surprise that Frank Boeijen dedicated a song to this park, one of the most beautiful in the Netherlands. With a view on the mediaeval ramparts and Kruit Tower, and surrounded by a mass of green, the Kronenburger Park is a wonderful place to be.

3. De Kaaij

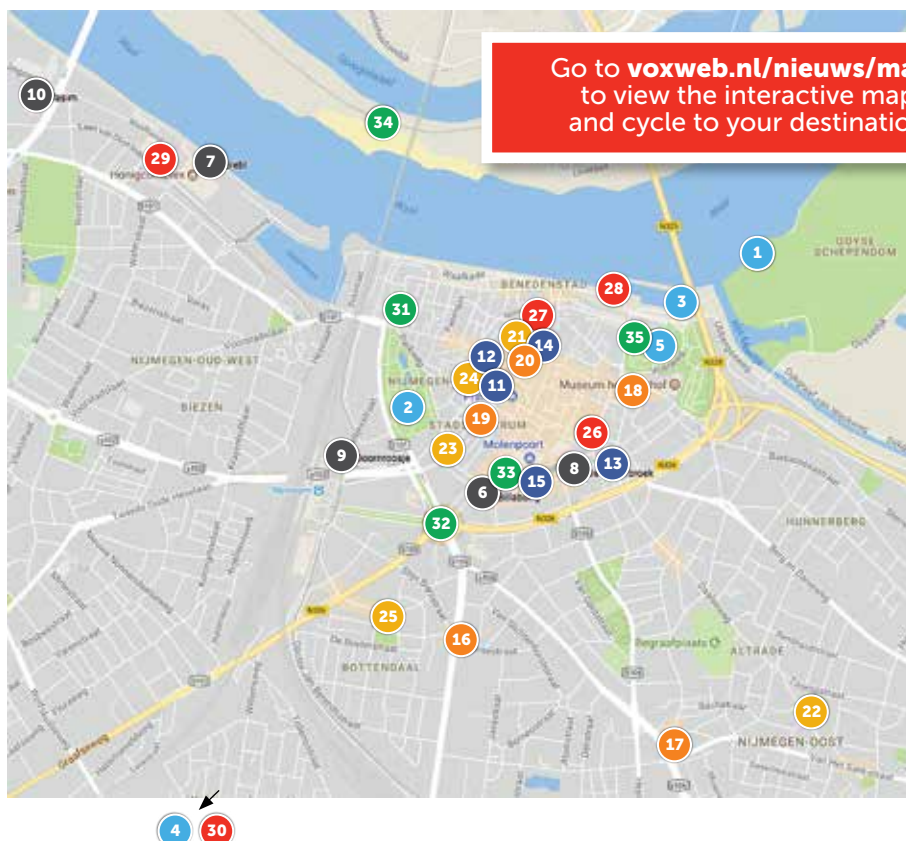
It may officially be called a cultural terrace, but De Kaaij has by now grown into true Nijmegen cultural heritage. From June to September this terrace under the Waal Bridge gives lounging a new dimension, with its benches, beer and gorgeous view. Great to combine with a visit to a Waal beach!

4. Goffert Park

In the shadow of the 'football temple' of NEC (known as Bloedkuul) lies the Goffert Park, a long stretch of greenery that viewed from the right angle is vaguely reminiscent of Central Park, New York. A great place for a barbecue, some sports or simply enjoying the sunshine. Also, well-known artists frequently perform here.

5. Valkhof Park

A fierce competitor of the Kronenburger Park, the Valkhof Park is where Charlemagne built his mediaeval castle. The ancient ruins and high trees give the park its near mythic character. The views are phenomenal.



Clubbing



6. Billabong

De Molenstraat will hold no secrets for students after the orientation. But just around the corner, in the Van Welderenstraat, dancing café Billabong is also worthy of a visit. This spacious café offers enough room to dance, a photo booth, and a DJ who is open to requests from the audience.

7. Brebl

What could be more fun than letting loose in a former warehouse? Brebl is a special location that attracts a wide variety of parties. If you've had enough to drink you can rest on the 'terrace' with a view on the Waal. Just make sure you're back inside in time to hear that one fantastic DJ no one has heard of.

8. De Onderbroek

Havana on the Waal is a progressive city: everybody knows that. The tip of the iceberg is bastion of anarchism De Onderbroek. Entrance fee? Up to you. Beer? Straight from the bottle. In the cellar of De Grote Broek – Nijmegen's most famous squat – you can have your portion of left-wing Nijmegen.

9. Doornroosje

One of the best pop podiums of the Netherlands is right here in good old Nijmegen. Doornroosje is known for its great acoustics and hard parties. Rock, techno, hip hop or classic, this temple of pop is a guarantee of a fantastic show! And don't forget to check out Doornroosje's little brother, Merleyn!

10. Vasim

Drift: the dance/techno party of Nijmegen. Or rather: of the Netherlands! Welcome to Vasim: former rayon factory NYMA attracts the best alternative DJs. They'll get you moving even if you're dead!

Lunch and Coffee



11. De Mediterraanse Hoek

It may be Nijmegen's best kept secret: De Mediterraanse Hoek. Actually a Turkish fruit green-grocer, but if you walk in and ask owner Alex for a sandwich, you will be offered a fantastic lunch. And for €2.50 only!

12. Blonde Pater

For the best coffee in the Netherlands, come to the Blonde Pater. This lunch café has won tons of barista awards and offers a wide range of mouth-watering lunch dishes. Enjoy the sunny terrace, comfortable even in winter, thanks to its heated cushions!

13. Fika

More stylish than IKEA, but still very Scandinavian. That's what



PHOTO: MARJOLEIN VAN DIEËN



lunch at Fika feels like. Here you can enjoy the best of Scandinavian cuisine. All dishes are served on smörrebröd and you can get yourself a real Aquavit Cocktail. Skål!

14. Down Town

The Nijmegen band De Staat may have a song by the same name, but that has nothing to do with the quiet and hip atmosphere of café Down Town. For early risers who want to grab a bite to eat, or for night owls who barely made it through the night. You can place your order from 8.30 am onwards.

15. Cat café Balthazar

The time has come for Nijmegen to have a cat café of its own. At Balthazar you can drink coffee or tea in the company of seven cats who will be all too happy to hang out with you. You cannot bring your own dog or cat, but the cats that own the place have enough love to give to help you through your quarter-life crisis.



Dinner



16. St. Anneke

For a mega carpaccio, you are at the right address at St. Anneke. The busy café on the Sint Annastraat has a lovely terrace and simple but tasty food. Don't forget your student ID, and you can have some of the main dishes for only €8.50. And on Tuesdays and Thursdays after 9 pm, beer is only €1.80!

17. Café Eten en Drinken

What's in a name? At Café Eten en Drinken, you can eat and drink. No need for special student prices, because everything is cheap. The most expensive dish is only €11.50. Our advice: Do it!

18. Credible

Don't be discouraged by the hip appearance of Credible. The food is not expensive at all, and the lounge sofas are extremely comfortable. And if you cannot stand on your feet anymore, you can always spend the night, since Credible also happens to be a hotel.

19. Café de Plak

Cheese mince from Café de Plak! Need we say more? This café restaurant has been a concept in Nijmegen for years, and it has become part of local history and education. In addition to affordable food and a well-filled plate, you can also always count on the restaurant being full. You cannot reserve, but neither will you have to wait long!

20. De Waagh

This seventeenth-century building doesn't really look like a student café. And yet, De Waagh offers really cheap food! Try the Waaghhap, a weekly menu (not on Saturdays). For only € 9.95 you get a starter and a main course. The deluxe version, with desert, costs €12.95.

Drinks



21. In de Blaauwe Hand

Hidden in the shadow of the Stevenskerk is the oldest café in Nijmegen: In de Blaauwe Hand. An old-fashioned café according to tradition. Try a Rooie Tieptop

beer, which can only be found here. And if you want to train your arm muscles, you can drink your golden friend from a stone tankard.

22. Café Jos

In 2009 this café in Nijmegen-Oost was nominated best café in the Netherlands. Café Jos offers an impressive range of beers and whiskeys. With 200 bottled beers and 33 beers on tap you are bound to find something to your liking.

23. The Shamrock

Do you want to see with your own eyes Feyenoord make a fool of themselves in the Champions League? Or our Arnhem neighbours get thrown out of the European League? Then you should come to Irish pub The Shamrock. During football games the atmosphere here closely resembles that of a churning Kuip stadium.

24. Café Wunderkammer

A cabinet of curiosities, that's the best way to describe this new café in the Houtstraat. Among art objects from around the globe you can enjoy drinks (lots of interesting beers) from all corners of the world. Café Wunderkammer may very well turn into Nijmegen's new hotspot.



25. Café Maxim

In Bottendaal, one of the cosiest and nicest little districts of Nijmegen, you can find Café Maxim. There is always a bit of a crowd, and the terrace is sunny most of the day. You can combine your visit with a picnic at the Thieme Park, where many students come to eat dinner and play drinking games.

Activities



26. LUX film night

No money, but still in the mood for a movie? Come to LUX Cinema's student night on Monday evenings. For only €5 you can see Emma Watson, Samuel L. Jackson or the Minions shine on the white screen.

27. Beer-tasting at De Hemel

"Send me to hell; they don't serve beer in heaven!" Well, you couldn't be more wrong. Nijmegen is home to special beer brewery De Hemel, the oldest in the Netherlands. You can combine a beer-tasting

session with a guided tour of the brewery, including tasting a few heavenly beers.

28. Escape Boat

And you thought an escape room was cool! Well, think again! The Escape Boat offers not only four escape rooms, but also a huge escape arena, with room for up to sixty people to play a team battle. Will you manage to escape from this sinking ship?

29. Trampoline jumping at Bounz

Remember the olden days? Jumping on the trampoline for hours on end, and then joining your parents for dinner. Well, those days may be gone, and you may have to do the cooking yourself (or have very sweet flatmates), but Bounz offers a trampoline arena where stopping is not an option.

30. Outdoor Swimming Pool

You think swimming in the Waal is too risky? Then come to the Goffertbad. Here you can enjoy the unlimited advantages of outdoor swimming, without the dangers of open water. And upon climbing out of the pool, you can show off your beach body in Nijmegen's 'Central Park'.

31. Literature

If you're a literature buff, Nijmegen is your paradise. Nijmegen is host to the literary magazine Op Ruwe Planken, the literary festival Boek op de Bank, and literary production agency Wintertuin. Workshops and parties the whole year round! Highlight: the yearly literary event in De Vereniging.



Sightseeing



32. Red light district

Few people know this, but Nijmegen has a red light district of its own. A touristic attraction for some. On the Nieuwe Markt, near the Kronenburger Park, the red lights shine on rows of anonymous hooded men, on the prowl or waiting for their turn.

33. Square Park

You can't even get there, but still the architect thought: "There should be a park here!" The 'why' behind the green island in the middle of the Keizer Karelplein may be unclear, but if you're careful crossing the street, you can relax here among the round-spinning Germans who have lost their way.

34. Marijuana Alley

The Vlaamsegeas may not look so appealing, but you should walk through it at least once. With two coffeeshops next to one another, the smell of piss is quickly replaced by another interesting scent. A tip: the milkshakes at coffeshop De Kronkel are in our humble opinion the best in the country!

35. City Island Veur-Lent

The new Veur-Lent city island is unanimously a ridiculously huge success. It will make Nijmegen world-famous. And it offers pretty much everything: swimming in the Spiegelwaal, enjoying the quiet, or adding some local colour to your jogging round.

36. Sint-Nicolaas chapel

An air of mystery hangs in and around this ancient medieval chapel. For example, who built the thing in the first place? What we know for sure is that it is one of the most beautiful places in Nijmegen, where intimate concerts are given during the Four-Day Marches, and exhibitions are organised on a regular basis.

legendary orientation stories

The orientation always produces tall stories that are told for years afterwards. Vox collected four for your enjoyment.

Jim Weekers, mentor daddy for four years, saw the hair of one of his orientation babies go up in flames:

"The Tuesday of our orientation was all about the G-4 party at the Drie Gezusters. Our little group was having a grand time when my fellow daddy Niek ticked me on the shoulder. "Don't you think it smells funny here? Like something's burning..." It turned out that the hair of our mentor baby Ayla was hanging in a candle and slowly catching fire. Luckily we were just on time and Ayla only lost a bit of her hair. This nevertheless turned out to be the story of the orientation. For the rest of that week, wherever we were, on the streets and during the orientation weekend, we would sing to the tune of the Kings of Leon hit Sex on Fire: "YOUR HAIR IS ON FIRE!"



Publicly administering a new drink

The idea of 'planning' your career is often based on an illusion. Karl Kouki did not start a degree in public administration with the goal of one day making money by designing and producing a caramel drink. Yet, this is exactly what happened. Karl's KOEKIE is available throughout the country and he graduated cum laude to boot.

Text: Tim van Ham / **Photos:** Bert Beelen



"Phew!" says Karl Kouki in answer to the question of how many cafés in the Netherlands sell his shot drink. "I don't have precise figures." Partially because the distribution of this beverage is now in the hands of external parties, but also because the numbers keeps growing. In the spring, when KOEKIE celebrated its second anniversary, there were already more than three hundred locations. "And in September, KOEKIE will truly reach maturity, and become available in two hundred franchises of a national liquor store chain."

KOEKIE has grown into a full-fledged drink brand, sold in bars throughout the country. Kouki smiles as he thinks back to how small-scale it all was to begin with. "I was working as a student at the bar in Café de Fuik. They had all kinds of drinks and ingredients, most of which were never used. I experimented a bit and created my own mix. That was it."

The mix was a hit and ended up on De Fuik's board, under the name KOEKIE – it's creator's nickname. Usually, such mixes come and go, but KOEKIE remained popular. So after two years, Karl Kouki decided to try and have a

serious go at it. After endless experiments and 25 recipes, the mix was finally exactly as he wanted it. The recipe is secret. Kouki used up his savings and had one thousand bottles produced. That was when things really took off.

Winter sports

"I didn't have a neat business plan or a fancy marketing campaign. Things just took off. And they continue to do so, I guess," says Kouki. In the beginning, the drink (and the story behind it) was mostly popular among students. It spread from the Nijmegen student world to Eindhoven. And from there to the rest of the country. Now people enjoy KOEKIE during late nights in bars, but also in daytime, mixed with soda on a terrace, and even on winter sports in Austria, where it is now also sold. "It's a perfect alternative for the strong schnapps – which I am not, to put it mildly, a big fan of."

When KOEKIE first began its exponential growth, Kouki had just started his Master's programme in Public Administration at Radboud University. "I had decided beforehand to mostly focus on my studies." But as

legendary orientation stories

The orientation always produces tall stories that are told for years afterwards. Vox collected four for your enjoyment.

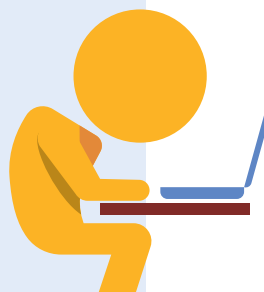
Luuk Joling, former coordinator of the international orientation, was assigned an orientation baby completely unused to the Dutch climate:

"Every year we get a few of them: international students who think the Netherlands has a real summer. As in: a summer with more than just the two tropical days drowned in a merciless thunderstorm. But Francesco was truly confused. As a South European used to the comfort of his own climate, he told me with disappointment seeping all the way into his cold bones that he only brought along one sweater... for Christmas! Apart from that he only had some shorts, t-shirts and slippers. In despair, he asked me: 'It's August Luuk, why is it 18 degrees and does it rain all day?' Nobody knows, Francesco... He spent the entire week hugging his Radboud hoodie and the ponchos we distributed. He could kind of see the point of cycling, but he kept wondering out loud how we could live in this climate."



KOEKIE became more popular, it was not in Kouki's nature to slow down just so he could spend more time preparing for a New Public Governance exam. "I somehow managed to combine the two. It was hard work, because I was still doing everything myself. Now I delegate distribution, but at the time I had to make sure that clients got their boxes of KOEKIE myself. By car, by bike, or if need be by train." Nor did he do badly in his Master's programme: last year, Kouki was awarded his diploma. "Cum laude" it said, in curly letters. He doesn't have a job yet; his drink brand keeps him busy "nearly full-time".

In the meantime, KOEKIE continues to grow. "In the beginning I took into account that it might just be a hype. I mean, everybody used to drink Bacardi Breezers, and you hardly ever see them now. But I'm no longer afraid of it. The sales figures continue to grow and all locations keep placing more orders. I also plan to add a second flavour, with raspberry. As far as I'm concerned, KOEKIE is in the shooter business to stay." *



Campus highlights

The Radboud University campus hosts many extraordinary (mostly modern) buildings. But the things that happen behind their doors are of course more important. Radboud University Nijmegen is a comprehensive university, carrying out research in such fields as cyber security, gravitational waves, the refugee crisis and immune cells.

Text: Steven Huls and Martine Zuidweg / **Photos:** Google Earth Pro



2

Huygens
building



Erasmus building



1 Researching the Dutch identity

Faculty of arts, Erasmus building

Is there such a thing as 'the Dutch'? And when did we begin to identify with this concept of 'the Dutch'? Lotte Jensen is senior lecturer in Dutch literature and has spent a long time investigating this question. She concludes that although there is no such thing as 'the Dutch', there is certainly a Dutch collective identity. In 1798, the first Dutch Constitution established the Netherlands as a unitary state; the seven sovereign regions were no more. For her research, Jensen read a lot of seventeenth and eighteenth century war and peace texts, and she concludes that in times of war, we tend to feel more 'Dutch'. Joost van den Vondel described it as follows in his play *Leeuwendalers* (1648): "de koeien geven melk en room, het is al boter tot de boom" ("the cows give milk and cream; it's a great place to live"). Already then typically Dutch.

2 How to hack a chip card

Faculty of Science, Huygens building

The current generation of first-year students probably doesn't know any better, but 'in the olden days' (before July 2014) you had to buy a paper train ticket if you wanted to go home to your parents for the weekend. The introduction of the OV chip card has made travelling by train simpler: you only have to check in and out at the station. The Radboud University Digital Security Group contributed to this project by cloning and cracking its way through the various defects of the chip card. The weakest link turned out to be the MIFARE Classic chip, which is also used in hotel room keys. With a card reader and special software you could modify all the data on the card in just a few minutes.

3 Vocabulary acquisition methods

Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour

What is the best way to learn by heart in one hour the meaning of eighty Lithuanian words? That was the starting point of an international competition, Memprize, for developing better study methods. The Nijmegen researchers hedged their bets on visual memory. They asked participants to remember words in the rooms of a house and to come up with mnemonic aids. The Lithuanian word for rain is 'lietus', which is easier to remember if you think of 'litres of water'. Another trick used by the team was to repeat the meaning of the word shortly before the test subject forgot it. The Nijmegen method turned out to be not only the most effective, but also the most fun.

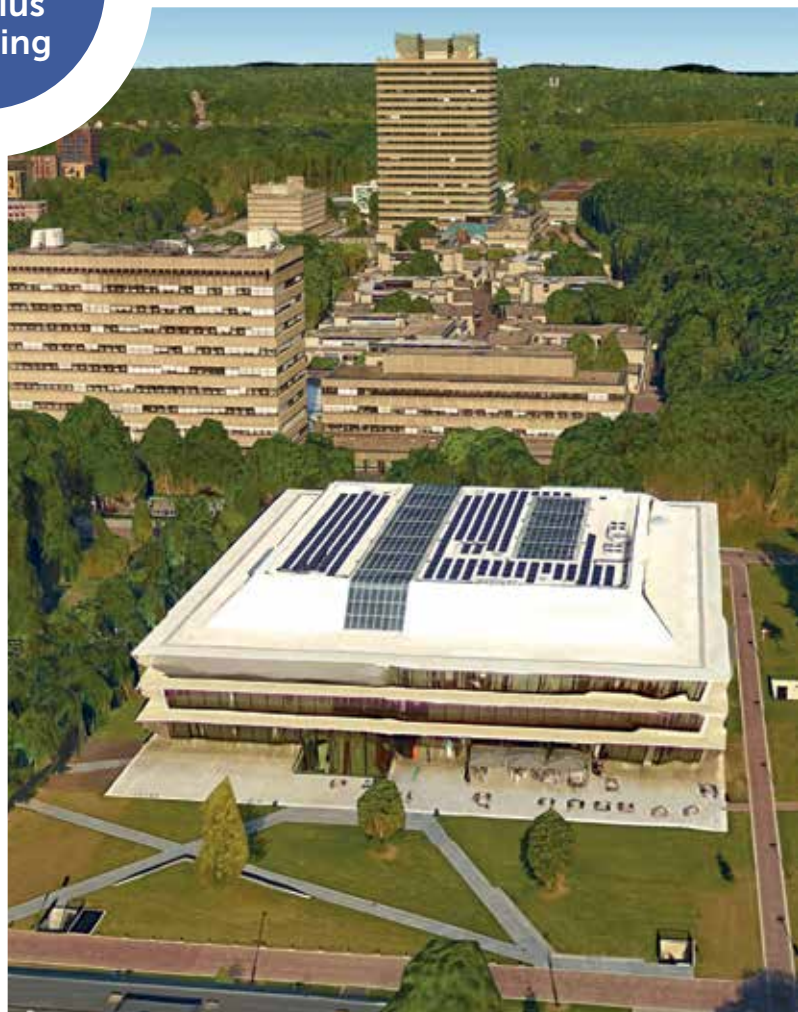
6

Grotius
building4 **The strongest magnet in the world**
High Field Magnet Laboratory (HFML)

In 2014 the Nijmegen High Field Magnet Laboratory (HFML) established a world record with the strongest magnet in the world. The super magnet has a power of 37.5 tesla (eight thousand times stronger than a fridge magnet) and is used to discover the new properties of materials. It was in part thanks to HFML magnets that Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov won the Nobel Prize for Physics with their discovery of graphene: a thin layer of carbon only one atom thick on a grid with a honeycomb structure. Graphene is two hundred times stronger than steel, flexible, thin and transparent, which makes it very useful for such applications as touch screens. Geim previously won the IgNobel Prize for making a frog float in a magnetic field. No frogs were harmed in this experiment.

5 **Gravitational waves**
Astrophysics, Grotius building

Einstein predicted their existence and in 2015 they were measured for the first time: gravity waves. These waves occur when two black holes merge. The measured signal lasts approximately 0.2 seconds and sounds a bit like bird-song, but then under water. Astronomer Gijs Nelemans co-authored the article on the astrophysical implications of gravity waves. Special telescopes are required to



Not to miss

The Radboud University campus offers plenty of opportunities to do things other than just studying (or working). All first-year students should remind themselves to visit these five spots on campus at least once.

A

HORTUS

You really don't have to be a biologist to enjoy the botanical garden in Park Brakkenstein. Enjoy the quiet, the exceptional plants, and the art objects of the Hortus while sipping a cup of coffee or herbal tea. And if it gets cold, the greenhouses will gladly keep you warm.

B

**ERASMUS BUILDING
SKYLounge**

From here you can see all the way to Germany. Enjoy the lush greenery of Nijmegen and its surroundings and get a different perspective on the Thomas van Aquinosstraat (it still looks shady seen from above). The Skylounge is an ideal spot to enjoy your lunch and the view.

C

BERCHMANIANUM

The Berchmanianum is the latest addition on campus. With its huge garden and stately appearance, this former cloister is perfect as a new Academy Building. The historical building gives the University that extra historical touch. Not altogether unimportant!

D

DE AESCULAAF CAFÉ

For the nicest beer, come to the hospital. The medical faculty is home to De Aesculaaf, where speciality beers, sodas and wine are still served for old-fashioned low prices. And while you're in the neighbourhood, take the opportunity to drop by the Anatomy Museum.

E

**THOMAS VAN
AQUINO STRAAT**

Go quickly to see it for yourself, before the entire street is demolished. The Thomas van Aquinosstraat is considered by many to be the ugliest street in Nijmegen. But before the demolition ball hits, you should really try at least once to find your way through the street's narrow passageways and damp corners. Good luck!



observe these signals. The Netherlands Research School for Astronomy (NOVA) and Radboud University are helping develop BlackGEM telescopes, developed specifically to detect gravity waves.

6 **Where policy fails the refugee crisis**

Faculty of Law, Grotius building

When thinking of Nijmegen and refugees, the first thing that comes to mind is probably the reception centre in Heumensoord where three thousand asylum seekers were welcomed last year. Less known is the Nijmegen Centre for Migration Law. Tineke Strik wrote her PhD on European Asylum and Migration Law. Asylum seekers have to be welcome in Europe, she argues, and not only in their own region. The current European asylum policy is strongly based on protecting external borders. This pushes refugees into the arms of human traffickers and overfull fishing boats on the Mediterranean. You first have to survive these obstacles before being offered protection as a refugee, something that Strik is very concerned about.

7 **Researching the immune cell**

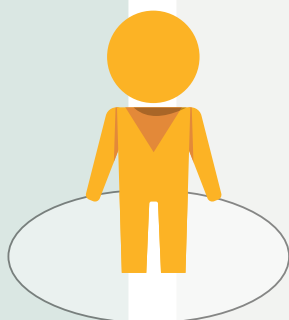
Radboudumc

Patients with a melanoma (a type of skin cancer) and metastases in their lymph nodes have a poor prognosis. Professor of Tumour Immunology Jolanda de Vries and her team developed a unique treatment specifically for this group. Using special immune cells produced by the patients themselves. Blood cells are collected from patients, and filtered and processed in the lab. The doctors then inject these cells back into the patients' body, in the hope that they stimulate other white blood cells to clean up the tumour. Although this approach has not yet been proven effective, it is nevertheless temporarily reimbursed by the basic healthcare insurance.

8 **How do international conflicts arise?**

CICAM, Thomas van Aquinostraat

Across the world horrific conflicts are still being fought; and that while this century is the most peaceful one ever. Willemijn Verkoren, Head of the Nijmegen Centre for International Conflict Analysis & Management (CICAM), studies the origins of such conflicts. One of the most frequent underlying reasons is the fight for raw materials such as oil and gas. The solution? A large portion of the fighters' groups consists of young men, often with few prospects and in search of an identity. "This is why it's so important to create employment", says Verkoren, "so that people have something to do."



legendary orientation stories

The orientation always produces tall stories that are told for years afterwards. Vox collected four for your enjoyment.

Floris Heij,
mentor daddy for two
years, had to treat his
group to a box of Flügel
when they won the sports
day competition:

"Political science students and sports: the two don't really go together. Every year the political science team gloriously fails to win a single event on sports day, either because we've had too much to drink, or because we're simply not fit enough. So I felt safe two years ago promising my group that I would buy them a box of Flügel if they managed to win the sports day competition (which all mentor groups from all study programmes take part in). While under the influence of a few beers, my group achieved the impossible. We won all competitions and were the official winners of the sports day. A day that ended up being quite painful for my wallet, although the Flügel did give us a night to remember. Amazing what the promise of a few drinks can do for the motivation of a mentor group."



A man with short brown hair, smiling, is leaning on a dark desk. He is wearing a light blue shirt, a striped tie, and a dark vest with the Radboud University Nijmegen logo. On the desk in front of him is a computer monitor and a map. The background shows a modern office environment with glass partitions and other people working.

'We're kind of a village'

Christiaan Bartmans (54)
Huygens building

"The atmosphere at the Huygens is very convivial. We're kind of a village, a close-knit community. I used to work in a shelter for young and homeless people. That taught me a thing or two about people. I learned how to quickly assess someone's character and how to deal with certain situations. To outsiders it may look as if we just sit around drinking coffee and showing people the way, but we do so much more than that. We have to quickly switch between tasks, especially when it's busy. The most important thing is hospitality. We are the University's business card. It's all about the impression we make. So even if I'm having a bad day or I'm feeling sad, I just keep smiling. And help people to the best of my abilities, with whatever they need. I guess I'm kind of a father figure around here. It's also fun to see students grow up. Sometimes they come to us with their student ID from four years ago, and you can see how much they've changed. And the other day there was a barbecue, and the students came by to ask whether we wanted a piece of meat. It's nice when they think of you, although they don't have to. In the end we all need each other."

The university's calling cards

They show you the way, listen to your troubles and sometimes even double as surrogate fathers. In other words, our receptionists are indispensable on campus. 'If you treat people with respect, you get respect back.'

Text: Lara Maassen / Photos: Erik van 't Hullenaar



**'I used to work
as a roofer'**

Frank de Kieft (56)
University Library

"I'm not only a porter, but also a social worker. People sometimes come to me in tears. They just need to recharge their battery with Frankie. Have a cup of coffee. I sometimes call my cubicle Frankie's Coffee Corner. All I need is a neon sign. I used to work as a roofer. Then one day in winter, I had a fight with someone at work, and I thought: it's time for a change. My brother-in-law asked me whether I wanted to apply for a job as a porter. I thought: Why would they hire me? All I have is a swimming diploma. But I was still asked to temp for one summer. The ten weeks turned into

seven months, and sixteen years later, I'm still here. When I first started working at the Library, things were very different. If there were twenty people in the reading-room, it was considered a crowd. You weren't allowed to bring anything inside, not even a coat or a water bottle. I was a kind of Library cop. Can't say I enjoyed it much. Luckily things are a lot more relaxed now. And it's much busier. Lots of people walk by and call out 'Hey, Frankie!', or stop for a chat. It's nice. And when something happens outside, I'm there in no time and can control the traffic if needed."



**'I am strict
but fair'**

René Galis (52)
Lecture Halls (and part of TvA)

"I've worked here for fifteen years now. What I really enjoy is the autonomy. Being given responsibility. This building is my whole life. Being a porter is all about finding a balance between hospitality, service and authority. That's my goal. If you treat people with respect, you get respect back. Everyone is always welcome here. I am strict but fair: I don't like to be made a fool of, but I am always open to discussion. In addition to courses, we also have lectures, symposiums, training courses and open days. Sometimes we even get a visit from a Minister. That's great. I once helped Dries van Agt park his car.

What I would like to tell first-year students is this: we may look very scary, but don't hesitate to come to us if you have a question. Sometimes students spend hours looking for something. When we look together, in nine out of ten cases we end up finding it."



HOW TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN

Congratulations, you've found the room of your dreams (or a pale replica of it). Your real student life is about to begin. But how does one go about living with sometimes as many as ten housemates? Vox comes to the rescue once again.

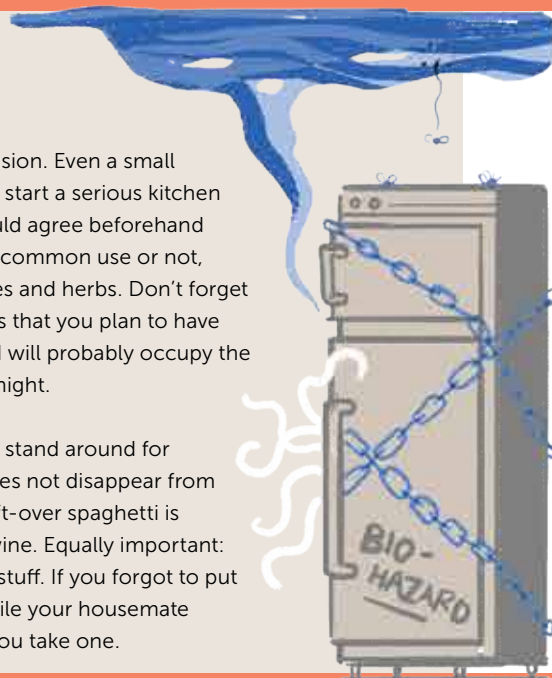
Illustrations: Roel Venderbosch



KITCHEN

Do: Avoid underlying tension. Even a small incident can be enough to start a serious kitchen fight. That's why: You should agree beforehand whether the olive oil is for common use or not, ditto for the available spices and herbs. Don't forget to inform your housemates that you plan to have guests over for dinner, and will probably occupy the kitchen for the rest of the night.

Don't: Let your rubbish stand around for centuries. Expired food does not disappear from the fridge by itself. Your left-over spaghetti is unlikely to age like a fine wine. Equally important: Don't steal other people's stuff. If you forgot to put your beer in the fridge, while your housemate remembered, ask before you take one.



SITTING ROOM

Do: The digital revolution did not take place for nothing. Make use of it. Websites like WieBetaaltWat make it so much easier to organise an eating list or pick a date for your house outings. Which is great, since it's always great fun to eat and drink together!

Don't: Can't keep your eyes and/or fingers off that dude or chick you picked up at the El Sombrero? Great for you, but your housemates don't have to pay the price. Don't spend hours slobbering over each other in the common sitting room. Get a room.



Loneliness

A new city, a new study programme, a new social environment – not everyone will see it as reason for rejoicing. On the contrary: according to a recent Radboud University survey, one quarter of students experience “emptiness” and one in five “misses having other people around”. So don’t be surprised if you feel lonely at times. And if you do: seek help! For instance by getting in touch with one of Radboud University’s university psychologists. An intake only costs €10.

At the same time: If you notice that one of your housemates seems down, ask him or her how you can help. Because student life is certainly not only fun and games!



BEDROOM

Do: As a rule, keep the door of your room open. People are more likely to drop in for a chat, or you might be lured out by the smell of fresh coffee. In this way you’ll get to know each other better. And yes, everyone will understand it if you need to keep your door shut ‘at times’.

Don’t: Old student houses in particular don’t have sound-proof walls. Even if you keep your door closed, we still recommend you avoid loud sex. It’s embarrassing and not very nice for your neighbour who just got dumped. Save your housemates and yourself a lot of embarrassment, and keep your private life private.

Just my luck:
a well-isolated
house!!



BATHROOM

Do: No idea how to clean a toilet? YouTube is your friend. Check out all tips, instructions and other advice on Internet and pretend to be a real pro. If you still don’t get it, just ask! At least your housemates will know you’re on the case, and that you are not too lazy to contribute to domestic hygiene.

Don’t: See that dead guinea pig in the shower drain? Don’t point the finger at your housemate who always leaves hair in the shower. Instead take the hair out (with tweezers and rubber gloves if need be) and throw it in the trash. Comprendo? And if there is a separate lavatory, use it for your number two. A lot nicer for people who still want to shower.

Hey bro, I see you wonder:
how will I ever get that
crapper so white? Easy as
shit, dude. Check out my
simple tips and get your
throne to shine...



legendary orientation stories

The orientation always produces tall stories that are told for years afterwards. Vox collected four for your enjoyment.

Bjorn Teeuwen, information officer for the School of Management orientation, saw a first-year student throw up during his IT instruction:

“On the Monday of the orientation I instruct all first-year students on the use of IT. They’ve had their first night by then, so they got to know each other a bit and have had a few drinks. Half-way through my instruction at the Lecture Halls, I see from the corner of my eye a student throw up on the stairs. Luckily not everyone saw it, so I was able to finish my talk. It goes without saying that this led to a lot of commotion and turned into the story of the day. To make matters worse, the vice dean walked in as I was finishing, so I had to quickly warn her that there was vomit on the stairs. She just managed to jump over it, but I don’t think she was particularly pleased...”



1

Firstly, buy a bike. This is the Netherlands, having a bike is as essential as food and water, but don't buy the cheapest bike you can find. You can imagine how incredibly excited I was to find a bike for 30 euros, a couple of days later the bike basically snapped in half and I was left bike-less, disaster! I bought a decent bike for 80 euros and never looked back. You can probably sell it for 50 euros when you leave, making it a pretty good deal for 6 months / a year of transport.

2

On a cycling theme, buy a cool waterproof jacket (I truly believe these exist). I hate to be the bearer of bad news but it is going to rain, a lot, and you are going to have to cycle through said rain. This is sooooo much better when you are wearing a waterproof.

3

Try new things. Parties are great, but soon you get tired of them. I can promise you that in the future when you look back on your study abroad experience you won't think about the 15th party that week where, yet again, they played the entire Manu Chao back catalogue. Instead you will think about your spontaneous trip on an overnight bus to Berlin, or trying a yoga class in Dutch or eating authentic food made by your new Taiwanese friend.

How to survive Nijmegen

In 2016, the Scottish Eilidh Turnbull followed a Master's in European Law at Radboud University. She gladly shares her experiences with newly arrived international students. "This may be the time when you first start wondering how you are going to survive this place. Well fear not, I will come to your rescue with my tip top tips on surviving this lovely city you will soon start to call home."

Text: Eilidh Turnbull / **Photos:** Getty Images, Dick van Aalst

4

Don't be afraid to do things alone. This will probably be the only time in your entire life when you can rock up to a party, alone, with a six-pack of shitty beer and within an hour have 3 new BBFs. If parties aren't your thing then start a sports class or get involved with local activist groups or check out a festival. It's so much easier to meet new people when you don't always hang out in packs.

5

Talk to Dutch people. Sure, they are pretty tall but they are really not that intimidating. Break the ice with a quick "hoi" and they will probably think your terrible pronunciation is super cute. Make a little bit of effort and you will soon have friends for life. You will get to experience Nijmegen in a totally different way and experience some weird and wonderful parts of Dutch culture.

6

Take advantage of free stuff. Studying abroad is expensive and The Netherlands is not the cheapest country in the world. But there are so many things to do that won't cost you a single cent. There are festivals and massive concerts in the park. There are the street parties, especially those for Carnival or King's Day (although you might have to stretch for a few beers in order to be able to put up with the music). Or you can cycle to Germany or swim at the river beach.



STAY UP TO DATE!



VOX

**For students who
want to stay in the loop**

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Radboud Honours Academy



HONOURS STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS

Radboud Honours Academy graduates were presented with their hard-earned diplomas last June, following a programme filled with lectures, think tanks, skills training sessions and study trips. Rector Magnificus Han van Krieken congratulated the students on their interdisciplinary first-year, Bachelor's or Master's diplomas. Are you interested in taking on an extra challenge alongside your

studies? Have a look at page 2 to see which Honours Academy programme suits you best. You can also find out how first-year student Robin Rietman experienced the programme. As a physics student, Robin met students from other programmes as part of the Honours Academy, which helped her expand her views and come up with new ideas.

INFO

EXTRA CHALLENGE ALONGSIDE YOUR STUDIES

The Radboud Honours Academy consists of thirteen programmes that give first-year, Bachelor's and Master's students the opportunity to work on their personal and academic development alongside their studies. You get the chance to collaborate with other students on topical themes, as well as to substantively deepen your knowledge and further hone your skills.



If you would like to expand your knowledge of your own discipline, you can opt for a discipline-specific honours programme. Each faculty offers an intensive and challenging programme geared specifically towards your needs. Are you looking to broaden your knowledge and skills? An interdisciplinary honours programme will teach you to look beyond the boundaries of your own academic discipline and give you the opportunity to collaborate with students from other disciplines. Interested? Visit our website for more information!

Opening Honours Year

The Honours Year will be officially opened by Rector Magnificus Han van Krieken on 16 October 2017. Science journalist Diederik Jekel will be the keynote speaker and will discuss the ubiquity and necessity of science. The evening will be concluded with a pub quiz at the Cultuurcafé.

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH THE HONOURS ACADEMY

As a physics student, Robin Rietman can usually be found in the Huygens building. However, the first year of the Radboud Honours Academy took her all over campus. "It was a great chance to step outside my comfort zone."

"Physics is a very specific programme. It's my biggest passion, but it can also be rather dry and boring. My academic interests are pretty broad; in addition to physics and chemistry, I also took history and philosophy in secondary school. I want to continue developing my broad interests at university as well."

The first year of the Honours Academy gave Robin (19) the opportunity to meet law students, language students and psychology students. "They have a very different view of science than I do," she says. Fellow students gave Robin a bit of a wake-up call after reading her essay. "They told me that my perspective was really technical. That's a bit of a shock, coming from a fellow student. It really forces you out of your comfort zone."

Opinions

As Robin knows, the hard sciences offer little room for normative beliefs in research.

"I'm not that quick to speak my mind. And if I do have an opinion about a theory, I'll only write it down after gathering enough facts to back up that opinion. It would be almost blasphemous to say that I simply don't believe in the big bang theory. The law students I met during the Honours Programme told me they also think twice about expressing their opinions. Take a judge, for example. He is human, which means he has his own convictions and political preferences. Because of these, he may issue a heavier or lighter sentence."

Robin had never been to the Grotius building before she started the Honours Academy; the Huygens building was her academic home base. "If you always stay in the same building, it's easy to stick to your prejudices," she says. "But as soon as you make the transition, you're forced to reconsider your views of other students."

New ideas

Now that Robin has seen things through the eyes of other students, she is more capable of building bridges between different disciplines. "I can also look at problems from different angles because I know how others perceive them. That inspires me to come up with new ideas and new solutions that I wouldn't otherwise have thought of." ★



Robin Rietman with her fellow students

Photo: Ellis Regina Jansen