

Party Program 2026

Student Party Verenigd Onder Studentenbelang (V.O.S.)



Verenigd Onder Studentenbelang

Verenigd Onder Studentenbelang (V.O.S.) is the party **of and for the active student**: students who are committed and active in boards, committees, associations, initiatives and communities. We believe that the university is more than a place to obtain credits. It is a community in which students develop academically, socially and personally. A vibrant campus does not arise by itself, but is shaped by students who work every day to make student life a little better. From the enthusiastic sports board member who wants to put sports on the map, to the committee member who organizes a symposium, and from the cultural organizer who creates a stage to the codetermination representative who is committed to better education. V.O.S. brings these students together.

Together with the umbrella organizations Bestuurlijk Overleg Studentenverenigingen (BOS), Cultuur op de Campus (CODC), Christelijke Studenten Nijmegen (CSN), Nijmeegse Studenten Sport Raad (NSSR) and SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen (SOFv), we form a connecting platform that ensures that the active student has influence on university policy. We ensure that their voice is heard in codetermination bodies and translate their experiences into **concrete proposals within the University Student Council (USC)**. In this way, we enable the umbrella organizations to safeguard the interests of their member associations.

At the same time, we look beyond only the students who are already active. **We want a university where every student feels the space to develop and profile themselves, according to their own wishes and needs.** We are convinced that this ambition goes hand in hand with accessible entry to active student life, involvement and community building.

Our strength lies in the connection between umbrella organizations, between students and board, between ideals and implementable policy. We focus on what can be concretely improved within the university. Not by standing on the sidelines, but by taking responsibility. In this way, we build stability, continuity and a campus where students feel at home. We are therefore more than an election party. V.O.S. is a movement that protects, strengthens and future-proofs active student life. Not only around elections, but throughout the entire year.

A strong Radboud University is characterized by the presence of **an active and valuable student life**, where our **vibrant campus feels like a second home**. A campus where **associations are recognized** and where there is sufficient attention for both the individual and the communities that shape our social world. **Strong education and strong codetermination** form the foundations of the culture we create, where everyone can be themselves and develop into a citizen who makes the world around them a little better every day.

In this document, we describe our plans for the coming year. We stand for development, safety and *gezelligheid*. We are convinced that with our plans we make a great contribution to future students, to student organizations and to Nijmegen as a whole. With this party program we convey this conviction to you.

On behalf of Verenigd Onder Studentenbelang (V.O.S.),

Stijn Andringa

Chairperson 2025-2026

Frederique Bots

Lead candidate 2026



Active and valuable student life

Your student time at Radboud University should be valuable: you should be able to develop yourself. Student organizations are, for us, the place where this development takes place. As a member, volunteer or board member. However, we see that barriers in time, money and guidance prevent students from joining an association or taking on an active role. That is why we are committed to a university where active student life can go hand in hand with study progress and where membership of associations is facilitated and valued.

Cherish what works: protecting and strengthening sports and culture

We have a rich sports and cultural life on and around campus. We must cherish the current offer and expand it where possible. At the same time, the accessibility of this offer is under pressure, partly due to national developments that make affordable sports and cultural facilities for students less self-evident. As a result, participation in sport and culture risks becoming less accessible, while these activities are essential for well-being, meeting others and personal development. Therefore, there must remain room for tailor-made solutions per association and we continue to commit ourselves to an accessible and strong sports and cultural offer.

- We ensure that sports and culture are visible at Radboud events, such as open days and during the introduction period.
- We commit ourselves to tailor-made solutions within the Radboud Sports and Culture Centre (RSC) for affiliated associations. We protect the cultural associations by preventing the mandatory purchase of an RSC subscription for members.
- We ensure that sport and culture remain affordable and accessible.

Visibility and appreciation: providing active students with the recognition they deserve

Students who are active in boards, committees, associations, initiatives and codetermination bodies shape our rich Nijmegen student life, but their efforts too often remain underexposed. These committee members, codetermination representatives and board members deserve more visibility and appreciation. We want the university to communicate more actively the importance and impact of active student life.

- We ensure that the university highlights active students and their experiences, by promoting the added value of an active student life more frequently and having V.O.S.'s active student testimonials reposted on social media.
- We stimulate communication about codetermination and its successes.

- We ensure that active student life can exist alongside study progress.

Support the studying board member: making being an active student alongside your studies feasible

Active student life makes Radboud University unique, but a board year or active role is increasingly difficult to combine with studying. Financial barriers, study delay and limited support from the university stand in the way of our development. We want the university to support board members more actively.

- We take the lead in revising the student support fund, with the aim of a fair and transparent distribution of board months and financial compensation.
- We commit ourselves to making it possible to obtain credits (ECTs) for committee and board work.
- We ensure that the university communicates more actively about existing support for active students.

Strong start: investing in better training for board members

A board year is a valuable and intensive learning experience, but the quality of that experience still varies greatly. Board members are often dependent during their onboarding on the transfer from their predecessors, where, despite all efforts, not all knowledge is always optimally transferred. At the same time, existing training programs are not yet sufficiently used or do not always match the needs of board members. We therefore want to invest in structural and qualitative support, so that every board member has equal opportunities to prepare well and develop optimally during the board year..

- We realize a structural training offer for all board members and committee members (such as general board training, treasurer training and subsidy courses). We bring together the training courses of the various umbrella organizations and open them up to a wider audience, in collaboration with Radboud University (SLIM).
- We ensure that training content matches the needs of board members.
- We safeguard continuity by having the university invest in fixed and centrally organized training structures instead of separate initiatives.

Vibrant campus – the university as a second home

A vibrant campus is more than a place to study. It is an environment where students feel at home and connect with one another. That is why we are committed to a lively and affordable campus, with strong facilities, impactful events and space for interaction. At the same time, we strengthen wellbeing and social safety, so that every student feels welcome and in place.

Affordable studying: keeping the campus accessible for everyone

Food and drinks on campus are becoming increasingly expensive. This makes it more difficult for many students to spend long days at the university. We advocate for affordable alternatives and maintaining low barriers to staying on campus between lectures and tutorials.

- We provide more facilities on campus where students can prepare their own food, such as accessible kitchens and additional microwaves.
- We ensure that student organizations can organize affordable activities, events and initiatives on campus.
- We promote affordable alternatives for food and facilities, taking into account a wide range of options for all dietary preferences.
- We provide sustainable and affordable study materials by encouraging the reuse of textbooks and open access to study materials.

A sustainable campus that works: improving facilities and study spaces

Campus facilities do not sufficiently meet student needs. Seating is scarce during breaks, and during exam periods students struggle to find quiet study spaces. In addition, opening hours of the Refter, The Yard and Cultuurcafé are too rigid. We propose practical and affordable improvements to make the campus more livable.

- We cherish our green and sustainable campus, and ensure that more and more associations committed to a sustainable campus are recognized with the sustainability certificate.
- We advocate for an accessible campus with lecture halls that are wheelchair accessible and equipped with hearing loop systems.
- We promote flexible opening hours for facilities, aligned with peak times and student needs.

- We ensure clear communication about available study spaces, for example through information boards and digital occupancy updates.
- We provide more and better seating, including through reuse of furniture.
- We explore the possibility of a RU-owned or a second supermarket on campus to help reduce prices.

More life on campus: bringing back events and interaction

Radboud events foster interaction, community and a vibrant campus. In recent years, however, several events have been scaled back or discontinued. We aim to revive and further develop these events, as they contribute to social cohesion and student wellbeing. Examples include Radboud by Night, an evening program on campus with culture, music and activities, and Radboud Rocks, a large-scale music and student festival. These initiatives bring students together and make the campus a place where more happens than education alone.

- We work towards the return of events such as Radboud by Night and Radboud Rocks.
- We ensure that associations are actively involved in organizing these events.
- We support students with ideas for new initiatives and connect them with the appropriate university contacts to realize their plans.

Spaces with purpose: restoring the function of Cultuurcafé and The Yard

Cultuurcafé and The Yard are important meeting spaces for students. However, these locations are often used for activities unrelated to culture or sport, which reduces their appeal to students and puts pressure on their function. We want these spaces to return to their core purpose.

- We ensure that these spaces remain primarily available to students by limiting non-student use and increasing student involvement, for example through work initiatives and student-run campus bars.
- We ensure that Cultuurcafé is primarily used for cultural programming.
- We ensure that The Yard remains a central meeting place for sports participants.

Together against loneliness: strengthening wellbeing and connection

An increasing number of students experience mental pressure, performance anxiety and loneliness. This negative trend must be addressed. A campus with many opportunities for interaction is an important tool for improving mental wellbeing. Therefore, we believe the university and associations should work together on this issue.

- We organize wellbeing activities on campus, including in student common spaces.
- We encourage and support associations to organize accessible activities.
- We improve access to support and opportunities for social connection. We provide clear information regarding student psychologists and confidential contact persons (VCPs) and communicate this through our member associations.

Safe and supportive: ensuring a socially safe campus

A vibrant university requires strong attention to social safety. Clear behavioral guidelines, effective communication and accessible reporting points are essential. We aim for clear, accessible and preventive systems that safeguard social safety and positive interaction.

- We strengthen the support provided by Radboud University in promoting social safety among students.
- We assist associations in recruiting confidential contact persons (CCPs) and establishing codes of conduct.
- We link the recruitment of CCPs and the implementation of codes of conduct, where possible, to recognition and support from the university.



Recognition for associations

Associations form the beating heart of student life and are essential to a vibrant campus. However, we see that they do not always receive the facilities, recognition and development opportunities they deserve.

That is why we are committed to proper facilities and clear support, and we ensure that the university involves associations more actively in campus life. We also work towards fair and equal treatment of all student board members, so that every association has the space to contribute to a strong and accessible student life.

Appropriate spaces: ensuring proper facilities for student organizations

Student organizations are indispensable to student life, but do not always have access to adequate facilities. Some association rooms are outdated or insufficiently equipped. We therefore advocate for minimum quality standards.

- We arrange adequate rehearsal spaces for cultural associations, sufficient sports facilities for sports associations, sociëteiten for student associations, enough prayer and meditation rooms, and adequate facilities and spaces for study associations.
- We establish clear quality requirements for association spaces, such as proper ventilation, lighting and sufficient space, and ensure that these are complied with.
- We work towards sufficient and appropriate facilities for meetings, workshops and social activities, in line with the needs of associations.
- We create more opportunities on campus for promotion and sponsorship visibility, enabling associations to better showcase their activities, events and partners.

Stronger together: structurally connecting the university and associations

Too often, the university determines independently how activities and events should be organized, while associations have a much better understanding of student needs. As a result, the university does not fully utilize the knowledge and initiatives of associations. We aim for structural cooperation between the university and associations.

- We ensure that faculties and the university provide more structural opportunities for associations to contribute input when organizing introduction periods and campus activities.

- We ensure that the university actively gathers and responds to support requests from associations, for example, during periodic faculty meetings between (student) associations and the faculty boards.
- We advocate for a shift in resources towards initiatives led by students and student organizations, so that ideas are better supported and campus activities align more closely with student needs.

Equal opportunities: striving for equal treatment of all board members

Student board members at Radboud University and HAN are treated unequally by their institutions. HAN board members receive less financial support than board members of Radboud associations, despite contributing equally to student life. This unequal treatment is unjustifiable, and compensation at HAN should be brought in line with Radboud University as soon as possible.

- We advocate for fair and equal arrangements and compensation.
- We encourage joint training and collaboration to keep costs low and offer a broad range of opportunities.
- We fully commit to collaboration with HAN associations in order to reach a broader student population and strengthen student life. We are doing this by strengthening ties with the HAN umbrella association (HANdvat) and consulting more with the coordinator of student organizations at the University of Applied Sciences.

Strong education and strong codetermination

Strong education and strong codetermination form the foundation of a future-proof university. However, these areas are under pressure. For example, developments in digitalization and AI are progressing faster than the accompanying policy frameworks. Students also do not always have sufficient flexibility in shaping their education, and there are limited opportunities to influence study programs and university policy.

That is why we are committed to accessible education that is firmly rooted in society. In addition to academic knowledge, education should prepare students for the skills required in a changing world. Technology should play a supporting role, without replacing the learning process. We also believe students should be able to broaden their horizons beyond their own curriculum. By strengthening codetermination, we ensure that students not only receive quality education, but can also actively contribute to shaping it.

Freedom in your studies: enabling broadening your horizon for every student

Students should be able to broaden their education and take courses outside their own faculty. This prevents tunnel vision and allows students to explore interests beyond their main discipline. At present, this is often too complicated. Education is also fragmented and varies between and within faculties.

- We ensure that every student has elective options within their program.
- We enable students to take elective courses outside their own faculty without barriers.
- We ensure that interfaculty study is not hindered by conflicting examination schedules..

Smart use of technology: making responsible AI use the standard

AI is rapidly transforming education. It can support students, but must not replace academic development. We focus on responsible and conscious use of new technologies, without compromising academic integrity.

- We develop policies for responsible and sustainable use of AI in education.
- We provide training for students and staff on how generative AI can complement, but not take over, the learning process.
- We promote blended learning, combining in-person and online education in ways that support learning objectives..

Digital independence: reducing dependence on Big Tech

Universities are becoming increasingly dependent on large international technology companies, making education more vulnerable. These companies can misuse the large volumes of data they process, and governments with harmful intentions could exploit such data. We must protect our knowledge economy. Therefore, we advocate for more European and sustainable alternatives.

- We promote the transition to European digital infrastructure, including active support for initiatives such as the SURF pilot with Nextcloud at Radboud University.
- We ensure that students are made aware of the risks of excessive dependence on Big Tech by embedding this topic within educational programs.
- We ensure that student data is securely stored by Radboud University..

Your voice matters: strengthening codetermination

Turnout in codetermination elections is low, and new representatives do not always receive sufficient support. However, strong and visible codetermination benefits everyone.

- We improve the support and onboarding of codetermination representatives.
- We work towards higher election turnout and greater visibility.
- We advocate for a dedicated communications officer for university codetermination bodies.

Closing remarks

With this program, V.O.S. commits to a university that works for every student, both now and in the future. At the same time, we do not lose sight of the fundamentals: a campus that is physically accessible to all and where students can move safely. This requires continued attention and commitment, including in cooperation with the municipality and other factions in the University Student Council.

A strong Radboud University is characterized by an **active and valuable student life**, where a **vibrant campus feels like a second home**. A campus where **associations are recognized** and where attention is given to both individuals and the communities that shape our social world. **Strong education and strong codetermination** form the foundation of a culture in which everyone can be themselves and develop into a citizen who improves the world around them every day

This is what we stand for. As a connecting party, we will continue to place the interests of the active student at the center, even as new challenges arise. Together, we are building a strong, accessible and vibrant university. We count on your support!

On behalf of Verenigd Onder Studentenbelang (V.O.S.),

Stijn Andringa

Chairperson 2025-2026

Frederique Bots

Lead candidate 2026