

3 Pro-con list

Should you join an association?



4-5 Spick and span

Dirtiest places in house:

- Your keyboard
- The toilet door handle (so not the seat)

10 Favourites

The best restaurants and hidden gems of Maastricht



observant

www.observantonline.nl

Onafhankelijk weekblad van de Universiteit Maastricht | Redactieadres: Postbus 616 6200 MD Maastricht | Jaargang 37 | 29 augustus 2016



Inkom 2016. See also page 6-7 Photos: Loraine Bodewes

Inkom 2016: hot and popular

Water guns, a fountain from the fire department and free drinking water – all came as welcome relief in the 35 degree heat for the 2,735 participants of the Inkom 2016. The introduction week was “sold out”, according to Wim Renders, chair of the Inkom Working Group.

“The registration deadline was Friday. We reached the maximum number shortly before that, so a few people weren’t able to register, but fortunately they can still take part in the public activities.” The number of registrations was slightly up from last year, with 2,360 participants.

Maastricht was not the only busy city during

Inkom week. Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, all of which welcomed more first-year students than in previous years, had sellout crowds too. In Rotterdam some 2,900 freshers participated in the festivities, while Utrecht saw as many as 4,000.

The high numbers of registrations in the introduction weeks appear to bode well for academic performance: research from VU University Amsterdam shows that Inkom participants generally complete their bachelor’s degrees more quickly than do other students. Although as a VU spokesperson added, the nature of the causal relationship is not clear.

SW

Enough rooms

Don’t yet have a room? Don’t worry. There’s no shortage of student rooms in Maastricht. But it helps if you have a fat wallet, especially if you’re looking for something central. Studios still available in the city centre often cost 700 euros per month. Rentals are much more affordable just over the border in Belgium, where €270 will go a long way.

The Dutch National Students’ Union (LSVb) claimed before the summer that, according to the statutory point system for rental prices, Maastricht students pay on average €39 too much for housing. There was a major caveat, however, as the organisation itself pointed out. Its findings were based on data that people entered via the site www.checkjekamer.nl – and anyone visiting a site called ‘check your room (price)’ probably already suspects they are being overcharged.

CF

Latest news on

www.observantonline.nl

Become member of

facebook.com/observantum

ObservantUM

meet observant, column

Who is Observant?



We are the editors of *Observant*, the independent weekly paper and website – in English and Dutch – for Maastricht University. From this week onwards, you can read a new printed copy of the paper every **Thursday morning**. Get your copy from the special trays at the entrance to your faculty building. It is full of news about the university, student life, background stories and columns. On our Dutch/English website

www.observantonline.nl you can find daily updates of the news, columns, stories about student life, event, debates, interviews, et cetera.

For the latest news and interesting info, check out www.facebook.com/ObservantUM or follow us on Twitter [@observantUM](https://twitter.com/observantUM).

Our team

Our team consists of six professional report-

ers, a secretary, a freelance team of columnists, students who are learning about the profession of journalism from us, draughtsmen and a graphic designer.

Journalistic ambitions?

If you want to try and see what it's like to be a journalist, we can give you the opportunity to gain experience. Check www.observantonline.nl/English/Contact for more information.

Come right in

Whether you want to gain some experience, have questions or news, just e-mail us or visit us in person! Our editorial office is located in the centre of town. At the top of the Minderbroedersberg (side street to Tongersestraat) is the university's administrative building. Do not enter, but turn right and pass through the glass door of the red-bricked building. You will find us on the second floor.



The use of Man. This novel of Aleksandar Tisma brought me to the most beautiful city of Serbia, Novi Sad. There I started my psychology studies. But the novel was soon replaced by a city map as was mama's dinner by sandwiches and McDonald's. I was ready to deal with all that, because I was on a mission to "change the world". Little did I know that soon that mission would be stripped down to the universal concern of freshmen - "to survive and not to make a complete fool of myself". I did survive, even with making a fool of myself many times, as was true for everybody else. Oh, yes, I remember feeling like an adult during the lectures. Professors would ask us serious questions and would speak to us in a serious

Water just up to my ankles

manner as well. However, when the first exams started, we all begged to be treated as children, hoping that somebody would tell us what to do and how to do it. There was this omnipresent anxiety about details, such as finding a room, learning the schedule, and doing the assignments. The worst thing was listening to what older students would say constantly - "Everything will be fine". As if you can help a drowning person by yelling this wisdom from the shore. But the truth is that nobody was drowning, and that the water was just up to our ankles, even when it felt different. Luckily, that feeling was easily massaged away with regular students' parties. After a month or two, things started chang-

ing. I got to know people in my group and selected those I liked. I learned the schedule, I ask many questions during the lectures, and, at least, I didn't any longer have to check a map to go back home. Everything was fine, indeed. We could have known that if we would have understood this sentence in Tisma's *The use of Man*: "...As he believed that knowledge opens the door to every aspiration for prosperity, he felt like the master of his destiny." Soon after, I could return to the original mission of changing the world. Still busy with that.

Irena Boskovic
Ph.D. Candidate, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Colophon

Observant

Office:
St. Servaasklooster 32 Maastricht
043-3885385

Editors: Riki Janssen (editor-in-chief), Wammes Bos, Wendy Degens, Cleo Freriks, Maurice Timmermans, Sjoerd Willen

Edition Observant introduction

Contributors: Cato Boeschoten, Irena Boskovic, Amira Eid, Annika Lübbert, Yanitsa Maksimova, Irene Schoenmacker, Sophie Silverstein, Kate Surala

Photos: Loraine Bodewes, Joey Roberts
Graphic layout: Simone Golob
Illustrations: Janneke Swinkels, Simone Golob
Translations: Alison Edwards, B. Wall& P. Nekeman

Which association should you join?

A list of pros and cons



The student associations

Tragos, Circumflex, Koko, the independent fraternities/sororities, Saurus (for rowers), International Students Club (indeed, for international students) and Lux ad Mosam (for Christians). They are all different, but they have one thing in common: having a good time together is the reason to join.

Pros: You meet lots of new people quickly. The introduction camp, fraternity/sorority setting or year club means that you really get to know each other well. And not just first-year students, but also senior students who can help you later on. There is something to do every week: eating together, drinking together. The activities are diverse, from galas to collecting money for a good cause. You can gain committee and board experience.

Cons: Depending on the association, there are evenings that you are compelled to be present. Some associations practise hazing. If you then decide to join a fraternity/sorority, you will find yourself in your "A period", in which you often have to carry out 'frivolous' assignments.

The study associations

Psychology students have Lunatik, Law students have Ouranos, every faculty has at least one study association.

Pros: Reductions! On books and other study materials, but also on access to lectures, workshops and parties. Most associations also have social activities, such

Whether you are looking for a group of friends to have a beer with or want to volunteer for a good cause, the Maastricht associations have something for everyone. You have most likely seen some of what is on offer during Inkom, but for those of you who still don't know what to do, Observant has listed all the advantages and disadvantages.

as monthly drinks or an annual gala. You get to know people doing the same study programme; they can help you with difficult subjects and other questions. Most associations also have a Facebook page where students can exchange summaries.

Cons: The frequency of the meetings is usually lower than with a student association, so it takes longer before you get to know the members.

The sports associations

From fencing to sailing and from climbing to rugby: it is all possible at the student sports associations.

Pros: Sports are healthy and as a team you can motivate each other to go to training sessions. You get to know people who share the same interest. The student sports associations also have a social aspect. After a training session, most people go for a drink; they organise an annual camp or other kind of trip, and some also eat together regularly or even live together in one house.

Cons: In order to become a member of a sports association, you first have to become a member of UM Sports. That costs € 83 and on top of that you have your contribution of the sports association. A UM Sports Card also entitles you to participate in the group lessons (access to the fitness centre is extra), but if you are not interested in that, it is an extra expense.

The good cause associations

Are human rights close to your heart or do you want to do something to promote sustainability, then join an association.

Pros: You are making a contribution towards a better world. You learn more about a certain subject and search for possible solutions to the problems concerned. You can develop your organisational talents by arranging activities.

Cons: Meetings may be fun, but this association's line of approach is of course more serious than a social or sports association. As is the case with a good cause, you will try to keep costs of any activity as low as possible. This means that you are dependent on other people's goodwill and sometimes you will have to 'peddle' your good cause.

The other associations

Then there are the clubs that can't be grouped together. For example, drama association Alles is Drama, or Breaking Maas, a YouTube show about student life in Maastricht.

Pros: At last, this is where you meet people who also think your hobby is really terrific. For most of the members, their interest is their passion, so they are very enthusiastic.

Cons: What is on offer in Maastricht, is not inexhaustible. Maybe there isn't a group for your specific interest. On the other hand: you can of course always set up your own club.

For an overview of all associations in Maastricht, visit:

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/support/during-your-studies/besides-your-study/student-organisations/overview-student-organisations

housing

Student houses are allowed to be a little dirty

Every year, student houses see new inhabitants arrive who bring along their belongings and rubbish. And cleaning, no way. Just how bad is it actually?

Text: HOP, Irene Schoenmacker

Illustration: Janneke Swinkels



housing

One third of the students are embarrassed about their student house. They feel in particular that the kitchen is dirty. Extractors, kitchen cupboards and refrigerators appear to be unpopular places to clean. Dutch department store Blokker carried out a survey, which was not entirely unselfish. Students are often dirtier than other people, cleaning expert Diet Groothuis agrees. "This is logical, because they do have other things on their minds. They have to study, party and build up a new life. That takes a lot of time."

But even if they did have time to spare, many students wouldn't know where to start. They have never learned how to clean, says Groothuis. "Cleaning was stricken from the agenda with the arrival of feminism. Women used to be, more or less, defined by the cleanliness of their house. They were fed up with that. Today, we spend a lot of money on extra lessons for children, but when they leave home at eighteen, they know nothing about cleaning. Especially boys."

In the Netherlands, an estimated 700 thousand people become ill every year because of lack of hygiene. Often, they already suffer from poor health. In 40 per cent of the cases, the germs in their own kitchen were the cause. Last year, public health minister Schippers called on people to change the dishcloth more often in order to prevent food poisoning.

Most common illnesses in student houses:

- Stomach and intestinal disorders. Caused by dirty kitchens and filthy toilets.
- Mumps. There were outbreaks of mumps, an extremely contagious infectious disease, among students in 2010 and 2011. Symptoms include fever and inflammation of certain glands.
- Common flu and colds, in no time everyone in a student house has a runny nose and is coughing.
- Scabies. Students do not change their bedclothes often enough and they end up in other people's beds more than the average person. The disease is only contagious when there is skin contact that lasts longer than fifteen minutes, and causes mainly a lot of itchiness.

Fortunately, the majority of students are healthy and can handle quite a bit. In fact, maybe a little bit of dirt is a good thing. "We live too clean a life," says microbiologist Hermie Harmsen from the University of Groningen. "The immune system is stimulated when it is challenged." If there is an error in the programming of the system, this can lead to autoimmune diseases such as allergies and diabetes. Harmful bacteria and fungi thrive best in damp surroundings, such as bathrooms or kitchens. According to Harmsen, not all bacteria are bad: some are actually good for our resistance. Fungi are a different story. "They can cause colds or allergies."

Really wrong

But if things do go wrong in a student house, it goes really wrong, says Peter Molenaar, infection prevention expert for the Area Health Authority. Unwashed hands transfer more than 80 per cent of all infectious diseases. If a roommate with stomach flu doesn't wash his/her hands after using the toilet, bacteria spread like wildfire through door handles and taps. Or, being sociable is not so hygienic. If a student

hardly leaves his/her room, they isolate the germs. Chances of transfer and infection are greatest in communal areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and toilets.

"You could compare it to dental plaque," says Molenaar. "If you don't clean well, you get a thin layer of dirt, often not even visible to the naked eye." Bacteria gather on that layer, also called biofilm. If you don't keep places clean, they become excellent breeding areas for microorganisms.

Scrubbing

How do you go about combating these germs? Not with bleach, which only disinfects briefly, says Molenaar. "Use a cloth with some cleaning agent and scrub well; that is what works best." Correct, says cleaning expert Diet Groothuis. "Those many-coloured liquids in the supermarket are redundant. Often all you need is a microfiber cloth and some hot water." And wash the cloth in the washing machine at sixty degrees every day, because only then will you kill the microorganisms.

According to her washing soda, vinegar and green soap are vital items to have in your kitchen cupboard. "If your toilet bowl looks disgusting, throw in some soda and pour some vinegar on top so that it starts to foam. Allow it to soak for a while and wipe the dirt off without any effort." If you have spent the evening smoking with friends in the living room, put a container with cleaning vinegar in the room. The next morning, the vinegar will have absorbed the smell of the smoke.

Fun

Furthermore it is important to have a cleaning roster and proper agreements. But will the house still be fun? Yes, it will. That happens all by itself, says psychologist Gerrit Breeuwsma from the University of Groningen.

"Before a student is allowed to join a house, there is a kind of interview procedure. Based on that interview, they look at whether someone fits in with the group and can handle the same degree of chaos. Someone who is too neat will only cause trouble." But what do you do with someone who doesn't

want to clean? It can be useful to appoint someone in the student house as cleaning manager. Breeuwsma: "Sometimes, it happens automatically that one of the housemates has a natural air of authority. Otherwise it is a matter of every man for himself."

Pigeon coop

Not so bad, he feels, because student houses are usually transitional places. "They are like pigeon coops: senior students fly the nest and first-year students take their places at the bottom. Both on an individual as well as a relational level, everything is in continuous movement. A messy house is part and parcel of this phase. Maybe it is a reaction to the neat lives from which many of the students have come and will eventually return to." Time as a student is the ideal period to try out everything and not commit to anything. "Nothing is set in stone and nothing is definite," says Breeuwsma and according to him that also applies to the student house. "Students drag all kinds of stuff inside, but they have no real connection to it. That gives them a certain feeling of freedom. The house forms itself and is changeable, just like the student." Can you no longer open your wardrobe because

The dirtiest places according to Diet Groothuis:

- Mouse and keyboard
- Remote controls
- The handle used to flush the toilet
- The toilet door handle (so not the seat)
- The tap lever

of the mess that has accumulated in your room, or has your cheese multiplied in the refrigerator? Don't worry. A little bit of dirt is not so bad. Think back on what Friedrich Nietzsche once said: what doesn't kill me makes me stronger.

Looking for a room? Please note to the following:

- * For 35 euro (one-off registration costs), the only non-commercial agency in Maastricht - Maastrichthousing.com - will provide you with an overview of available student accommodation offered by housing corporations, the UM Guesthouse and most private landlords. There are also a number of agencies, some of which operate on a national level.
- * Renting agents are not allowed to charge the tenant mediation fees. This is prohibited by law. The landlord may ask the tenant to pay a deposit.
- * Average renting prices in Maastricht: a room in the city centre costs, on average, 300 euro per month. If you are looking for a studio, this runs to between 400 and 500 euro. For an apartment, then you can expect to pay 600 euro or more.
- * Make sure that on the day you sign the contract, an inspection report is drawn up either with the landlord or the renting agency. Take photographs of the rented space, write down what it looks like, and make sure both parties sign this document so that there is no doubt later on if matters are not up to scratch.
- * Pay attention to the conditions in the contract. Contracts are usually signed for a year. If you want to move half way through the year, you can often end the contract with the agreement of the landlord or agent if you present a new tenant. Inform your landlord or agent in writing (e-mail and a registered letter) and possibly even in person.
- * If you have any doubts about the price of rent, you may complete the online rent check on www.huurcommissie.nl (Dutch version). Contact the Housing Helpdesk if you need help.
- * Whether it is about cold water, a smell, a plague of mice, a ridiculously high rent, mediation fees or trouble with a housemate: students can contact Maastricht University's Housing Helpdesk. Opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 to 12:00. The Helpdesk is situated in the Student Services centre, B.025, Bonnefantenstraat 2. Partners are the UM and the Maastricht city council: www.housinghelpdesk.nl/ info@housinghelpdesk.nl



Attempted Adulthood

August 2015

"And that's my rental contract." At this point I'm pretty sure the bank teller can see me sweating through my pressed shirt. I'm good at cost-benefit analyses, but apparently not so much at 'likelihood of sweat-stains to professional attire' ratios. It's too hot for what I'm wearing, this room is too orange, and all I want is to get out of this buttocks-unfriendly designer stool. Still, I'm patient. After all, I'm an adult, running adult chores in my adult clothes, keeping an adult cool whilst hiding my dirty adult Converse beneath the counter.

Don't get me wrong, I don't mind doing these things. Ironic as it may be considering the stereotype regarding adulthood, my current age-situation (18, no longer the Dancing Queen), and bureaucracy, I actually enjoy filling in forms. The order they exhibit, depict it a false sense of stability or not, is just beautiful. What *does* bug me, is that I'm wholly disenchanted. I don't sense any novelty in what I'm doing; it just feels natural. I thought I would be more excited. Now, playing on this whole "it comes naturally to me" aspect, there are two possibilities as to why that is the case: I have either been an adult for longer than I initially thought, or I'm just naïve and my perception of adulthood is entirely superficial. Neither of these is particularly appealing - that is, unless one or the other exhibits an adult take on things; that would make further musings interesting. But how about this: the division of life into arbitrary stages associated mainly with age and common practice creates unrealistic expectations and disappoints many a doe-eyed law student on an existential quest -while sitting in a bank. In a puddle of her own sweat. Back to my postulations: I don't feel any different because people don't suddenly turn into adults (duh), and my lack of enthusiasm is undoubtedly matched with everything else that becomes more dull with age due to the "loss of innocence." Take my grandfather: he still calls my mother *Mutz*. Now, given, said Bernese rendition of the word 'bear' might be a more pleasant alternative to *Dorothee*, but the point remains the same: just as one does not clumsily skip from one stage to another, so do the associations with such a stage, be that a nickname or a trait, not just fall away.

"Can I get you some water, miss?"
What?

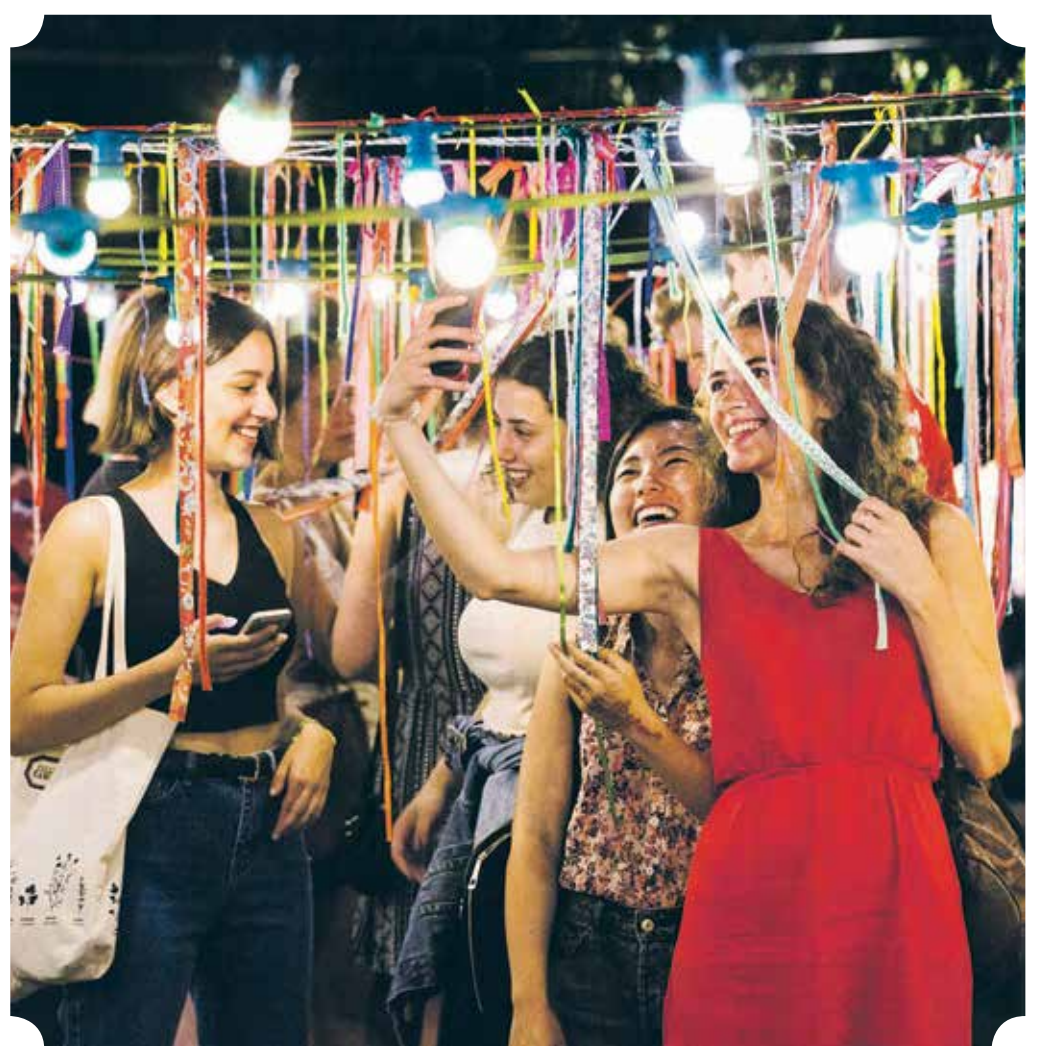
Amira Eid, second year Law student

photo reportage

Inkoom 2016



photo reportage



Photos: Loraine Bodewes



How to survive the first three months of your study

Student life might be overwhelming. How will you survive? Well, by reading these tips of course.

*Text: Wendy Degens, Cleo Freriks, Riki Janssen, Annika Lübbert
Illustrations: Simone Golob*

Get a little stressed

In three months' time your first exams are coming up. Does the thought alone stress you out? That might not be all bad. When you feel overwhelmed your body switches into an alert state. "The hormones released in our bodies in response to this state help us adapt to stressful situations", says psychologist Tom Smeets, an expert on learning, memory and the effects of stress. Adapt? "Yes, the fact that we get stressed in potentially danger-

ous situations is very important and beneficial."

The message of these hormones is, 'remember what this situation smells, looks and sounds like, so we can avoid it in the future.'

While this enhances memory-formation processes, especially when the incoming information is arousing, it (temporarily) decreases the capacity to remember things. So being stressed right before an exam is not helpful, but being a little stressed when studying can actually be beneficial because it stimulates

the formation of new memories.

But what about when it all just becomes too much? "I always recommend that my students relax their shoulders, breathe slowly, and remember the benefits of this actually quite adaptive response. Such coping strategies can reduce the distracting physical symptoms of stress (like feeling your heart racing) and allow you to focus on the task. Habituation is also important; in other words, training. Get used to the situation, and learn to trust yourself and to rely on your abilities."

favorite restaurants

Work like a slave, eat like a king



1



4



6



2



5



7



3



Dining out, takeaway, having a lunch or drinking coffee in the city, grabbing a cocktail at a bar: Kate Surala, former master's student European public affairs, reviewed almost 40 places for Observant last year. Here's an overview of the ones you may not miss.

Text: Kate Surala
Photos: Observant

In my opinion, there's nothing like **Cato by Cato** in Maastricht. Jeffrey's little corner shop is hidden between Maastricht residences, at the Stenenbrug. Once you enter this little kingdom, you feel like you're in a second hand bookshop rather than a place to pick up your lunch. Cato by Cato offers a fresh and super healthy menu at a reasonable price. Every meal consists of a salad base (lettuce from Jeffrey's garden, bell pepper, cucumber and organic olive oil with a drop of fresh orange juice) and sides that you can select from his fridge and even taste beforehand. The tiny takeaway **Fresh Cooked** on the Brusselsestraat is a nice family business where

a mother-daughter team are dedicated to serving healthy, delicious and balanced meals during working days. The weekly evening menu consists of three main courses, including a vegetarian dish. At lunchtime there are salads, bread rolls and soups.

When it comes to pizza, everyone has an opinion. And with all those different preferences, discussions about pizza require the same level of delicacy as debates on politics or religion. Takeaway **Bancale 61** in Scharn, not far from the Albert Heijn XXL, serves incredible pizzas: visually arresting and baked in a shallow-domed, wood-fired oven. I'm guessing you won't taste a crust like Bancale 61's anywhere else. The owners really do use traditional Italian ingredients – proper parmesan cheese, fresh San Marzano tomatoes, Buffalo mozzarella from the Campania region and first cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil.

Since both my partner and myself are coffee addicts, we love to visit **Alley Cat Bikes and Coffee** right in the historical centre. The verdict is very simple: excellent coffee, friendly staff and great location for a relaxing study afternoon while guarding your bike from being stolen by rude thieves. But I am still wondering

where the cats are.

Rather a tea lover? Fine teas, foreign cakes, oriental design: **Teazone** is an adventure in itself. Sit back and relax in one of the comfortable chairs or couches with your favourite tea, espresso or English scones with homemade jam and cream.

My day in **T Wycker Cabinet**, a classic bistro/bar in the heart of Wyck, was one of utter perfection. It opens at 10:00 with a wonderful breakfast platter consisting of a coffee of your choice, a glass of fresh juice, two slices of organic bread with Limburg *oerham* and young cheese, a croissant with jam and a boiled egg. Another time I ordered delicious homemade vegetarian ravioli, filled with spinach and ricotta and sealed between two layers of perfectly thin pasta dough.

Sushi Centre, a takeaway establishment at the Hoenderstraat, will make your mouth water as you wait for your delicious, intricate pieces of sushi. The

chefs carefully inspect each and every creation before it leaves the kitchen to ensure the highest quality. Eating the salmon nigiri, maki and sashimi, I'm pleased by the freshness and quality of the salmon, served over a mound of rice so light it seems not to exist. Excellent.

“Once you enter this little kingdom, you feel like you're in a second hand bookshop rather than a place to pick up your lunch”

1

Cato Cato
Stenenbrug 9a
www.catocatering.nl

2

Fresh Cooked
Brusselsestraat 93
www.freshcooked.nl

3

Bancale 61
Scharnerweg 61
www.bancale61.nl

4

Teazone
Koestraat 9
www.teazone.nl

5

Alley Cat Bikes and Coffee
Hoenderstraat 15-17
www.alleycatbikescoffee.nl

6

T Wycker Cabinet
Wyckerbrugstraat 29b
www.wyckercabinet.nl

7

Sushi Centre
Hoenderstraat 13A
www.sushicentre.nl



Hidden gems of Maastricht



By the time you're reading this, you'll be familiar with the Vrijthof, the Maas and the Stadspark. But where are those places just off the beaten track that make Maastricht special? Students share their favourite spots around the city.

*Text: Amira Eid, Yanitsa Maksimova, Sophie Silverstein
Photos: Observant*

1 *Free daydreaming at Hoge Fronten*

Favourite spot of: Julie Hoedts, graduate at the European Law School
“Want to sit in the sun, imagining yourself on a real 17th and 18th century fortification? Start behind the Emmaplein (Statensingel entrance), make your way into the grass, climb onto one of the fortifications and look around. You've stumbled upon the *Hoge Fronten* – and it's real! Before you lies a massive collection of earthworks and battlements once used to defend and protect Maastricht.
“This is my ideal place to have a picnic or just wander around the maze of tunnels and caves

carved out over the years. The well-worn paths are the favourite spot of many locals to walk their dogs, jog or just gaze across the entire complex. But the best part? If you're lucky, you might even spot some sheep! So close to the modern city buildings, yet so far away, giving you a feeling of comfort and solace.

“It's such a peaceful place where I can relax, take in the beauty of the surroundings, and breathe. I feel whole and at the same time minuscule. I am myself but at the same time only a tiny part of this universe. Standing in the sun on top of the fort is the best place to reflect and take a step back, escaping the stress of the Maastricht routine.”

2 *It's a pocket of Maastricht I didn't know existed*

Favourite spot of: Hannah Stewart, second-year bachelor's student at University College Maastricht

“I would never have passed by it in my daily routine, since it's not near my faculty or the library. But I like to wander and one day I stumbled across this statue on a little square off Stokstraat – the expensive shopping street behind Onze Lieve Vrouweplein. It's an odd place because it looks like all the buildings around it were built at different times and this space was just left over in between them.

“The statue is a ships' figurehead in the shape of a woman. I immediately thought it was funny. From the side it looks kind of abstract because she has a very long neck with quite a small head on top, but it's the front view that makes the statue interesting. Her breasts are sculpted in a very pronounced way and because of this I thought she was raising two gloved hands in a boxing match the first time I saw her. Only on second glance did I notice what they

were.

“Next to the statue there's a gorgeous tree that overshadows the square and the surrounding shops in summer. Right now it's bare but when the branches are covered in leaves and the tree is in bloom it's really pretty. The only thing missing then is a bench so you can sit and enjoy this pocket of Maastricht I didn't know existed before. I'm really glad I found it.”

3 *Now I can really appreciate everything the Natural History Museum has to offer*

Favourite spot of: Hugo Maathuis, first-year student of the Science Programme

“When I was a kid I loved learning about plants and animals, and I avidly read a magazine I had subscribed to that wrote about my favourite subject. But there was an even better way to learn about the things that fascinated me – the Maastricht Natural History Museum.
“I was reminded how much I enjoy visiting the museum on a recent trip there during a project at university. On our tour we got to see a replica of the fossilized *Mosasaurus*, the dinosaur they discovered here in Maastricht. That was particularly fun for me because when I was younger I went through a really big dinosaur phase and my parents used to take me to watch as the palaeontologists at the museum worked on the fossils.
“Another impressive thing on our tour was a room with an interactive globe. You can turn the globe any way you want and a projector reacts to your movement to create a map on the sphere. There are rings that run all the way around the globe – kind of like the rings of Saturn – that allow you to adjust the time. You can go back millions of years and see the continental drift – how the continents have shifted over time.

“When I was younger I think the science mostly went over my head but now I can really appreciate everything the museum has to offer. That's why I want to go back by myself soon to look at things in more detail.”

4 *The beer was horrible, but the place is perfect*

Favourite spot of: Massimo Beckers, third-year student of Arts and Culture

“My favourite spot in Maastricht is a square between two churches. I believe it's called the Henric van Veldekeplein, named after, well, Henric van Veldeke.
“I've been living in Maastricht for a while, but I stumbled across the *plein* only about two years ago. My friend and I were both feeling down, but weren't in the mood to go to a bar or anywhere busy, so we ended up getting a few beers at the Albert Heijn and sat down on the steps by the Basilica of Saint Servatius, in view of the Sint Janskerk. The beer was horrible, but the place is perfect.

“If I had to describe the atmosphere there, I'd say it is silent, calm and peaceful. It would be too kinky (read: wacky –Ed.) for me to describe what I experience there as 'cathartic,' but there's something about sitting beneath those tall, imposing buildings that just creates a strong vibe. The noise from the city centre doesn't penetrate the churches. Sitting there with a friend and drinking a beer or two, or three, I just feel at home.

“Come to think of it, there's one thing I don't like about the square: the little garden with a statue of Van Veldeke that is surrounded by a fence. It would be nice to sit on the grass, especially during the summer, but you can't just jump the fence. I mean, you could, but that would be kind of illegal.”



cato

A room with a view

It was extremely warm in Maastricht. The sun peeked through the high window and shone its light on the brown, cracked wallpaper. The current owner had stepped outside to give us some space, but the odour of smoke and sweat continued to dominate the room. My mum looked at the unwashed dishes in the sink and the greasy stains on the small stove. At least the place has its own kitchen, I thought.

The day had turned out differently than expected. We had come to the city to look at a small apartment near the station, but the guy at the housing agency had decided to show us some other options first. After leaving room number one, he took us to a flat across the street. Both my mother and I were glad to breathe in something else than smoke and salty damp, but our moods quickly changed. The carpet was stained and the small window let in just enough light to reveal the dirty sink in the corner. "You can change the carpet if you like, but that will be at your own cost," the housing agent mumbled.

Back outside, my mother came straight to the point. "I'm sorry, but this is nonsense. We came here for one room only, and you've showed us nothing that resembles it. Can we go there now, please?" Our guy apologised, and ten minutes later, we arrived in a lovely street with swathes of green on both sides and tall, fancy houses with perfect brick facades.

We entered a brown building and walked up the narrow stairs. No smoke or sweat this time, but rather the pleasant scent of washed laundry and old wood. When there were no stairs left, the guy walked up to a white door and rattled the doorknob. It was closed. Alarmed, he searched his pockets and lifted the doormat. "I'm afraid ... that I can't open the door for you, Cato. The student who lives here has forgotten to leave the keys."

Fortunately, a few weeks later I got into contact with the landlord and arranged a viewing through Skype. Now, the room is mine, and as I type I'm looking out my window onto the swathes of green and perfect bricks. The other day, I found myself walking past the housing agency. The building is empty and a 'for sale' sign has been taped to the window.

Cato Boeschoten

3HOOG

By Ype
Driessen



René



Jurre



Merel



Harrie



PAS+: Three nights of science, theatre, music and arts in inner city

Birthday party university with trapeze in garden Bouillonstraat

So now you're studying at Maastricht University. But do you know what's happening inside all these buildings? Take your chance and visit the three-day *Parcours of Art and Science (PAS+)* in which UM shows off all it has to offer. PAS+ is slated to be the highlight of the university's 40th anniversary celebrations. When: during the week of festivities on 8, 9 and 10 September. Where: between the Zwingelput, Kapoenstraat and Minderbroedersberg. For whom? Everyone. In Dutch, English and Limburgish; free entry.

Around 8.30 pm on the evening of 8 September, a procession with three musketeers on electric scooters, accompanied by the brass band Wilhelmina van Wolder, the mayor, the president of Maastricht University and other interested parties will make their way from the Minderbroedersberg, via the Lenculenstraat and Kapoenstraat, to the Oud-Gouvernement (the building that previously housed the provincial authorities). There, led by the Wilhelmina wind and percussion sections, Beppie Kraft – a famous local artist – will sing *Laot de zon in dien hart* from the balcony.

This is all part of the official opening ceremony, although by the point PAS+ will already be in full swing in the gardens, courtyards and rooms of the UM buildings. The next day, café Tribunal, the conservatory, Looiersgracht 5 (formerly the Edmond Hustinx house), the Natural History Museum and others will join the action as well. Jacques Reiners, head of Studium Generale, lays six typed pages on the table. This is the



third time Studium Generale has organised the event – this time not just one evening, but three. There will be some 60 speakers, most of them UM employees – "everyone we asked responded with enthusiasm" – who will talk about their own research. The 30 minute lectures will cover a wide variety of topics: child abuse, Alzheimer's, work stress, testosterone and financial decisions, smart labs, migration, black soldiers as liberators and more.

"We're giving the community an insight into the research we do and, at the same time, the chance to poke around all the old convents, chapels, court and government buildings that UM is repurposing", explains Reiners. There will be tours dedicated to the artworks in the buildings, and others focusing on their history. "Did you know that Edmond Hustinx once started a soap factory at the Looiersgracht 5? And that the workers lived there too and ate trout from the Jeker river?" The garden of the Bouillonstraat (Law building)

will feature a trapeze, the courtyards of the Minderbroedersberg and the Student Services Centre large podiums for bands like Oghene Kologbo, Violons Barbares, Electrophonics, Negritos and Orchestre International du Vetex. The State Hall of the Law faculty will morph into a concert hall, while the streets will be the stage for street musicians and performers, as well as a typewriter that uses sand to write stories in dialect. In addition, there will be circus acts, theatre, dance, visual arts and films from the UM archives – around 175 different acts in total, says Reiners.

Already feeling overwhelmed? Not to worry: via the website www.pasmaastricht.nl and programme booklet you'll soon be able to chart your own course through the Parcours.

Riki Janssen

PAS+ will be held from 19.00 to 1.00 on 8, 9 and 10 September 2016 between the University College (Zwingelput), Minderbroedersberg and Kapoenstraat.