

LIST LEX

Election plan
2021-2022



Preface

In front of you lies List LEX's election program for the Faculty Council Elections for the 2021-2022 academic year. Before explanations will be offered regarding the specific themes of our program, we would like to first explain the position and tasks of the Faculty Council.

The establishment of this form of co-determination is regulated by the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act. This manifests itself in a University Council at the central level and, additionally, a separate council at each faculty consisting of students and staff. With regards to the Faculty of Law, the council consists of five representatives from the academic staff, one from the support staff and six members elected by and from the students of the faculty.

By law, the Faculty Council has a:

- **Right of consent** regarding the faculty regulations, and the teaching and examination regulations (TER).
- **Right of information** with respect to all information reasonably necessary for the performance of our duties. Wherever possible, we will share with you the information known to us.
- **Right of initiative** regarding all issues affecting the faculty: on behalf of the students, we can make proposals to the Faculty Board and express our opinions. However, the Faculty Board also has the freedom to make alternative choices.

This program shall guide the exercise of said rights. It is primarily our vision for the faculty and provides the framework not only for our own proposals, but also by which we will evaluate proposals from the faculty leadership. With your vote, we will make our case for the following themes: quality, student wellbeing, communication, and facilities.

"WITH YOUR VOTE, WE WILL MAKE OUR CASE FOR THE FOLLOWING THEMES: QUALITY, STUDENT WELLBEING, COMMUNICATION AND FACILITIES."

Quality

At university, no topic is more important than the quality of the education students receive. Students come to Maastricht in order to develop their skills and knowledge above anything else. Changes to education that are made within our faculty must be aimed at making this possible, at actually improving education. This is what List LEX will be working for.

Hybrid Education

If the corona measures permit it, our priority naturally lies with making physical education possible again. If, however, this is not allowed yet, we will strive for the optimization of hybrid/online education. Many students have experienced that the tutorials within the hybrid system are often difficult to follow. These difficulties are mostly caused by a lack of audio quality. We want to enhance this quality by placing better microphones in the classrooms, so that not only the tutor, but also the students are heard whilst speaking.

Individual feedback

Many students have experienced difficulties with how hard it is to get personal feedback on their assessed work. The procedure for getting personal feedback is quite demanding and therefore discourages students who would otherwise have appreciated the feedback. For this reason we find it important that after the publication of exam and assignment results, a Q&A session is held to discuss the tasks. Prior to the meeting, students are allowed to send in specific questions about the tasks and during the Q&A the answer model will be elaborated on and the questions will be answered.

Practical skills ELS

During the European Law School program, students follow skills courses to learn various legal skills. However, these courses are very theoretical and therefore do not entirely succeed in equipping ELS students with the necessary practical skills. By bringing the theory more into practice during the skills lessons, the students will be able to get the most out of these courses.

Extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities are essential for the personal development of students and they are indispensable on every CV for a good start on the job market. Still, it seems like the faculty does not always prioritise this. We want to improve this by making sure that students are given enough opportunities to develop themselves outside of the classroom. During the creation of schedules, it should also be made possible to have certain other commitments like part-time internships or other extracurricular activities taken into account.

Tax law

For the students of the bachelors Tax law and Dutch law, the content of the first year is the same. Concretely this entails that the curriculum mainly consists of Dutch law courses and incidentally focusses on Tax law. The distribution between and planning of these two subjects is currently not optimal. Furthermore, students who still follow the old curriculum and follow the Dutch law bachelor as well as the bachelor (or courses of) Tax law, are also facing difficulties. It is no longer just the norm to pass every course, but also the only realistic option. Limitations of the possibility to retake a course heighten the study pressure and decrease the motivation for students to take on a new challenge like Tax law. List LEX will start the conversation to allow students to keep developing themselves in the field of Tax law. Furthermore, we want to create clarity for students who face the possibility of being unable to properly finish up one of both bachelors.

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Employability

The guidance of students during the transition from their student life to the job market is not always of high quality. Students often don't know whom they can direct their questions to and they are mostly on their own when having to choose a career path. This is mainly an obstacle for master students and these uncertainties result in more stress than necessary. List LEX will commit itself to creating more personal guidance during the master phase. Furthermore, we will do our best to create more awareness about the possibilities to receive guidance that already exists. The existence of study councillors and UM Career services should be known to everyone and master students should get access to more personal guidance.

Student wellbeing

In order to ensure that students are actually able to profit fully from the high-quality education provided by the Faculty of Law, good guidance and a safe learning environment are essential. This has become even more apparent over the past year with education on campus having largely been impossible. To guarantee the wellbeing of students, guidance must be accessible in practice and they must feel at home at our faculty.

Community feeling

The Faculty Drinks have been very popular in the past among both students and staff. This activity could unfortunately not be held the past year because of the corona measures, but List LEX would like to once again organise this activity periodically in collaboration with JFV Ouranos in the new academic year. The Faculty Drinks create a stronger bond and a feeling of community within the faculty in an informal setting. Furthermore, we find it important that students from all study backgrounds and nationalities feel welcome to participate in this activity, as this would enhance the integration between international and Dutch students. Mainly first year bachelor and master students have had little opportunity to form a bond with their peers and the faculty in the past year. We therefore value our plans to have social activities be organised regularly in the coming year by the faculty and at the faculty. After all, getting acquainted with the building is of great importance to every (new) law student.

Personal attention

Bachelor as well as master students have experienced that the individual guidance the faculty gives is not optimal. List LEX aims to improve this guidance by giving more prominence to study advisors, mentors and student psychologists and by making them more accessible. By periodically letting emails be sent out about the option of making an appointment with these people, we hope to achieve that students will ask for help sooner and feel more supported. Furthermore, whether or not to scratch the Binding Study Advice is currently a topical subject within national politics. In the event that the BSA is actually going to be scratched, it means for many students that since this requirement has fallen away, a certain motivation has also vanished. This will most likely result in a bigger need for more personal guidance causing the increase in individual guidance to become even more important.

Communication

The way in which communication between the Faculty of Law and students currently takes place oftentimes leaves much to be desired. Students miss important information and don't know where to take their complaints. The gap between faculty and students often seems insurmountable. List LEX wants to bring the faculty back within reach and wants to help alleviate the frustration surrounding communication.

General Student Assembly

There is currently a lack of communication between the student representatives in the faculty council and the students themselves. We want to change this by creating communication channels that can be used throughout the year by students who have questions or suggestions. This past year, the student representatives of List LEX have created the General Student Assembly which is organised periodically. The goal of the GSA is to communicate the ideas and opinions of students to the faculty council. We have also created several social media channels to be able to stay in touch with the students.

Exchange and electives

The options regarding going on an exchange in the third year of the bachelor are unclear for many students of the Dutch law program. Many students are also unaware of the option to follow elective courses besides the mandatory courses. List LEX wants to ensure that more information regarding these subjects will be shared with students and that making use of these facilities will be more actively encouraged by the faculty.

Clarity Dutch law

Over the last year the Faculty of Law has introduced a whole new curriculum in the Dutch law bachelor. Even though this has been an improvement in many ways, there are some aspects of the new curriculum that are still unclear. This has been especially noticeable when it comes to assignments and the transition from the old to the new curriculum. We are therefore very committed to improving the communication between the faculty and the students. We also want to create more involvement for students with the development of new curricula, for instance by providing new ideas of education with the feedback of students when the plans are still in the development phase.

Facilities

Studying at the Faculty of Law should not be hampered by practical difficulties which often come up for students. We must move with the times: digital amenities have to be of sufficient quality and we must act responsibly with regards to sustainability. This is what List LEX will be fighting for.

Online materials

It is often found that the provided course materials are not completely up to date. In order to optimize the course materials and to prevent confusion, it is of great importance that the lectures and the literature tie in with the course as much as possible. Furthermore, we are of the opinion that the recording of lectures and the publication of slides before the start of the lecture should become the norm.

Sustainability

Maastricht University has, like every large organisation, the responsibility to contribute to a sustainable present and future. For this reason we are very content with the Sustainable UM2030 program and we therefore fully support this plan. This means that within the Faculty Council, List LEX will commit itself to making sure that the set goals are achieved and will consequently support progressive and sustainable initiatives within the council.

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Digital services

The use of laptops during physical tutorials is not always allowed. This has caused problems for many students as being able to use a laptop has become a necessity for studying. For this reason we want to make it the norm that students are always allowed to use their laptops. In many tutorial rooms, there is also a shortage of power outlets and as the possibility to use a laptop is so important, more power outlets should be made available.