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Intro Magazine

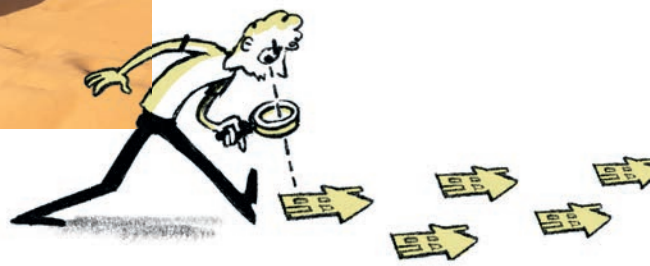
2025 EDITION



Cursor|

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Cursor | SOFT LANDING

Last year, a record number of new students started at TU/e: 3,280 in total. This year, thousands of first-year students will once again begin their studies. For many, it's their first introduction to the city, the university, their study, and fellow students.

If you're new, those first impressions can be overwhelming. I can speak from experience. Last spring, I started as the new Editor-in-Chief of Cursor. A new team, a new working environment, a different culture.

It takes time to find your way, and it's helpful when others guide you along. To help all first-year students settle in smoothly, the Cursor editorial team has created this Intro Magazine. It's packed with information, tips, and fun facts to help you have a successful and enjoyable student life at TU/e and in Eindhoven.

But that's not all: throughout your time as a student, Cursor - TU/e's independent news medium - keeps you informed about everything that is happening at the university. Whether it's about new student housing, affordable sports facilities on campus, or challenge-based learning. Our editorial team keeps you up to date.

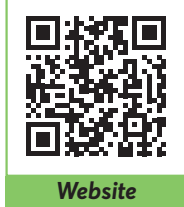
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Marieke Verbiesen, Editor-in-Chief



From left to right: Marieke Verbiesen, Bridget Alcione Spoor, Wesley Klop, Nicole Testerink, Martina Silbrníková, Lydia van Aert, Norbine Schalij, Leoni Andriessen, Cat de Win-Haase

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THE FIRST YEAR

When you walked onto this campus via the Limbopad, you stepped into your new student life. During this first week, you are laying the foundation for everything that is to come. But what awaits after the Intro? Three now second-year students share their experiences of their first year at TU/e.



LUCAS VAN ZUIJDAM (20)
Computer Science

After taking a gap year and traveling the world, Lucas van Zuijdham started studying Computer Science at TU/e. The fact that he'd had a break showed, when he failed the entrance test of Calculus - the notoriously tough basic math course. "In week eight I got a second chance, and I scored a ten. But it was a wake-up call. I realized I really had to get to work."

University life was very different from high school, especially the pace. "That took some getting used to." The third quarter was the most intense, with weekly tests and assignments, and one less week to study due to a revised schedule following a cyberattack on the university earlier in the year.

"THE PACE [OF THE STUDY] TOOK SOME GETTING USED TO."

During that time, Lucas barely had time for a social life, despite the network he had built through student association GEWIS. He's also part of a First Year Committee, aimed at helping freshmen find their way in the Eindhoven student life. That involvement, along with a growing group of friends, is making it harder to keep commuting between Eindhoven and Maastricht, where he bought an apartment with some friends. "So now I'm looking for a place in Eindhoven. I actually have a viewing scheduled later today."

A successful first year? According to Lucas, absolutely. "If I had known how great university life would be, I might not have taken a gap year at all." ■



HELIA ASHRAFIAN (21)
Chemical Engineering and Chemistry

The biggest lesson Helia Ashrafian learned during her first year of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry? To stop procrastinating. In order to help herself, she set limits on her social media use and she stopped watching movies and series altogether. "I haven't watched television in months." It helps keep her studies manageable. Still, she makes time for friends, her relationship, and her part-time job. "So I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything socially."

As an introvert, she didn't expect to make friends so easily. But the university's Intro week played a big part in doing so. She also met her current housemates there. "Pushing myself to be social during the Intro really paid off."

"I'VE LEARNED **NOT TO DEPEND ON MY PARENTS** SO MUCH ANYMORE. STILL, COOKING FOR YOURSELF EVERY DAY IS A LOT OF WORK."

Living on her own took some adjusting. "It can be tough, but you develop a close connection with your housemates. And I've learned not to depend on my parents so much anymore. Still, cooking for yourself every day is a lot of work." Her go-to solution? Pre-made meals from the grocery store around the corner.

As the academic year wrapped up, she's was still unsure whether she would meet the BSA (binding study advice) requirement, her studies have been challenging. "But if you put in the effort, it actually becomes fun. It becomes the *good* kind of challenging."

Her final takeaway? "It's all about trial and error. Just fuck around and find out. Excuse my language, but it's true. Just go for it and see where it gets you." ■



ANTONIO WICHEREK (19)
Computer Science

After just one year at TU/e, Antonio has already developed his own game with student team Game Dev, narrowly avoided a burnout, and had the police shut down a party at his house. "A lot has happened this year," he says, "but it has been a good year. I've met so many people and learned what it's like to live on my own, and I definitely feel good about that."

That doesn't mean it was all easy. He admits the Dutch weather - especially the wind - gets to him. "The wind is the worst. You can't move forward on your bike. If you're already having a bad day,

the wind just finishes you off." And the housing situation isn't helping either. While he was lucky to find a place during his first year, his rental contract is about to end, and he hasn't found a new place yet.

"COOK SOMETHING NICE FOR YOURSELF, MEET NEW PEOPLE, GO OUTSIDE AND GET SOME FRESH AIR. **DON'T FORGET TO ACTUALLY LIVE.**"

Luckily, his studies are going well. A big reason for that, he says, is that he found the right balance. "It's easy to get consumed by the books, but I've realized how important it is to take care of yourself." In the third quarter, things almost got too overwhelming. He decided to take a break and went back home to Poland for a while. "When I came back, I was able to pull myself out of it and get back on top of my game."

The best students he sees around him aren't just focused on studying. "They also make time for exercise, friends, and themselves. That's how you do it. Cook something nice for yourself, meet new people, go outside and get some fresh air. Don't forget to actually *live*." ■

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT

You first-year students aren't the only newcomers on campus this year. Since last March, TU/e has a new president: Koen Janssen. Through four questions, we'll give you a better idea of the person now at the helm of this university.

1

Who are you?
"I was born and raised in Tessenderlo, a small industrial town in Belgium. We were a perfectly ordinary family - my parents, my older sister, and me."

"Eventually, the time came to go to university. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to study. We didn't have a lot of money, and studying wasn't cheap. After my master's degree, I pursued a PhD in Leuven. In the meantime, I married my wife Greet, and we now have twin sons who are 33, and a daughter who is five years younger."

"My career began after that. I spent 31 wonderful years at DSM, where I was exposed to a wide range of technologies and spent three years living in the United States. In 2022, I started at TNO, and then last September, I got a phone call asking if wanted to apply for the position of TU/e president. In the end, it was the challenge of the role that truly drew me here."

2

What does your role as president involve?
"My days as president of this university are incredibly varied. I start early; I get in the car around seven in the morning. It's about an hour and 20 minutes' drive for me since I commute from Belgium. That time isn't wasted though - I listen to a lot of news, which is important for my role, although I can't read anything while driving. So, I often continue working in the evenings."

Koen Janssen



"At the moment, my schedule is completely full. I think that's partly because I've only just started; things will become more routine over time. The days are long as TU/e president, but it's truly a privilege to do this job."

"The topics I deal with are very diverse. Think of things like the new strategic plan, social safety, but also gathering feedback from students. Students have different perspectives and come up with solutions that I, as part of an older generation, might not see. That's why I'm committed to involving them more in everything we do and giving them a real seat at the table. I call it reversed mentoring - so we learn in both directions."

3

What is your favorite memory from your time as a student?
"My favorite part of university life was the *cantussen* - those events where you drinks beer and sings songs together. I think I still have an old *codex* at home, the songbook with all the lyrics in it."

"Other than that, I mostly studied hard. I wanted to be sure I would pass, because my parents had invested a lot in my education. Plus, just before I started university, I met my wife Greet. So, I didn't want to have any retakes, I wanted to spend as much time as possible with my love during the summer holidays."

4

What advice would you give to new students?
"There is so much to learn at TU/e. Not just within your studies, but also outside of them, there are so many opportunities - like student teams, innovationSpace, or the Honors Academy."

"MY ADVICE TO STUDENTS IS TO GAIN AS MUCH EXPERIENCE AS POSSIBLE."

"My advice to students is to gain as much experience as possible. Because once you enter the professional world after graduation, the more experience you've gained, the easier things will be."

"And beyond all of that, your student years are simply a wonderful time in your life, make sure to enjoy them too."

TU/E IN NUMBERS



Founding year
1956

61,98%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO STARTED A MASTER'S PROGRAM AT TU/E AFTER COMPLETING THEIR BACHELOR'S HERE

AVERAGE STUDY DURATION
Bachelor 45,3 months
Master 32 months
FUN FACT!
FEMALE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN GRADUATING FASTER THAN THEIR MALE PEERS FOR YEARS, BUT THE GAP IS NARROWING!
>>> <<<

Students
13.453

STUDIES
9 DEPARTMENTS

Biggest department
MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
2945 STUDENTS

Required study points
to pass your first year (also called BSA)
45 (OF THE 60)

Dutch
8.459
European Economic Area (EEA)
3.151
Non-EEA
1.843

Bachelor
8.258
Master
4.889
Pre-master
306

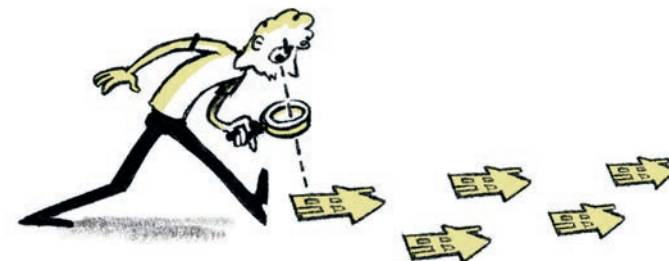
Smallest department
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING & CHEMISTRY
669 STUDENTS

24 Master programs
15 Bachelor programs

BACHELOR LOWEST PERCENTAGE POSITIVE BSA
Electrical Engineering
51,4%
BACHELOR HIGHEST PERCENTAGE POSITIVE BSA
Industrial Design
80,5%



YOUR HOUSING SURVIVAL GUIDE



YOU ALREADY HAVE A ROOM? GREAT START!

Nice! You've got your own place in Eindhoven. That means more freedom, privacy and no long travel times. You're close to the university and can easily join the student life. Living on your own also teaches you essential life skills - like cooking, budgeting and planning your week.



But keep in mind: rent and bills can be expensive, and you'll need to do everything yourself (yes, including cleaning the toilet). **Tip:** Make your room truly your own, stay in touch with home, and create a (realistic!) household routine. And don't forget: it's okay to ask for help.

NO ROOM YET? DON'T SWEAT IT!

Finding a student room in Eindhoven is tough - especially for internationals. Use this checklist to stay organized and make the best of your situation while you're still at home or searching. Hang in there!



Tip: The Social Hub is located right near Eindhoven station and rents rooms for up to six months. It's super convenient as a temporary home, but it's rather pricey - around €1,200 per month.

STAYING WITH FAMILY OR OUTSIDE EINDHOVEN?

If you're living at home or with relatives - lucky you. No rent, shared meals, maybe even laundry being done for you. That gives you a soft landing into the Dutch student life and leaves more headspace for your studies.

But: living outside the city can make it harder to connect socially or attend events spontaneously. **Tip:** Make sure to spend time in Eindhoven regularly. Plan study days at the university, stick around after lectures, and join activities. That's how you'll meet people - even if you don't have a room in the city. ■



Checklist for living on your own

- ❑ Make your room feel like home
- ❑ Register with the **municipality** (you must!)
- ❑ In the Netherlands, you must register with a **GP (huisarts)** for regular healthcare. Check sgeinternational.nl, English-speaking and student-friendly. Or use zorgkaartnederland.nl to find GPs (note: website is in Dutch). Ask if they accept your insurance (EHIC or Dutch). Register early - no GP means no help (unless it's an emergency)
- ❑ Stay in touch with friends and family
- ❑ Keep track of your **budget** and expenses

Room-hunting Checklist

- ❑ Sign up at **Vestide** (free)
- ❑ Sign up at **Kawernet** (expensive)
- ❑ Join student **housing groups** on Facebook like 'Kauwer in Eindhoven' and 'Find a room in Eindhoven', and Insta '@huizeenplatform.Eindhoven'
- ❑ Be ready to respond quickly when you see a room
- ❑ Join a student sport association. For example, Thêta, ZES, Nayade and Hqjraa have **association houses**. If a spot becomes available there, members have priority
- ❑ Ask around - word of mouth can help a lot!
- ❑ It's not a bad idea to learn some Dutch if you want to live in a student house

Checklist to stay connected

- ❑ Try to plan regular days on campus
- ❑ Join **intro weeks**, **study groups** or **associations**
- ❑ Use your travel time to relax, study or listen to podcasts
- ❑ Don't be shy: go to events even if you're commuting

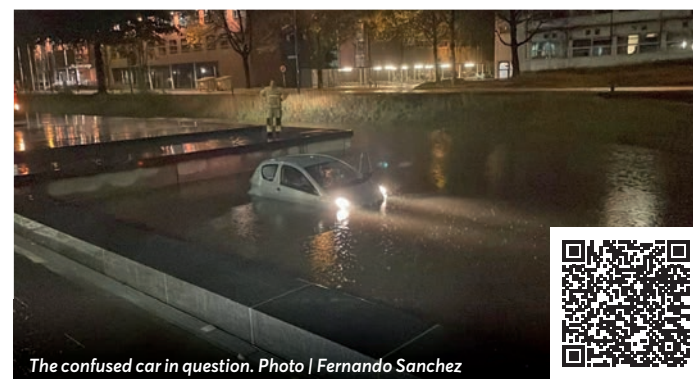
What's happening at TU/e? Read Cursor!

While you are studying, the editors of Cursor keep an eye on all news developments on campus throughout the year. We follow the ins and outs of the TU/e, but also report about student life. To give you an impression you will find some of our articles from last year below.

CAMPUS | October 2024

Meal delivery person drives car into TU/e pond

On Wednesday evening, a meal delivery person drove his car into the Blauwe Loper, the pond on the TU/e campus. The car was quickly recovered by a towing service. The **driver**, who wasn't familiar with the area, was fortunately **unharm**ed.



The confused car in question. Photo | Fernando Sanchez



NEWS | April 2025

TU/e women warned about man with camera glasses

A man has been **recording** women in Brabant for months using camera glasses. He is said to be a TU/e student. The footage was recorded, among other places, **on campus**; on the terrace of Hubble and in the MetaForum library. He approaches women, asks for their phone numbers and tells them he is a pick-up coach. He posts the **footage on social media**.



NEWS | January 2025

TU/e hit by cyberattack

TU/e took its **network offline** today in response to a cyber-attack. "This necessary intervention was done to prevent worse outcomes," vice-president Patrick Groothuis says. As a result, **no educational activities** will be possible at TU/e tomorrow. The buildings remain accessible, but there is no wifi on campus. Students and staff also cannot use internal systems such as e-mail and Teams.



OPINION | October 2024

Student life gets lost in flats without soul

With the arrival of more and more large student flats, living in a traditional student house is becoming less and less obvious. TU/e student and columnist Wob Knaap writes: "**Social interactions** are an **indispensable** part of **student life**, something that is in danger of being lost in the impersonal anonymity of modern apartment buildings."



BACKGROUND | February 2025

"Together we studied for about 25 years"

These days, taking **a bit longer** to complete your **bachelor's or master's degree** is the rule rather than the exception. Factors that may come into this are motivation, subject matter, side jobs, or a board year at an association. Fer Radstake (34) and Meeuwis van den Hoek (27) finally got their master's degrees after 15.5 and 9.5 years of studying, respectively.



NEWS | February 2025

Rowing association breaks world record and raises over 50,000 euros

Eindhoven student rowing association Thêta has achieved a world record. For more than ten days they rowed continuously on an ergometer in the middle of the entrance hall of Eindhoven Central train station. With their campaign they raised **52.238 euros** for **the Heart Foundation**.



Olympian and former Thêtan opened the initiative. Photo | Bart van Overbeeke



WHICH STUDENT ASSOCIATION SUITS ME?

START

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE?

YES → BY LOOKING INWARD AND SELF-REFLECTING?

NO → DO YOU WANT TO MEET AS MANY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE?

BY LOOKING INWARD AND SELF-REFLECTING?

YES → BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE CLOSER TO GOD?

NO → WOULD CERTAIN GROUPS IN SOCIETY DESCRIBE YOU AS "WOKE"?

- Salaam (Islam)
- Navigators (Christian)
- HOST (Christian)
- Ichthus (Christian)

- Enter the Now (Mindfulness)
- Tint (Personal development)
- Lighthouse (Peer support)
- Donatus (Neurodivergence & giftedness)

- Cosmos (International)
- AEGEE (European)
- Pes and Lis (Eastern European)
- Caribe (Caribbean)
- ISA (Indian)
- TU/e Hungarian (Hungarian)
- TSA (Turkish)
- La Roja Baila (Spanish speaking)
- POLSOC (Polish)
- ESAE (Estonian)

DO YOU WANT TO MEET AS MANY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE?

YES → Knights of the KitchenTable (Board games, DnD & LARP)

NO → ARE YOU A TYPICAL NERD?

ARE YOU A TYPICAL NERD?

YES → Knights of the KitchenTable (Board games, DnD & LARP)

NO → ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING SPORTS ALONGSIDE YOUR STUDIES?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING SPORTS ALONGSIDE YOUR STUDIES?

YES → HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT AIRPLANES?

NO → THEN PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO PURSUE A FUN HOBBY?

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT AIRPLANES?

YES → De Beunhazen (cars)

NO → SOMETHING TO DO WITH CARS, CULTURE OR MUSIC?

SOMETHING TO DO WITH CARS, CULTURE OR MUSIC?

CARS → De Beunhazen (cars)

CULTURE → ARE YOU A FAN OF JAPANESE CULTURE BY ANY CHANCE?

MUSIC → DO YOU WANT TO MAKE MUSIC YOURSELF?

ARE YOU A FAN OF JAPANESE CULTURE BY ANY CHANCE?

YES → Kinjin (Japanese culture)

NO → Klink (Literature)

- Klink (Literature)
- Stitch (Fibre arts)
- Glyph (Art)
- Dekate Mousa (Film & Photography)
- Doppio (Theater)

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE MUSIC YOURSELF?

YES → Studentproof (Jazz)

NO → Footloose (Dance)

- Studentproof (Jazz)
- Modern (Pop music)
- Quadrivium (Classical)

- Totelos (Indoor soccer)
- Pusphaira (Soccer)

SO YOUR FEET THEN?

YES → Totelos (Indoor soccer)

NO → DO YOU PREFER PLAYING WITH YOUR HANDS?

DO YOU PREFER PLAYING WITH YOUR HANDS?

YES → INTO A BASKET OR GOAL?

NO → DO YOU LIKE BALL GAMES?

- Tamar (Volleyball)
- Hajraa (Volleyball)

INTO A BASKET OR GOAL?

YES → Tamar (Volleyball)

NO → DO YOU WANT TO HIT THE BALL WITH YOUR BARE HANDS OR WITH AN OBJECT?

DO YOU WANT TO HIT THE BALL WITH YOUR BARE HANDS OR WITH AN OBJECT?

YES → DOES THAT BALL HAVE TO BE HIT OVER A NET?

NO → DO YOU LIKE BALL GAMES?

- Tantalus (Basketball)
- Attila (Korfball)
- Oktopus (Handball)
- THE Elephants (Rugby)

DOES THAT BALL HAVE TO BE HIT OVER A NET?

YES → Fellenoord (Tennis)

NO → DOES THAT BALL HAVE TO BE HIT OVER A NET?

- Don Quishoot (Hockey)
- De Club (Golf)
- Quatch (Squash)

DOES THAT BALL HAVE TO BE HIT OVER A NET?

YES → Fellenoord (Tennis)

NO → DOES THAT BALL HAVE TO BE HIT OVER A NET?

DO YOU LIKE BALL GAMES?

YES → Hoc Habet (Fencing)

NO → PERHAPS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN OUTLET TO VENT YOUR AGGRESSION?

- Hoc Habet (Fencing)
- Samourais (Jiu Jitsu, karate etc.)
- Ilyeo (Taekwondo)
- Impact (Boxing)

PERHAPS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN OUTLET TO VENT YOUR AGGRESSION?

YES → DO YOU WANT TO BE IN OR ON THE WATER?

NO → DO YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT CLIMBING AND CLAMBERING?

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN OR ON THE WATER?

YES → DO YOU LIKE ROWING?

NO → DO YOU LIKE WATER?

- Okawa (Kayaking)
- Theta (Rowing)

DO YOU LIKE ROWING?

YES → Okawa (Kayaking)

NO → DO YOU LIKE WATER?

- WETH (Kite- and Wind Surfing)
- Boreas (sailing)

DO YOU LIKE WATER?

YES → DO YOU LIKE ICE OR SNOW INSTEAD?

NO → HOW ABOUT ICE OR SNOW INSTEAD?

DO YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT CLIMBING AND CLAMBERING?

YES → All Terrain (Outdoor sport)

NO → DO YOU LIKE WATER?

- All Terrain (Outdoor sport)
- ESAC (Climbing)

DO YOU LIKE WATER?

YES → DO YOU LIKE ICE OR SNOW INSTEAD?

NO → HOW ABOUT ICE OR SNOW INSTEAD?

- Icehawks (Ice Hockey)
- Isis (Ice Skating)
- Avalanche Boarders (Snowboarding)

HOW ABOUT ICE OR SNOW INSTEAD?

YES → Icehawks (Ice Hockey)

NO → BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID TO FALL?

- Icehawks (Ice Hockey)
- Isis (Ice Skating)
- Avalanche Boarders (Snowboarding)

BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID TO FALL?

YES → Noesis (Chess)

NO → ARE YOU FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR LEGS BEHIND YOUR HEAD?

- Noesis (Chess)
- Zephyr (Esports)

ARE YOU FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR LEGS BEHIND YOUR HEAD?

YES → Twist (Cheerleading)

NO → ARE YOU FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR LEGS BEHIND YOUR HEAD?

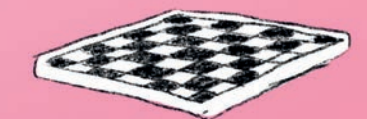
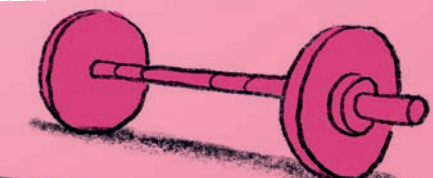
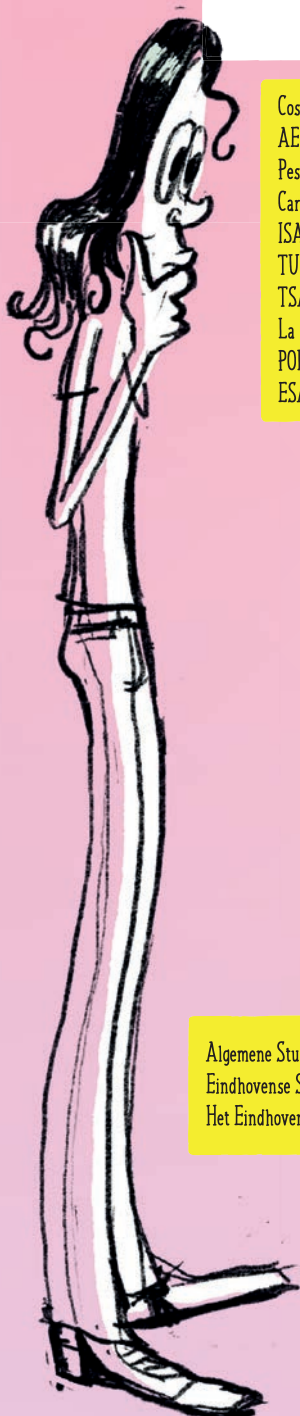
- Twist (Cheerleading)
- Asterix (Athletics)
- Blue (Aerial Skills)

ARE YOU FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR LEGS BEHIND YOUR HEAD?

YES → Twist (Cheerleading)

NO → ARE YOU FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR LEGS BEHIND YOUR HEAD?

- Twist (Cheerleading)
- Asterix (Athletics)
- Blue (Aerial Skills)



STUDENT TEAMS: THE ULTIMATE GROUP PROJECT

Working with students from different departments on one big project, that’s what you do in a student team. TU/e has dozens of them, focusing on a wide variety of topics. For example, **Solar Team Eindhoven** is building a solar-powered vehicle that doesn’t rely on charging stations, **Tech United** hopes to beat the best human soccer players with their soccer robots, **Aero Team** is developing a system to swap drone batteries mid-air, and **VIRTU/e** is working on smart solutions to tackle the current housing shortage.

Text Norbine SchaliJ Photo Rien Boonstoppel

SOLAR TEAM EINDHOVEN

Building a solar vehicle yourself

SolarTeam Eindhoven (STE) is one of the oldest student teams at TU/e and has a spectacular history. The team was founded in 2012 to participate in the World Solar Challenge, a global race for solar-powered cars in Australia. They competed four times and won four times. After that, STE chose its own path: building an off-road **solar vehicle** and a **camper van** powered entirely by **solar energy**. **No charging** stations needed, the solar panels are actually *on* the vehicles.

“We want to show people that the transition to a **more sustainable future** can and must happen faster,” says STE member Yarno Basten. “If twenty students can get such a vehicle on the road in just one year, imagine what the automotive industry could do.”

At STE, students are involved for two years. The first year is full-time, so no time for courses on the side. During that time, the vehicle is designed and built. In the second year, members return to their studies, but there’s still time to showcase the vehicle and visit exciting events.

Yarno recalls an “epic road trip” and a high school tour. “I love that at STE you’re working on practical, hands-on things. That really complements my technical studies,” says the Mechanical Engineering student. The team includes students from nearly all disciplines, and Fontys students are also welcome. A new team that you could join will start in September 2026. ■



Text Norbine SchaliJ Photo VIRTU/e

VIRTU/e

Terraced houses: take off the roof and add more floors

You probably know this already: there’s a housing shortage. Student team VIRTU/e wants to **tackle the housing shortage** by using urban space more efficiently, a concept known as “densification”. The Netherlands has a lot of terraced houses (forty percent of the country’s housing stock), and many of them are so old that municipalities plan to demolish them.

VIRTU/e has a different idea. “Remove the old roof and add two more residential floors,” suggests Alex van Diepen. “That’s better than expanding cities outward, because that leaves less space and creates more traffic.”

Alex is a member of VIRTU/e 3, along with nineteen other (mostly **Built Environment**) students. VIRTU/e was originally founded to participate in a major building competition, and it did so twice. But this third team set their own goal: “We want to solve a real, existing problem in the housing market. And the next team, VIRTU/e 4, will do the same.

Topics could include material scarcity, climate change, gas-free housing, aging buildings, and the housing shortage.” Chances are the ideas will remain in the design phase, housing corporations generally prefer to handle construction themselves.

“Being part of VIRTU/e is great,” says Alex. “It’s really like a group of friends. We sometimes have dinner together and go to festivals. I especially loved the team weekend in South Limburg.” Alex puts in a bit more time than the standard commitment (which is fifteen hours a week), but in the second half of his year with VIRTU/e, he became team lead of the Building Physics department. VIRTU/e 4 will kick off in the third quarter of this academic year. ■

Text Lydia van Aert Photo Aero Team

AERO TEAM

'There is no law of nature that says it can't be done'

Being able to provide an autonomously **flying drone** in the air with a **new**, full **battery** is the dot on the horizon of Aero Team Eindhoven. Szymon Fałat is pausing his Computer Science studies this academic year to help bring that goal closer as a team lead.

“There is no law of nature that says it is impossible for two autonomously flying drones to switch batteries mid-air so that one can continue its journey with a full battery. It can be done. Simultaneously, we also know that it is **very difficult** to realize.”

But that very degree of complexity is what Szymon loves about Aero Team. “We work in sub-steps toward our final goal. This year we want the autonomously flying drone to dock with a moving car for a battery swap.”

If we eventually succeed in doing the battery swap in the air, without human intervention, this will make, for example, parcel delivery by drone faster and more sustainable. But the number of other potential applications is wide, Szymon knows.

Most members spend about sixteen hours a week at the Aero Team office and workshop located on the TU/e campus. Nonetheless, it is the 3D printers that are working the most overtime, Szymon says.

“We purchased the drones, but the rest – robotics, electronics, battery switching systems and docking stations – we develop and make ourselves.” And that means a lot of **designing, printing, testing** and... starting all over again. ■



Text Lydia van Aert Photo Daphne Hermans

TECH UNITED

Robodinho aims for the world cup

If you ask the members of Tech United, robots will take over world domination within 25 years. At least, when it comes to soccer. “We aim for our soccer robots to be able to beat the – human – world soccer champion by 2050.”

Speaking is Dev Joshi, Mechanical Engineering student. Like his fellow student Kayden Knapik, he is a member of Tech United, a student team in **robotics**. “Most team members study Mechanical Engineering, but students from all faculties are welcome. The only real requirement is an interest in robotics.”

Tech United is best known for its **soccer robots**: endearing, cone-shaped robots that are surprisingly ball-savvy. They wear jerseys with names referring to soccer heroes from the human world, such as Zessi, van Perslucht, de Moer and Robodinho.

In the annual RoboCup, the Eindhoven soccer players-on-wheels are just about unbeatable: the TU/e team has been **world champion** eight times already. So it’s time to take the next step, Kayden says. “We acquired a humanoid robot, that walks on two legs. We eventually want to develop similar robots ourselves and program them to play soccer, so they can eventually **compete** against the **best human soccer players**.”

Both team members value the freedom within the team. For example, Dev investigated how robots on ‘shopping cart wheels’ can hold course and Kayden worked on a lower-cost version of the soccer robot, “allowing more students to interact with it.” Also, there is a sub team participating in competitions for **healthcare robots**. All in all, you don’t have to be soccer crazy to have a fun time at Tech United. ■

DE SLASH SURVIVAL GUIDE

Text de Slash Illustration Cat de Win using ChatGPT

The Intro Week is here again, and that means (in addition to an elevated alcohol level in the Dommel) that all of those first-years really have no idea what they've gotten themselves into. Which is why, after an afternoon of watching old episodes of Ned's Survival Guide, we put together some tips. This way you'll be *truly* prepared for your TU/e career.

1. ADOPTION IS AN OPTION

Of course it's tough to lose your (intro) parents, but don't despair: adoption is an option, and new parents are easy to find. Just make sure your old parents know you have new ones.

2. KEEP ENJOYING YOURSELF AFTER THE INTRO

You may wonder why your Intro mentor is a sixth-year student. And why he isn't in the process of graduating. It's very simple. Your mentor is just very much a fan of the number six. After all, he's probably spent most of his six years on the sixth floor. Just too bad they're only open five days a week.

3. JUST GO TO THE BATHROOM

You don't have to ask. If you don't want to be at a lecture you don't have to be there anyway, so you're definitely free to take a bathroom break.

4. AVOID THE BATHROOMS IN METAFORUM 1

While most bathrooms are fine, those in Meta hit different. Before you know it, you're squatting over a hole in the ground with your pants around your ankles.

5. STAY IN THE BUILDINGS AS LONG AS YOU WANT

Projects can sometimes run very long, or you may fall asleep during a lecture. Call security and they will come and set you free. Spending the night in the Executive Board office is also an option, of course.



6. CHECK DESLASH.NL FOR ALL YOUR IRRELEVANT TU/e NEWS

During the *Wervingsdagen*, it was said that nothing is more important than self-promotion. As TU/e's number one investigative journalism platform, we have no choice but to jump on that bandwagon. So check out our insta page @slashtue and our website!

7. DON'T PAY FOR COFFEE

Of course you can buy coffee from the vending machine, but the best coffee is free coffee. So just go and get it at your favorite study association. It's no good, of course. But come on, what did you expect?

8. LEARN THE AFKO'S (ABBREVIATIONS)

If you want to get a *bopla* at *prot's domibo* after the *capu* or *biba's* at the *huub*, it has to be in the *wiba*. Or just pay by card yourself, of course.

9. PUT YOUR BIKE OUTSIDE THE RACKS

If your bike isn't in the racks, sometimes the uni will come and put it in the racks for you. At Fenix, that is. So tie your laces and enjoy the *lawa* (long walk). Exercise is healthy, after all.

10. BECOME A MEMBER!

Whether you join SSRE, Thêta, or a sports association doesn't really matter. Become a member and make friends. Other associations are available.

This contribution was written by de Slash. De Slash is a satirical medium that writes about TU/e.

Here's an example from last year. You can do better than that, right?



PHOTOCONTEST

Share your best intro photo and win the official Cursor survival kit!

The rules are simple:

- 1 Post your funniest, most beautiful, or craziest **intro photo** on **Instagram** stories and tag **@cursortueindhoven**.
- 2 **Each intro day** (Monday through Friday), we'll pick a winner - so you can take part every day!
- 3 The winner will receive a survival kit including: 2 **mugs** (for those much-needed cups of coffee), 1 **cooking spoon** (because at some point, you'll have to start cooking for yourself), 1 super-speedy **frisbee** (just for fun), 4 **postcards** (to write home with), and 1 **bike seat cover** (because nothing's worse than a wet saddle).

You can win all of this!

BAKKIE040

Welcome at TU/e!

Discover Bakkie040 on the TU/e Campus! 🌈
New to TU Eindhoven? Drop by Bakkie040 – the go-to spot for great coffee, good vibes, and inspiring conversations. Whether you're studying, socializing, or just taking a break, you're always welcome here.
Located on campus, we offer:

- Delicious coffee & local treats
- Workspaces with wifi & power
- A friendly, open community



Stop by, grab a coffee, and feel at home on campus!

SCAN FOR ALL INFO ABOUT BAKKIE040



WHERE & WHEN?

Address: Blauwe Loper 63a, 5612 AR Eindhoven
Opening hours:
Mon–Fri from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM



HAPPIE040

Whether you dine in or take your meal to go, Happie040 offers a warm and welcoming environment where you enjoy whatever's on the menu. But Happie040 is about more than just food. It's a place where local residents, volunteers, former homeless individuals, interns, and students come together. This initiative helps break down stigma and fosters social connection within the city, while also providing employment opportunities to those who need it most.

See you soon!

WHERE & WHEN?

Address: Blauwe Loper 66, 5612 AZ Eindhoven
Check the website for opening hours



DROP BY FOR A TASTY BITE AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS!



SCAN FOR ALL INFO ABOUT HAPPIE040



ONE CITY, ONE INTRO

Whereas first-year students in other cities start their student life together, the introduction in Eindhoven is being pulled further and further apart. Fontys and TU/e organize their introduction weeks separately, since this year even without any overlap. Instead of one big start for all new students, the city sticks to separate introductions per educational institution. This is a missed opportunity.

At the moment, new students are mainly offered a mix of campus tours and, since last year, company visits. But where do you really get to know Eindhoven? Where do you discover the places you want to live, work and - eventually - stay? With a central campus full of facilities, the city often seems like an afterthought. You study in Eindhoven, but you hardly experience Eindhoven.

"YOU STUDY IN EINDHOVEN, BUT YOU HARDLY EXPERIENCE EINDHOVEN."

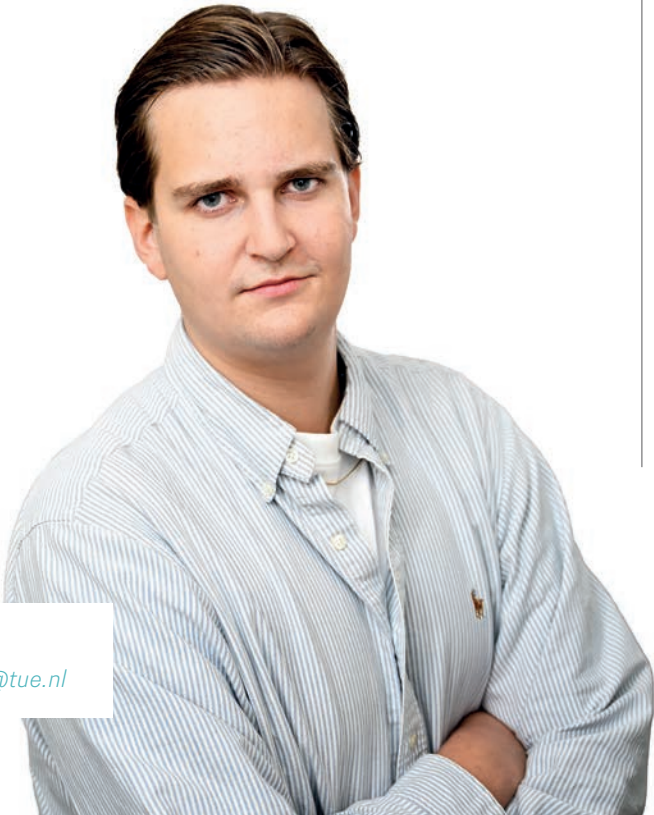
And that is exactly the problem. Eindhoven is not a classic student city like Groningen or Utrecht, where student life and city life merge seamlessly. Here it is all about innovation, cooperation between education and business, and the ambition to keep young talent in the city. But how can we expect students to stay if they have never really connected with Eindhoven? International students stay in their campus bubble, Fontys students hardly get to know the city outside their own education, not to mention interacting with students from other educational institutions.

In cities like Maastricht and Delft, they do things differently: there, students from mbo, hbo and wo start together. The result? More contacts outside your own study, a closer student life and a much stronger bond with the city. Last year, Eindhoven organized its first joint party for all students, a step in the right direction. But now that the Fontys intro has been moved, further expansion of such initiatives seems to become more difficult instead of more obvious.

"WITH A CITY-WIDE INTRODUCTION WE KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE: WE CREATE MORE CONNECTEDNESS AMONG STUDENTS AND STRENGTHEN THE BOND WITH THE CITY."

With a city-wide introduction we kill two birds with one stone: we create more connectedness among students and strengthen the bond with the city. This is an opportunity for the municipality, educational institutions, student associations and companies to invest together in a shared, memorable and accessible start. Eindhoven is the city of the future. Let's make sure it is also the city that truly welcomes students from day one. ■

Wob Knaap is a student Data Science at TU/e and a columnist for Cursor.
Want to become a columnist for Cursor too? Send an e-mail to cursor@tue.nl

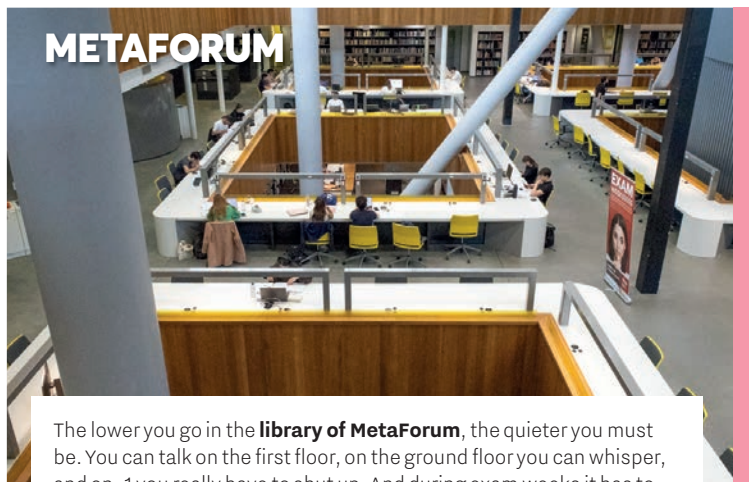


What are the best PLACES TO STUDY on this campus?



As a student you can't escape it; soon you will actually have to work on assignments and study material. The TU/e campus has excellent places to do just that. There are 672 desks in Atlas, Auditorium, Flux and Vertigo that you can reserve via Book my Space. They meet three strict requirements: there is a socket, an adjustable chair and proper lighting.

But who says you need all that? Maybe you want to study outside on a picnic table or inside other buildings. There are about 2,000 spots more in the MetaForum library, 400 in Neuron, 140 in Fenix and an unknown number in Vertigo. That makes more than 3, 212 students who are able to study at the same time. ■



METAFORUM

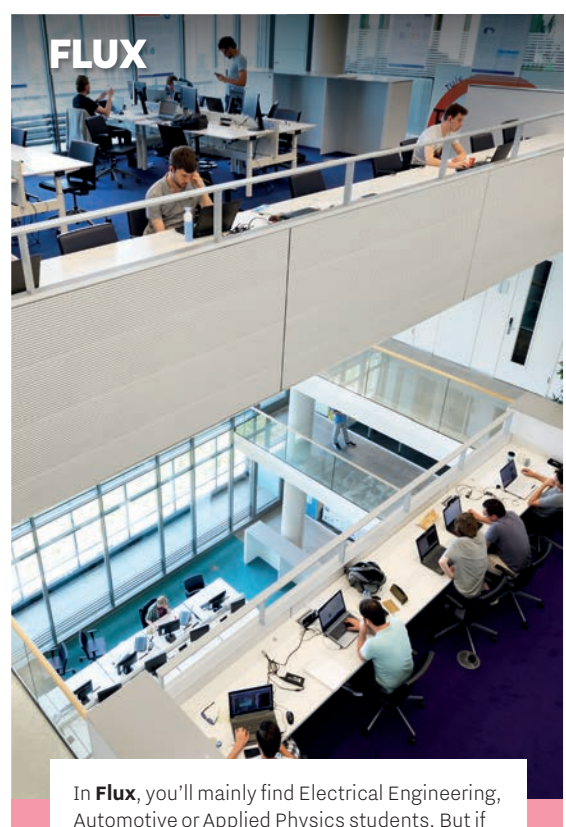
The lower you go in the library of MetaForum, the quieter you must be. You can talk on the first floor, on the ground floor you can whisper, and on -1 you really have to shut up. And during exam weeks it has to be quiet everywhere. Open until 11 p.m., also on weekends!



METAFORUM

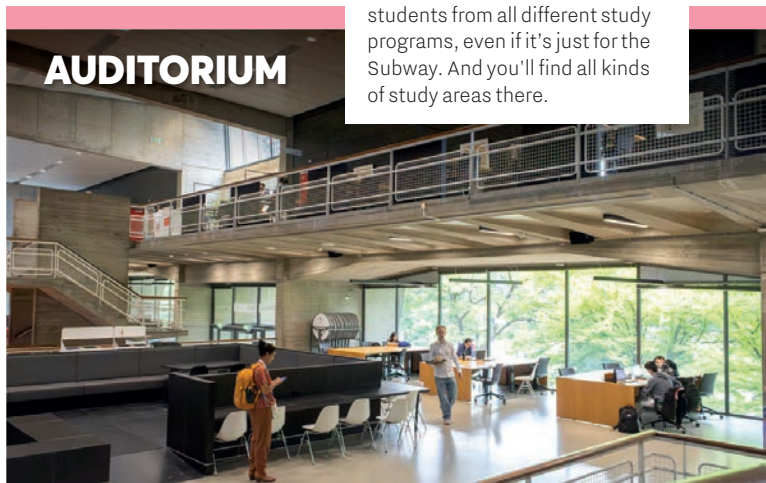
On -1 of MetaForum there are some of these lounge chairs. Also great for a nap, but you won't pass your exams with that.

Text Norbine Schalij Photos Bart van Overbeeke & Wesley Klop



FLUX

In Flux, you'll mainly find Electrical Engineering, Automotive or Applied Physics students. But if you study something else, you can still reserve a spot here via Book my Space.



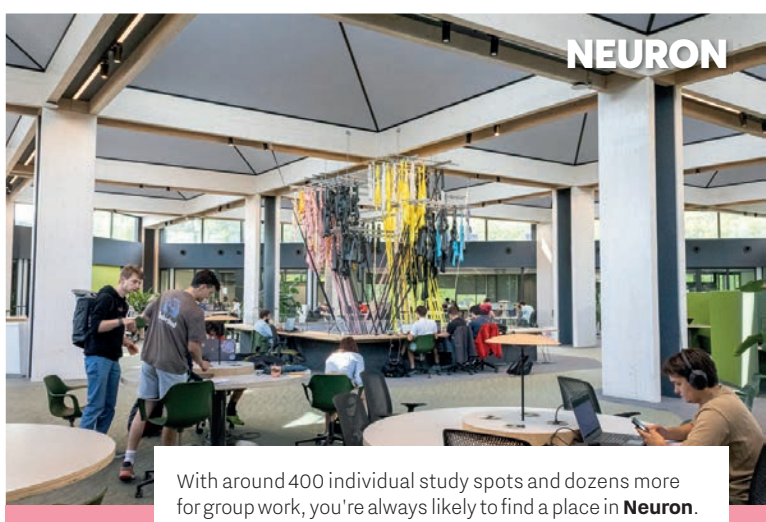
AUDITORIUM

Auditorium is popular amongst students from all different study programs, even if it's just for the Subway. And you'll find all kinds of study areas there.



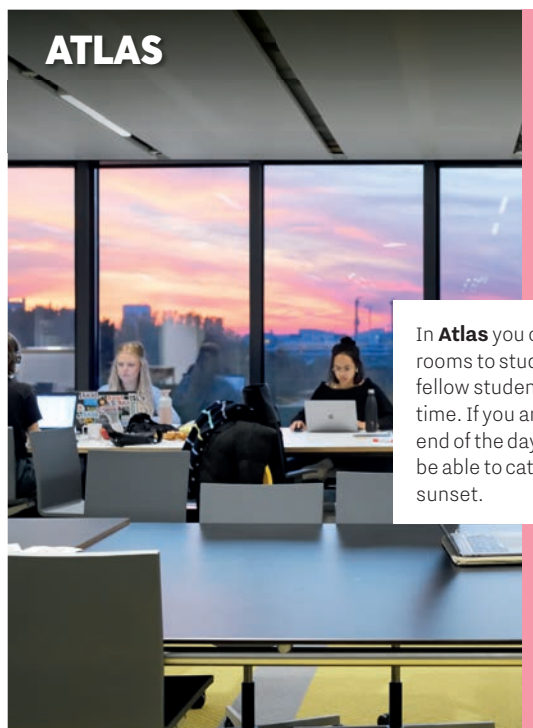
OUTSIDE OF FLUX

It depends on the weather whether you will use them, of course, but outside of Flux there are also great benches and tables.



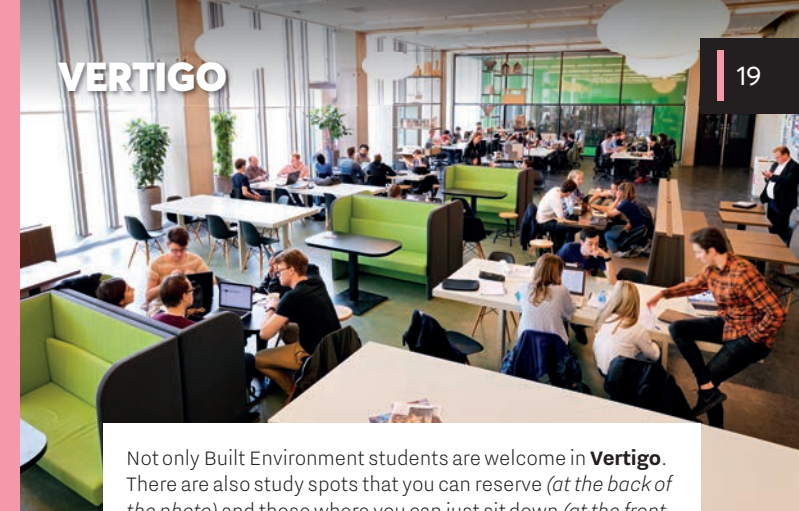
NEURON

With around 400 individual study spots and dozens more for group work, you're always likely to find a place in Neuron. In the center of the building hangs a massive art installation - who knows, it might even inspire you!



ATLAS

In Atlas you can reserve rooms to study with multiple fellow students at the same time. If you are there at the end of the day, you might be able to catch a beautiful sunset.



VERTIGO

Not only Built Environment students are welcome in Vertigo. There are also study spots that you can reserve (at the back of the photo) and those where you can just sit down (at the front of the photo).



ATLAS

On the first floor of Atlas there are 16 of these lovely chairs where you can totally immerse yourself in your studies. You will have to place your laptop on your knees, but that's what those things are made for, right?



YELLOW PICNIC TABLES

The nice thing about the yellow picnic tables is that you can drag them to any spot on campus where you would like to sit. In the sun, in the shade, take your pick.



ON THE GRASS

Would you rather study while lying on the grass? You're not the only one.

WELCOME TO THE NETHERLANDS:

A Guide to Dutch Etiquette (with 6 Words to Learn!)

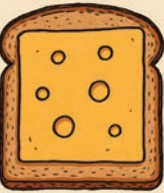
1. Hoi!

Let's start with the basics: greetings. In the Netherlands, people greet each other in a friendly but straightforward way. Meeting someone for the first time? A firm handshake is your go-to move. Among friends or family, you might experience the famous three cheek kisses (start on the right!) – though this is less common among men.

Want to say hello? A casual “Hoi” (Hi) or “Hallo” (Hello) does the trick. Feeling a bit more formal? Try “Goedemorgen” (Good morning), “Goedemiddag” (Good afternoon), or “Goedenavond” (Good evening). And no, nobody expects you to master the ‘g’ sound on your first day.

2. Boterham

Say goodbye to elaborate three-course lunches. The Dutch love their *boterham* (a sandwich), and they love them simple: a slice of bread with cheese, ham, or chocolate sprinkles (yes, really – *hagelslag* is a thing). You'll see students eating lunch at their desks, in a park, or even on a bike (true story).



So when someone offers you a “boterham met kaas” (a cheese sandwich), don't expect anything fancy. It's quick, it's efficient, it's Dutch.

3. Gefeliciteerd!

Ah, birthdays. If you're invited to a Dutch birthday party, prepare for a slightly different vibe. You don't just congratulate the birthday person – you congratulate *everyone* around them. It's totally normal to shake hands, give kisses, and say “Gefeliciteerd!” (Congratulations!) to their parents, siblings, dog-sitter... you get the idea.

Also, expect a cozy circle of chairs, coffee, and a slice of cake. It's *gezellig* (look that word up too – it's essential)!

4. Tikkie

In many countries, having someone pick up the bill might feel generous or even expected. Not here. The Dutch take pride in fairness and independence, which is why “going Dutch” means everyone pays their own way.



Enter the Tikkie – a magic little app that lets your friend send you a payment request after buying you that cappuccino. Forgot your wallet? Don't worry... but don't be surprised when a Tikkie lands in your inbox 15 minutes later.

5. Afspraak

Spontaneity is great, but in the Netherlands, planning is life. Even casual social visits often require an *afspraken* (appointment). Want to have coffee with a Dutch friend? Schedule it – possibly two weeks in advance. Dropping by unannounced might be considered, well... a little weird.



The upside? Dutch people are super punctual and reliable. You'll always know when and where things are happening. So get that digital calendar ready.

6. Direct

Dutch communication is famously *direct* (spelled the same, but pronounced more like *dee-rekt*). People here say what they mean and mean what they say. It's not meant to be rude – they just value honesty and clarity. If you ask for feedback, be ready for the unfiltered truth.

But don't take it personally – being straightforward is simply how the Dutch believe communication should be: clear, honest, and efficient. So go ahead and speak your mind. You're not being impolite – you're just going full Dutch.

Final Tip

Adjusting to Dutch habits can take time, but don't worry – no one expects you to master it all on day one. Offer to split the bill, plan your coffee dates in advance, speak your mind, and maybe offer to share your fancy lunch. And if all else fails, just smile, say “Hoi,” and bring a *boterham* to the party. You'll fit right in. ■

Veel succes! (Good luck!)



Text Lydia van Aert Photo Bart van Overbeeke

BEHIND THE SCENES AT CURSOR

This Intro Magazine was created by Cursor. But what is Cursor, other than that little flickering line on your screen? Is it TU/e's school newspaper? Who are the editors and where's their office? And what do they do all day? Find out below.

WHAT?

Cursor is TU/e's news platform, located at cursor.tue.nl. The news we publish is objective: the editors are affiliated to TU/e, but work independently. We write about science, student life, policy, people, events, and more, for all TU/e students and staff and in Dutch and English.

WHO?

Who are the editors of Cursor? In no particular order: Video journalist **Leoni** is well on her way toward knowing everything there is to know about AI and quantum computers * Outgoing **Norbine** gets everyone talking and likes to put active students in the spotlight * Idealist and whizzkid **Bridget** loves the campus fauna: Egbert the carp and Woody the Dommel beaver * Lady of a thousand talents **Cat** is the brains behind the Intro Magazine and makes lunches to die for * Young gun and sole male presence among the editors **Wesley** can often be seen holding the mic in our videos * Science editor **Martina** is Czech but out of the entire editorial staff, her Dutch is the most flawless * Freelancer **Nicole** delights us with her presence every Tuesday and always looks for the person behind the scientist * Editor-in-chief and morning

WHERE?

Cursor can be found in the Auditorium, that concrete box next to Atlas and across from Vertigo. Go in through the KOE field entrance, find the Subway (follow your nose), and take the stairs or elevator up to Cursor's office. The room number is 2.15A, between lecture halls 15 and 16.

HOW?

What does a day look like for the editorial staff? We start with a short meeting. What's happening today? Who's handling which topic? Fortified by the first doses of double espresso of the day, everyone then fans out across campus. For an interview with a researcher, a presentation by a student team, or a coffee date with a source. We also ask students to comment on the latest news on camera. Meanwhile, back in the office, articles are proofread, posted online, and sent out into the world via social media. And then we're all ready to end the day on a quiet note... Wait, where's that fire truck going? And what does that plume of smoke above campus mean?

WHEN?

At Cursor, we're always looking for newsworthy stories. When should you reach out to us? Well, when your association organizes a gigantic (and we mean gi-gan-tic) party, or when you accidentally invent something in the lab. But you can also tell us about less fun things, such as a dangerous traffic situation on campus, or if instead of making an invention you caused an explosion in the lab. Feel free to send an email to cursor@tue.nl or a DM on Instagram (@cursortueindhoven). ■



INTEGRATION

“NOT EASY, BUT DEFINITELY WORTH IT”

They speak fluent Dutch and are perfectly capable of riding a bike after having a drink or two, but they draw the line at eating sandwiches. These internationals decided to completely immerse themselves in Dutch student life and join rowing club Thêta. With success: “I feel completely at home here.”

Immediately upon setting foot on Dutch soil, Victoire Simon from Belgium (the French part), Simeon Rangelov from Bulgaria, and Eneritz Murillo from Spain joined rowing club Thêta. Eneritz was the only international student to do so five years ago, while Simeon and Victoire were joined by several other internationals. Now, there’s even an entire rowing team made up of international first-year students. Still, Thêta chooses to keep Dutch as the culture and working language of the association. Unmistakably so, the students say.

For these international students who didn’t speak the language, joining Thêta was a huge leap of faith. “I really didn’t understand anything,” Victoire says when remembering the association’s introductory weekend. “Everything was in Dutch.” She did

sometimes ask things in English and got answers, but a whole lot simply passed her by. For Simeon, things went a step further even. He came to live in a rowing house, where his roommates “helped” him learn Dutch quickly - in a typically student-like way. “There was a rule that you weren’t allowed to speak English in the kitchen.

“I was often required to write a little text of a hundred words in Dutch before I was allowed to have dinner.” - Simeon

If you did, you got something thrown at you. This even applied to the Dutch people living in the house, by the way. One way around it was to sing, because the rule was specifically about speaking. Also, I was often required to write a little text of a hundred words in Dutch before I was allowed to have dinner.” The other two can’t help but laugh at this.

Formal Dutch

Simeon did take Dutch classes at university, but quickly abandoned them. As a result, you can’t tell from his accent that he’s from abroad, but if you pay attention to what he says, you’ll hear that there’s room for improvement in terms of grammar. “People will look at me like: why do you talk like that?” Eneritz did continue taking language classes, up to the highest level. Thanks to that foundation, she managed to secure an internship with the municipality in her third year. “Suddenly, I had to start reading all kinds of policy texts in formal Dutch.”

Integrating, however, is more than just learning a language, the students say. Especially at an association like Thêta, where Dutch student culture is omnipresent. And that includes all the written and unwritten rules that come with it. Victoire can now list them all. “For example, you’re not allowed to order only one beer, and you can’t be on your phone in the bar area.” Dutch first-years don’t know those rules either, notes Maud Bolck of Thêta. “True, but you’re told in Dutch what all the rules are,” Victoire responds. “As a foreigner, you don’t know they exist. Although you learn about them quite quickly, because you get sprayed with water if you don’t follow them.”

Bread

What the students find most shocking about Dutch culture is the amount of bread that’s consumed. Eneritz: “I would be a traitor if I ate bread for lunch.” Victoire isn’t a fan either. “I’ll open the fridge and there will be slices of salami and cheese and bread: everything I hate.” She also had a hard time getting used to how busy everyone is and how that’s considered normal. “Everyone was like: I’m a fifth-year and put more time into committees than into my studies. I couldn’t imagine that, but now I’m like that myself.” Because everyone is so busy, she says it’s also hard to meet up with people. Simeon even purchased a calendar specifically for that purpose.

“At night, I’ll sometimes think back to what someone said or did and I’ll find it ever so slightly offensive.” - Eneritz

It sometimes takes some adaptability, integrating properly. But that it has been successful is evident from the fact that Simeon regularly thinks: this could be cheaper. He’s also irritated by other internationals who park their bikes incorrectly – “everywhere it’s not allowed.” As an adopted Dutchie, he knows that you can move anything by bike: closets, a lounge set, tables. But he does find it odd that everyone rides their bikes to the association gala. “And not a nice civilian bike at that, but one that you can hear from a mile away. I can’t get used to it.” Victoire learned to cycle (drunk): “That was really an experiment.” Now she – like Eneritz – often takes cycling trips.

One thing none of the three have mastered yet is Dutch directness. Eneritz: “At night, I’ll sometimes think back to what someone said or did and I’ll find it ever so slightly offensive.” Although Simeon doesn’t think about it much, he can relate. What strikes him is that most people will take pride in how direct they are. Victoire is sometimes confused by this. “I’ll be like: are these people my friends, or not?” She herself sometimes tries to be more direct, which isn’t easy for a Belgian. “But otherwise they won’t understand me.”

Dutch waters

Thêta tries to help international students navigate Dutch waters as much as possible. A buddy system of sorts has been set up, for example, and current internationals have conversations with the newcomers. There is also a dictionary of rowing terms, which contains not only the translations of the words, but also their explanations in English. However, anyone who really wants to feel at home within the association – and that includes Dutch students – will have to actively participate, Maud says. “These three students have joined committees and are living in a rowing house, really connecting with Thêta. People who do that will stay at the association for longer and have a better time here.”

“I really call the Netherlands my home now.” - Victoire

Does it pay to learn the language and do your best to integrate? It does, according to these three internationals. Although, says Eneritz, everyone is free to make their own choice in that regard. Either way, she says, it’s good to get out of your comfort zone. The others agree. Victoire: “If you like the idea of being well-integrated but you lack the courage to work on it, do so anyway. It has brought me a lot. I really call the Netherlands my home now.” ■



WANNA KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TU/e? READ CURSOR!

Don't miss a thing - follow us on our social media **channels**, bookmark our **website**, or sign up for our **newsletter** to get the most important articles in your inbox every week!

INSTAGRAM

- All articles
- Shortened text
- English



WEBSITE

- All articles
- **Complete** text
- **English and Dutch**



You can sign up at the bottom of the homepage.

WHATSAPP

- Selected articles
- Shortened text
- English



NEWSLETTER

- Selected articles
- Every week in your inbox
- English or Dutch

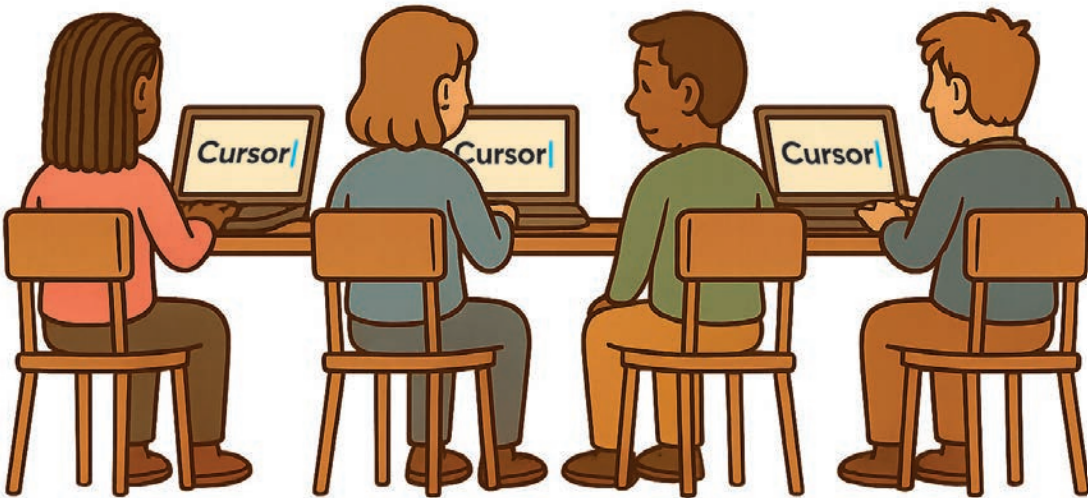
LINKEDIN

- Selected articles
- Shortened text
- English *and* Dutch



BLUESKY

- All articles
- Shortened text
- English



THE MOST IMPORTANT ACRONYMS AT TU/e

As a new TU/e student, you're sure to be bombarded with all kinds of acronyms you're (not yet) familiar with. Overwhelming? Possibly. But that doesn't mean it's not important to know them. Below, we'll list the most important acronyms for you.

BSA

= **Bindend Studieadvies**
(binding study recommendation)

In your first bachelor year, you must obtain at least 45 of out of the 60 credits available to receive a positive BSA. If you don't you'll be issued with a negative BSA and this means you won't be allowed to enroll in the same program for three years. Needless to say, there are always exceptions.

Ir.

= **Ingenieur** (engineer)

The title you can use once you've graduated from TU/e. Fancy, right?

SSCE

= **Student Sports Centre Eindhoven**

For just about 120 euros per year you can get unlimited access to all the sports on offer. You can use the gym, participate in all kinds of group classes, or go for a nice dip in the pool. Having a sports card is also a prerequisite for joining any of the 37 sports associations. You can buy one through the SSCE website.

CvB

= **College van Bestuur** (Executive Board)

The board that runs the entire university and consists of four members: the President (Koen Janssen), the Rector (Silvia Lenaerts), the Vice President (Patrick Groothuis) and the Secretary (Eric van der Geer). Don't forget to wave when you pass them in the hallway.

SG

= **Studium Generale**

Studium Generale organizes year-round cultural activities, varying from lunchtime concerts and science lectures to movie showings (in our cinema on campus). Sometimes they're free, sometimes there's a (small) charge.

UR

= **Universiteitsraad** (University Council)

A participation body consisting of nine staff members and nine students. The students are spread over three parties (Groep-één, DAS and ONS) and are appointed by way of annual elections... in which you get to vote!

ESA

= **Education and Student Affairs**

This is where students can go to arrange all manner of important affairs. You'll end up here, for example, if you're too late to register for courses, if you're struggling with your studies due to personal circumstances, or if you need a confidential counsellor or financial assistance. Do drop by sometime; the ESA service desk is located inside MetaForum. ■

Curious about the differences between the three student parties? Here's an **article** that will explain everything.



TAU'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

Text Rhetoricadispuut Tau Illustrations Cat de Win using ChatGPT

For many of you, starting university is a big step up from high school or other forms of secondary education. New routines, new people, and a lot more freedom - sometimes a little too much. It's exciting, but let's be honest: it can also be a bit overwhelming.

That's exactly why we, from Rhetoricadispuut Tau, provide you this short (but mighty) survival guide. It's here to help you navigate your first year and make the most out of your student life. From caffeine strategies and budget-saving hacks to making the most of your study association, we've collected the essentials that no one puts in the official handbook.

This contribution was written by Rhetoricadispuut Tau. Tau is a society of Mechanical Engineering students at TU/e.



1

B.Y.O.L.

TU/e has plenty of tasty food spots on campus (The SPAR is a fan favorite), but eating there every day? That's a quick way to go broke. If you want to save money for the important stuff (like the fines you'll probably pay after missing the registration deadline for courses), **Bring Your Own Lunch!** It might not be gourmet, but your wallet will thank you - and so will your future self when you can still afford coffee. If all else fails, grab half a "stokbrood" and a pack of "Garlain" at the **SPAR**. It's not fancy, but it's relatively cheap, filling, and gets the job done.



4

ALWAYS CARRY A MUG

In order to stay awake and efficient, **coffee** is a broadly used stimulant that is easily obtainable in the TU/e buildings. Even though this elixir of alertness can be bought for a mere price of 60 cents, you won't get far without a mug. To reduce waste, the university introduced a **"bring your own mug" policy**. So unless you plan on sipping espresso straight from your hands, don't forget to pack your ceramic friend.



5

GIVE AS YOU TAKE

To safeguard our thriving student life here in Eindhoven, everyone needs to pitch in. In Dutch, we have the term "consumptie-sjaars" - a first-year who only takes but never gives back. Don't be that person. **Join a committee, sport association, or student team.** It's fun, it's rewarding, and you'll accidentally learn a lot while doing it.

University life at TU/e is a wild mix of lectures, group projects, late-night study sessions, and the occasional existential crisis. But with a mug in your bag, a bike under your butt, and a sandwich in your hand, you're already off to a good start. Get involved, don't be afraid to ask for help, and most importantly - **"vergeet niet te genieten"**. ■

- Rhetoricadispuut Tau

2

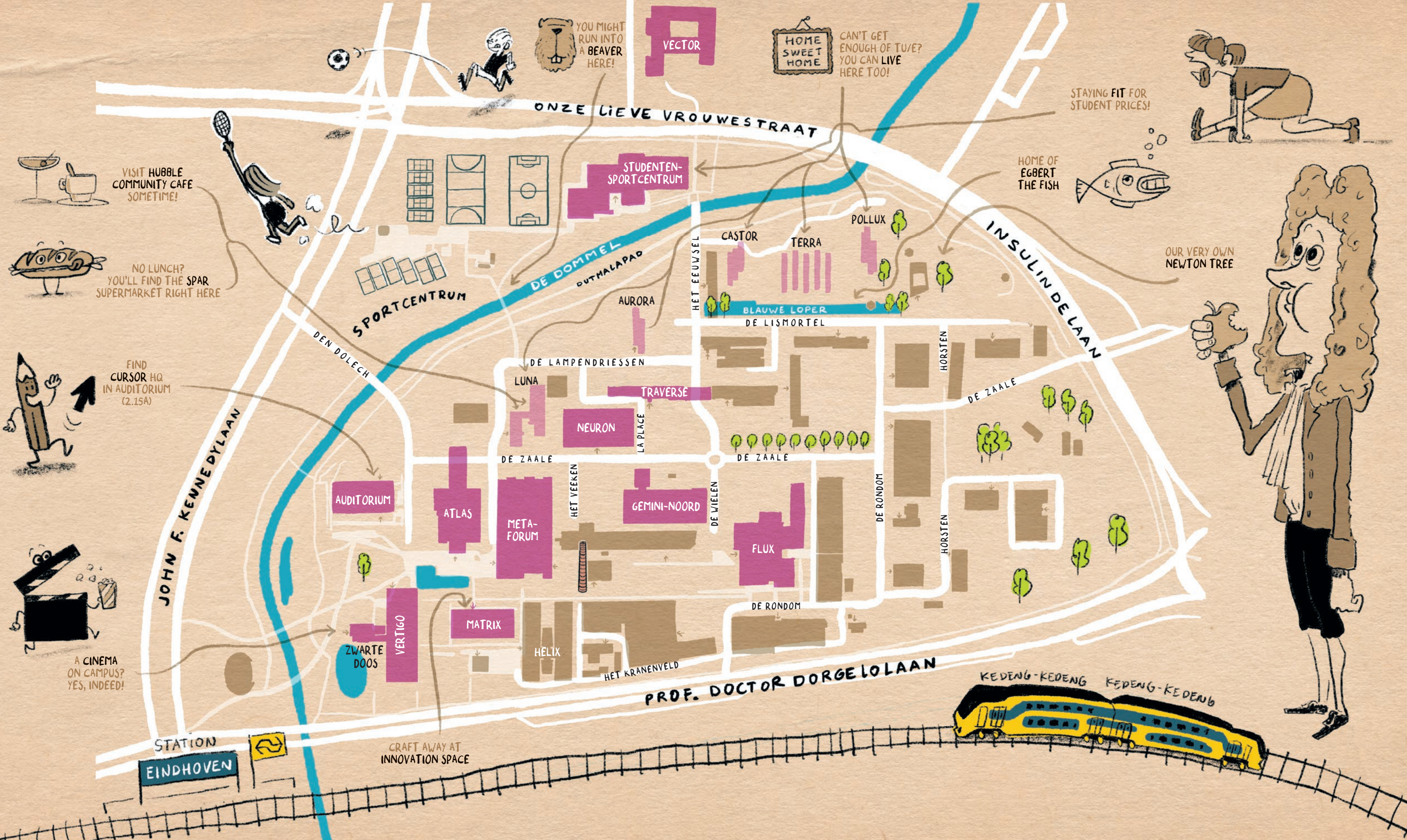
BUY A BICYCLE

Eindhoven is a big city, and walking everywhere will destroy your feet and your will to live. That's exactly why you need a bicycle. **Swapfiets** provides rental bikes for 20 euros a month, but if you want the true student experience, buy a **second-hand scuffed up bike** with just enough rust to discourage thieves. Speaking of which - don't splurge on a fancy model unless you enjoy filing police reports. Cheap, ugly, and rideable is the way to go.

3

USE YOUR STUDY ASSOCIATION

During this Intro Week you will learn a lot about your study association, so we will not bore you with any details here. We do however want to stress the convenience you might miss out on. Your association's **common room is a safe space** where you can grab coffee, talk to fellow students and obtain advice from people who've already survived what you're going through. The association itself has some first-year committees that we recommend joining, you **get to know a lot of peers** and they don't take much time.



VECTOR

HOME SWEET HOME

CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF TU/E? YOU CAN LIVE HERE TOO!

STAYING FIT FOR STUDENT PRICES!

HOME OF EGBERT THE FISH

OUR VERY OWN NEWTON TREE

ONZE LIEVE VROUWESTRAAT

STUDENTEN-SPORTCENTRUM

SPORTCENTRUM

DE DOMMEL

DUTMALAPAD

AURORA

CASTOR

TERRA

POLLUX

BLAUWE LOPER

DE LISMORTEL

INSULINDELAAN

DE ZAALE

HORSTEN

HORSTEN

DE RONDON

DE RONDON

GEMINI-NOORD

DE ZAALE

TRAVERSE

NEURON

LA PLACE

DE LAMPENDRIESSEN

LUNA

DE ZAALE

ATLAS

META-FORUM

HET VEEKEN

DE VIELEN

FLUX

DE RONDON

HELIX

HET KRANENVELD

PROF. DOCTOR DORGELOLAAN

KEDENG-KEDENG KEDENG-KEDENG

CRAFT AWAY AT INNOVATION SPACE

STATION EINDHOVEN

JOHN F. KENNEDYLAAN

DEN DOLECH

VISIT HUBBLE COMMUNITY CAFE SOMETIME!

NO LUNCH? YOU'LL FIND THE SPAR SUPERMARKET RIGHT HERE

FIND CURSOR HQ IN AUDITORIUM (2.15A)

A CINEMA ON CAMPUS? YES, INDEED!

YOU MIGHT RUN INTO A BEAVER HERE!