

LIST LEX

Election plan 2023-2024



LIST
LEX

Preface

In front of you lies List LEX's election program for the Faculty Council Elections for the 2023-2024 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:
BETTER EDUCATION BY PASSIONATE REPRESENTATION"**

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.

Individual feedback

We have heard that students frequently encounter difficulties in obtaining feedback for their graded assignments. We consider feedback as a crucial and indispensable aspect of the learning process, allowing students to learn from their errors and improve.

Apart from wanting to improve individual feedback in the programs, where it is already available, we also aim to implement individual feedback in the programs that do not have it yet, like ELS.

We aim to improve the transparency of the feedback request process and enhance plans for Q&A sessions following the release of grades, particularly if many students faced challenges. During these sessions, students may ask about unclear aspects of the assignment or exam, and the grading model may also be discussed if required.

Exchange

A problem that many students face that has been around for some time is regarding the exchange possibilities. Most of them do not know if they can benefit from this life-changing experience. Even if they want to apply, they are unsure about the procedure, costs, necessary insurance, and the list goes on. We wish to work closely with the faculty to ensure students have all the essential information at their disposal. Moreover, we further want to promote the advantages of an exchange program among students and even propose for more collaborations with other faculties for more opportunities to arise that fit most of them.

Tax Law

The Tax Law bachelor is in many ways very similar to Dutch Law. The information most students are lacking pertains to the advantages and disadvantages of Tax Law but also what you can do with Tax Law for careers. Another problem Tax Law students currently face is the lack of Tax Law courses in the second year of the program. These problems are easily fixable by ensuring that first year students know the specific differences between Dutch and Tax Law and by giving more information in general to students about it in information meetings but also online. Tax Law students should also get more Tax Law courses earlier in their academic careers. In this way, Tax Law students can find out what they like earlier and they will have a bigger advantage following Tax Law related career activities.

Mentor program

The mentor program as it is now clearly does not function as it was intended for most students. There are several reasons for that, but among the most important we can recognize is that students do not really understand its purpose, especially since it does not have many benefits. We wish to create short knowledge clips about its content in order for each student to decide for themselves whether they need it or not. Furthermore, mentors should try to approach students more and not be in a one-sided relationship as teacher-student. A mentor should be an advisor similar to a friend which clarifies everything you are insecure about. To that goal, we will propose different approaches towards the program.

Internships

Our current system for internships can still be challenging to navigate. Many find it difficult to find information or guidance in the process. Just like exchanges, internships are very important, for especially bachelor students, to get insight into possible fields of law they are interested in to properly choose their masters. We want to create more guidance for students that wish to pursue an internship to ensure they know what is expected of them as well as give them information on how to get internships.

Extracurricular activities & Employability

In the current job market, it is very essential to put time towards academic extracurricular activities to gain experience as well as build up your resume for when you leave University. The faculty can definitely improve upon this. For example doing continuous informing to incoming and current students about opening possibilities in study associations, law shops, etc. This way, students easily get to know new people and also acquire skills that will be useful for their entire career. We believe that the faculty should also render more support for people who wish to participate on a board of any association within Maastricht, this is an invaluable experience that should become easier and supported by the faculty. This can, for example, be done by providing more information on how to combine a board year with your studies , but also by providing more support during the board year itself. It is also necessary that the faculty gives more information about careers outside of the advocacy, although this is a very important reason some students study law, there are way more opportunities out there. We hope to ensure that all students from the law faculty get the proper opportunities to meet their needs and set them up for a bright future.

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 University of Maastricht should focus on improving the community feeling among students, as this is essential in creating a positive and engaging learning environment. One way to do this is by introducing faculty drinks once in a while for the Law Faculty. This could be an opportunity for students and faculty members to socialize and get to know each other outside of the classroom, fostering a sense of community and collaboration. The University could also consider organizing events and activities that bring students from different faculties together, such as University drinks or festivals.

Student counseling

We noticed that the waiting times for the student counseling are too long. Study related issues or personal issues that might affect your studies often appear unexpected and quick. Depending on the issue it might be important to quickly be able to talk and get advice from the student counseling team. Due to the tough schedule students have in their program, students often need help faster than currently possible. We believe that higher availability of student counseling would be an enormous help for students to better cope with unexpected issues in their studies or wellbeing.

Moving to the Netherlands

Most international students face a lot of difficulties when they fully decide to study in the Netherlands and therefore live here. For instance, international students are left in the dark when it comes to accommodation, insurance or which type of grants and loans they can receive. We believe that it is part of the faculty's duty to provide this information and clarify the existing ones, as the financial part is a primordial factor for choosing to study abroad. We wish to collaborate with the faculty to ensure that every international student is aware of everything they are embarking for.

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

In past years we have already introduced the General Student Assembly for students to let their voices be known. We want to further build on this plan by ensuring the General Student Assembly has a broader voice. We hope to expand the General Student Assembly, to ensure that the voices of students are heard, and to make sure the student representatives know what is going on within our faculty. The General Student Assembly allows students to voice complaints, questions, and comments about the faculty council but also the faculty in general and therefore ensures that we can try to help you with your problems and make our faculty even better.

Grades and communication

It came to our attention that many students struggle with the faculty's grading communication. Uncertainties exist about where to find and when to expect the grades. The faculty needs to enhance their communication in this area.

Additionally, students, due to faculty communication, face a challenge to understand the faculties expectations and are missing guidance and information on advancing through the years as well as the consequences of not passing.

We consider it crucial for students to understand expectations and to have easy access to their grades. Further, the faculty should clarify the consequences of not succeeding in a course.

Information regarding changes in the masters programs

Maastricht University should prioritize effective communication and transparency when it comes to informing students about the changes being made to the Masters of the Law faculty programs. This is crucial in ensuring that current and potential students are well-informed about the changes and their implications, and can therefore make informed decisions while choosing their master. Furthermore, the University should update the webpage that provides information regarding the master programs.

In addition, the University should consider hosting information sessions to inform students about the changes in the master programs. This would also provide an opportunity for students to ask questions and express their concerns and would help to foster a sense of community and collaboration within the University. By prioritizing clear and effective communication, the University can help to ensure that everyone is informed properly.

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.

Publishing modules

We have often heard students complain regarding the publication of modules of courses that students take within our faculty. The concerning modules contain the assignments, the study material and all other relevant study materials. All previous information is important for proper preparations. If these modules are not published or opened up in time, preparation is therefore difficult. This often causes stress and frustration among students. Our faculty can improve on this. Proper communication of relevant information, including timely publication of modules, will provide more clarity for students at our faculty.

Sustainability

The University of Maastricht should prioritize sustainability and take action to reduce its environmental impact. The University has already done a lot to improve their sustainability in the last years, however they can still improve.

One way to do this is by implementing sustainable practices and policies for the faculty, such as reducing waste and improving energy efficiency. Furthermore, the faculty could try to improve the isolation of the building by adding insulated windows. The most important thing is that the University keeps promoting sustainable behaviors among students and staff. By prioritizing sustainability, the University can help to create a more sustainable future for all, while also setting an example for other Universities and organizations to follow.

National debate on internationalisation

As many of you may know, there is a big debate currently on-going on the national level concerning the internationalisation of Universities within the Netherlands. We at List LEX are of the opinion that this topic has a fairly simple answer as for our faculty. It is our opinion that international students belong within our faculty, our faculty would never have been how it is, had it not been for internationals. It enables us to learn new and different cultures, expand our networks and learn other perspectives and this is all very important within the currently globalising world. The Netherlands has never been so internationally involved in the world and the presence of our international students is a good sign of this, and they belong here as part of this globalisation. Internationalisation is a part of the values and core of our faculty and we should be proud regarding our number of international students attending our faculty and the amount of cultures within our faculty and we'd love to see this expansion continuing. We therefore strive as List LEX to reflect these opinions within the faculty council whenever and wherever possible.