
INTRODUCTION Q&A

WHO ARE THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES?

The Student Representatives (SR) are the voice of the Faculty's students. As a legal body of FASoS, they work together with the staff to improve the study programmes and the FASoS education environment. Their main work is to represent the voice and interests of FASoS students (at the BA, Pre-MA, or MA levels) in most decision-making bodies of the Faculty. The SR team consists of 29 members who are directly and indirectly elected by the students of FASoS, representing students in seven Faculty bodies. Moreover, the Student Representatives meet weekly to discuss and put forth proposals to improve the quality of student life at the Faculty in fields like education, facilities, diversity et cetera.

Student Representatives sit in the following Faculty bodies:

→ **Educational Programme Committees (EPC's):** The objective of the EPC's is to provide a link between theory and practise of the courses. All courses and other course-related issues are discussed by a team of three teaching staff members and three Student Representatives to find ways to effectively improve the programme for both students and staff. In practice, specifically the Student Representative members have to elaborate and evaluate course content - have a look at the structure of the course, the literature that is offered - evaluate the IWIOS and make according proposals to their improvement. There are:

- Educational Programme Committee's (EPC's) at **MA level:**
 - EPC Europe (and the Globalizing World)
 - EPC Media, Technology and Innovation
 - EPC MA Arts and Culture
- Educational Programme Committee's (EPC) at **BA level:**
 - EPC BA European Studies
 - EPC BA Arts & Culture/Cultuurwetenschappen
 - EPC BA Digital Society

→ **Education Management Team (OMT):** The objective of OMT is to provide a think-tank-like platform to discuss and evaluate BA-wide policies and matters, such as attendance regulations, exam feedback, or the course registration procedure. The OMT consists of the Directors or Studies and the Vice-Directors of Studies of all BA programmes, one Study Adviser, the Chair of the Student Affairs Office of FASoS, the Associate Dean of Education, the OMT secretary and three Student Representatives from the respective BA programmes.

→ **Library Committee:** The Library Committee is the responsible for the collection of literature of the Faculty. The main concern of the Student Representative in such Committee is to make sure that all the right literature is available in the ICL. Moreover, the student is asked to give their opinion on budget, allocation and other logistic issues. The Committee meets few times per academic year, and different issues are discussed (e.g. subscriptions, Open Access, collection of books). The Student Representative should therefore try that as much literature is online and easily accessible, while trying to improve the learning spaces and the LibSearch System.

→ **Complaints Committee:** As a member of the Complaints Committee of FASoS it is the student's responsibility to participate in the examination and assessment of the official complaints that have been filed against FASoS. Prior to the meetings between the complaining party and the Complaints Committee, the Student Representative needs to know the case and examine the material that has been provided by the complainant to assess the case. This committee has the highest confidentiality requirements. A Student Representative in the FASoS Complaints Committee, is not allowed to share any information whatsoever with your colleagues or with other students at FASoS regarding the cases that you assess, their addressees, or the outcomes.

→ **The Faculty Board:** The Faculty Board consists of the Dean, the Associate Dean of Research, the Associate Dean of Education as full members, and the Managing Director, the Secretary, and the Student Advisor as non-voting members. The Student Advisor to the Board provides a direct link between the Student Representatives (SR) and the Faculty Board (FB). The Faculty Board meets every two weeks. During the meetings all major issues concerning the faculty are discussed. As the Student Advisor, it is very important to be diplomatic and voice the concerns of the students in an appropriate manner as well as explain the perspective of the faculty to the SR. On the one hand the Student Advisor plays for example an important role in understanding and explaining the FB's perspective with the annual budget. On the other hand, the Student Advisor may has to explain a proposal sent by the SR to, for instance, host the Career Event or the Faculty Drinks (or anything else that requires a budget from the Faculty). In case of crisis (e.g. as occurred with the cyberattack in 2020), the Student Advisor supports the President in the management of the crisis together with the Faculty Board.

→ **The Faculty Council:** The Faculty Council (FC) is an elected body which consists of five Student Representatives who decide together with four members of the educational and one of the administrative personnel on diverse matters (e.g. budget, program structures, appointments). Depending on the issue at stake, the competences of the FC vary: they have the right to advise, give consent, discuss, or only to be informed by the Faculty Board.

Further, the FASoS SR are led by an internally elected steering board which operates in accordance with the Governance Code of the Student Representative. The SR team is organised into four internal working groups that work on specific topics regarding **education, facilities, communications, and employability**. These are:

- Education Working Group

- Diversity, Inclusivity, Accessibility, Sustainability (DIAS) Working Group
- Marketing and Communication Working Group
- Employability Working Group

All Working groups are open to Student Representatives from both the MA and the BA programmes. The work of these working groups and the SR as a whole is officially communicated openly to the FASoS community through the biannual reports published by the Student Representatives, and through streamlined communication with FASoS students and staff.

Overall, the SR works consist of gathering student's views and ideas about various aspects of studying in one of the FASoS programmes and University life. The Student Representatives communicate this feedback to staff members, suggest solutions, and work together with staff to bring about change within the different committee meetings. Next to the latter, the the SR meet weekly to discuss and put forth proposals to improve the quality of student life at the Faculty in fields like education, integration, and internationalisation.

WHY WOULD A STUDENT BECOME PART OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES?

Becoming a SR enables students to develop and strengthen leadership skills, connect with and assist fellow students with having their voice heard. As a SR you will become part of a group of active students that network with professionals at FASoS/UM, contribute to decision making at FASoS, gain a greater understanding of FASoS/UM processes and systems and you will undertake professional development and enhance your skills, especially in terms of communication, liaison, working with others, being a committee member and influencing the decision-making processes and improve your undergraduate employability skills.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

- There are several positions open for you to join our team and represent your fellow students. Keep an eye out on our social media platforms for further information on opening positions. **For 2021/2022 we are looking for:**
 - One 1st year BA Arts & Culture SR for the Educational Programme Committee
 - One 1st year BA European Studies SR for the Educational Programme Committee
 - One 1st year BA Digital Society SR for the Educational Programme Committee

Send us your CV and motivation letter until the 26 September, 23.59h via e-mail to studentrep@maastrichtuniversity.nl**

*(**An extension of the deadline is possible – we will make sure to inform you accordingly via our communication platforms)*

IMPORTANT LINKS

In general, if you have a problem or an idea, feel free to contact us. We are always happy to receive comments and suggestions about the study programmes, the Faculty's facilities, or broader topics about education at FASoS. Students can also come to us with problems such as disagreements with tutors, confusion about the structure or content of your study, or help carrying out a project at the Faculty.



E-Mail: studentrep@maastrichtuniversity.nl



Facebook: @studentrepfasos; <https://www.facebook.com/studentrepfasos/>



Instagram: @studentrep