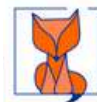


CANDIDATES STUDENT COUNCIL 2025



SCIENCES AND BIOENGINEERING SCIENCES

LEON JOS BAUWERAERTS



It's difficult to list all the areas for improvement at VUB in 650 characters, so I'll focus on two major obstacles for the student council itself. Currently, too few students know who is in the student council, what it does, or how much influence it has. The 23,000 VUB students are represented by 20 students who are almost randomly selected. This needs to change.

Additionally, communication with students needs to improve. There are too many platforms: Canvas, Cali, WeAreStudent, the VUB website, ... and it's impossible to keep track of them all. On top of that, students are overwhelmed by too many emails. This must change!

SCIENCES AND BIOENGINEERING SCIENCES

MARGO VAN DER OUGSTRAETE



This year, I am participating in the student council elections because I want to seize the opportunity to actively contribute to the interests of my fellow students and to learn more about the functioning and organization of our beloved university. The VUB is a unique place to me, distinguished by its commitment to and the diversity of its students. However, there are sometimes concerns among students that, in my opinion, deserve a voice. As a member of the student council, I want to ensure these voices are heard. My focus and interest lie primarily in student services, campus life, and sports facilities.

MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

YNGWIE DERYCKER



I want to run for the Student Council to ensure that the voice of every student is heard. Your opinion matters and deserves a place in the discussion for the benefit of everyone. I want to put Jette more on the map and focus on the STUVO facilities here, which have a lot of potential. Additionally, I will continue to advocate for better education, with a focus on student well-being, academic progress, and strong educational infrastructure, just like I did last year. Together, we will create a university that listens to its students and prioritizes their needs.

MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

SANA SADAT MOHAMMAD RAFIEI NAZARI



This past year, I have passionately dedicated myself to the Student Council, including within the mandate of the 'Caroline Pauwels Emergency Fund'. Together with my colleagues, I am working on valuable projects that will soon yield something beautiful.

I will continue to focus on the mental well-being of our students and aim to strengthen the connection between Jette and Etterbeek. Jette is often underrepresented, especially by female members. That's why I want to unite the voice of all students, make it louder, and prioritize their interests—because we are the future!



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
WOUT MATHIEU R VANHELDEN

For me, VUB is a campus where studying is more than just the books. By involving students in decision-making, providing various services like the cafeteria and the abortion center, and working together to build a better world... that's what I want to focus on! I want to promote even more student participation, both within the faculties and for the dorms and the cafeteria. Will you join me?



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
MARIE-ISABELLE ADRIAENS

I feel a strong connection with my fellow students and would like to represent them in the student council. I want to ensure that we are supported in the best way possible by VUB. In these difficult times, I advocate for a social policy that makes studying more bearable for everyone. My focus is on projects related to mental health and housing – such as more psychological support for students and more VUB dorms, because these have been obstacles I've faced myself. For me, a democratic approach is important, so I am always open to ideas from the student community.



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
MILA TODOROF

I want a seat in the student council so that I can work towards equal opportunities at the VUB. My focus will be on student facilities and mental well-being. Education should be affordable for everyone, but the prices of tuition fees and student housing continue to rise. At the same time, cuts are being made to student services. I advocate for lower prices and warmer classrooms. As a psychology student, I know that a university plays a significant role in mental well-being. I want to ensure that broader support is available to students, such as therapy and diagnoses, as well as fun events and fostering a sense of community.



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
LAURA FRANS

I am deeply involved in student life at the VUB and find it important to contribute to an inclusive and equitable learning environment. Based on my experience within Compassionate University, I would like to further advocate as a student representative for policies that are more tailored to caregivers and students who are chronically ill.



LANGUAGES AND HUMANITIES

GAIA CLAIRE

I'm running for the student council because I believe in fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment at VUB. As an international student, I understand the challenges of adapting to a new academic and cultural setting, and I want to advocate for better resources, transparency, and communication for all students. I'd work towards improving student representation, promoting accessible mental health support for struggling students, and creating more opportunities for cultural and linguistic exchange. My goal would be to ensure that every student feels heard, valued, and welcomed within our university community.



LANGUAGES AND HUMANITIES

LORENZO ROUIRE

As a student, I am very glad that there is a student council, as it allows students to have a say in their university. Now, I would also like to contribute my part.

I believe that the campus is central to the experience of studying at VUB, which is why I think it's important that it is organized according to the needs of the students. Specifically, for me, this means providing enough study facilities, and therefore, I want to create more study spaces so that there is enough room for everyone. Additionally, I want to make restaurant prices affordable for students.

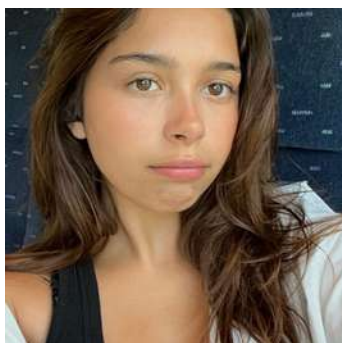


LANGUAGES AND HUMANITIES

ADAM OLIVER HAEGEMAN

Our university must be accessible and free from oppression. That's why

I am fighting for the termination of collaborations with Israeli universities – imperialism has no place on our campus. Additionally, tuition fees must be drastically reduced: lower rent, fair enrollment fees for international students, and affordable meals in the cafeteria. Education should not be a luxury, but a right for everyone!



LANGUAGES AND HUMANITIES

ESMÉE DERICUM

As a first-year student navigating university life, I am glad that there is a student council that defends my interests. Since the workings of VUB can seem large and overwhelming, people often feel like they can't make a change on campus. I would like to bridge that gap between students and the university and be a place where you can turn to with your ideas, questions, and issues. This way, we can work towards a campus that reflects its own students. Personally, I would like to start a project around a safer nightlife at VUB, by establishing an external reporting point for inappropriate behavior.



LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

ESMERALDA GJONLULAJ

I have been in the student council for a year and I would like to continue working on the improvements we have already started. For me, it is essential to have more snack and drink options on campus, but also to ensure that all students are truly taken into account. That's why I want to advocate for mandatory lecture recordings and more individual support, so that everyone has equal opportunities. Additionally, I want to work towards making the campus more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

Your voice matters, and I want to make sure it's heard!



LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

MUNYA KALAMBAY NGALULA

Students should not only listen, but also have a say in what happens at our university. For me, the student council is the perfect bridge to achieve important goals. The university should be a place where diversity is celebrated and where everyone feels at home. Many students, especially first-year students, sometimes feel lonely or struggle with the high study pressure. That's why I want to create more accessible activities and improve support around mental well-being.

Students need to know they are not alone, throughout the entire academic year.



LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

OSKAR GUSTAAF A BONTE

I want to work towards a university where students are truly heard. Too often, decisions are made about us instead of with us. I want to change that by working with students to build a campus where everyone feels at home.

A key priority is creating more green and welcoming spaces on campus. A place where you can relax, especially when the weather is nice, makes a world of difference. Additionally, I want to ensure there are enough study spaces so that no one is forced to study at home due to a lack of space. Mental well-being is at the core of my focus. Studying can be tough, which is why there need to be accessible and easy-to-use resources to support students. Policies should be student-centered, for the students – tailored to what we truly need.



LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

CANAN KAYA

I have been studying at VUB for three years now and have experienced both the positives and negatives of our university. Through my extensive network, built through activities and engagement, I know what matters to students. This motivates me to run in the elections. My goal? A better organized VUB where every student feels heard and supported, with more opportunities in the areas of well-being and social involvement. I want to ensure a campus where everyone feels safe, and for improvement, there are no limits – it can only get better!



ENGINEERING

HELENA ANASTASIA M LEGIER

After a year of active involvement in the student council, I realize how fulfilling it is to be engaged and to bring projects to life. I want to be a point of contact for both the student and non-student communities, so that everyone can easily share their ideas and concerns. With this input, I aim to further work on a stronger policy. I advocate for comprehensive student services, more transparent communication, and better support for international students, so that everyone feels at home at VUB.



ENGINEERING

HEMANTH BALAJI

My motivation for joining the student council is to serve both national and international students equally. I plan to organize events that help international students feel at home and create engaging activities for national students to foster unity. As a student council member at VUB, I aim for personal growth while supporting peers in achieving their academic and personal goals. Having served as a student council member last year, I have gained valuable experience in addressing student concerns and acting as a bridge between them and the university. I am committed to making a positive impact and ensuring a vibrant campus community for all.



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

MERYLIN MARGYURI CHARLOVA

Growing up in multicultural Brussels, with a double nationality and fluency in four languages, I've seen how diversity brings people together. VUB reflects our city, and I believe community-building and respect for the environment are key to making our campus a true home for all students, whether local or international. Through my studies abroad, I have seen various approaches to sustainability and inclusivity. I'm excited to introduce these best practices here, adapting them to VUB. Decisions will be made regardless, I aim to make sure inclusivity and sustainability are priorities.



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

AHMED S. A. SHAMALI

I believe to actively shape our university's future, we need to insure that all voices are heard and make sure that we behold the student-friendly environment, that's why I'm motivated to participate in the student council elections. My aim is to create a strong bridge between students and the university and ensure that all the needs and aspirations of students are met.



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

AUBE BOUWEN



It is essential that we, as students, are heard and can protect our freedoms. As a member, I want to contribute to a safer and more vibrant campus – all that concrete could definitely use some color! I would like to see a more diverse campus life. For example, it would be great to have spaces where students from the same program can gather during the day, without always being tied to a student association. Organizing evening activities should also be easier and less burdened by bureaucracy. Student organizations are sometimes met with resistance, so more trust and cooperation would lower the barrier for new initiatives.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

LUCIE C DELMEIRE



This year, I'm running in the student council elections because I want to take the opportunity to actively contribute to the interests of my fellow students and to learn more about the functioning and organization of our beloved university. For me, VUB is a unique place, distinguished by its commitment to and diversity among its students. Still, there are concerns among students that, in my opinion, deserve a voice. As a member of the student council, I want to make sure those voices are heard. My main focus and interests lie in student services, campus life, and sports facilities.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

MELINA ANASTASOPOULOU



For the past six months, I have observed fellow students taking part in student organisations, volunteering teams, and other similar activities. Their commitment to both grow personally and give back to their communities has not only been admirable but also inspiring. This has motivated me to run for Student Representative. Along with others, I hope to empower students to stand up for what is right, reevaluate their rights and responsibilities to increase the sense of involvement in university affairs, and listen to their concerns. My ideal goal would be to create an inclusive agenda where every voice is heard and represented.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

THEO DE PILLECYN



This year, I was already a member of the student council as Coordinator of Innovation, and that experience has only motivated me more to keep pushing student services and innovation forward next year. Our campus is more than just a place to study; it should be an environment where students feel at home and can grow. That's why I want to listen to their voices and turn them into concrete actions, so we can build an even better student experience together. Improving student well-being also remains a key priority for me. And for that, I need YOUR vote!



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

LARA KIRANKAYA



I believe that VUB excels at welcoming students and addressing their concerns—a testament to the diligent work of the student council. As a student from Turkey, where education and student life present unique challenges, I understand the importance of ensuring that all voices are heard. Although no one can perform their role flawlessly, I am committed to enhancing the experience for students facing difficulties.

As a first-year student, I feel that both international and Dutch students should engage more fully in all aspects of university life. Consequently, I am eager to focus on initiatives that promote greater student involvement.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

MARIEKE LOBERT



As VUB students, we are privileged to receive high-quality education, but not everyone has this opportunity. Coming from Gelsenkirchen one of Germany's poorest cities I experience a role strain, balancing privilege with awareness of educational inequality. This deepens my commitment to inclusivity, exchange, and open conversations. I believe in creating a welcoming space where everyone, especially disadvantaged groups, can grow. Meeting people where they are and supporting them under their circumstances is essential to me. That's why I'm running for student council to foster a community where diversity is embraced, and everyone feels valued.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

HENDRIK MARCEL WALTER TILLEMANS



As president of OSD, I've had the opportunity this year to contribute to the student community and learn a great deal about how VUB functions. Through my active role in various student groups, I've gained a clear understanding of students' needs. My involvement has helped me build strong connections with fellow students and better understand their expectations, challenges, and concerns. This has motivated me to help create an environment where every student feels at home and can thrive. With this experience and enthusiasm, I'm ready to commit myself to the student council.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

DUC ANH PHAM



I started my journey at VUB five years ago, and it has been a rewarding experience filled with friendships and great memories. Joining the student council is my way of giving back to the university before I graduate. I want to ensure that every student feels heard and supported. I'm committed to enhancing the resources available to students, from academic support to mental health services, to ensure they have the tools they need for both personal and academic success. In addition, I plan to advocate for better study spaces and improved campus facilities, ensuring students have a productive environment for both solo and group study sessions.



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

VIKTOR SOLOKHIN



What is my motivation? This may sound selfish, but I want to gain real-world experience in managing organizations, working in a team, and turning ideas into reality. As a member of the Student Council, I'll work on bringing together different groups of students (Flemish and International students, Masters and Bachelors, Business and Social Sciences, etc.) so that they can share their knowledge and have a positive impact on their lives and the university.

In addition, I would like to work on making our university and students having "growth" mindset. People need to believe that they can achieve anything!

"If there's a will, there's a way"

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

XIAOQIANG ZHANG



My name is Xiaoqiang Zhang, and my English name is Donald. I'm from China and currently pursuing my first-year Bachelor of Social Sciences at VUB. This is actually my second bachelor's degree, and I have much experience in Student Council in my Chinese university. I am passionate about student affairs and actively seeking opportunities to contribute to the university community. I would love to join the Student Council to apply my previous experience and communication skills, making a meaningful impact on campus once again.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

ELIAS FOUAD ELIAS SAHLIEH



Students are always listened to but never truly heard. I say there's more to student life than memorization. Today, academic life feels like watching a YouTube video instead of experiencing university. I will advocate for a change ! Student life should be more practical, focused on building soft skills, and less about memorizing theories. Relying on a single exam to evaluate us goes against basic business principles (putting all eggs in 1 basket). We need to diversify. Also, SPORTS should be more accessible, and present more in our experience, as in competing with other uni's. Let's make VUB a place that truly prepares us for the future.