

# Election program 2019

SHAPE

*Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences*

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# Election Program SHAPE

SHAPE, founded in 2018, has a fresh view to the university. Every representative of SHAPE is actively involved with the developments within the university. Therefore, our representatives have much **knowledge** about the course of events within your faculty. We can **make a difference** by keeping close ties to fellow students, study associations, other student representatives within and outside FHML, we can make a difference **together**. **Vote SHAPE, to shape our university.**

## Education improvements

The education within FHML is constantly in development. Unfortunately, the students are sometimes forgotten in this development. SHAPE has a good view on these developments and can introduce ideas and opinions of students. Because of this, realistic goals can be set and **together** with all the stakeholders within the university, these goals can be achieved.

From last year onward, the Dutch government has given extra money to the universities to improve education. To spend this money, every faculty has to obey to the '**Quality Agreements**' that are set by the university. For FPN it is important that the agreements that have been made, are observed. Therefore, SHAPE will closely supervise to make sure that this money benefits the students.

Out of this budget, the **lectures recordings**, are financed for all bachelor studies. We want to provide this opportunity for master students as well.

In addition, we want to focus on **specific studies** within the FHML by looking at more minor options, resit opportunities for the European Public Health bachelor, processing of employability in the curricula and by obtaining a critical look at the curriculum revisions that will take place for European Public Health and Medicine.

**With a view on the future**, we believe that the individual student should be capable, to a certain extent, of putting together his or her study own program. This can be within their own study program as well as outside of it: think about following courses at different Faculties within the elective programs, gaining experience abroad or getting a research internships as a student assistant.

## Campus feeling

FHML is a faculty that shares a building with several studies. Furthermore, the student population of FHML is very diverse. Therefore, it would be valuable if there was a space in which students can **integrate** with each other in an informal way to create a unity feeling. Moreover, it is not only important that students can meet in an informal way, this place can also encourage more informal interaction between students and staff. Because of this, SHAPE is a supporter for the **university pub** at Randwyck.

## Facilities

It is important that the university creates an optimal environment to study. However, it turns out that during exam periods, the **Randwyck Library is too full**. In addition, it seems as if students are not fully aware of all the possible study spots at FHML. To solve these problems, SHAPE wants to improve the distribution of students over the possible study spots. We want to do this via communication and awareness. Furthermore, when the current amount spots do not meet the demand, we will look in to possibilities to extend the amount of study places. One of these possibilities could be **extensive opening hours** for the library during the exam periods.

Around lunchtime the **Mensa** flows over by students and staff. There are not enough seating places for those who are having a break. SHAPE wants to create multifunctional seating places and wants to increase the facilities, for example the amount of water taps, microwaves and electric points in the mensa and elsewhere at the Faculty.

Other facilities that are important to SHAPE are the amount of **lockers** currently available. Right now, there are not enough lockers and a lot of lockers are defect.

The **internet connection** has improved considerably during the past year. However, it still does not always work optimally at specific locations. We want to make an inventory of the location of the problems, so that this can be improved if necessary.

Furthermore, the capacity of the **anatomy rooms** is insufficient for the current demand. Due to the constant growth of the Faculty over the past and coming years, the facilities will have to grow as well. We want to achieve this by having a say in future renovation plans.

## Catering

The food in the Mensa has become more expensive every year, while the quality of the food has been the same. In 2020, the contract with the current caterer, Albron, expires. SHAPE will be actively involved with the choice of the new caterer. This way, we want to keep the food

**affordable for students** and we want a broad range in choice to make sure vegetarians, vegans, and other individuals with a diet restriction also have something to choose.

### Internationalization

One of the main goals of the Maastricht University is internationalization". As SHAPE, we fully support this. We think that there is still room for improvement. There can be offered more options to follow **international education**, such as electives and minors. We believe that every student should be given the opportunity to broaden their horizon. We want to **increase** the **capacity** and the **offer** of these international opportunities. This can be achieved if the many relations Maastricht University knows cooperate better, so we can make better use of them for supporting education abroad.

To work together with people of different nationalities, communication is essential. This is important for the workplace but also for mutual integration. Therefore Dutch **language courses** should be offered for free at different levels. In addition, we also want other free language courses to be offered.

### Healthy environment

The FHML is a Faculty where health is central. We would like to see this, not only in our educational programs, but also in our study environment. Taking the nationally imposed smoking ban into account, we are aiming for a **workable smoking policy** during the coming year. Furthermore, we also see opportunities in creating more outdoor seating- and study places and more digital testing instead of paper testing. In the coming year we want to see what the possibilities are with regard to solar panels.

For the **health** of the students, we want to encourage people to take the stairs and offer them the opportunity to study standing at height-adjustable tables and ergonomic seating areas.

### Student well-being

Students often suffer from **stress and burnouts**. Unfortunately, many of these students do not seek help for these problems. SHAPE thinks therefore that it is important that confidential advisors and **student psychologists** are not only more accessible, but also that students are more aware of these options.

Moreover, other students are in need of more study related guidance. Unfortunately, the waiting periods for the **study advisors** and student deans, are too long right now. SHAPE wants to shorten these waiting periods.

Of course, it would be even better to prevent these problems. Because of this, FHML and the university should pay more attention to the **well-being** of students. Well-being of students has to be more implemented in the current curriculum. We see opportunities here, especially with the implementation of the new mentoring programs.

### Visibility of student input

Being a representative does not only mean that you have to voice your opinion, but it also means that you have to **listen** to those who you represent. Next year, our representatives are going to look into possibilities to keep contact with other students and their opinions. For instance, we want to do this by organizing events in which students can give their opinion. This way, SHAPE ensures that the voices of all students within FHML is heard.

In addition, SHAPE wants to increase the **visibility** of the achievements in the Faculty Council. This way, students can see what happens within FHML and can form an opinion about this. To make this happen, SHAPE is in favor of creating a spot in which students can address their questions, improvements and ideas for FHML and the university. If you have such a question, improvement or idea: do not hesitate to contact one of your candidates!

### In conclusion

Finally our candidates will have a critical eye to make sure that the opinions of students are heard. In addition, SHAPE wants to create more transparency about the accomplishments and improvements at FPN and act on the inputs and suggestions of students. We will evaluate the budget, current topics and professor appointments.