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# EDITORIAL

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2023-2024 editorial committee

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## Introduction to the committee

This editorial is the labor of much love, commitment, passion for writing, for the university, for the student experience and most of all, for the truth. It marks the end of a semester full of challenges and changes. It aims to bring real-life experiences to the table—the stories of real people, of current students, of unheard voices. Based on student interviews, academic research work, and personal experiences of the committee members, this editorial contains relevant information and unbiased opinions about the difficult transition from online to physical education, about the upcoming and exciting exchange semesters, and about volunteering as a student, but most importantly as a human, in Tilburg, and beyond. To be in the loop with what is happening in the Global Law bachelor program this academic year, be sure to keep up with this editorial as it is its duty to contain everything happening in the GLB programme at TiU.

# Global Law Magister JFT



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# OFFLINE EDUCATION

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When starting university, some degree of change is always expected. You are potentially moving to a new house, a new town, a new country, or even a new continent. You are forced to make new friends and put yourself in new situations. However, we focus so much on the big life changes we are going through but neglect to look at, analyse, or appreciate the smaller changes. If we as a collective did so more often it could lead to a reduction in stress and a greater appreciation for our respective situations!

A significant transformation occurring this school year, specifically impacting second-year global law students, pertains the transition from online to in-person education, denoted also as "offline education". This transition has induced considerable stress and shock among the students. It is noteworthy, however, that not all students were equally affected by this change as many students were permitted to continue online education due to their residence outside the Netherlands as mandating all the online students to relocate proved impossible as it would require them to uproot their lives and study abroad without much notice.

I have sought insights from several second-year students regarding this switch in and about their coping mechanisms to adapt to it. These responses encapsulate their perspectives on this matter.

The consensus has been that whilst the switch has created a degree of stress, it has overall been a positive change. Several in-person students have stated that they are happy that the previous online students are now on the same "playing field" as them. As it is widely known, the change was particularly done to safeguard the integrity of the degree, driven in part by an increase of plagiarism occurrences during examinations. With the rise of AI, cheating in online exams has become easier than ever. However, people seem more confident now due to the belief that they can pass an exam on own merit as everyone else is doing the same. Online students have also said the measures taken to prevent cheating have been a net positive. The inclusion of post-exam calls is intended to ensure ascertain and challenge the student's understanding of their answers, consequently, minimizing the likelihood of plagiarism. This measure aims to guarantee that the remaining online students do not possess an undue advantage over those undertaking physical exams.



# OFFLINE EDUCATION

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Another positive comment I have received regarding this change is that it has forced students to be further involved in university life. There have been restrictions put in place to prevent in person students from joining online classes, thus they are mandated to participate more in online lectures. This, of course, can be quite a stressful experience for some people but being physically present and included in campus life is good for socialization as one of the most important parts of the university experience. Furthermore, from a more academic point of view, being there physically helps in the better understanding of concepts and materials and it can have a positive impact on organizational skills. This is because, people will be much more inclined to prepare for in person classes and exams rather than ones simply taken from the comfort of their own houses.

On the downside, when you are at home you can make it so there are zero distractions, whereas when taking an exam with hundreds of people it is inevitable that you will be distracted by people going to the bathroom or perhaps even coughing. Nevertheless, it is helpful to get used to an environment like this as it is most like what future work-life would be like.

Let us now address the stress contributing factors and explore potential strategies that may assist students in effectively coping with the transition period. Some students posed with this issue state that the biggest stress generator was possibility of the university being allowed to revise the date of an exam until up to 4 weeks before an exam. In addition to this, many were concerned about the delayed release of exam results, particularly this December and January. The GLB bachelor's degree has a lot of international students due to the nature of the course and many desire to return to their home countries during the holiday season. Even among those students whose family and friends reside close, many desire to fulfil their commitments or holiday plans. Furthermore, the inclination often is to secure cheap flights and secure the tickets even a month or two in advance. The challenge that arises is: How does one plan holidays when examination dates and their results remain uncertain until a later point?

There is always a date that is the guaranteed start of the holidays, when the university is closed. This date can be found on the university website and if your ticket is on the date after it, you cannot be blindsided by a change in dates. Regarding the problem of resit exams, something I have noticed all my friends doing in this first holiday period after the switch is buying the ticket to go home without buying the return flight. However, this does not solve the problem entirely.

When buying the return ticket, it most likely be more expensive and there is a probability of it not being used at all if one needs to come back sooner or later than expected.



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The next issue is something I, and probably most of you, would not generally think about. It is related to the fact that the exams take place in a relatively unfamiliar environment in unfamiliar conditions. An issue has been the difference in the computers and the keyboards that we use during the exams compared to the ones we use at home. While it may appear trivial to some, it can indeed have a discernible impact, particularly concerning keyboard differences in various countries. Configurations and placements of letters differ across places, therefore transitioning from a laptop procured outside the Netherlands when being accustomed to a different type, may pose a significant challenge in typing proficiency. Even for individuals accustomed to a particular keyboard style, variances in design can be substantial.

For example, laptop keys are notably flat, whereas the keys on computer keyboards are thin. For example, laptop keys are notably flat, whereas the keys on the computer keyboards at the university are quite elevated. This aspect, often overlooked, merits consideration and potential practice from students. To mitigate difficulties, it may prove beneficial to familiarize oneself with the feel of different keyboards. A prudent approach could involve utilizing the computers in the university library during visits to acclimate to the unique keyboard experience. Such measures can prevent students from wasting their examination time on correcting typographical errors, allowing for focus on the creation of valuable exam answers.

What other ways can be used to mitigate stress when found in unfamiliar environments? If one cannot change the environment, it has to adapt to it. Thus, one can obviously try to use study techniques that will help them feel more secure in answering questions. For example, you can make sure you do as many practice questions as possible, so as to feel at ease with the material. You can try to visually memorise where things are in the materials so that there is no need to flick through all your notes for every single answer. However, academic tips are not all there is. One student honestly states that something important to her was finding relaxing things to do when not studying to regain strength and will-power. For some, these activities can constitute activities like reading, watching TV shows, engaging in different forms of art and other activities that allow one to run on autopilot and relax. It is also crucial to try and maintain a social life. This is even more crucial to the students' mental health during engaging and eventful times. One must always prioritize mental health before anything else.

# OFFLINE EDUCATION

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For online students not much has changed in terms of how their classes and exams are formatted. However, one new thing that they are having to deal with is the post exams call by the professors of the respective courses. Students used to be able to forget about the exam once it was over, whereas now they must sit and wait for a phone call from a professor that may or may not come. The anxiety of having to wait for something that might not even happen is something many can relate to. It is sometimes difficult underneath all the pressure to remember the questions and the answers right after an exam, let alone two hours later. So, what can be done to make this less stressful? First, get yourself a cup of tea (or whatever drink you prefer), everything is made better with one. Make sure zoom is open and do not constantly check it as it will increase anxiety; as long as you leave your sound on it is very difficult to miss the sound of a zoom call. You could perhaps copy your answers into another document and re-read them after the exam to ensure that you remember what you wrote.

However, a big stressor for most online students is that they aren't paid attention to all the time during classes. This is for a myriad of reasons. Technical errors are not uncommon and can unfortunately really affect the learning experience, with a student or two even saying that sometimes they do not even receive a lecture link. Moreover, when a teacher must juggle teaching students in front of them and teaching students online it can sometimes be difficult to pay attention to the people online who then might in turn feel neglected. This can lead to questions posed by online students often not being answered which can be stressful when someone is trying to be an active participant in a class.

To help with this issue I believe the best thing online students have done is build a community. Global law students we have multiple group chats where they interact with people and ask for help. There is the general group chat with both on and offline students which can be incredibly useful when waiting in a waiting room on zoom for someone to let you in and you need someone in the lecture hall to notify the professor of this. There is also an online student group chat which can help alleviate some stress, especially when seeing people sailing on the same boat as you.

In conclusion, university can be inherently stressful and substantial changes occurring mid- degree only exacerbate these challenges. However, it is imperative to adopt a reflective stance, taking a step back to assess the nature of these changes. By cultivating an appreciation for the adjustments and proactively seeking solutions to mitigate sources of stress, one can navigate through these transformative periods with greater resilience and effectiveness.

**VALENTINA EL ARFAOUI**



# ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME:

THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS



Ever since starting university, I see myself engaging in introspection and continuously wondering about the definition of "home". Simply put, home could be one's family, perhaps where they grew up, or maybe even the place whose culture they identify most with. Home could be a safe place, it could be where most of one's friends live, or it could be a favorite place on earth. One thing is for sure, I did not expect that at some point in my life home would have a split understanding. I did not expect half of home to be in a small city in the Netherlands, in Tilburg...

Credit must be given to Tilburg, it is a student city filled to the brim with dynamism and vibrancy. In the dullness of Dutch weather and the glamour of other cities in The Netherlands, Tilburg is a gem always waiting to be discovered by national and international students. With its welcoming environment, internationality, and lively student life, it exudes a sense of community, togetherness, warmth. of home, all whilst Tilburg University maintains the status of a premier institution in the Netherlands and the world. Why would one ever want to leave? Why would one pack their entire life away, again? These, and many more, were the questions previous or current TiU students had to engage with to give a full review of their exchange experiences.

Tilburg University presents numerous opportunities to students in their third year of studies. Among the most favorite options is the prospect of studying a semester abroad in partner universities worldwide. This process is achieved through the Mobility Online Search Portal, where students find their exchange destinations and university options, specify their academic year and preferred semester, as well as motivate their choice, and list the courses they want to attend. In-depth information on the application process can be found on the Tilburg University website.

The Tilburg University website also offers students aid in choosing their destination by providing them with real-life reports from possible countries and universities, similar to what this article aims to achieve. The reports are only a few pages and can be found on SurfDrive or the Online Search Portal.

It is still advised to delve into this article, as these experiences are fresh off the batch. These narratives unfold in real-time, as the students navigate through the experience as we speak, providing utmost honesty.

# ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME: THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS

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## 1. Haris Ibrahimpašić: Monash University Fall Semester- 2023

Haris Ibrahimpašić is currently engaged in an exchange at Monash University in Australia. He says that what inspired him to study abroad in the first place, when moving to the Netherlands, was the desire to explore diverse cultures and dive into novel experiences. The prospect of exchange rekindled that same desire and this time he wanted to test himself on another continent, outside of Europe, opting for a faraway choice, sunny Australia.



Monash University was a given choice, he says, as he wished to maintain the same caliber of esteemed education as Tilburg University (TiU). Parallel TiU, Monash has exhibited remarkable development in the realm of legal education, proven by the growing number of international students. This international setting was an obligatory factor for Haris in choosing both Tilburg and Monash.

Furthermore, regarding course selection, Haris advises, choosing courses aligning with the program one attends at TiU. He underscores that his focus was on choosing courses that were not a repetition of what was already covered at his home university, yet remained congruent with his existing expertise in global law. He also noted that his choices gravitated towards legal domains that spiked his interest but had not been extensively detailed at his home university to quench his thirst for knowledge.

After choosing and starting courses, Haris admits that the hardest adjustments he encountered were related to academic life. He candidly acknowledges that the length and the structure of lectures, the quantity and volume of the materials, and the different methods of examination were difficult to acclimatize to.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Haris exudes genuine motivation concerning having gained numerous friendly and professional connections that he would not have been possible otherwise. Future global lawyers need to know that he underscores the proficiency he gained in two different legal systems, all whilst maintaining a steadfast international perspective.

All in all, Haris advocates the notion of venturing out of your comfort zone and engaging in a quest for personal and academic self-growth. When being interviewed, he showed security about his future trajectory as a global lawyer, a fortification of the additional global perspective on his resume. His assurance and enthusiasm are encouraging and serve as an inspiration to embark on such an endeavor...



## ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME: THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS

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### 2. Flavia Halimi - University of Nottingham- England - alumni- fall semester 2022

Flavia is one of TiU's newest alumni, with her graduation taking place this October. She decided to embark on the journey of exchange last year during the fall semester, at the University of Nottingham, England.



Exchange for Flavia was an adventure of different cultures, people, and perspectives, not only on a personal level but also on an academic level. That is why she

chose the UK as her destination. Firstly her academic institution aligned very well with her major and offered her unique courses that were not available in detail at home, just like for Haris. Furthermore, she wanted to gain experience in a common law country, as the Netherlands is a civil law one. Even though her courses were international, the common law perspective still piqued her interest. After all, comparative law is one of the pillars of global law at TiU.

Nottingham was an obvious choice for her due to the presence of many acquaintances from TiU and more and due to the international environment, which seems to be a recurring theme and requirement.

Flavia provided us with close-up information on the courses she chose. She decided to take up two bachelor-level courses and two master-level, to get a preview of her upcoming master studies. Furthermore, in her choices, she chose topics that she wanted to dive deeper into than TiU, such as "The Private International Law of Intellectual Property", after having studied Private International Law at TiU. This continuation of her studies made her realize that she finds IP law quite interesting.

Nevertheless, Flavia emphasizes that she had to make a hard adjustment during her experience. She quickly realized that not having the same routine and adapting to a new environment filled with culture clashes was more difficult than her academic adaptation. She states she missed the comfort and peace of Tilburg most of all and that sometimes loneliness took a toll on her at times.

Needless to say, Flavia overcame any difficulties in her exchange. She was able to score a tier-1 grade (70%+) in her master's courses while being an undergraduate student. Furthermore, she gives us the best advice: To live in the moment and cherish what we have in front of us, before it's too late...

## ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME: THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS

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### 3. Nikola Grochowska- IE Madrid- SPAIN- fall semester 2023

Spain is one of the most famous exchange destinations at TiU, with IE University standing at the top of the list for its internationality and its highly prestigious education. One cannot forget to mention the appeal of the Spanish language and culture. All of these, and more, seem to be the reasons for Nikola Grochowska's choice for exchange. She could finally practice her Spanish with native speakers, whilst embarking on another international experience, just two years after starting one at TiU!

Nikola advises the readers to check the private universities TiU has a partnership with, because she considers it as a chance to look at certain opportunities that could be difficult and expensive, without incurring the full price of being a student there. This was one of the main reasons on why she chose IE University.

Furthermore, Nikola adds that IE's niche courses were an addition to what she had learned at TiU. The courses on modern issues such as climate change or cyber operations, allowed her to engage with public international law, whose foundations she had established at TiU. However, the curriculum at IE also helped her to gain further expertise in Litigation, which was not necessarily part of the curriculum at TiU, but is still a vital part of being a lawyer.

No new adventure stands without its difficulties. Nikola states the process of de-registering and ending insurance in the Netherlands was more burdensome than she had expected. However, administrative actions in Spain proved to be easier, as registration and taking out insurance was not obligatory for exchange students. She, nevertheless, advises paying for insurance to prospective exchange students in Spain.

Another difficulty was adaptation with the change in the method of teaching. At IE, Nikola found herself in the midst of smaller and more interactive lectures, as well as an abundance of group presentations, moot courts and essays as assessment methods for classes. After gaining more experience with these quite interactive methods, she was able to manage and adjust quickly.

Nikola also experienced some cultural shocks, especially compared to life in the Netherlands. As it is known by many others, Madrid is one of the capital cities in Europe for partying and clubbing, in contrast to the night life in Tilburg which is existent, but more compact. Nikola tells the readers that if one is a fan of clubbing, Madrid is the place to go, especially when aiming socialization and cultural immersion.

## ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME: THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS

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However, she experienced a lot of cultural shocks, when of them being embedded in the difference between Dutch efficacy and Spanish easygoingness. In Spain, she states, you will not arrive on time, and that is totally okay! There is no same sense of urgency when doing administrative tasks or even in daily conversations with friends. Nikola admits that, after a while, one gets used to a sense of “whatever comes, comes”. One gets used to saying ‘no pasa nada!’ (Doesn’t matter!) or ‘vamos a ver’ (we will see) when doing things...there is a sense of unexperienced beauty and serenity to it.

Nikola’s answers are quite inspiring. She goes on about how her Spanish skills improved and how much her confidence grew when practicing the language with friends. She emphasizes how “the big city life” showed her things that her life in Tilburg, or in Poland, had not shown her before, especially when considering and imagining her future career paths. She voices that sometimes it is best to go out of your room or leave the screen of the library computers to hop on a train to visit a city nearby or explore a museum. One sentence stuck out in interview, which should be read and understood by all exchange enthusiasts: “The experience has shown me that life is really not all about being a student and sitting behind your computer in a library, but also about actually immersing yourself in the culture you’re placed in and seeing for yourself how it actually is”.

### 4. Hanga Pasztor- University of Turin- Italy- fall semester 2023

Hanga, like many other TiU students, was allured by the beautiful country of Italy. TiU offers some very prestigious connections to Italian universities, where students can find out something more about this dream destination other than what is portrayed in movies and media.

Hanga chose Turin because the university there offered human centered courses, a very important point of reference for her decision, as opposed to corporate and business law courses.

Despite some repetitions in the curriculum,

Hanga describes the courses in Turin as a great alignment with what she studies at TiU. The foundations she had created were detailed in the best way in Turin, especially in the field of law she is so passionate about. Furthermore, the exam seasons were also similarly aligned with those of TiU, giving her a sense of familiar continuity.

Packing away one’s life for six months is never easy, logistically or emotionally, but this was not Hanga’s first rodeo. Nevertheless, the sense of shock of your life being summarized into two suitcases, never gets easier. It made her question the meaning of permanence and home, as she now belonged not to two, but to three homes. Nevertheless, she advises TiU students to still try and bring something with them that represents them and is very personal to them, to recover and to resettle a sense of belonging wherever one is.



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### 5. Camila Carrion- Manheim University- Germany- fall semester 2023

Manheim University was also not a choice left to chance. Camila goes on about the reputation and the high-quality education of the university. It is also a university from which students have taken courses as part of the Engage EU program, giving her some previous knowledge on the courses she was going to take.



She aimed to expand her knowledge and take courses that were new to her, such as litigation finance or humanitarian law. She wanted to explore many different options, whilst still maintaining a global perspective, something she was very much able to achieve. Proximity does not mean that Camila did not have to adjust to a whole different culture, environment and new people. As soon as she went to Germany, she realized that people did not speak as much English as they did in the Netherlands, which made it more difficult to familiarize with the place and the people. Moreover, movement with the bike especially in larger distances was also not easy to adapt to.

In terms of education, Camila underwent a significant shift when it came to the free time she had. Due to the differences in the system, the courses in Germany were worth more credits, giving Camila less classes to attend and a lot of self-studying opportunities. This adjustment facilitated the enhancement of her research, writing, and self-studying techniques, skills that remain indispensable even at TiU. Notably, the prevalence of final essays in German courses further honed her essay-writing proficiency, and organizational capabilities, and instilled a newfound sense of discipline.

Despite these academic gains, Camila expressed a heartfelt longing for her friends in Tilburg, the vibrant year-round activities and festivals in the city, and the campus environment, which she believed offered a plethora of enjoyable and efficient study spaces.

Nevertheless, she states that her exchange experience is one of the best things she has ever done. She emphasized that certain lessons and experiences are only attainable through trial and error.

## ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME: THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS

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To conclude, we extend our perspective by offering an alternative point of view, that of an exchange student coming to Tilburg for a change. Perhaps, their perspective could make the students appreciate the things in Tilburg and at TiU that go unnoticed, overlooked, and taken for granted.

### **Anna: University of Trento, Italy; TiU, The Netherlands- fall semester 2023**

Anna is a zealous 3rd. year student of law in Trento, Italy. When thinking of exchange, she aimed at challenging herself and understanding what person she would want to be in the future and this self-discovery journey took her to the Netherlands. The Netherlands was the optimal choice due to the high level of education, especially in speaking and teaching English proficiency.

Tilburg University lured her by being a well-organized university and very focused on student well-being. The ranking also deeply impressed her and made her choice very easy. The international perspective of the curriculum was intriguing, yet very well adaptive to her won curriculum, a national law curriculum, back home. Her home university did advise her on choosing certain courses, however, most were chosen by her areas of interest. TiU had so many options to choose from, which made her choice so difficult, but so much more existing and interesting for her.



Anna states that she does not regret this exchange at all. Even though it was tough to get used to a new method of teaching and assessing which is particular to the Netherlands, she said it was easily adjustable and only difficult in the very beginning. She does note that in The Netherlands a lot is based on self-studying, which seems to be an academic culture shock for her, but a positive one that improved her study and adaptation skills.

Nevertheless, she seemed so grateful for her experiences here at TiU. She felt right at home when strangers from all over the world on this international and multi-disciplinary campus became her closest friends in just three months. This dynamism keeps her going, even when missing home because it is an experience that comes once in a lifetime that she would not have traded for the world

# ALL THE ROADS LEAD YOU HOME: THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE SEMESTERS

All these narratives are a reminder of Tilburg University's motto, "Understanding society". Societies are a combination of different people and different people are a combination of experiences, countries, backgrounds, cultures, perspectives, and ideas. To excel at fulfilling this motto and serve the whole of society, one has to engage in this diversity and most importantly, pine for it. Tilburg offers a dynamic vibrancy of perspectives and when there is lust for more, there is also a way to go abroad and seek it elsewhere offered by TiU. Nevertheless, one can hardly forget, that Tilburg awaits, welcoming as ever, as what most of us now consider their second home...

**SARA RAPI**



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# AIESEC AND THE NOUR PROJECT

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'Understanding society' is the goal that drives ambitions here, at Tilburg University. It is a principle that seems to fit very well with the projects of AIESEC, a student organisation dedicated to offering young people the opportunity to engage in immersive, intercultural exchange programs. These programs mainly aim at making an impact in underprivileged communities and spreading intercultural awareness, by means of connecting people from different geographic regions, with diverging backgrounds and beliefs. The students of AIESEC acknowledged that, in order to understand society, one must look beyond the nearby borders, local customs, and personal beliefs. The Nour Project is one of their hallmark programs. By going on a Nour Project, students get the opportunity to experience the MENA region firsthand. The MENA region is comprised of countries situated in the Middle East and North Africa. The specific exchange destinations change year by year, but one can expect a trip to Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, or Jordan.

For more details, we have interviewed Laik Sarah and De Smet Freek.



## **Tell me about the NOUR Project...**

It is a non-profit project, with the purpose of 'bridging the gap' between cultures. It is a volunteering opportunity, revolving around specific SDGs (the UN Sustainable Development Goals) and linked to target locations from the MENA region. By participating you are challenged into dismantling prejudices and pushing your limits. There are two Nour periods: in the Winter and in the Summer, and they last from 6 to 8 weeks. Everything works on the basis of a matching process: after the student submits their motivation and participates in an interview, they are being assessed for their suitability with a specific targeted sub-project. According to their personal goals and inclinations they are being 'matched' to a country and a particular sub-project. Examples of such sub-projects are programs aimed at promoting sustainable local tourism and employment in the region, engaging in non-formal teaching to upscale literacy, building initiatives to stop gender inequality, and participating in fieldwork for the protection of marine ecosystems. Important to note is that it consists in significant effort, that is, full time work (30- 40 hours per week).

# AIIESEC AND THE NOUR PROJECT

## How does AIESEC facilitate this experience for you?

AIESEC is a network of local committees spread across countries, that are in partnership with one another. Before the exchange, both the organisation of origin and the 'welcoming' organisation clearly set out their responsibilities vis-à-vis each other and the participant. Our support system is carefully thought to ensure that you always have someone to rely on and someone to help you in integrating and adapting to the culture you are getting in touch with. The receiving AIESEC committee organizes activities, such as



city trips and dinners, so that you are never on your own there, but on the contrary, you always feel welcomed. We also prepare you in detail for your leave and stay. Throughout the exchange period we are the ones guiding the process and trying to fulfill your needs as much as possible. Furthermore, for several destinations accommodation is provided by AIESEC, but it is not guaranteed everywhere.

## Why should a Global Law student take part in the Nour Project?

Global Law students are, to our mind, the perfect candidates for this project, and based on our reports, they are also the most successful. They prove to be very aware of their surroundings and willing to make an impact. What is very important is that they are always on the lookout for new ways to help. This is one of the reasons why we would love to see more students from Global Law participating in the future. From what they've told us when they returned from the projects is that they gained an enhanced sense of purpose, they felt grateful for the opportunity they have been given and also were happy they could bring about something meaningful.

## What is AIESEC to you?

AIESEC essentially means expanding your boundaries, going out of your comfort zone and developing yourself as much as possible, all the while adapting to radically different, new environments. It is all about setting goals and achieving them. Of course, it also requires thorough work, especially if you commit yourself to participating in one of our projects. It has taught us a great deal about communication, about the importance of reaching consensus and different ways of getting your message across. Ultimately, AIESEC is about working with people to achieve the big 'mission' of bringing together what appears to be different.





# AIESEC AND THE NOUR PROJECT

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**How does AIESEC facilitate this experience for you?**

**What makes AIESEC stand out from other similar organisations?**

We plan for the long-term, always pursuing sustainable goals. Also, we are a tight-knitted network: help can go all the way, crossing borders. We are in close collaboration and constant contact with other AIESEC organisations worldwide, so that we always know about and engage with the people we send on our programs. We also have a strict recruitment process that ensures that all our candidates genuinely value what they are doing and the time spent in the receiving community.

We thank both Sarah and Freek for their interview. Our understanding is that AIESEC, especially the Nour Project, is the perfect opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and broaden your horizons! Their mission is commendable: bringing the Other into the realm of Togetherness. Ultimately, the Nour Project is the kind of experience that shapes you into a global citizen, and this is the goal that every Global Law student should keep in mind. The deadlines for application can be found on the website:

<https://aiesec.nl/global-volunteer/nour/> .

**ARUNA-CARLA BOT**



# UNICEF: STUDENT VOLUNTEERING IN TILBURG, AND BEYOND

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“When children’s children shall talk of War as a madness that may not be; When we blazon from sea to sea the banner of Peace ... that will be Victory”

- Robert W. Service

While I was thinking of applying for Global Law, the closest thing to Death I have ever seen was the Pandemic. The fears it sparked made some of us grow a little faster, in the quiet of our own homes. One could say, university programs focused on promoting global justice and cooperation didn’t need to invest much in advertising at such times. All the promos were already in the news headlines - they screamed for you in tongues and in signs everybody could understand, although not many were willing to.



It’s not even that the world as we know is dying. Death is a more sudden event, unforeseen, unstoppable, and natural. What is happening to our world is not Death, but rather rotting from the inside out little by little, controlled - if not driven. A disease, yet much expected. The Pandemic was the first Big Death I understood. It made me realise there is a need for someone to speak out a little - but loud enough to cover the Silence of this “insane calmness” (Scott Veitch, 2007). So I enrolled in this program, at this university. It seemed the best option for people who are uncomfortable with this type of Silence...

Then the war in Ukraine started. To my disappointment, the institutions I held in high regard were acting as by-standers to violent chaos. After I came to Tilburg, in my first year of studies, I got even more convinced that the institutional framework, whether on a national level, regional, supranational, or international was not enough to put an end to world suffering. On the contrary, it was sometimes encouraging suffering, this time in the shape of war, providing justifications for yet another round of victims - treated like emptied bullet shells after a game of Russian roulette. There is an acute need to supplement the institutional skeleton.

In nearly two years of war in Ukraine, an estimate 1,800 children’s lives have been lost. Now, in Gaza, after more than 3 months of war, over 10,000 children have been killed.

Today, as I watch the news, the Big Deaths don’t shock me anymore. It made me realise we have become desensitised to suffering. We open the TV, we hear numbers, maybe names, we think ‘how awful’ and then we go about our day.

But some people actively keep themselves sensitive to the world’s suffering. They hear it, listen closely, and ask in return ‘How can we help?’. Some of them are part of UNICEF International.

# UNICEF: STUDENT VOLUNTEERING IN TILBURG, AND BEYOND

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This non-profit, apolitical NGO also has its place in Tilburg, among the student community. Luuc Marchand is currently on the board of the UNICEF Student Team Tilburg. He seems to be among those who are uncomfortable with the Silence that I was talking about. He agreed to speak to us about what UNICEF and volunteering mean to him. This is a transcript of our interview:

## 1. What is UNICEF to you?

I think UNICEF is a place and group where we can all work together as volunteers to fight for each child's rights, no matter who you are or where you come from. It's beautiful to see people from all walks of life work together to achieve a shared goal. You can have a great time here, but the main goal is to help, which I think is beautiful. It's also something that I see in everyone.

## 2. What did you learn about yourself from your experience as a member of UNICEF?

The greatest thing I learned is probably to try to understand and acknowledge everyone's problems. Of course, as a volunteer and board member for UNICEF, you hear many stories about the problems that are going on, but by listening to all the different stories, you learn that someone can deal with their problems differently than you or I do. And by understanding where it's coming from, it makes the conversation easier.

## 3. What did you learn about the world and other people from your experience as a member of UNICEF?



unicef  
for every child

That brings me back to my second point, where I see that so many people react and act so differently to issues and problems. By having the conversation, you understand how others react, and you try to learn from this. That way, you will become better at listening, but also at solving the problem, or at least trying to do something about it. Conversations with others make it much easier to understand someone's problems, so it will be easier to start the conversation next time.

# UNICEF: STUDENT VOLUNTEERING IN TILBURG, AND BEYOND

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## 4. How did UNICEF challenge you?

As a board member, it challenged me to work on a board with students who all have a very busy university and work schedule. You are challenged to be more adaptive and flexible while you try to find possibilities for events we want to host. Furthermore, it differs from person to person and from company to company, but I noticed that it's either really easy to work with others because they support our common goal or that it's really hard to collaborate with others because we need to ask sometimes for favours.

## 5. Why is volunteering the best choice for an extracurricular activity (for a student)?

For me, volunteering is something that I really like to do. It's not only about giving back to the community, whether this is on a small or larger scale; it's also about the fact that I do think there are major issues going on in the world right now. And I truly believe that if we all did just a little bit more, the world would be such a better place. Not only the NGO's, charities, or other organisations that share these common interests, but literally everybody. Furthermore, as I previously mentioned, you come across people who all have the same goal: that they want to contribute to a better world and that they want to help in general. Here, you can expand your network and meet other people who often share the same interests.

## 6. How do your volunteering activities at UNICEF shape you into a 'global citizen'?

I think partly because volunteering for UNICEF showed me that the world is so much bigger than you think, where there are so many things and problems going on in the world that you even had no idea about. Due to the fact that UNICEF tries to battle all the child crises in the world, you are also aware of the issues that are not covered that much in the media. Whether it's about poverty, social injustice, education, or the protection of children from violence, at UNICEF we try to cover and tackle it all.

## 7. How does UNICEF Student Team Tilburg 'fit' into the global UNICEF Network? Are there any international activities organized by the Tilburg Team?

I think the most important part of fitting into the global UNICEF network is that we all share the same goal, and we all try to work together to achieve as much as we can. And I truly feel like the bigger the community, the greater the result. The activities that we organise are of an international nature, but we haven't collaborated with an international organisation outside of the Netherlands.



# **UNICEF: STUDENT VOLUNTEERING IN TILBURG, AND BEYOND**

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## **8. Tell me about your favourite activity that you took part in as a member of UNICEF.**

Before I became a volunteer and board member of UNICEF, I worked as a sales ambassador for multiple charity organisations. Last year, together with our board members, we hosted an event in the library. We were making professional pictures for people's resumes or LinkedIn. During this event, I could combine both my previous work experience and my passion for volunteering, which I enjoyed doing. We also encountered many students who didn't need a picture for their LinkedIn but still wanted to donate to our cause because they liked what we stood for and that we took the time to do so.



Magister JFT is thankful to Luuc for his insight.

Now, in my life, I have been involved in many volunteering projects. However, until this year when I also applied to UNICEF, I hadn't been a part of something as big and beautiful as this organisation. Dedicated to the young, UNICEF is the perfect opportunity for You to speak your way out of the Silence. I invite you, not only as a member of UNICEF, or the author of this article, but as a human, and a recent 'graduate' of childhood, to get out there and help. Don't just do what has to be done for the CV. Resumes become quite redundant in a rotting world; don't You think? Shift a little of your attention to what really matters and get involved in the opportunities that are being offered to you, so that you make this campus a place of Life, and Community. Can't wait to see you at our events!

**ARUNA-CARLA BOT**

# MEET THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS!!!

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HELLO EVERYONE! MY NAME IS SARA RAPI, I AM A SECOND-YEAR GLOBAL LAW STUDENT FROM ALBANIA AND I AM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. WRITING HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY STRONGEST PASSION. IN THE PAST, I CONTINUOUSLY INVOLVED MYSELF IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE COMPETITIONS AND I EVEN HAVE AN INSTAGRAM PAGE DEDICATED TO MY CREATIVE WRITING. IN HIGH SCHOOL I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF CREATING A SCHOOL MAGAZINE AND IT WAS A VERY FULFILLING AND FRUITFUL EXPERIENCE. THIS IS WHY I COULD NOT PASS THE OPPORTUNITY OF ENGAGING MYSELF IN THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY AND THIS TEAM. THIS COMMITTEE AND THIS EDITORIAL ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE LESSON THAT IF YOU TRULY LOVE SOMETHING, YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND WAYS OF MAKING IT FLOURISH IN YOUR LIFE. THUS, AS PART OF THIS COMMITTEE, I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT MY TEAM AND I PROVIDE THE READERS WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION AND TOUCHING STORIES...



HI EVERYONE! MY NAME IS ARUNA-CARLA BOT, I AM A SECOND-YEAR GLOBAL LAW STUDENT, AND I AM ORIGINALLY FROM ROMANIA. SOME THINGS ABOUT ME: I LOVE DANCING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND COOKING. THIS YEAR I AM THE SECRETARY OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF MAGISTER JFT. I AM SO HAPPY TO BE WORKING WITH SUCH AN AMAZING TEAM, AND I AM EXTREMELY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER NEXT! 🍷



HELLO! I'M VALENTINA EL ARFAOUI AND I'M ALSO A SECOND-YEAR GLOBAL LAW STUDENT. I'M HALF ITALIAN AND HALF TUNISIAN BUT I MOSTLY GREW UP I'M THE UK! I LOVE WRITING SO I'M SUPER EXCITED TO BE A PART OF THIS COMMITTEE. APART FROM WRITING I LOVE CROCHETING AND LISTENING TO MUSIC. I HOPE YOU'VE ALL ENJOYED WHAT WE'VE WRITTEN.

**NEXT EDITION OF THE MAGISTER JFT GLB EDITORIAL: COMING SOON....**

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**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE FEATURED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE MAGISTER JFT GLB EDITORIAL? LEAVE YOUR WISHES, IDEAS OR RECCOMENTATIONS IN THE LINK BELOW:**

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