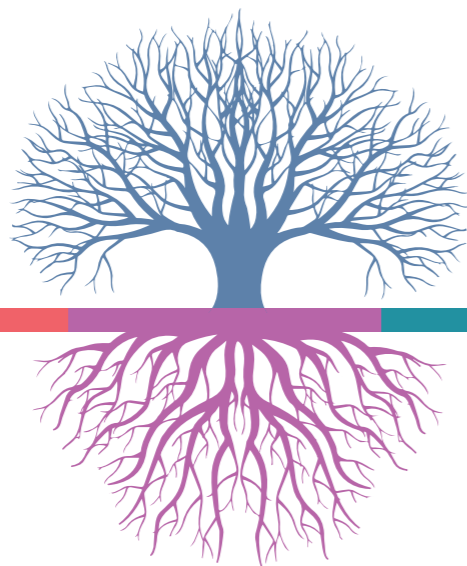


Van  
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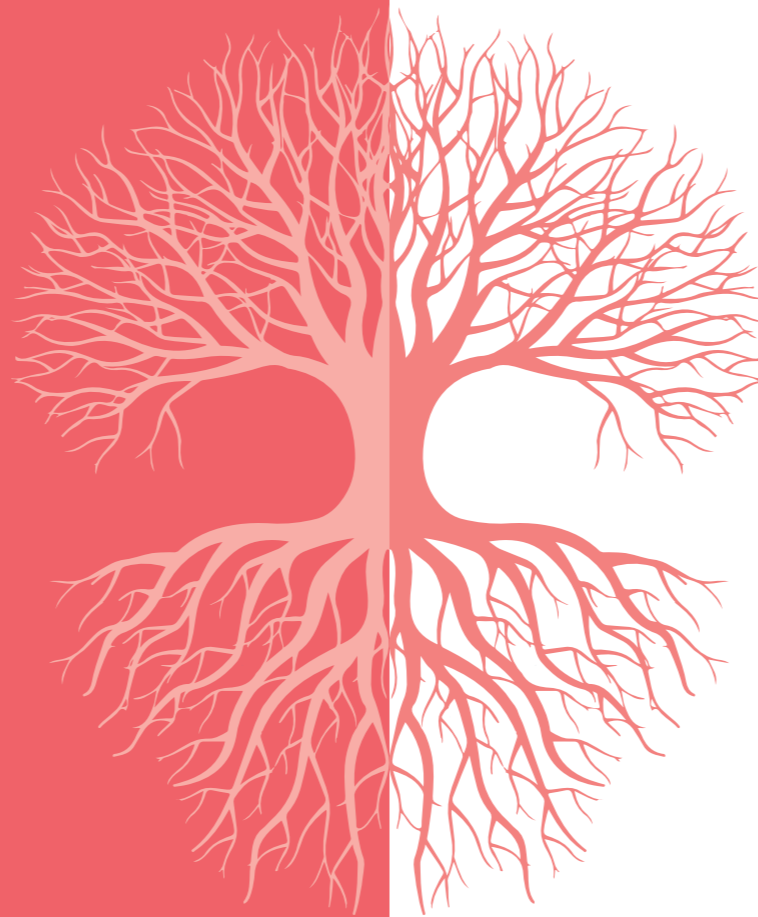
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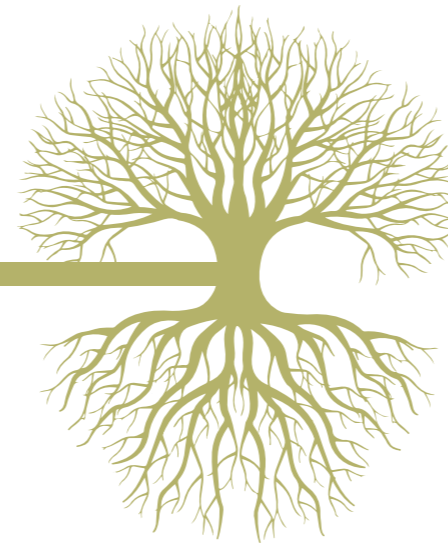
**T**he Van Bergen Fund encourages students and staff to take up the challenge of bringing Leiden University students closer together. We know that studying in an international community generates new insights and inspiring contacts. Students can encounter linguistic and cultural differences in international classrooms. But there is also life outside the classroom. It's not always easy for students, be it from the Netherlands or any other country, to socialise and make friends. We shouldn't take it for granted that all international students feel at home. There is clearly a need to stimulate contact between international and Dutch students, which is what the Van Bergen Fund is all about. This goal was highly relevant back in 2006 when the number of international students was rather small. It is now even more so, given that Leiden University has more than 2000 international students from all corners of the globe. The need to actively facilitate integration has never been greater. My wife Ada and I are very happy to see that the Van Bergen Fund has succeeded in playing a role in stimulating contact between Dutch and international students. This has been made possible by the inspiring and fruitful cooperation with Leiden University and its many students and staff. This booklet is a homage to all who have played a part, and hopefully also a stimulus to others in the years to come.

Joris van Bergen



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The image of a tree and its roots is a metaphor for the Van Bergen Fund. Through the fund a seed has been planted that has developed into a mighty tree. The network of roots and branches represents the relationships that students have formed with each other, thanks to the many projects supported by the fund. The Van Bergen Fund has served, and continues to serve, as a foundation for an ever-growing network of students.

## THE VAN BERGEN COMPETITION

# Get inspired!

The Van Bergen Competition was launched to inspire students and staff of Leiden University to come up with initiatives to encourage contact between Dutch and international students. The Van Bergen Fund awards a cash prize that allows plans to be put into action. The prize is awarded during Leiden University's annual Diversity Symposium.

This booklet contains nine inspiring initiatives from Leiden University students and staff. Why don't you participate in the competition? Get inspired and come up with an innovative idea. The Van Bergen Fund is looking forward to receiving your idea for the next Van Bergen Competition!



# Dine together!

At Leiden United, participants are called IP (international partner) and UP (Dutch student, university partner). An IP will be connected to a UP based on common interests. IP's and UP's have dinner together with their groups twice a month, each time at a different hosting fraternity. They can also participate in other activities that are organized by Leiden United, such as 'borrels' (social drinks), international food nights, and various trips to Dutch hot spots. Leiden United was a successful initiative from day one. Today it is a recognised student association located in Plexus Student Centre. The number of participants is growing every year and Leiden United is now known as one of the biggest internationally oriented student associations in Leiden!



# Row that boat!

Njord, founded in 1874, is the oldest Dutch student rowing club. In 2012 it initiated international membership, which enabled international students to join the association.

Custom-made programmes are offered for international students during their stay in Leiden. Students are assigned to an eight-person boat with a Dutch coach. On top of that fun social activities are held for Dutch and international students alike. A great way for everyone to get to know each other!

Rowing with Njord is one of the activities included in the Winter OWL (Orientation Week Leiden for international students).



# Van BERGEN cup

12:00 - 18:00

Sports:

volleyball, football,  
field hockey and dodgeball

18:00 - 21:00

BBQ

23:00 - 02:00

Party  
ft.  
best DJ's from LUC



WINNER 2012 | VAN BERGEN CUP

## Get moving!

Leiden University College's student organisation, Fortuna, organised an indoor football tournament for both Dutch and international students. Ninety enthusiastic participants, both male and female, got moving and came to Leiden University Sport Centre to take part. After an afternoon of matches and an exciting final the winners were awarded the Van Bergen Cup. At the end of the afternoon participants celebrated a great sporting day out with a well-deserved BBQ.





# Speak up!

The Dutch Language and Culture Committee (DLCC) offers students of Leiden University College the opportunity to learn Dutch and get to know the culture of the Netherlands. Classes take place in an open and welcoming environment under the guidance of Ms. Lieke Schreel, a highly experienced teacher of Dutch as a foreign language. Lessons are further enriched by a group of enthusiastic tutors who hold small group and individual practice sessions for students. During the one and a half hour classes both grammar and conversation are covered. There are classes for both beginners and more advanced students. As well as learning the language students also have the opportunity to learn more about Dutch culture and traditions. Dutch holidays are celebrated and participants enjoy excursions to typical Dutch tourist attractions.





# Help the locals!

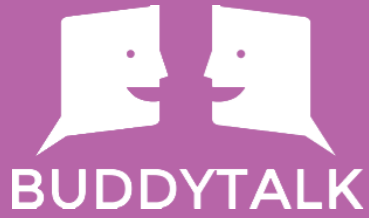
Be Present is an activity organised by Contrast Leiden that aims to connect Dutch and international students through volunteering. It is funded by Christian students from around Leiden. Their aim is to make international students feel at home in Leiden. Over the past two years Contrast Leiden has organised more than ten Be Present projects in which Dutch and international students work together to help out Leiden citizens. Projects have varied from painting a house to board games with the elderly, and are always brought to a fun-filled conclusion with social activities for the students. Students who have taken part thoroughly enjoyed seeing a different side of Dutch society and doing something fun and helpful. In the words of one participant: "I really liked it! It was a fun thing to do for myself and it also helped other people, so what's not to like about it"? Be Present also inspired one participant to write a blog about her experiences. Through this project the Van Bergen Fund has facilitated a positive intercultural experience which is also helpful, educational and enjoyable!



# Break a leg!

The Leiden International Arts & Theatre Foundation was founded to unite artistic and non-artistic communities, from both Dutch and international backgrounds, through performance art. LIAT's goal is to engage the whole Leiden community and beyond in arts and theatre. The foundation facilitates the exchange and expression of artistic talent within the Leiden student community. Dutch and international students not only take part in theatrical performances, they are also the producers. LIAT also holds theatre improvisation workshops and organises the Arts International Symposium and Arts Feedback Dinner.





# Let's communicate!

Leiden University hosts a large number of international students. It can be a real challenge for Dutch and international students to get to know their peers and understand each other's cultures, customs and identity. One of the key tools (and obstacles) when it comes to understanding one another is language. However taking a language course requires two things students don't usually have: money and time.

Buddy Talk is a language exchange platform for international and Dutch students at Leiden University. Students sign up to join Buddy Talk and are registered in an online database. By means of a Buddy Scan (questionnaire) students can specify which language(s) they speak and wish to learn. A match is then made with a fellow student, taking into account each student's background and preferences. All that remains is for buddies to get together in pairs and teach each other their language.

Buddy Talk combines cultural exchange, teaching, learning and having fun all at the same time. As well as learning a foreign language the platform also offers other advantages for students: it can help to build personal skills and even improve a student's résumé. The ultimate objective is enhancing cultural exchange and understanding through language.



# Fun and friendship!

The Leiden Science China Community organises the International Friendship Cup. The idea was based on the Olympic Games and aims to bring the Chinese community into contact with other cultures. Organisers encourage participants to form their own intercultural sports teams. Games include football, volleyball and badminton. At the end of the event the champions will be awarded the Friendship Cup. The day's activities will be brought to a festive close with a barbecue.





**AIESEC**

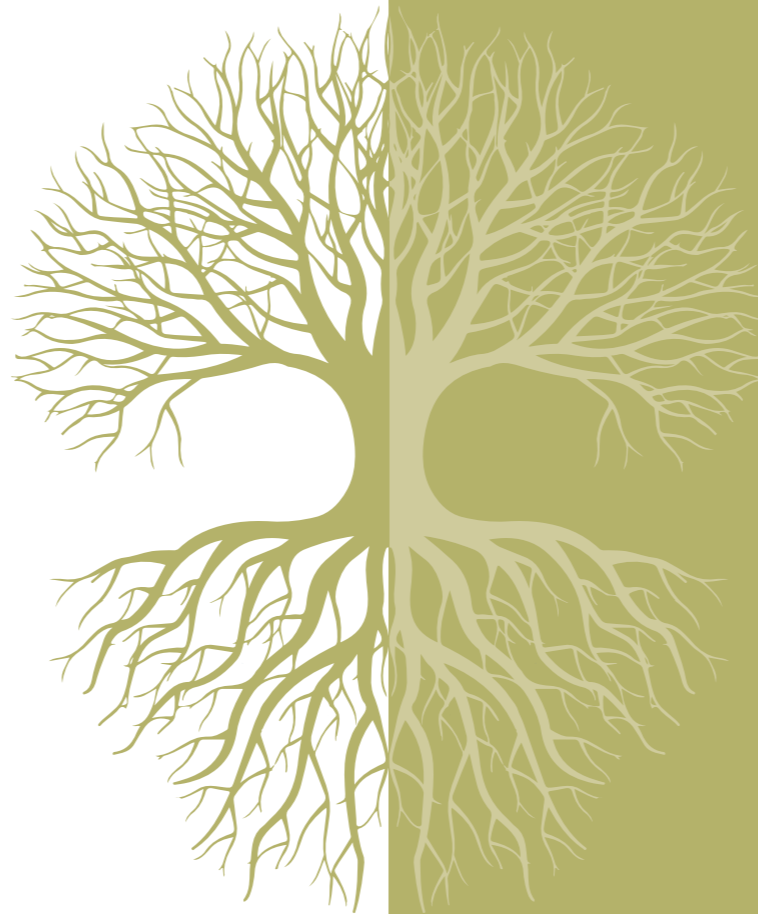


# Learning together!

AIESEC, SV Sabr, ISN and SPIL together took on the challenge of improving collaboration between international students and Dutch students. To do so they invited students to an evening of fun, information and meeting new people called the Global Village. In fact two Global Villages will be organised in 2016. During the first Global Village experts were invited to give their opinions on the current situation in the Middle East. Students and staff also got to enjoy an Arabic experience by eating middle eastern food, getting a henna tattoo and learning more about the stories behind the refugee situation. Prof. Maurits Berger from the Clingendael Institute for International Relations gave a lecture about the impact western media framing has on our perception of the Middle East by comparing the situation portrayed in the media to the real situation in the region. After his lecture an informal market was organised during which participants got to learn more about the subject as well as meeting fellow students, refugees and professionals.



# What's your idea to improve contact between Dutch and international students?



Have you got a creative idea about how to improve contact between Dutch and international students? Of the 23,000 students at Leiden University, 2,000 come from abroad. There are students of around 110 different nationalities in The Hague and Leiden. How can we make sure they interact with one another? Why don't you get together with your fellow students and come up with a proposal? The Van Bergen Fund will support the most creative and innovative idea and help you put your plan into action!

## Who can submit a plan?

The competition is open to everyone:

- International and Dutch students
- PhD candidates
- Lecturers
- Administrative and support staff of the University
- Student and study associations
- Combinations of groups and organisations

## More information:

<http://universiteitleiden.nl/van-bergen-fund>

The Van Bergen Fund is looking forward to hearing your idea!







Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands



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