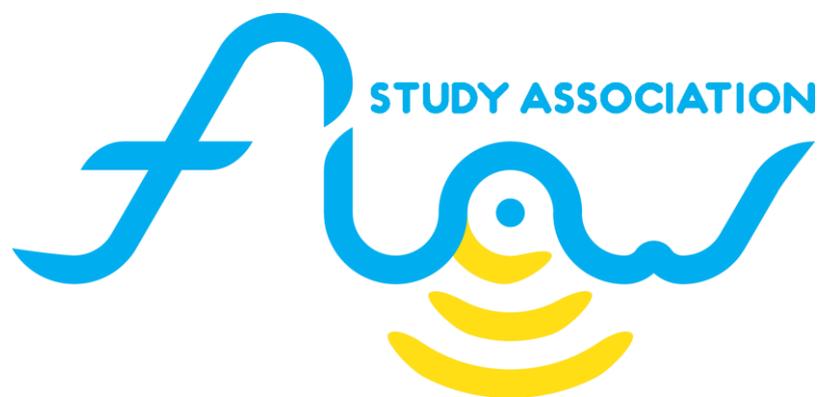


Policy

Association year 2019-2020



Dore de Smidt – Chair
Fenna Lambregts – Secretary & Vice-Chair
Alieke Bakker – Treasurer
Ivo de Haan – Internal Affairs
Anne Ninteman – External Affairs



1. Preface

Dear members of Flow, dear interested parties,

At this moment you are reading the policy written by the Candidate Board 2019-2020 of Study Association Flow. After numerous brainstorming sessions, transmission meetings and policy sessions, the policy plan has been shaped into what it is today. During the brainstorming, the three pillars of Flow, professional, educational and social, were always kept in mind. Inspiration came from our own experiences and the experiences of the Daily Boards of recent years to create a policy plan that is as up to date and relevant as possible.

In the coming year, we will strive to achieve our goals as well as possible and to help the association even further. Lack of enthusiasm and motivation will definitely not be to blame! We can't wait to get started and hope for your support.

On behalf of the Candidate Board 2019-2020,

Dore de Smidt
Chair



2. Introduction

Study Association Flow is the study association for students of Communication and Information Sciences, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and (pre-)master students of Data Science and Society at Tilburg University. The aim of the association is to look after the interests, in the broadest sense of the word, of students of Tilburg University who are enrolled in the Communication and Information Sciences, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and the (pre-)master's degree in Data Science and Society. This is done based on three pillars: Educational, Professional and Social.

Under the Educational pillar, everything related to study guidance is included. This includes the sale of books and summaries, educational activities, tutoring, help with studying, help with choosing a minor and a master, study rooms during examination periods, etc.

Under the Professional pillar, everything related to labor market orientation is included. This includes workshops, company visits, the study trip, career events, etc. Moreover, professional also means the professionalism of the association itself; i.e. the image that Study Association Flow has to the outside world, the relationships with partners and sponsors, the ties with teachers and employees of the university, and the contact with brother and sister associations.

Under the pillar Social all social and informal activities and such are included, but also ties with the members, play a role. Therefore, it is about maintaining relations with current members, donors and alumni; this also has to do with attracting new members, such as pre-master and master students and international students. Transparency and accessibility are very important here.

2.1 Flow's mission

Study Association Flow helps students of Communication and Information Sciences, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and (pre-)master students of Data Science and Society at Tilburg University on an educational, professional and social level.

2.2 Flow's vision

Study Association Flow wants to help students to get in touch with each other, with the city of Tilburg, with the university and with the labor market so that graduated Flow'ers end up in a good place on the labor market, with sufficient academic and social skills. Study Association Flow tries to do this by providing support in various ways for the various aspects of the studies Communication and Information Sciences, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and Data Science and Society.

3. Educational

3.1 Promotion tutoring

At this moment Flow offers members the opportunity to give tutoring to other members. In order to bring the possibilities for giving and receiving tutoring even more to light, the Daily Board 2019-2020 will promote tutoring more actively. We will focus on recruiting more tutors and on drawing attention to the possibility of taking tutoring.

We want to increase the amount of tutoring by recruiting more tutors. We want to do this among other for the subjects Statistics, Data Structures and Algorithms and Introduction to Data Science, because we receive many requests for tutoring for these subjects from members. Recruiting more tutors will be done by approaching students who have written summaries for Flow to ask if they are interested in tutoring. These members will be contacted by email. In addition, the tutoring page on the website will be presented more clearly by adjusting the homepage.

We also want to integrate the promotion for tutoring on the summary page, in the foreword of the summaries, on the screens in buildings C and E and during the year via social media. We notice that our website and social media are frequently visited, but that passive members in particular often don't look further than the summary page on the site.

Finally, we also want to try to promote the tutoring of Flow through the faculty. First of all we want to do this by asking teachers if they want to draw the attention of the students who have obtained a high grade for their subject to the fact that they can tutor via Flow. This also has the advantage that students are less likely to seek help from external parties such as AthenaStudies, because such companies do not have direct contact with the teachers of the profession. Secondly, we want to place educational promotion on Canvas in cooperation with the student advisers of Communication and Information Sciences, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and the Master Data Science and Society. By placing promotions on the general pages of the studies, we can reach many students outside of our regular promotion channels. We hope that more members will be aware of the tutoring and that this will eventually attract more potential members.

3.2 Offer of summaries for CSAI and DSS

Previous Boards have worked hard on the integration of the studies Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and Data Science and Society within Flow. The Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to continue this positive development by paying attention to the offer of summaries for Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence and Data Science and Society. Now that the Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence course exists for a few years, summaries have already been written for most subjects, but these have not yet been sold to Flow. For Data Science and Society there are no summaries available at the moment. The Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to explore the possibility of handing out flyers at lectures halfway through the semester. This flyer will explain, among other things, how selling a summary is done. In addition, during the talks on the introduction day, it was mentioned that there is a nice compensation for selling summaries. Furthermore, as with the point about tutoring, we also want to place a promotion on Canvas for the summaries of Flow.

By advertising in a physical way, more students will be reached who may not be reached through digital communication. By personally approaching people who write summaries or

who know people who write summaries, we hope to be able to offer more summaries during the year.

3.3 Study choice support

During their time as a student, students have to make multiple choices that are determining the rest of their studies and the rest of their lives. Students will choose a minor, master and some have to choose which track they want to do. This process can be very vague and may raise a lot of questions for the students. Flow is able to help these students by supporting them when making choices.

Currently there is a minor-market for Communication and Information Sciences students where they can talk to students from other studies to see if they want to do a minor there. The Daily Board 2019-2020 also wants to support the Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence students in their process of choosing a minor. Therefore, it will be explored whether a collaboration with other Artificial Intelligence/Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence associations can be established in which the study associations from other cities write a short text about the studies/available minors in their cities. These texts will then be grouped together on our website on a new page, so that members of Flow can easily compare information about the different studies.

Furthermore, the Daily Board 2019-2020 has noticed that there is some ambiguity regarding the choice of minor by students and the process that students have to go through to make their choice. According to many students, the information provided by the faculty still falls short on a number of points. The Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to see if, in cooperation with the university, information about this process can be provided via Flow. We would like to present this information in a clear step-by-step plan or infographic, so that students can easily go through all the steps for choosing a minor.

A final part of this point relates to the track choice of Communication and Information Science students. For this purpose, several pages on the website will be updated with new information about the different tracks. Also, a tool that helps make decisions about the tracks within Communication and Information Sciences could be developed to give students a better idea of the different tracks and to help them make a choice.

4. Professional

4.1 Collaboration with *Club of 50*

The Club of 50 consists mainly of a group of people who have a lot of experience with Flow. These people have a lot of knowledge with which they can help the association. This is shown annually by the input of the Club of 50 drinks. The Daily Board 2019-2020 is planning to intensify the cooperation with the Club of 50. This will be done by means of a newsletter that will be sent every three months. In this newsletter, updates will be given on the progress of the policy and major changes in the association or at the university will be discussed. Through this newsletter, the Club of 50 members will be asked for their opinion during the year. In addition, this newsletter should make it easier for both the Club of 50 and the Daily Board 2019-2020 to establish contacts in the professional field that could, for example, lead to a company visit or workshop. In this way we hope to improve the contact with the Club of 50, to keep them involved in Flow and find new insights. At the beginning of the year, the Club of 50 members will be actively asked for permission to receive the newsletter.

4.2 Collaboration with other associations

Flow offers a lot for its members on a professional level. This is being done by, for example, the internship and vacancy page and company visits. The target group of Flow is expanding further and further and therefore the Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to investigate ways in which we can expand our professional offering. There are several associations at the university that offer a lot in the professional field, for example in the form of workshops and company visits. Integrand and Kweek are examples of such organizations that, among other things, offer internships to students. In the coming year, contact could be made with these different organizations for a possible cooperation. The Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to investigate what these kinds of organizations can do for us.

5. Social

5.1 Inclusivity

For every study there are students who are more difficult to reach for a study association and therefore possibly less actively involved in the study association. For Flow, these students are the (pre-)master students, exchange students and international students. In order to serve these students well, the Daily Board 2019-2020 has drawn up plans to actively involve these students in the association.

For example, the Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to pay extra attention to (pre-)master students next year. They often come later in their studies and are still looking for what they want. For example, they have studied at another university, which means that they have not yet become acquainted with the possibilities in Tilburg. We therefore want to help them feel at home and offer them a warm welcome.

In addition, the Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to offer a warm welcome to exchange students and internationals. There are more and more possibilities within Tilburg University for both Dutch students who want to study abroad and for foreign students who want to study in the Netherlands. As a result, more and more people are going on exchange and more and more internationals are coming to the Netherlands. Exchange students want to have a warm welcome when they return to the Netherlands and international students want to feel at home when they first arrive in the Netherlands. We hope to be able to offer them this. The feeling of "inclusiveness" is important for this.

5.1.1. (Pre-)Master Students

In the past few years, it has become apparent that it can be difficult to involve (pre-)master students sufficiently in the association. Especially because this group changes often, it is hard to draw conclusions as to what activities do and don't speak to them. Therefore, at the beginning of the year, it will be possible for (pre-)master students to give input about activities they would like to see during the rest of the year. We would like to do this, for example, by using an idea box at the beginning of the year.

In addition to this, there will be clearly formulated what the use of the (pre-)master activities is in the promotions for these activities. By specifically targeting this group in the promotions, they will hopefully be more relevant to the students. Finally, there will be extra attention during the lecture talks and other communications towards (pre-)master students for the internships and vacancies page on Flow's website. The reason for this is that (pre-)master students are likely to be more focused on their career than bachelor students.

To keep the master students who do their master's in a different field of study or at a different faculty involved in the association, the Daily Board 2019-2020 plans to promote summaries available at brother associations more through Flow's channels and website. This also applies to students who take minor courses at other studies or faculties.

5.1.2. Exchange students

It can be difficult for students who have been abroad for a semester to stay involved in the association. We want to give them the opportunity to stay active during the half year that they are not on exchange. In this way we retain our active members and give them the opportunity to actively participate in the progress of Flow.

To achieve this, we want to make an inventory at the beginning of the (coming) year to find out whether there is interest from the exchange students in an active membership. If this is the case, we want to give them the opportunity to register for committees. There will be a separate application form for exchange students. Here they can tell when they are going on an exchange (1st or 2nd semester) and which committees they prefer (they have to indicate several options here). We want to promote this option by personally approaching students who go on an exchange. We will also mention it in the promotion for the commission applications.

The students who go on exchange in the second semester, will participate in the general applications and will be assigned to a committee. Those who are going on exchange in the first semester, will be given the opportunity to meet us after their exchange in order to discuss the possibilities. For example, students who have been on an exchange may still be able to actively participate in a committee within Flow. If there is no place in the preferential committees, there will be looked to possibilities in other committees. In advance it is determined which committees are suitable for half-yearly members.

5.1.3. International students

In recent years, a lot of attention has been paid to integrating (international) CSAI-students within Study Association Flow. As the number of international students has increased and is still increasing because of this integration, the Daily Board 2019-2020 is aiming to pay extra attention to internationalizing the association in the coming year.

That's why an event focused on internationals will be held. The possibility of organizing this together with other associations will also be explored. This event will include discussing topics like the Dutch labor market and the Dutch language. Internationals will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the Netherlands. Additionally, the event is a chance to get acquainted with the Dutch culture and make contact with the Dutch students.

In the beginning of the internationals' study period in the Netherlands, they have to get used to a lot of things. They will probably have plenty of questions and will not know their way around Tilburg and/or the Netherlands yet. Therefore, the Daily Board 2019-2020 wants to explore the possibility of setting up a buddy system in which international students are paired up with Dutch students. International students can contact their buddy for questions about the university, Tilburg or the Netherlands in general. The buddy can also help the students find their way around in the Netherlands and on campus. In this way, the students will hopefully soon feel more at home in the Netherlands. The Daily Board 2019-2020 will investigate how this buddy system can best be designed and aims to be able to use it from the second semester onwards.



6. Conclusion

If you have any questions or comments regarding this policy, you can contact the board of Study Association Flow by e-mailing board@svflow.nl or visiting us at the Flow office (E204).