

# First Year's Gazette

## *Age of Empires*

Introduction Period for History students

2017 – 2018



# Editing, design and production

The 2017 – 2018 History Introduction Committee

*Age of Empires*

Drift 6

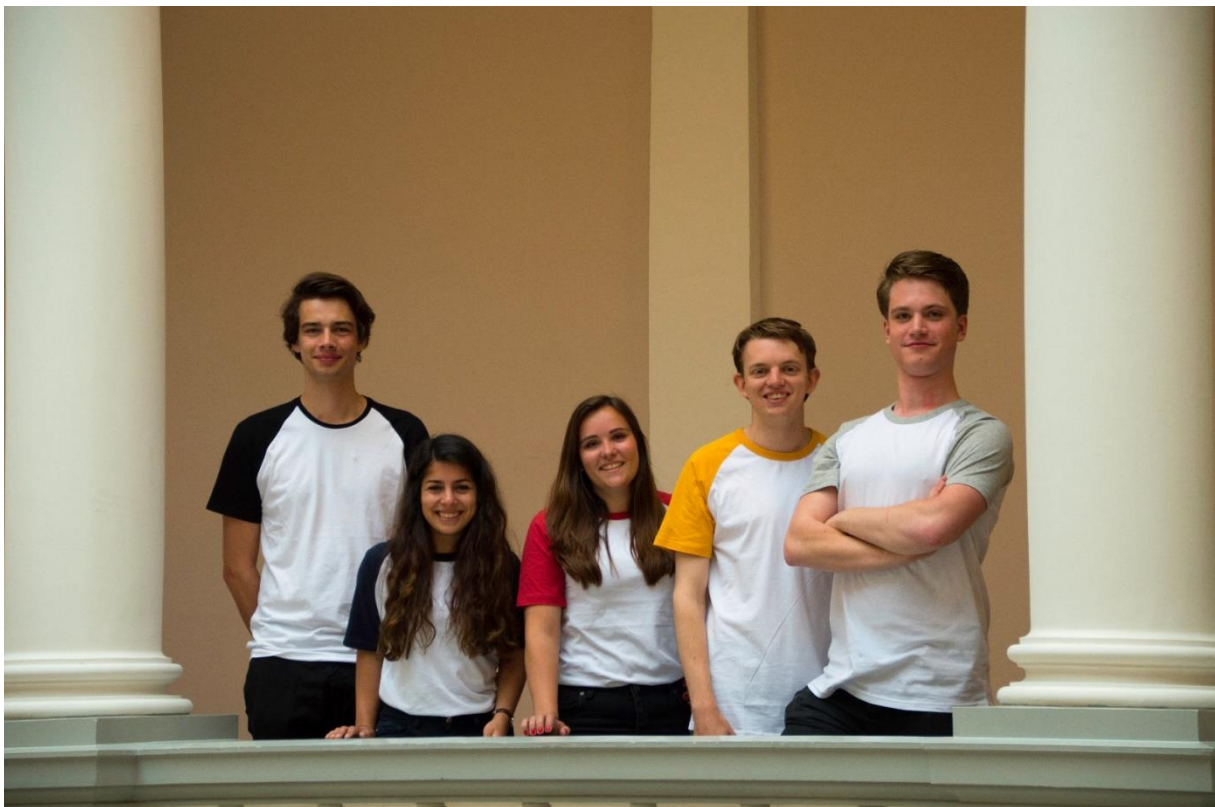
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**The Introduction Committee for the 2017 – 2018 academic year,  
from left to right: Bram, Askin, Kelly, Max and Jacob**

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# Introduction

Dear first-year History student,

We hereby present you with our introductory gazette focusing on the upcoming introduction days for the History degree programme. In this document, you will find everything you need to know about what we have in store for you.

During the introduction days, you will learn more about the History degree programme, as well as about the city of Utrecht and your fellow students. To give you a general impression of all the people who will be making these days an unforgettable experience, the mentors and support troops will introduce themselves in this document as well.

This year, the introduction days will run from Friday 1 September to Monday 4 September. The mandatory Faculty Day takes place on Monday. On Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday, we are going camping, spending two nights at Hoeve de Peul, a farm in Noorbeek. Each year, the introduction days have a central theme. This year, the Introduction Committee chose the theme *Age of Empires*. All first-year students have been divided into seminar groups surrounding this theme. During the introduction days, you will head into battle, together with your group, and will have the chance to rewrite history!

If you have any questions that are not answered on these pages, check <http://icgeschiedenis.sites.uu.nl> or feel free to contact us by email at [ICgeschiedenis.gw@uu.nl](mailto:ICgeschiedenis.gw@uu.nl).

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our beautiful city in September and introducing you to the History degree programme.

See you then!

The 2017 – 2018 Introduction Committee:

Kelly Hogervorst

Bram Benthem

Askin Ceylan

Max van Meer

Jacob Umland

# The Introduction Committee

But who are these people, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make all of this possible? The Introduction Committee, that's who! Over the past few months, we have been hard at work putting together a fun programme for you. We hope you will all have a great time! In the next few pages, we will introduce ourselves – or rather, each other – so that you know who to turn to during the introduction days and afterwards.

What is the secret behind a great empire? A great leader. What is the secret behind this Introduction Committee? Our Chair. This year, **Kelly Hogervorst** is in charge of the Introduction, and her people are more than satisfied. Kelly's adventures have taken her to all corners of student life, and she knows exactly what it takes to make the introduction days into a success. A double major, her work for various committees at the Utrecht History Students Society and a job at the University Library while still putting in regular time at the gym – Kelly manages to keep lots of balls in the air. But that does not mean she is all work and no play: there is a chance you might run into her on the dance floor well into the small hours any night of the week, cocktail ready, and she is a welcome guest at UHSK parties. When things get wild, Kelly always looks after her comrades on the battlefield, and the next day, while most people are still sleeping off their bender or stumbling around bleary-eyed in search of coffee and an aspirin, she gets right back to work like nothing ever happened. 'A hangover is only a state of mind' seems to be her personal motto. As a seasoned member of the UHSK's Excursion Committee, Kelly has learned how to shepherd a group of people on a trip abroad, and while Limburg is not quite foreign territory, that experience will come in handy during the introduction camp. Do not hesitate to turn to her with any questions you might have about student life in Utrecht. Kelly will be delighted to help you – the hallmark of any great leader!







An empire is not built on a powerful army or strong tradition – more than anything, knowledge is what is important. Knowing who should be where, who is responsible for what and where people are from. The empire of the Introduction Committee, too, has a designated expert on such matters: **Bram**

**Brenthem**. As our Secretary, his job is to prevent miscommunication and serve as an island of tranquility in a

sea of chaos. Bram keeps track of who is going on the camping trip and – equally important – who is in which seminar group in the degree programme! In other words, you have largely got Bram to thank for the lifelong friends you'll be sure to make. Bram is a man of many talents, all of which you will hopefully get a chance to experience first-hand during the introduction days. First of all, Bram speaks and raps Italian fluently; so be careful, Romans: if you gossip about him, he will know exactly what you are saying. Bram also has a night-time alter ego, known as Party Bram! Party Bram likes to let his hair down, and he will make sure you are in for an unforgettable party! You might be thinking: that's all very well, but how will I recognise this living legend? Easy – at six-foot-something, Bram literally towers head and shoulders above everyone else, and he has a permanent smile on his face. He is very approachable, and has an incredible memory; share a story with him once and he is sure to remember it for life. Bram has a near-inexhaustible interest in other people, and is sure to listen to your stories with rapt attention. But he also has plenty of tales of his own. Having been on the board of the Utrecht History Students Society for one year and having been a member of the Excursion Committee for two, he has his fair share of anecdotes that will give you a sense of what student life at Utrecht University is like. So make sure to have a chat with Bram during camp, he will surely be thrilled!

Excel spreadsheets, safety lockers and bank statements are not everyone's idea of a good time. Thankfully for the rest of the Introduction Committee, we have **Askin Ceylan** as our Treasurer, and there is nothing she would rather do than crunch numbers. Well, 'nothing' may be a bit of an exaggeration, because what Askin lacks in height, she makes up for with a



wide range of interests. If you are keen to engage in a spirited debate on imperial politics, Askin's your gal. Does someone need to stand up for UHSK members and make sure good trade agreements are put in place? Askin is ready to take to the barricades.

And she is completely in her element when she gets to invade one of Europe's capitals with fifty History students in tow. As a member of the Political Café, the Acquisition Committee and the Excursion Committee, Askin was quick to earn her stripes at UHSK, and she is also well on her way to getting that History degree under her belt. With everything she's got going on, Askin somehow also manages to find the time to kick back, whether it's a hipster festival or an obscure philosophy party. Given her exotic name, it may come as something of a surprise to learn that Askin's roots go back partly to the picturesque town of Breda – but hey, that can happen to the best of us. She's been living in Utrecht for two years now, and she's now one of the most well-known members of the famous Brabant enclave on campus. At the camp, Askin will be in charge of selling tokens, so that you'll all be able to enjoy a delicious drink. After a few drinks, or when the evening's in danger of becoming a snoozefest, Askin is sure to make her way to the dancefloor. Having Askin around means you're in for a fun night out no matter what.



That takes us to the youngest member of the bunch, **Jacob Uwland**, who serves as the Introductory Committee's Faculty Commissioner this year. This Freek Vonk look-alike (a Dutch TV personality) is really excited to be single-handedly putting together the programme for the Faculty Days for you. Of course, that is not the only thing that Jacob is good at – he has an extremely varied range of

interests and pursuits. He is in three very different committees, namely the UHSK for Better Education Committee, the Party Committee and the Music Committee. No matter what your interests are, you are sure to find common ground with Jacob. But if you are speaking Dutch with him, be careful not to pepper your sentences with English phrases, as Jacob is a bit of a language purist. Although he has been living in Utrecht for quite some time and has no trace of an accent, he has not lost touch with his roots in the eastern part of the Netherlands, the so-called 'Achterhoek'. He is proud to represent this fine part of the nation. As a country boy, he can hold his drink like no one else on the Introduction Committee, which – to his regret – has resulted in some truly memorable photographic evidence (some of which has made meme history) and some legendary nights. Make sure to ask Jacob about the stories – and seize the opportunity to join him on these adventures. If you are looking to find Jacob in the crowd, you'll either find him in the midst of a furious air guitar solo or – as the evening progresses – snoring in a corner somewhere. Either way, he's always up for a good time. Crazy antics aside, Jacob's also a rock-solid guy who will get your day off to a good start with his infectious good mood, great sense of humour and fun stories.

And if we're talking about the Age of Empires, of course Maximilian of Meerus (**Max van Meer**, emperor of the camp) has to be mentioned as well. Max will be the emperor of the camp, ruling his underlings with an iron fist. But once you get to know him a bit better,

you will soon find that the iron on his fist is only skin-deep, and that deep down he has a heart of gold. When you run into him at the camp, he is sure to try and make you laugh, and it is more than likely that he'll succeed. He has a wonderfully dry sense of humour and impeccable timing. In addition to being emperor of the camp and resident jester, Max is also the Lord of Memes.



History memes, that is. He makes fun of everyone and everything, but he loves to pick on the French Empire in particular. Max takes his role as the Lord of Memes extremely seriously, and photo ops tend to be perfect fodder for his creative mind. So strike a pose during the introduction days and Maximilian is sure to caption you for posterity. While Max is very busy with his empire, he always has time for a drink. It won't be an alcoholic beverage, though – sugar, rather than alcohol, is what gets him through the night. Do not be surprised to find him bouncing all over the place. But if you need a shoulder to lean on, Max is always there for you. After all, he is a very empathetic ruler, and while he may only be in the second year of his History degree, he's got quite a bit of life experience under his belt. In addition, as part of his work for the Utrecht History Students Society, he has helped organise some great trips over the past year. Do not hesitate to turn to him with any questions you might have. Despite his busy schedule at the camp, he will always have time for you.



# Introduction Days

This year, the camp will start on Friday 1 September and finish on Sunday 3 September. We will be staying at the Hoeve de Peul farm in Noordbeek. On the Friday, you will be welcomed by the Introduction Committee, your mentors and the support troops. They will do their utmost to ensure all the activities run smoothly. You can recognise them by their t-shirts with the *Age of Empires* logo on the back. If you have any questions or if something is unclear, you can always turn to them.

On Monday 4 September, the second part of the Introduction Days will begin: the Faculty Day. Because the Faculty Day takes place in the first week of the academic year, attendance is mandatory for everyone. Part-time jobs and the like are no excuse for failing to show up. Later in the week, the tutor meetings will be held. These are also mandatory for everyone. You will receive more information about this during the introduction days.

The introduction days have two aims. First of all, they are intended to give you the opportunity to get to know Utrecht University in general, and the History degree programme in particular. During the Faculty Day, you will learn more about the degree programme and about History as an academic subject. You will also meet several lecturers and have a first meeting with your tutor. Your tutor will keep in touch with you and supervise you throughout your studies. Secondly, the introduction days give you the chance to get to know your fellow students. You will meet other first-year students as well as students further along in the degree programme, and you will get to know the Utrecht History Students Society (*Utrechtse Historische Studentenkring*, UHSK), the study society for History students. The camp is not mandatory, but experience has shown that it is an essential part of the introduction activities and really helps students get settled in.

At the end of the first course period, there will be a reflection week for all first-year students. This is the real conclusion to the introduction period. During this week, you will meet with your fellow students and mentors again and, in addition to taking part in fun activities, will sit down together to go over how you found the first course period.

**Please note: the Introduction Committee is acting on behalf of the History department. This means that the Faculty Day is a MANDATORY part of the first-year curriculum. It forms part of the introduction activities that need to be completed to pass the first year of your degree programme.**

# Introduction Days Programme

Please note: this is a general outline that is subject to change, so make sure to check for updates. In addition, each seminar group has its own specific schedule. The mentors are in charge of these schedules, so follow their instructions.

## Friday 1 September 2017

When?	What?	Where?
9:00 am – 9:45 am	Arrival	Drift 25/Drift 21
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Welcome speech and guest lecture	Drift 13, Room 0.04
1:00 am – 12:30 pm	Getting to know your seminar group + start of trading game	City centre
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Around the Drift building
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Train to Hoeve de Peul	Utrecht Centraal
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Arrival at the camp	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
6:00 pm	Meet and greet	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
8:00 pm	Dinner	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
10:00 pm	Evening game	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
11:30 pm	Party	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek

# Saturday 2 September 2017

When?	What?	Where?
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Breakfast	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
10:30 am – 4:30 pm	Afternoon games	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
12:30 pm	Lunch	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Preparing for the variety show	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
6:00 pm	Dinner	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
8:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Variety show	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
11:30 pm	Party	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek

# Sunday 3 September 2017

When?	What?	Where?
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Breakfast	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
10:00 am – 12:45 pm	Packing, tidying and cleaning	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Departure for Utrecht	Hoeve de Peul, Noorbeek; bus, train (Maastricht Central Station)
	FREE	

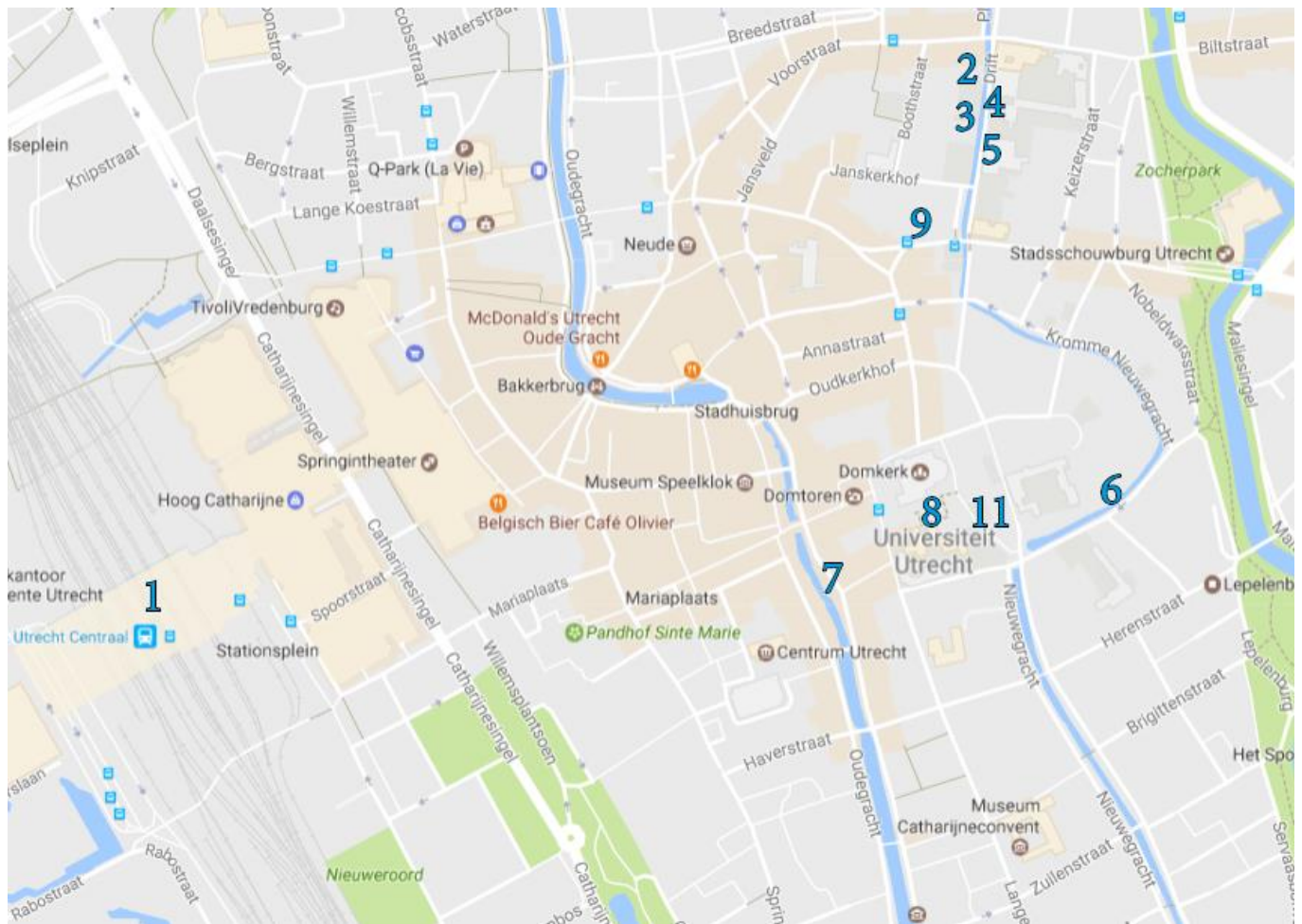
# Monday 4 September 2017

**PLEASE NOTE:** the tutor meetings will be held later in the same week. These meetings are mandatory for everyone. You will receive more information about this during the introduction days.

<b>When?</b>	<b>What?</b>	<b>Where?</b>
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and registration	Kromme Nieuwegracht 80
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Information session about the degree programme and the UHSK	Kromme Nieuwegracht 80
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Committee market	Drift 21, Sweelinckzaal
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Utrecht city centre
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Afternoon programme	Utrecht city centre
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Dinner and evening programme	Stairway to Heaven, Mariaplaats 11-12
10:00 pm – 4:00 am	Closing party	Café de Vrienden, Nobelstraat 8-10



# Utrecht city centre



1. Utrecht Central Station
2. Humanities Student Desk (Drift 10)
3. Department of History and Art History (Drift 6)
4. University Library City Centre (UBB for short, Drift 27)
5. Drift 21, 23 and 25 lecture halls and the UHSK common room (entrance via the UBB)
6. Kromme Nieuwegracht lecture halls (KNG 80)
7. The UHSK's favourite pub, *De Vingerhoed* (Donkere Gaard 11)
8. University Hall
9. Janskerkhof bus stop
10. City Movies Cinema
11. Achter de Dom 22-24 lecture halls

## How to get there:

To get to Utrecht city centre from Utrecht Central Station, there are a number of buses you can take, including bus lines 5, 8 and 28 (get out at Janskerkhof). You can also get there on foot, walking down Voorstraat. This will take about ten minutes.

# Packing checklist

Below, you will find the packing checklist with all the essentials for the introduction period. Make sure you don't forget anything!

## Faculty Day:

- First Year's Gazette
- a topped-up *OV-chipkaart* (public transport card) to pay for your bus journey.

## Camp:

- health insurance card from your health insurance provider;
- identity card/passport;
- old clothes; (we will be using paint!)
- sportswear;
- swimwear + towel;
- towel + shampoo;
- shower slippers;
- sleeping bag + pillow (plus pillowcase)
- air mattress + pump ;
- cash; (There is no ATM at De Peul!)
- tea towel;
- props for the variety show; (Get creative!)
- *OV-chipkaart* (public transport card);
- torch/flashlight;
- First Year's Gazette.

# Mentors

**In this section, all the mentors will introduce themselves to you. Look up your own seminar group to check who will be your mommy and daddy, mommy and mommy or daddy and daddy during the introduction period!**

## Seminar group 1: Victoria's Brawling Brits

Hear ye, hear ye! I present thee thy new mentors. We are Queen Victoria, also known as Queen **Caro** the Foreigner, and Prince Albert, also known as **Diede** Dirk Wilhelmus VII, the most renowned and ugliest world leaders our flat earth has ever seen. We are the lords not just of the British Isles, but also of India and many more backward countries, which it is our goddamned duty to rule over; it's the White Queen's burden, and she obviously needs a prince to carry her purse and make it look like she won't die alone, like the perpetual singleton that she is. We are the most superior country in Europe. Germany has nothing on us; the only good thing to ever come out of that country was Prince Albert, and he didn't even live to see 43. Victoria survived six assassination attempts, mostly thanks to the ridiculous clothes she wore, which were impenetrable by knives and the like. Anyway, enough trivia facts. We are happy to guide you through your life in the royal palace, also known as the UHSK – they are practically the same, with the same amount of incest, intrigue and gossip. Trust us, this amazing traditional association with its century-long history will soon conquer your world, heart... and time. You'll soon know exactly what we mean. We'll re-establish the honour of the British Empire by fighting the impious degenerates from the rest of the world. Under our leadership, you will go through your first year like we went through India – firing guns, drinking beer, with no thought whatsoever for the consequences. Under Caro, you will learn how to drink excessively, jump around, dance till way too late, probably learn Dutch rather quickly like she did and, most of all, drink a LOT of beer (she's German, trust me). Under Diede, you will learn to procrastinate on the conquest for more territory (and grades), enjoy the occasional spontaneous music session, learn to sing in five easy steps (spoiler, they all involve a shower or a sketchy karaoke bar) and drink British ale (not really though, it's mostly going to be obscene mix drinks; did you guys know that vodka and pineapple mix well?). Aside from our problems with alcoholism, we are also great talkers. Caro can tell insightful, and annoying, stories about her life in four different languages! Wow! All our jokes have to do with history though, so do prepare a short essay about your favourite history trivia. Diede is there for you if you want to discuss anything to do with politics or religion; if you like Bernie Sanders, you've found yourself a lifelong friend. Caro is also good at being unproductive during Skype calls, so avoid Skyping with her at all costs. Don't forget to sign up for camp. It's hella fun, and you'll get to get drunk with us and probably meet some fellow colonists with whom you shall conquer the university. Have a good 'un,

and we'll see you during the introduction!

Caro and Diede



## Seminar group 2: Augustus' Romantic Romans

Ave studentium novum,

We are Alecium et Ingium (**Alec** and **Inge**) and we will be your centurii during your first year at Universitas Ultraiecti (Utrecht University). We are veteranii of the Universitas Historicorum and we've been stationed at castra Ultraiectium for 21 years. We know you've come from all corners of the empire, and we are here to whip you into battle shape. There are dark clouds forming over the Imperium Romanum and we need your help to make them disappear. We need to fight the other plebes to establish the Pax Romana. During this introduction, we will face many trials, including games, hangovers and meetings with barbarians. We will be there to guide you through every step on the path to victoria.

Let us introduce ourselves. During our time at the castra, we have witnessed many mistakes made by new recruti, so we are quite proficient at guiding new recruti. We will show you the best places to drink around the castra and teach you how to pull yourselves out of the ditchium the next day. We will make sure you get to your domus safely and teach you how to make nutritium hangoverium. Our motto is carpe bibium, but we will also be there for you in times of needium.

Ingium knows what it is like to be wounded and will always take care of you. Alecium will not baby you when you have a horrible hangover, teaching you that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. We have a strong love for nutritium, and cooking is also one of our optimum hobbium. We are both aware of the threat that is called procrastination and will help you in dealing with this terrible dangerium. Ingium likes dancing, but likes her bed more. Alecium likes the games at the colosseum, but likes games digitali better.

We are looking forward to guiding you and are certain that your Roman roots will make this an easy job. Don't be afraid to ask us all your questium about studentium life and whatever else you want to know. A heads-up: mornings are not our strong-suitium, so maybe ask us in the afternoonium. We're sure you'll fit into the legion from the very first day.

We Romans are a superior people. Therefore, we are not afraid of the unavoidable conflict that is coming our way. We will teach the other imperii what it means to be Roman. Orbis terrarum will be ours.

Morituri te salutant,  
Alecium et Ingium





# Seminar group 3: Meisho's Jolly Japanese

## Daniël van Beek & Esther Martens

Konichiwa,

We are Esther-Tennō and Shogun Daniël! We are two enthusiastic ~~imperialists~~ History students who are especially passionate about genocides. Don't worry – you lot are safe, at least for now... Your survival depends on your performance in the field. That's right, boys and girls, we are very performance-driven. There'll be no coasting in the back row with us!

**Esther Martens** is a fun-loving 21-year-old with a bad sense of humour and a long list of things that really get her goat. But in spite of her cantankerous streak, she's also a sweet girl who likes to mother everyone and look after them. She is always ready to listen to you or knock back some shots with you (provided you are of legal drinking age, that is).

In addition to being a Feyenoord hooligan, **Daniël van Beek** is a nice bloke of 23 with a fantastic sense of humour (even though almost no one laughs at his jokes). Daniël is always up for a chat, a real sweetie underneath it all, at his gārufurendo's beck and call and known for knocking back pints by the dozen.

The two of them will be there for you from the moment the rising sun appears in the sky to the moment it disappears behind the horizon. But there is more to life than beer and helping freshers get through their first weeks at university. We also have our sworn enemies! The mongoloid Mongolians never miss an opportunity to try and thwart our ~~imperialist~~ plans, but we'll show them that we have the right amount of chromosomes and that we will prevail!

In addition to making you sweat for our ~~imperialist~~ ends, we are also there to help you find your way around this maze we call Utrecht University. We're going to make sure your student life gets off to a fun start. First, we'll take you on an epic weekend trip, and then there'll be the Faculty Day, where you can get to know the city and each other better. We're looking forward to it – hopefully you are as well.



# Seminar group 4: Cleopatra's Eeager Egyptians

*Em hotep, Eeager Egyptians!*

As you can see in the Photoshop masterpiece below, we are your captains for the upcoming introduction week. Hurray! Before we go on to discuss the bitter rivalry between those bellicose Roman bastards and us, the Extraordinary, Eternally-Enchanting Egyptians, allow us to introduce ourselves.

Let us start with **Magali 'Cleopatra' Reijneveld**, the most beautiful woman in the world. This girl from down south, hailing from the province of Limburg, may not strike you as your typical wartime heroine, but appearances are deceptive. There's a lot more fire to this gentle spirit than you might initially realize. During the introduction camp and the Faculty Day in Utrecht, she may just surprise you... But above all, Magali is your shoulder to lean on if you have any issues or questions, and as a real night owl, she'll keep the party going well into the night.

**Thomas 'Caesar' Markhorst**, on the other hand, is an early bird, and will lead the long morning marches. Whether it be building pyramids, worshipping cats or writing hieroglyphs, there's nothing this man cannot do, so he's sure to be invaluable when tackling the challenges at the camp as well. It is very important to this Utrecht native that everyone feels at ease and feels free to speak their minds, so don't hesitate to approach him if you have any questions about your studies, football or life in general.

We can hear you thinking: but isn't Caesar a Roman? And aren't the Romans our arch nemeses? Yes, Excellent Egyptians, they most certainly are. But this is all part of the master plan that we referred to earlier. As a double-double agent, Caesar always had Egyptian sympathies, and he had only one goal, which was to bring about the demise of the Roman Republic. Was it a coincidence that, on returning home, he was stabbed in the back 23 times? We have our suspicions... At the camp, too, you can be sure that Caesar will do everything in his power to give the Romans a hard time.

To make a long story short: we'll get to the nitty-gritty of our strategy later. Suffice it to say, we are very much looking forward to the camp. We'll see you in August (another one of those Roman bastards!)

Magali & Thomas



# Seminar group 5: Philips' Spicy Spaniards

Holas las patas de cabras de nostre!

Nosotros somos Hannah y Maud, vos mentores de introductionweekendos. Yes, you're hearing us bueno: next fin de semana vosotros will be completos at our mercydos. That sounds worse than it is, for as luck might have it, we are proud descendants of King Philips II of Spain, AKA Phil the Chill or Funky Felipe, a swell guy who was keen on travel, with a particular penchant for going off the beaten track. He liked to play 'spread the smallpox' or 'Spaniards and Indians'. During the introduction weekend, we would like to continue this battle on behalf of our King, may he rest in peace. But of course, we cannot do so without you! We have to demonstrate the incomparable might of the Spanish global empire. With all the zeal of the Spanish Inquisition, we will show everyone who's boss! Before explaining in detail why your support is essential in this three-day war, it is important that you know who your leaders are.

**Hannah de Korte** is first in line when it comes to playing the banjo, the accordion, the guitar and about 84 other instruments. When she opens her mouth, a chorus of nightingales begins to sing and everyone spontaneously bursts into tears of happiness. Enrique Inglesias pales in comparison.

Our commander-in-chief, **Maud van Hattum**, is sure to lead us to an inexorable victory. Although she may be a bit scatterbrained at times, she has the special superskill of completely disappearing off the map from time to time, which is very handy for carrying out ambush attacks on the enemy on unfamiliar territory! *La capitana* is also very good at making new friends and staying in touch with people. And because she's a great listener, she's also good at winning the enemy's trust, which will give us the upper hand against them!

During Philip's career, a number of inferior peoples were in his way in the New World. Under our heroic command, we will lay claim to the New World as true conquistadors and, above all, we will preach the faith: our word is law, and we are ready to make devout Catholics of the masses! Legend has it that we Spaniards are cruel, bloodthirsty and intolerant, but you should take that with a grain of paella. All we're doing is bringing some culture and civilisation to the natives – it's our duty as Catholics!

So, dear chorizo sausages, prepare for a swift victory. Gentlemen, grab your stick-on moustache and mount your bulls. Ladies, you can leave your mustache at home, but it is time to set sail and set off for battle. VIVA LA ESPAÑA!

Vamos Feutos! Adios Jalapeños!  
Mariachi! Hasta la próxima y all the best,

Sincerely yours,  
Hannah de Korte and Maud van Hattum





# Seminar group 6: Genghis Khan's Majestic Mongolians

Dear Mad Mongolians,

Brothers! A warm welcome to the Mongolian troops of **Martijn** Khan and **Sjoerd** Khan. We warriors are about to rouse our war-wracked empire after centuries of slumber and restore it to its former glory! Over the next few days, you will fall in behind the looting and pillaging hordes, with Kool and van Hoenselaar as your commanders-in-chief. To assure themselves of your eternal loyalty, this dashing dandy and wild warrior will introduce themselves and sear themselves into your collective memory.

Commander-in-chief Kool is a man of little action and too many words. As the figurehead of our army, he is the epitome of perfection, righteousness and impeccable sartorial taste. However, this man, who leads the charge with his sabre drawn, is nothing without his faithful companion and brother in arms.

Van Hoenselaar, the scout who explores enemy territory by night, is a proud Limburg native who, thanks to his roots in the countryside, has had no trouble adapting to the extreme circumstances of the Mongolian steppes. Only last year, he was one of Martijn's protégés, but this year he will be his right-hand man, never for a moment leaving his side.

The time of change is coming! We will not allow our magnificent empire to be the laughing stock of those horse-hating xenophobes. Nor will we allow Dutch TV presenter Jonny de Mol to name one of his programmes after us. The winds of change are howling across the steppes, stirring an army of brave warriors to action. Brothers, the time has come! The offensive starts now! The time has come to fell the tree of suppression and sow the seeds of the future. With all the fighting, looting and pillaging we've done, we have perfected our tactics.

Our greatest strength is our mobility and resilience, which translates into our knack for making a beeline for the bar and dancing until dawn.

For now, let us conclude with this Mongolian proverb: 'Union is the root of success.'

*Mors certa, hora incerta!*

Martijn Kool and Sjoerd van Hoenselaar



## Seminar group 7: Xerxes' Prominent Persians

Dear Persian and Peaches!

Welcome to the Prominent Persians! Our prominence stretches almost as far as our ancient Empire. The battle cries of our very own Pepijn can be heard far and wide, and it seems like they have reached your lovely little ears as well. We are a very tolerant culture – even the Russians from the far North are welcome. We cannot stand the Macedonians though, as they will discover soon enough... After all, we are the peerless Persians, and they're only the mad Macedonians. As you can tell, we have a real zest for battle. We'll do everything in our power to work with you to make as many new contacts as possible and, above all, score as many flairpoints as possible! But first, allow us to introduce ourselves. I, **Judith Smitskamp**, am your mentor/surrogate mum this year, alongside Pepijn. As we said earlier, Pepijn is our resident troubadour. He's also been known to do a triple major just for fun – quite an ambitious fellow! He works in a bakery and takes care of our most important need: food. Both of us are real gourmets. He used to have a sideline gig at an ice-cream parlour too, but decided to free up some more time for the 300 UHSK committees that he's on (haha, 300, get it?). He can tell you all about the university, our study society and the city of Utrecht, where he has been based for a number of years now. He also regularly travels to Alphen a/d Rijn – after all, as the ruler of an empire the size of ours, it is important not to lose touch with what's going on further afield. He has previous experience of parenting freshers; I'm his second mentor-wife. As a third-year History student and a second-year mentor, this curly-haired angel is always there for you. And now I, **Pepijn Hoekstra**, have the honour of introducing you to your Persian she-warrior, Judith. This wonderwoman is a real strategist – she brings entire armies to ruin, but she has also built up entire theatre productions from scratch. And she does not just hatch plans behind the scenes; she's been a shining star of the stage for years. Although she's been living in Utrecht for two years now, next year, she will be taking to the grand stage of our Persian Empire too. She ventures to Amsterdam every now and then, so that the Russians can teach her their language, and her home base is in Vlaardingen, where you can have delicious roulade as early as October. You are sure to run into her at parties, and she can tell you everything you need to know about Utrecht nightlife. If ever you feel lonely in this vast empire, you'll always be able to hang out with her at the bar. Although you are her first progeny, I have every confidence that this fiery blonde will be able to lead you to great prominence.

As you will have gathered by now, you are joining the army of two very fiery, passionate people. We don't bear the epithet 'prominent' for no reason. We are not only prominent in Utrecht's student life, we are prominent on the global stage. Our gigantic empire covers great swathes of land, and great rulers such as Xerxes have gone before us. The Macedonian Empire pales in comparison to all this grandeur. At the introduction camp, we will take up the battle against those wusses and teach world history a lesson. After all, we've been around for longer – it's as simple as that. TO BATTLE! \*Pepijn leads the way in a marching song\*

Best wishes,

Pepinus Judicrus





## Seminar group 8: Alexander's Manic Macedonians

Greetings, Philhellenics!

Let's be honest, our great Alexander's empire is the real deal as far as world empires are concerned. Never had there been an empire as great and civilised as that of that of this famous Macedonian Dennis the Menace, and never since has anyone managed to top his achievement. It's true. After all, the Romans never managed to conquer India and the Americans couldn't even achieve dominion over the entire continent. Compare that to the Macedonians, with an empire that stretched out all the way to the mighty Tyras River. And speaking of a stretch – who are the gifted authors of this kooky piece of writing? That would be **Daan van Midde** and **Nick van der Horst**, the two Diadochi who will be leading Freshers Week for you like it's their own Alexandrian Empire (but in a good way). With grand, Eastern-themed parties and wisdom gleaned from classical philosophy, they will have no trouble putting together a spectacle to rival Alexander the Great's military campaign – and that's no exaggeration, we swear. But who are these guys? Well, two History students. Mr Van Midde is from Nieuwegein, an avid tennis player who likes to burst into the party in the small hours. Mr Van de Horst is originally from Arnhem, dabbles in the saxophone and likes to play armchair psychologist. In short, these gentlemen represent the values of Panhellenism: culture, sport and (amateur) science.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the phrase 'a law of Medes and Persians', which is often used in Dutch to denote that a rule is strict and unchangeable. It just so happens that, during the introduction days, we, as the Macedonian Empire, will be taking up arms against a seminar group that call themselves 'the Persians'. As luck would have it, our great Alexander has a successful history with the Persians – he completely trashed them. We plan on doing the same – figuratively speaking. Let's make the fact that the Persians lose to the Macedonians 'a law of Medes and Persians'! And above all, let's turn this thing into a party!



# Seminar group 9: Suleiman's Ostentatious Ottomans

The Ostentatious Ottomans are the best  
They're clearly cooler than the rest  
They pen the most amazing verse  
And smoke the Shisha pipe, of course

We're all about community  
And love and a sense of unity  
Lots and lots of people know  
We eat kebabs wherever we go  
A part-time job at the Huzur café  
To go to university by day

Merrie is a brilliant cook  
A joint in her mouth is her favourite look  
JK, she has no time to play the fool  
With so much Excom work to do

She and Kas are friends forever  
Their spirits permanently tied together  
The two of them are on top of their shit  
This weekend, we're going to be a big hit

We do enjoy a groovy jam  
We'd never go out to dance drunk, man  
Are Ottomans allowed to drink?  
We'll keep your secret, as you'd think

No harm in a beer to light your way  
We dance like donkeys anyway  
Except for when it's a disco beat  
That's when Turks really move their feet

We're always very well turned out  
But style's not all that we're about  
We come from many different places  
We really cover all the bases

The inner city's where we roam  
The Utrecht ghettos are our home  
What good are academic feats  
If you can't survive on the city streets?

We're the Ostentatious Ottomans  
And you will be our lowly ones  
But don't you get into a stew  
As we'll take perfect care of you

If you perform like the sons of gods  
That will win approving nods  
We like a party – that's our creed  
With us, a good time's guaranteed

So be glad that you're on our team  
We're better than your wildest dreams  
The first year's often a bumpy ride  
But you'll make it with us by your side

With love from your mentors,  
**Meryem van Gelder & Kas van der Horst**



## Seminar group 10: Montezuma's Attractive Aztecs

Nehualmoyecastemojmolunijtzinutinemisquiöni! In other words, 'You honourable people might have come along banging your noses so as to make them bleed, but in fact you didn't!' This greeting is just a small example from the rich Aztec language, known as Nahuatl. The Aztec culture has left behind an abundant heritage that many people continue to enjoy to this day. For example, the largest city in the world, Mexico City, is built on the foundations of the centre of Aztec power, Tenochtitlan. You might find yourself thinking: that's all very well, but what's it got to do with me? For you, as soon-to-be first-years, a much more interesting legacy handed down by the Aztec people is TEQUILA. We're sure to be in for many interesting nights with the aid of this magical drink.



As a real 'Hueyi Tlahtoani', or supreme ruler, **Timo Houtekamer** will make true world citizens of you. During his undergraduate years, Timo was responsible for a number of fantastic trips and interesting lectures. He is keen to share this experience and expertise with you, so don't hesitate to ask him about it. Timo also has excellent taste in music – although some may disagree about that. Do make sure Timo has a cup of coffee in his hands in the morning before you try to engage him in any sort of intellectual conversation, though.

Cuauhocelotl **Bart Blokland**, or the Butcher of Tenochtitlan, will be the commander of our troops in the next few years. He will always stay in the pub until closing time and make sure to take you on a guided tour of the dance floor. With the organisation of a number of soirees and shindigs under his belt – including two magnificent galas – Bart is a very stylish young man. However, don't let his white tie and tailcoat fool you, because deep down he will always be a simple country boy from Tiel. If you like tennis or football, make sure to seek out Bart for a chat. But even if these sports are not your cup of tea, the same still applies, as Bart has a broad range of interests and you are sure to find some common ground.

With your help, these Acztec luminaries are hoping to find the El Dorado of student life. Instead of the Golden City, it's liquid gold we're after. As your leaders and as lovers of craft beer, we will lead you to victory. The Aztec people will be remembered as the wildest warriors of all. However, we won't be able to pull this off without the favour of the Gods, and to win their support we will have to make a few human sacrifices. Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime!

Nimitzittaz,

Team Baywatch, Timo and Bart



# Seminar group 11: Roosevelt's Ambitious Americans

We are the bringers of civilisation, the leaders of the free world. We have prevented the world from falling prey to chaos and dictatorship. We made the Third Reich our bitch. Wherever our feet touch the soil, the result is a better world in which freedom, democracy and carefully regulated capitalism reign supreme. Our values enlighten the world like the rays of a rising sun.

We are **Maurits** and **Annefloor**, and we want you for U.S. Army! With Roosevelt's Ambitious Americans, we are seeking to return to an era in which an ambitious president was something the people were excited about, rather than afraid of. Back to a time when the president was

a role model, rather than the subject of satire. With your help, we'll be able to make it happen! Maurits will personally ensure that the introduction days will end with 'America First'. With his eternal enthusiasm, he always manages to keep everyone going into the small hours. As befits a good leader, Maurits is firm but fair. His motto is 'There is no substitute for hard work.' But



don't let first impressions fool you: this tough guy is more teddy bear than lion, despite what his appearance might suggest. With a cigarette in his mouth and a beer in his hand, Maurits is always there to offer a hug or a shoulder to cry on, and he will put the smile back on your face within seconds.

Annefloor is living the American dream. She is already a self-made woman who *don't need no man*. With her inexhaustible energy and fierce determination, she always gets her way. She's a real powerful woman that President Trump should rightly be afraid of. With her bubbly personality, she is an inspiration to everyone around her, and her smile melts every guy's heart. During the day, she is a caring parent, but when night falls, Annefloor transforms into a party momma gone wild! But don't worry – even if the previous night's antics have led to quite a hangover, Annefloor and Maurits will be there to help you get through the day.

We are more than ready. Together, we'll be able to bring back the glorious times of Roosevelt's America. Let's make the real America great again!

## Seminar Group 12: Puyi's Classy Chinese

Dear Chinese chicks and chaps,

Welcome to the best seminar group the Chinese Empire has ever known. Those Ming sissies were mere dilettantes compared to us. By simply replacing the M with a Q, we have created the most powerful dynasty in the world. No other empire will be able to beat our invincible imperial machine, and once we get going, those Mad Mongolians won't stand a chance. With your help, we'll show those other emperors who's boss and seize victory. You heard it, we're going for gold! Coming back defeated will inevitably have dire consequences in the Chinese Empire. Together with well-known Dutch powerhouse Joel Beukers (a famous bodybuilder in our little country), we will fight like lions and defeat any Boxer rebels thrown our way. Of course, you will be wondering by now under which emperors these ambitious goals are to be achieved. I am honoured to have the pleasure of introducing you to the honoured emperors of the Chinese Empire. **Huub Mol** and **Ivo van Arendonk** are responsible for getting you through the introduction period, using the traditional Chinese approach to child rearing. Reigning with an iron fist and strict rules, we will head for the De Peul farm to besiege the Belgian Empire in South Limburg. We can guarantee that you will leave the camp a changed person – a better person! Under the rule of these two cat-stealers, you will roll into student life with the same ease with which Nurhaci rose to power.

The bond between the imperial duo should not be underestimated. After having played football together for a year – which by their decree has replaced table tennis as the national sport of China – the two of them only got closer this year. They're an unlikely pair: a tall Utrecht native with an unruly mop of brown curls and a short, blond boy from down in North Brabant. But their shared love for China, Joel Beukers and the classic Dutch comedy show *Jiskefet* has resulted in a powerful alliance. And it is our task – one that we take extremely seriously – to convince you of our goodness and to get you through the turbulent first year of your degree programme. After spending the weekend with us, you'll be wondering how you ever managed to live *without* us. These two gentlemen have been on the Activities Committee for a year now and know their way around the study society. The good news is that they'll probably be taking over the chairmanship of the Activities Committee next year! We're keen for you to get to know this committee, as you are guaranteed to be in for a good time. It looks like the two Chinese dictators will need some new members, so be sure to get in touch with them.



Of course, in addition to making sure you have a good time, it is also our job to pass on our knowledge about the first year of the History degree programme. We both passed our first year with flying colours. We hope that you're going to follow our good example. From day one to November – and, if it turns out that you like working with us, after that as well – we'll be your guides, making sure you have fun in the first few weeks while still keeping on top of your studies. So get your communist uniform out and prepare for three great days to begin your life as a student with a bang! We look forward to introducing you to our thriving study society and student life generally and giving you a thorough induction at the camp. As the mentors of the Chinese seminar group, we want to make sure you get through the first few months of your student year with a healthy balance of work and play. We are very excited to accompany you on this journey! Very best wishes,  
Ivo van Arendonk and Huub Mol (aka the cat-stealers)



# Activities Team

Of course, the introduction camp would not be complete without lots of fun games. The activities team will be there to cheer you on and encourage you to not only have fun, but also to score as many flairpoints as possible so that your seminar group can try to come out as the winner! Below, the members of the activities team will introduce themselves to you.

Dear children,

My name is **Willemijn Schuiling**, but if you like, you can also call me Teuntje, Wimpie, Willy or Willem – that's what most people call me, so feel free to do the same. I was born and raised in beautiful Nijkerk in the heart of the Dutch Bible Belt. My hobbies include watching videos of goats on Facebook, having a few brews and royally misbehaving at Voortwaarts 8 football games. Before I went off to uni, I was still innocent, naïve and gullible. The latter still pretty much applies, but I did manage to get rid of those other traits over the years. I have been very involved with the UHSK for years now, and have come to be very good at keeping in touch with alumni (former students). In the past, I've organised galas that many UHSK members do not have the slightest

recollection of. Although you might not be able to tell from my rosy cheeks, I've been around for quite a while. This introduction camp, in particular, is a milestone for me: it's the fifth consecutive year I'll be coming along, which means I've been a camp addict for half a decade now. Saying that has made me feel very old, and I'm sure I seem ancient to you now, but nothing could be further from the truth: this old fogey is very young at heart and still enjoys a fun drinking game and a good pint every now and then. That's why I'd like to appeal to everyone reading this paper: to celebrate my five-year camp anniversary, I'd love to get a slice of semi-mature cheese from as many people as possible. I'm not quite 'extra-mature' yet, but I think I have enough seniority now to claim my title as a semi-mature slice of Dutch cheese. Do it and you'll be assured eternal fame. Or you can buy me a beer. Beer's good too.





Dear children,

My name is **Mayte**, but within the UHSK, I prefer to be called Beenham ('ham off the bone'). You might wonder why I'm named after such a juicy piece of meat, but that story might be best left for another time. Anyway, I'm a third-year student now and massively active at the UHSK, simply because it's such great fun to be involved. I was on the Party Committee and the Alumni Committee this year, and before that I was on the Gala Committee. At the introduction camp – I'm sure you're already counting down the days – I'll make sure all the activities run smoothly. I'll be the Girl Friday to Willy Schuiling, dictator of the Activities Team and dancing queen of the UHSK. At the camp, you'll definitely be able to convince me to give you some flairpoints. I have a soft spot for people who buy me

beer, people who have the guts to shamelessly make a fool of themselves, people who are running on empty but still find it in themselves to keep going and people who manage to take Jacob's (Faculty Commissioner's) beer from him when he's already pretty lit. I hope you're looking forward to the camp as much as I am, because it's sure to be a fantastic couple of days. Oh yeah, this year's theme is Age of Empires – make sure to have fun with that. I'm giving a hundred flairpoints to anyone who spends the entire weekend in just a toga.

Love,  
Mayte

My name is **Engelina Kuiken**, and I'm part of the Activities Team during the UHSK's introduction camp. I'm originally from up north, but have extended the boundaries of the Frisian Empire to include Utrecht. This coming weekend, I will subject you to a series of fiendish challenges and force you to show off your real-time strategy at its best. I will teach you the beauty of teamwork – and rivalry. As a UHSK veteran and former inhabitant of the High North, I know better than anyone what it means to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty. This introduction camp is only the beginning of what awaits you over the next few years in terms of historical sensations, parties



and crazy antics. I hope that you will let yourselves be led by the guiding lights our study society is lucky to count among its members, and that in time, you will exceed your masters and grow into a new generation of troublemakers in your own right!

Greetings!

To start with, I would like to congratulate you on having chosen this fantastic degree programme! You are about to embark on a narrow path, the path to success. The success of this path will likely translate into material success, but it is even more likely to translate into intellectual success. And as you know, knowledge is power. Empires have endured for centuries solely because they had more knowledge than their rivals.



Knowledge is a gift that enables you to climb the social ladder, rung by rung. Thanks to this gift, many have been able to work their way up from being simple farmers to becoming powerful rulers. I could mention Gaius Marius, for example, the famous reformer of the Roman army. Born in Cereatae as the son of a humble farmer, his future did not seem promising. But through hard work and, above all, by being a diligent student, he managed to hold the office of Consul of the Roman Empire an unprecedented seven times. The similarities between me, **Gerben Ricky Hospers**, and Marius are uncanny. I too was born in the countryside, in an environment where books and learning were none too common. My family sent me to study in Utrecht, and told me not to come back until I had achieved noteworthy successes. Hopefully, the time to return has almost come. During the upcoming introduction weekend, I will be on the honourable Activities Team. I will do everything in my power to help prepare you bright young things for the future. You might be able to relate to my story – if so, don't lose faith! Think of Gaius Marius, and think of me. No matter how hard your past might have been, remember that knowledge can be your key to a better future! And that future starts now!

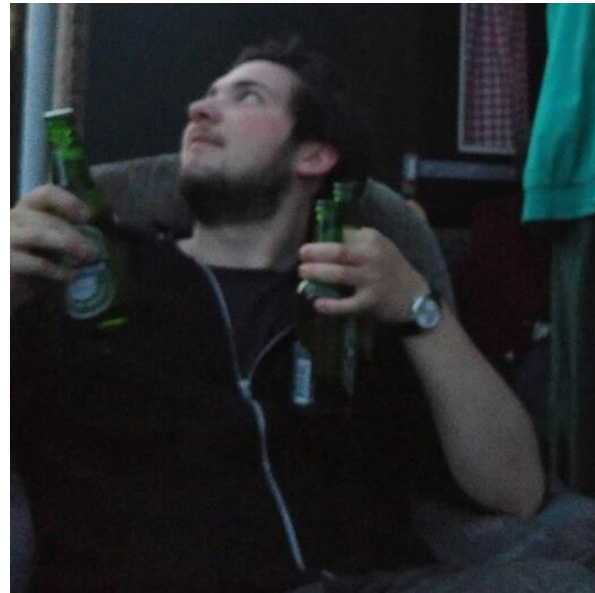
I am **Omar**. I am a third-year student, and together with the rest of the Activities Team, I will be supervising your activities at the introduction camp. In addition to history, I like memes and being cynical (about literally everything). I also play football about once a



month on average – I tend to spend most of the time retrieving balls from the back of the net. I am also known as ‘metal Omar’ (one of my many nicknames), although so far I have not yet had the chance to play a metal song in front of a live audience. I also spend a lot of time playing video games, and I can tell you all about Friesland in the late Middle Ages (should you be interested in that, or if you need a story to send you to sleep, come find me at the camp).

Regarding the theme of this year’s introduction camp, it cannot be a

coincidence that Titus is my middle name, after the Roman emperor who reigned from 79 to 81 A.D. During his reign, the famed Colosseum was completed, although construction had begun ten years earlier. At the inaugural games, spectators could watch gladiatorial combat, animal fights and mock sea battles (for which the giant Colosseum was filled with water). I’m not assuming that you will reenact sea battles during the camp or go at each other’s throats, but there’s nothing make-believe about the real battle you’ll be fighting. I hope that you’ll have a good time at the camp and that you won’t bash each other’s heads in like the gladiators used to (seriously, don’t do that to camp commissioner Max).



Hey there, I’m **Berend**, and I’m pleased to hear you’ll be joining us at the introduction camp for new History students! I can tell you it’s going to be great – why else would I be coming along for the second time? I’m a second-year History student now, I’m 20 years old and this year I’m on the Activities Team. Together with a bunch of other fun people, I’ll make sure there won’t be a dull moment. What else do you need to know about me? One of my hobbies is DJing, and I regularly take my place behind the decks at the UHSK – not at this camp, unfortunately, but don’t worry, a fantastic DJ duo will be there for you into the small hours. I can often be found at hardstyle and hardcore parties and I’m always up for a game of hockey. Of course, one of my greatest passions is history, but I think you’ll find that applies to many others at the camp. But have you ever heard of the Age of Empires? Sure, the series of computer games. But it’s also an actual historical period. It’s not up to me to tell you what we’ll be doing with that, but prepare to go back to Antiquity with us! Luckily for us, they were already drinking beer even then.



Hi! I'm **Julian**, a second-year History student from Dordrecht, the centre of the republic. In the past, I have already managed to expand my empire considerably, annexing Romania, Ameland and Strasbourg, to name just a few examples. I look forward to finally extending my reach as far as Limburg too, and having a great time partying with you lot.

Greetings, future historians! My name is **Richie Tessensohn**, and I'll be accompanying you at the introduction camp, acting as the war photographer. I will capture your legendary battle and your heroic moments on film in order to preserve them for posterity. Find your inner courage and show the camera how invincible you are. As an enthusiastic, cheerful and down-to-earth third-year student from the south of the country, I'm already looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you better. After all, meeting new people is the start of great new friendships, right? If I'm not too absorbed by my role as war photographer, you can always come up to me for a chat, about anything and everything – music, books, movies, or anything you might want to get off your chest. For now, I'll say see you at the camp and Ad Victoriam!



# Cooking crew

What is an introduction camp without revolutionary, delicious food? Nothing, of course! That's what we thought. This being the case, we have hand-picked the best cooks among us, and they are looking forward to serving up some delicious fare. They will introduce themselves to you below!



Hey first-years,  
It's great that you've decided on the History degree programme, and it's even better that you're coming along on this fabulous introduction camp! During the upcoming weekend, you will get to know the phenomenon 'UHSK' and everything it encompasses.

But what's an introduction camp without some hearty grub in your belly or a midnight snack before bedtime? The cooking crew is there to meet those needs, and I'm one of its members. I'm **Marie**, a 22-year old third-year student (how time flies!). I'm on the UHSK's Film and Theatre Committee – you should all join too,

because it's tons of fun! I also like coffee, yoga, going out and reading and I have ambitions as a DJ.

See you in the kitchen or on the dance floor! xxx Marie

Dear first-years,

I'm **Eef**, 22 years old and soon-to-be fourth-year Bachelor's student. In addition to getting the last credits for my Bachelor's degree, I like spending my free time having a drink in the sunshine, doing yoga, meeting friends for a glass of wine, eating chicken nuggets, napping, cuddling with puppies and partying, of course! As a fourth-year student, as you can imagine, I know all about student life by now, and I know how to survive your studies and all the parties going on around them (well, only just.) I've been part of the UHSK since the start of my studies and I've been on a fair few committees by now – which I can whole-heartedly recommend to everyone, because we're a crazy but fun bunch over here. This year, I'll be coming along on the camp as part of the most important crew of them all: the cooking crew! Whether you're a gluttonous Greek, a peckish Persian or a Roman with a rumbling tummy, I'm ready to offer you a sandwich or a hotdog so that you're ready to get back on the battlefield this weekend. In addition to supplying you with food, I'm also always up for having a chat or a beer with you, so do say hi if you run into me at the camp. For now, I'd like to welcome you to the History degree programme and wish you lots of fun during the introduction activities. I hope that we'll be able to do our bit in helping you to put on the fabled freshman 15...  
Love, Eef







To all the brave first-years,  
I can remember all too well being in your shoes last year... I was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and went off to war, together with my comrades. Unfortunately, we were defeated by our sworn enemy, the Brits – it was a dark day for Team America. During this camp, it will be your turn to wage war against the other empires. That kind of battle takes a lot out of you physically, which is why this year I am taking on the noble responsibility of sending the troops back onto the battlefield well fed and full of energy by serving up delicious meals. That's right, Maxime is on the cooking crew! You're in for a treat, because this singing cook is really looking forward to it! So yeah, I'm **Maxime**, I'm 19 and I'm a second-year History student from the south of the country, from an infamous town that starts with R and ends in upchen (it got quite a bit of attention during the Dutch elections for its high proportion of supporters of the right-wing PVV

party). I enjoy singing, dancing and – my most recently discovered passion – cooking. It will be up to me and my fellow cooking crew members to keep your bellies full throughout the camp, and I'm sure we'll manage just fine! I'm hard to miss with my fiery red hair and loud laugh, so if you feel like having a chat, come and find me! Good luck and have fun at the camp, and good for you for choosing History as your subject! See you soon!

Love, Maxime van Loenhout



This good man on your left will be at your service in the cooking crew, working hard to help keep your belly filled. Whether you find yourself up against those crazy Romans, seeking to add overseas territories to your British Empire or aiming to put the Balkans more firmly under the Sultan's thumb – regardless of your situation, he is on your stomach's side, ready to equip you with provisions. He doesn't care who you're fighting or what side you're on – for **Thomas**, there's only one enemy: your hunger. He will do everything in his power to keep vanquishing it, whether you're a ravenous carnivore from Mongolia, a Spaniard after some spice or a vegetarian who'd rather forgo meat in favour of the agricultural produce from the Nile Delta. Thomas would jump into the

fire for you (even if it's Greek fire). Of course, it's very important to have some food in your belly before heading onto the battlefield, but it's also important to have a good meal in the evening before going on to celebrate your triumphs or forget your defeats with the aid of English stout, mead, rioja, sake and many more drinks from empires all over the world. A well-filled stomach is what you need to literally drink up the party atmosphere. Thomas will make sure that the first half of the 'bread and circuses' equation is covered, which is sure to make the second half even better.



Dear first-years,  
I'm **Meis** and I'm about to become a second-year History student. I'm 20 and I like a good party with pumping beats. In the context of the historical theme 'Age of Empires', the whole cooking crew will be there for you all weekend to help you soak up your hangovers. What we'll be cooking will remain a surprise until you get to the camp, but it's sure to be fantastic. I'm a real cordon bleu chef – that is to say, I don't burn my rice. For any other questions about my cooking prowess, ask Daniël van Beek. For now, I'll promise not to overdo it on the hot

sauce, lest I get all of the UHSK on my case 😊. I'm also looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor or playing a game of Three Man with you. And if you've had enough of your mentor daddy/mummy for the time being, I'm always up for a chat 😊. Just like the Carthaginians fought the Romans in the Punic Wars in the last few centuries BC, you will face off against each other in a number of exciting challenges. The camp is sure to be as magical as in all the previous years, so don't miss it. And if you've got a killer hangover and are running on empty, come and find me for a hotdog with real German curry ketchup. I'm looking forward to the camp already and hope to see you there!

*I'm cooking today, I'm an excellent cook  
Trust me, I know all the tricks in the book  
Frozen pizza, cheese on toast  
And for dessert, milk and cheerios*

That may sound familiar to many students, but it's a far cry from the diets of the world's great leaders. Stalin's dinner parties would often last for six hours, and Kim Jong Il is a notoriously picky eater, with favourites that include shark-fin soup. Legend has it that Mussolini's favourite food led to discord between him and his wife: he loved a simple



salad of chopped garlic tossed in olive oil and lemon juice. And let's not get started on Pol Pot, who liked cobra stew... The cooking crew will endeavour to find a healthy balance between these dishes, so that you can start the day satisfied and full of energy! I'm **Charlotte**, a second-year student, and I look forward to meeting you all!



# Bar staff

In addition to food, no way the introduction camp would be complete without alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages! That's why we've appointed a team of designated baristas who will make sure you've got everything you need during the camp. They will introduce themselves below!



Salutations, soldiers!

It's great that you are joining our forces and coming along on the famous camp! Let me introduce myself. My name is **Job** and I'm a fourth-year History student. It's been a few years – no, decades – since I first marched onto the battlefield of student life as a young soldier. In order to win my brothers' approval, I not only had to attend party after party, I had to always be among the last left standing. My days as a humble foot soldier are long past now; I've lived through many parties, survived festivals and reached the apex of party stamina. To celebrate my retirement, I've joined the UHSK's infamous

Party Committee to help guide the new troops. At the camp, I will be your faithful Hauptsturmpourer. Together with the other loyal veterans by my side, I will make sure the amber liquid flows generously. Together, we'll show everyone how the amber nectar is not only indispensable party fuel, but can offer some much-needed relief after a long day's hard work on the front line. Are you ready to let your hair down and have a drink when the day is done, or are you up for a beer at any other point? Come and find the bar team and get to know us!

After storm-tossed oceans have been traversed, cold Siberian winters have been survived and empires have been expanded, who cares about a touch of scurvy or a bad case of frostbite in your toes? Your victory must be celebrated! And what better way than with a few cold beers, poured to perfection. Once you've got some of the amber nectar running through your veins, the next chapter of the adventure can begin. For a moment, your worst enemies become your best dancing partners – with that unattainable guy/girl suddenly so close-by, you can forget about any other treasures or countries that need to be conquered, or that frostbitten toe. Empires may fall, but at least you'll have the memories of a legendary evening to get you through it, right? Or will that killer hangover hobble you on the battlefield? I'm **Lynn**, your



bartendrix during this adventure. I've been immersed in an ongoing battle with my textbooks for three years now, and I've been making people happy by serving beer at parties for the same amount of time. I will continue this tradition at this memorable camp by being on the bar team. I will make sure the rivers of amber nectar, with its magical ability to make you forget your woes, will flow into the small hours – into cups that runneth over as the evening progresses. In the evenings, it's time for a truce; the enemy you were trying to annihilate on the battlefield just that afternoon is now your best friend. Together, we will celebrate our triumphs and mourn our losses. However, if you find the beer goes to your head, I'll take your glass off you. We all have our limits. Let's embark on this adventure together and give it all we've got! See you at camp!

Who's that behind the bar? Is that the lead singer of Foals? Who is the owner of that beautiful beard? Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce **Luke de Bruijn**! Also known as Wild-Haired Luke (because his mane can look quite impressive in the morning before he puts some gel in it); or *pannenkoek* (pancake) or *pas n'est couque*, because you might as well be fancy and put a French twist on things. Luke is 21 and hails from the picturesque town of Ellecom, and although he would torment his neighbour as a little boy by throwing fireworks under her carport, he turned out alright in the end. He's been at university for four years now, and he's been a UHSK member since the start. You might be afraid that he's about to graduate and we'll have to do without him soon, but don't worry – our Luke is going to remain in the hallowed halls of academia for a while, and we're thrilled about that, because if there's anyone that's fun to party with, it's Luke. It's a good thing that he's on the bar team and doesn't have to get out of bed early, because he's not exactly a morning person. Make sure he has his cuppa and ciggie in the morning and he'll be ready for all sorts of wild adventures after that – taking selfies with hordes of running cows, for example. Luke also makes music, runs around on a grass field in a green-and-black jersey with



some other guys from the UHSK every Saturday and turns all that beer into pure muscle at the gym. Want to know more? Call 0654315669 or come have a chat at the bar. Bye for now!

The stunning lady on your left is known by the name of **Anneleen**. Those who know Anneleen a little bit better know that that's not the only name she goes by. Rumour has it that she also responds to the name 'Gerrie' – try it sometime. I'd like to take a moment now to draw attention to her beautiful blonde hair. You could describe her haircut as 'short and spunky' – unfortunately, she's not a big fan of

that term herself. Anneleen is very particular about her hairdo, and keen observers will notice that she often surreptitiously runs her hand through her hair in order to carefully put it back in place. Anneleen is the kind of person whom you end up getting a 'friend crush' on. As the impartial author, I can virtually guarantee this. Anneleen is always up for a chat and, out of the kindness of her heart, she will be a listening ear for all your problems and struggles. If you crack a joke, you've got an approx. 100% chance it'll make her laugh. And if you happen to be a loyal Ajax supporter, you'll have won her over well and truly. At this camp, she will be there to help meet your primary need: beer. The importance of Anneleen's presence therefore cannot be underestimated. Without her, the introduction camp would be as exciting as a primary-school sleepover. So try to be her best friend and she won't let you down. Anneleen is a lot nicer than the person who wrote this text – whom you thankfully won't run into.

Dear up-and-coming historians,

A few years ago, I, **Wiebe Reints**, managed to leave the island of Texel, making my escape using the sporadic ferry service that links it to the mainland. As I'm writing this, I can already hear the questions: yes, we do have a secondary school, despite the fact that sheep outnumber people on the island. In my spare time, if I wasn't herding sheep or saving seals on the beach, I'd play music or go to the pub with friends. Unfortunately, I had to give up on the first two pastimes after I moved to the big city, but I'm happy to say the other two are still very much alive and kicking. What awaits you this weekend will be a turning point in your young lives. These days will not only mark the

start of the most exciting time of your life – your time as a student – but you will also forge new friendships and make unforgettable memories. Furthermore, just like in the popular real-time strategy game Age of Empires, you will compete against your fellow students. However, there's another battle that requires your participation: who will win the battle against the Empire of the Amber Nectar? My fellow baristas and I will lift your spirits after a hard day on the battlefield with a ceaseless flow of the most delectable beverage that ever existed. But be careful, you will find yourself facing up to the consequences of your night-time heroics the next day. Only the most experienced soldiers will be able to master the alcohol. So start training now – because what applies to everything else in life also applies to partying: practice makes perfect!





\*click Douwe\*

‘How can I help you?’

\*click the special move with the cold pint of beer icon\*

‘Your wish is my command!’

My name is **Douwe Johannes**

**Volmerink** and I will be at the camp to

serve up the amber nectar to you and

anyone else who wants it. When I’m

behind the bar, you can expect some

grandiloquent one-liners from me,

because I learned to speak Dutch by

playing Age of Empires III. Part III is my favourite in the series, because of the great

Dutch dub especially, and I’ve been a UHSK member for three years now. There may be a connection between the two – who knows?

My favourite unit is the tuck-tuck-tuck-car. Who doesn’t enjoy monster trucks demolishing buildings in front of people who’ve never seen a motorised vehicle before? Personally, I love that sort of thing.

When I played Age of Empires, I used to cheat; I’ll freely admit it. But I hadn’t learned English yet and I never understood what I was actually typing. Apparently, the cheat for 1000 wood (‘<censored>’) is a sexual innuendo. If I could do it all over again with this knowledge, would I still do it? You bet.

What else do you need to know about me? I’m a first-string player on the UHSK football team. I’m often called ‘indispensable’ or ‘crucial to the team’, mainly when we don’t have enough players. I also perform at the UHSK’s open mic nights every now and then, as part of an act called ‘The Fat Boyz’. Ask any UHSK member about this band and you’ll see their face light up like a scout finding an untouched goldmine beyond the enemy’s reach, at a stone’s throw from their own village.



# DJs

**Naturally, the camp would be a dud without two DJs spinning amazing tunes to get the party banging. They will be there for you into the small hours to transform the legendary dance floor of Hoeve de Peul into an exclusive nightclub!**

Dear first-years,

More than five years ago, **Pepijn Doornenbal** and **Castor van Dillen** embarked on their university careers. Pepijn started out with some adventures in Louvain and Olomouc, and Castor grew up in Utrecht, rising through the ranks and ultimately becoming chairman of the UHSK. These two dashing young men met three years ago on the UHSK's Activities Committee, to then make their debut as DJs in April 2015 at the K-sjot, a Utrecht nightclub that is well-known to most UHSK members. From then on, these two heartthrobs went through life as the *Duo Penotti*. They went to many parties, playing some of the very best 'guilty pleasures' tracks in existence, building up their playlist of the most-played favourites and often sending the crowd into ecstasy. The fabled DJ duo has no interest in the conventions and commerce that tend to characterise the DJ world. Follow up each tune with a new one – that's their motto! Duo Penotti's musical taste ranges from soul, disco and funk to one-hit-wonders and corny classics from their childhood to thumping beats and songs you can sing along to at the top of your lungs. And of course they always take requests – but you do have to buy them a drink in return. When they're not spinning tunes and attending UHSK activities, these two boys are very serious about their studies. Next year, they will be starting on the History Master's programme in Leiden, but they will never lose touch with their Utrecht roots.

At the camp, if we're not behind the turntables, you'll find us chilling out somewhere, dissecting life and our direct environment in philosophical conversations. But we also like to crack jokes, and we'll even indulge in a touch of schadenfreude from time to time. As avid Age of Empires players, we are very excited about the theme for this year's introduction. The world has been characterised by huge empires virtually from the start – from the Roman Empire to the Mongolians, but let us not forget the Dutch Golden Age and the role of the US as a global power. The desire to create an empire seems to be human nature. At this introduction camp, you'll be able to start small by founding your own seminar group empire. As Duo Penotti, we will contribute to the fun by playing some great tunes for you to march off to battle to. We can't wait to play lots of amazing music for you at the introduction camp. After all, what would the introduction be without a few great parties? Exactly, it would be a pretty sad state of affairs! We'll see you in Noorbeek, and don't forget to bring your dancin' shoes!

Avé,  
Pepijn 'Escobar' 'The Tank'  
Doornenbal  
Castor 'Rotsac' 'Beaver' van  
Dillen





# To conclude

So yeah, these are all the fabulous people who will be making these introduction days happen for you! They can all be recognised by their brightly coloured Age of Empires t-shirts and they are always willing to help you!

If you are coming along to the camp, you will find out on Friday which seminar group you have been placed in. That is also when you will meet your mentors. Those of you who are not coming on the camp will meet their mentors on the Faculty Day on Monday.

We are very much looking forward to it, and we hope you are too! If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Introduction Committee.

We hope to see you soon!

The 2017 – 2018 History Introduction Committee

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