

Manifesto

The future of Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) is in jeopardy

The Faculty of Philosophy suffers a structural budget deficit of 300.000 euro. Because the Executive Board of the EUR will not increase the Faculty's funding, cuts are unavoidable. There are proposals to abolish the fulltime and parttime bachelor Program in Philosophy. Moreover, the Faculty of Philosophy will likely be dissolved. In all these plans, the long-term consequences for education and research are not taken into account sufficiently.

For that reason we, students at the Faculty of Philosophy, call for:

1. Preservation of the fulltime and parttime bachelor program in Philosophy

The executive board of our university goes along with the fashion to introduce 'broad' bachelor programs. Such programs are certainly of value, but can never replace a bachelor program in Philosophy! If the Philosophy bachelor at the EUR would be abolished, a decrease in the depth and diversity of philosophy courses seems unavoidable. This would be a great loss, especially given the exceptional quality of education at our Faculty. Only last year, the fulltime bachelor received the predicate 'top-program' from the *Keuzegids Universiteiten 2015*. The parttime bachelor is such a rarity in the Netherlands that it draws students from all around the country. Abolishing these programs would be capital destruction. Don't let it come to that!

2. Preservation of the faculty of philosophy

If the Faculty of Philosophy would become part of a different Faculty, philosophers at the EUR will be hampered in one of their main tasks: philosophy of science. Research in philosophy of science benefits from an institutional structure in which it can be carried out autonomously and independently. After all: to be able to think well about other subject areas, philosophers first need to be able to think about their own discipline. An independent Faculty of Philosophy contributes to the quality of education and research in this way. Moreover, other Faculties will - despite their best intentions - not be able to be a good host for philosophy education and research. It will simply be very difficult for a small group of philosophers to maintain their own profile within a bigger faculty.

3. Decision-making that puts science centre stage

Administrative and economic considerations tend to dominate recent decision-making at the EUR. Such considerations, though important, fail to sufficiently take into account the main tasks of a university. As students, we call on the decision-makers at our university and faculties to not gamble with the very foundation of our academy. Devise a plan for the future of our Faculty that is financially sustainable, but that at same time values Philosophy and leaves it of value. After all, a university is ultimately there to foster high quality education and research!

Philosophy ground