

VU Campus

A MEANINGFUL MEETING PLACE IN ZUIDAS

The City of Amsterdam and VU Amsterdam are currently working out the design as well as the details of the Zuidas Knowledge Quarter, a campus conceived to form part of the city fabric. Recent years have seen Zuidas gradually transform from a business district into a mixed purpose urban hub, which has become an appealing place to live, work and study. Considerable investments are being made in these

developments, including the one made by VU Amsterdam, where students, teaching staff, researchers and members of the business community are being brought together to share ideas on the campus design, the layout of building functions and facilities, the creation of meeting places and ‘living rooms’ around the campus, and to intensify the ties with the university’s neighbours and partners around Zuidas.

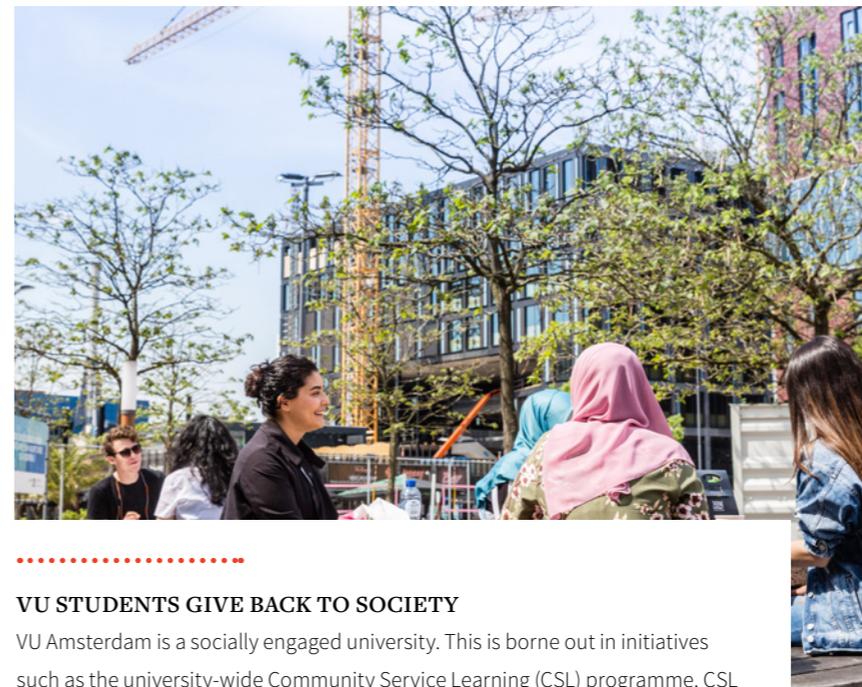
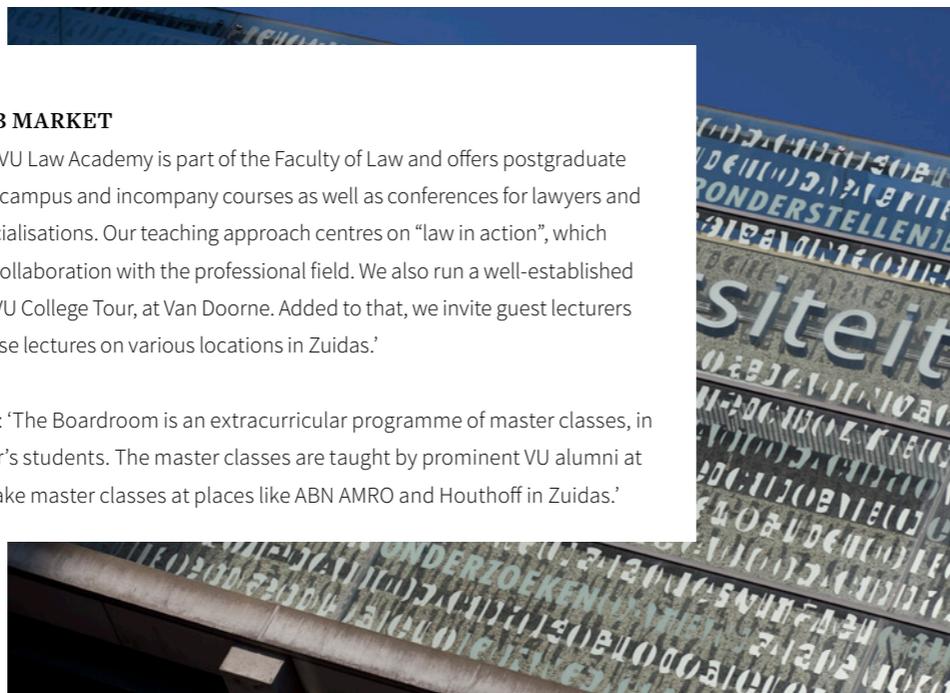
Meaningful meetings like these foster the sharing of knowledge and interdisciplinary exchanges. They also open new doors for teaching and research. Apart from that, they help students get equipped for the society, to enable them discover what motivates them and to support them in becoming active and engaged citizens.

Here we share some inspiring examples!

CONNECTING STUDENTS AND THE JOB MARKET

Jan Breed, Director of the VU Law Academy: ‘The VU Law Academy is part of the Faculty of Law and offers postgraduate education in the shape of educational tracks, on-campus and incompany courses as well as conferences for lawyers and other legal professionals in a variety of legal specialisations. Our teaching approach centres on “law in action”, which emphasises the societal function of the law and collaboration with the professional field. We also run a well-established interview series with notables in the field, called VU College Tour, at Van Doorne. Added to that, we invite guest lecturers from Zuidas-based firms, and we regularly organise lectures on various locations in Zuidas.’

Nynke van der Hem, VU Alumni Relations Officer: ‘The Boardroom is an extracurricular programme of master classes, in which admission is limited to 20 talented Master’s students. The master classes are taught by prominent VU alumni at their work locations. This year, students got to take master classes at places like ABN AMRO and Houthoff in Zuidas.’



VU STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO SOCIETY

VU Amsterdam is a socially engaged university. This is borne out in initiatives such as the university-wide Community Service Learning (CSL) programme. CSL is a learning track where students apply their academic skills to tackle social policy issues occurring in Amsterdam, in close cooperation with various civil society partners. For example, during a project for Ymere and the Amsterdam Noord Development Office, health sciences students left the lecture hall in favour of the Waterlandplein quarter in Amsterdam Noord to research what specific forms of assistance are required among its residents.



AMSTERDAM VENTURE STUDIOS

Amsterdam Venture Studios (AVS) is the next generation of university incubators, set to open up new venues for students, researchers and alumni to kick-start their ideas and grow new ventures. Through AVS, VU Amsterdam is helping to build new knowledge-based businesses in Zuidas. www.amsterdamventurestudios.nl/vu-campus/



VU GREEN OFFICE

Sean Goodwin, Research Coordinator at the VU Green Office: ‘The Green Office is VU’s sustainability platform, where the focus lies on community. By that we mean not simply the VU community, but the community in a broader sense, which includes Zuidas. Our Student Consultancy Hub (SCH) connects students to challenges on sustainability at VU and beyond. For example, the SCH set up a project where students worked with an Amsterdam-based social enterprise to map Dutch food sector stakeholders and help them plan for the transition towards sustainable food. To learn more, send an email to: research@greenofficevu.nl, or visit: www.greenofficevu.nl/student-consultancy-hub.

CULTURE ON CAMPUS

Josja van der Veer, Director of the Facilities Campus Organization: ‘A few years ago, VU teamed up with Rialto to start showing films on the campus. This includes the On the Roof Festival, of which Hello Zuidas is a sponsor, and Rialto@VU Campus. In the Main Building, award-winning films with an important social message are screened once every fortnight, while in the new University Building, which is still under construction; Rialto’s outstanding cultural film programme will be given a dedicated location on campus. It will feature as many as four theatres to stage films and live performances, each seating 500 visitors. All of this is the fruit of a unique alliance between a cultural institution and the university.’ www.vu.nl/film

