

Erasmus Verbindt

Some background information

As you may have noticed, our university is changing. During these past years it's focus has shifted quite dramatically from predominantly striving for academic excellence, towards *creating a positive societal impact*. And that is something quite different! Taking responsibility concerning urgent societal issues, such as climate change and the Covid-outbreak, has become an integral part of our university. And since we, as a student community, are also an integral part of our university we decided that we couldn't stay behind. *Erasmus Verbindt* (Dutch for Erasmus Connects) is our way of making a contribution, our way of taking responsibility as well.

And as a community we have a lot to offer! Students are smart, energetic and have a genuine interest in taking on social challenges. We all have different backgrounds, follow different programs and are able to contribute to making meaningful changes in our own way. At *Erasmus Verbindt* we plan to join forces and work together to make a difference.

This student-driven, mediating role between science and society is completely new. That makes it a big challenge of course, but also something very exciting. As a team we are aiming to make structural improvements in the valuable and necessary relationship between science and society (which is a big deal!). And we firmly believe that we can do so. Hopefully you'll join us in this mission.

Who are we looking for?

Erasmus Verbindt is looking for ambitious and socially engaged students who want to develop themselves and make a positive impact during their studies. Of course, we welcome students from all studies and backgrounds. An ideal team member is someone who:

- *Has a great interest in taking on societal issues in Rotterdam*
- *Is interested in finding ways to make science work for the city*
- *Is somewhat advanced in his/her study (it's not an easy job)*
- *Is eager to learn and work with students from different disciplines*
- *Has gained some relevant experience either in or outside the university (this could vary from organizing events and marketing jobs at study associations, to contributing to research initiatives and societal projects)*
- *Is both flexible and reliable*

Some information on the organisation

Together with your colleagues you will function as a 'connector' in our second so called track: 'Erasmus in dialogue with...' which is the backbone of *Erasmus Verbindt*. This track consists of 4 large, interdisciplinary teams who will focus on complex societal issues in Rotterdam. Each team has a different focus, namely: health, sustainability, social inequality or metropolitan challenges.¹ In the lead of each team is a team leader, who is responsible for the overall process and performance of the team. The teams themselves will be supported by the *Erasmus Verbindt* board, who provide them with feedback and networks. They will be assisted by our supporting staff and advised by our societal partners and befriended scientists. Our home base is a brand new 70m² office in the Schieblock at Hofplein!

¹ Unsure what we mean by Metropolitan Challenges? Have a look at the Vital Cities and Vital Citizens-page <https://www.eur.nl/en/research/erasmus-initiatives/vital-cities-and-citizens>

Tasks as a team member

As a team member, you will play an important role in bringing together scientists and societal stakeholders in Rotterdam. Your job is to gain an in-depth understanding of our urban problems. You will look for scientists and city inhabitants alike, who work on these issues from different angles and who would benefit from exchanging knowledge and ideas. You will actively work towards organizing get-togethers/discussions/events with involved attendees on relevant locations in the city. During these events, the focus will lie on gaining a deeper understanding of these societal issues and discussing concrete solutions.

Team members will be:

- *Applying and furthering the knowledge of your studies*
- *Gaining an in depth understanding of societal problems in Rotterdam*
- *Organizing meetings between scientists and societal stakeholders to discuss concrete solutions*
- *Develop your own academic, creative and organizational skills*
- *Learn and work with students, scientists & societal stakeholders from different backgrounds*
- *Expanding your network and horizon*
- *Making a meaningful impact*

For more information on the specific content of Track 2, check out the website!

What does *Erasmus Verbindt* offer you?

We offer you the opportunity to turn all the knowledge and skills you have obtained during your studies into a positive impact. Participating in one of the teams also means you will get the opportunity to build a large and versatile network, both inside and outside the university. You will work with and learn from people from different academic and cultural backgrounds. You will address serious issues with serious partners on serious issues. On behalf of *Erasmus Verbindt* you will also receive an official certificate of recognition at the end of your period of involvement. And last but not least, you will work together with energetic and sociable team members and colleagues - in the heart of Rotterdam. (right above the Biergarten ;))

Practical information

Similar to being active in a study association committee, participation in one of our teams is on a voluntary basis and takes somewhere between 5-10 hours per week. *Erasmus Verbindt* believes it is important to strive for inclusion and diversity. We appreciate applications from all backgrounds, genders, and studies.

You can apply by emailing us your CV and motivation letter to applications@erasmusverbindt.nl. We hope to have informed you sufficiently. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@erasmusverbindt.nl. We look forward to meeting you soon!