



*Student
Alliance
Wageningen*

Information booklet S.A.W.

Foreword

Dear student of Wageningen,

Daily, we work very hard to defend your interests. Asked and unasked we voice the opinion of the students in and around Wageningen. So far, this board year has been challenging and a great learning experience for us all.

When the new academic year starts, sadly we will have to pass our tasks on to the next generation of board members. They have the task to expand the network that we build even further, work on challenging projects that we have started, but mostly start new projects that fit their interests and talents. This all to defend the interests of students in and around Wageningen. Are you up for this? Apply for the S.A.W. board of 2020-2021.!

In this booklet you can find more information about what a board year at S.A.W. looks like. Do you have any questions? Or do you want to talk to a board member about for instance their experiences? Don't hesitate to contact us! At the end of this booklet you will find contact information, but you can always contact someone you already know or someone you spoke to before.

Good luck with your decision!

The board of Student Alliance Wageningen 2019-2020



S.A.W. General

S.A.W. is the student union of Wageningen which started in 2016. We defend the interests of students by dealing with all levels of student life. We look at student life from an institutional (WUR), municipality, provincial and even national level. For more general information about S.A.W. you can go to our website: sawageningen.nl.

Time

You would be applying for the board of academic year 2020-2021, so the start of September to the end of August. A board year at S.A.W. is flexible. There are some constant tasks and projects. Next to that there is a lot of space for new projects and tasks that fit your own talents and interests. This makes it possible to do the board part time or full time. If you choose to do the board part time, there is less time and space for new tasks and projects. However, this does leave time to follow one (6 ECTS) or two (12 ECTS) courses each period. Following 12 ECTS is possible, but it can be very difficult sometimes, mostly because you will have to say no to some interesting projects.

Financial compensation

As a board member you get financial compensation from the WUR for study delay (FOS). We get 6 months of FOS per board member, which means that we get financial support for half a year of study delay. The amount of one month of FOS varies every year. This year we are getting $6 \times 328 = \text{€}1.968$ per board member. You get this amount at the end of the board year on your account, so it is not a monthly payment.

Tasks

Within the board there are four functions: chair, secretary, treasurer and general board member. To these functions there are a few tasks assigned, like chairing the board meetings and making the budget. S.A.W. is divided into portfolios and each board member is responsible for each portfolio. The portfolios that you are responsible for as a board member, determine most of year board tasks. The substantive portfolios are: Housing, Education, Mobility, Sustainability, Internationalisation, Social Well-being and the #nietmijnschuld Campaign. Furthermore, there are some more general portfolios: PR, National student union (LSVb), Members, Extern, Board Recruitment and Board Selection. Within the portfolios (mostly the substantive ones) there is a lot of room to start new initiatives or projects. This way you can fit each portfolio to your own strengths and interests.

Housing

Within this portfolio you have a lot of contact with the municipality and Idealis about the housing situation in Wageningen. Also, you solve smaller problems that students. For instance, students come to us because they might get evicted from their house and need our help. Furthermore, as portfolio holder you chair the HuCo meetings. This is a periodic meeting with the housing committees of the larger student associations. With this portfolio you get a lot of help from the housing working group of the national student union (LSVb). The LSVb has an employee who knows all about housing rights and who we can always ask for (legal) advice. You will also get a training about this, so at the end of the year, you will know a lot about it.

Education

With this portfolio you mostly follow education trends on a national level. This is because we have a capable Student Council who solve most of the problems within the WUR. This year we investigated problems with Remote Proctoring and the Social Science Masters that get one year less of study financing. In the past we organised a demonstration against the evening lectures that the WUR tried to implement in 2016.

Mobility

In this portfolio you look at the traffic in and around Wageningen. The most important part of this portfolio is the ROCOV-meetings. ROCOV is an advisory body of the province Gelderland. The members of ROCOV give advice to public transport companies. Attending these meetings has really payed off! Via ROCOV we achieved that there are now extra busses from Wageningen to Ede-Wageningen during peak hours and in the weekend night busses to Utrecht. Another yearly task is organising a bike light and bike safety action with the municipality. Lastly, since a few weeks we are a part of focus group "Beter Bereikbaar Wageningen" (better accessible Wageningen). Here we give advice about the potential new ways around the campus.

Sustainability

This year our portfolio holder sustainability was coordinator of the GAN, the Green Active Network. This is a network of several green minded organisations in Wageningen. Next to that, the portfolio holder chairs the DuCo meetings. These are meetings with the sustainability committees of student associations. You also have a lot of contact with the municipality about sustainability topics. The municipality has very ambitious climate goals and organises a lot of information and discussion event about how to reach those goals. We are invited to those meetings and even spoke during one of the opening sessions.

Internationalisation

This portfolio is created this year and therefor it is still in its infancy. This year we started with an anti-discrimination week in collaboration with international student associations in Wageningen. Sadly, due to the Corona-crisis we were not able to pull it off this year. We are also investigating if the international associations would like to form a network just like the GAN. Another important job of the portfolio holder internationalisation is making sure that important information pieces from for instance the LSVb or municipality are in English. Internationalisation is often intertwined with other portfolios. For instance, we organised a lunch lecture about housing legal rights, because a lot of information around housing is still only in Dutch.

Social Well-being

This was a smaller portfolio this year, which means that there is still a lot of space for new ideas. This year our portfolio holder mainly focused on organising stress management training sessions for the boards of our members and member organisations. Furthermore, we were also at the meetings of the sport deal of the municipality. For this portfolio there is also a working group within the LSVb. During this working group we got a training form 113 suicide prevention.

#nietmijnschuld

#nietmijnschuld is the campaign against the Dutch student loan system which started last year. The campaign is a collaboration with the LSVb, FNV Young&United and the other local student unions. The portfolio holder is a part of the action committee of Wageningen and the national action committee. So, you help organising actions on a national and local level. Since it is part of the national campaign, we get resources (like money and manpower) from the nation team. This means that a lot of creative ideas can actually happen. Next year there are a lot of fun actions and activities planned. Next to that, the board of next year can likely say: we made end to the student loan system. Which we sadly cannot say yet.

LSVb

The national student union (LSVb) is actually a federation of member unions. We are one of those member unions. This means that we have a direct voice into the national policy of the LSVb and sometimes we have to approve before they can take action. To do this the LSVb organises informal meetings (IBO) and GMMs. As holder of this portfolio, you go to these meetings. As a member of the LSVb you get a lot of support, by going to the different work groups and using their legal service. They also offer training sessions for for instance board recruitment. Furthermore, the LSVb also has an employee and a board member who regularly check up on the member unions and who you can ask questions. Lastly, the LSVb offers you two coaches who work as volunteer for the LSVb. They guide you through your board year and help you with non-substantive subject, like group dynamic and time management. As portfolio holder you plan these coaching sessions. For the social connection between the unions of the LSVb there is a union weekend and days, where all kinds of activities are done. Altogether, the help and support of the LSVb takes S.A.W. and the development of its board members to a higher level.

Members

As holder of this portfolio you are responsible for member recruitment and loyalty and the committees and work groups of S.A.W. Students can become a member of S.A.W. as an individual, but associations or organisations can also become a member association. This year we set up the payed membership system and added the association membership. Both membership types are still in its infancy. We have 10 individual members and 11 member associations. Within this portfolio you are responsible for increasing the number of members but also that they stay a member. This year we met with all the associations and organisations in Wageningen to get to know them and to pitch our membership. As this portfolio holder you are also responsible for the committees and work groups. You have to make sure that the committees are become active and stay active. So, you are not an actual part of the committee. At this moment the committees and work groups are not active, apart form the sustainability committee.

Skill that you develop during a board year at S.A.W.

- Collaboration
- Time management
- Stress management
- Representing
- Writing and language skills: formal letters, press releases
- Speaking skills: presentations, interviews, speeches, argumentation, discussions debates
- Press experience
- Social media skills
- Critical view
- Reflection: self-reflection, giving and receiving feedback
- Networking
- Facilitating and organising
- Setting up and executing projects and campaigns
- Convincing and negotiating
- Leadership
- Taking initiative
- Setting goals
- Writing and implementing policy
- Financial tasks: accounting and budgeting
- Taking minutes
- Chairing

Want to apply?

Do you want to take this opportunity and apply for the board of 2020-2021? Send a short motivation and your relevant working experience (or CV) to info@sawageningen.nl before **June 17**.

Contact

Do you want more information about a board year at S.A.W.? You can always send us a email (info@sawageningen.nl) or call/WhatsApp +31 618546428 (our secretary, Mats). You can also contact any of the board members that you already know or that you have had contact with before. We are ready to answer all your questions or to schedule a video meeting. Don't hesitate any longer!