

Ibn Battuta

Policy 2020 - 2021

60th Board of Faculty Association Ibn Battuta

Focus points:

- ❖ Online representation
- ❖ Strengthening the Ibn Battuta community
- ❖ Adapting to external circumstances

Disclaimer

The events as they are written in this policy will only happen if the restrictions concerning the Covid-19 Pandemic allow it. If the restrictions remain during the rest of the Association Year we will organize the activities in close contact with the Safety Region (Veiligheidsregio) and the University of Groningen.

The Association

Faculty Association Ibn Battuta is characterized by her cohesive atmosphere, professional representation, and inclusive attitude. This is upheld via the Ibn Battuta community. The flexibility and adaptiveness of the Association and its strong base of active members results in the organization of diverse activities. To adapt to external circumstances, we will extensively focus on our online representation, which will contribute to the growing professionalism of Ibn Battuta.

Lustrum

This Association Year, Faculty Association Ibn Battuta celebrates her 12th Lustrum. To celebrate the Lustrum, we want to get the members of Ibn Battuta acquainted with the Lustrum throughout the whole year. To achieve this, a link towards the Lustrum will be made during designated social drinks. Also, committees and projectgroups will be stimulated to take the theme of the Lustrum into account when organizing activities.

Introduction Period

The annual Introduction Weekend on Ameland will not take place. Therefore, Projectgroup Introduction Period is appointed. Through the organization of several activities, the Projectgroup is responsible for showing what Ibn Battuta can contribute to the life of a student. During the introductory events, the focus was mainly on informative events, but opportunities will be provided to get to know the Association and each other.

Master Introduction Days

This year, two separate Master Introduction Days are organized. During the first one, (pre-)master students are informed about the practical sides of their studies. While the second one is a social introduction in the form of a pint of science to get to know their fellow students and professors. Similarly to the first-year students, the (pre-)master students are introduced to the Ibn Battuta community and what the Association offers.

Dinner Groups

We will introduce Dinner Groups consisting of a small group of students who can have dinner together. This will provide participants with the opportunity to meet new people and to become familiar with the Association. The Dinner Groups are promoted during the Introduction Period and start directly after the Introduction Period of the Association. Projectgroup Introduction Period helps to set up their first dinner.



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Online Representation

The consequences of the coronavirus and the impact of a potential financial crisis on the Association are uncertain. The uncertainties around the regulations make it more challenging to plan and organize activities. This will lead to the increased importance of the online representation and promotion of Faculty Association Ibn Battuta.

Website

The website of Ibn Battuta plays an essential role in the online representation of the Association. Therefore, we will provide a new design for our website, with an extended focus on the home page. The renewed website will contribute to the professionalism of Ibn Battuta's online representation. The new website is built with input from members.

ConnAction Forum

To provide members with an extra opportunity to interact with each other and the Association, we have introduced an online forum called the ConnAction Forum on the website of Ibn Battuta. The forum can be used to post initiatives and thoughts. The ConnAction Forum is available to all members and is moderated by the board.

Acquisition

To build upon the increasingly professional online operation of the Association, we will make use of the software called Customer Relationship Management. The system will contribute to the maintenance of close contact with partners of the Association and will provide an overview of the previous contact with companies. It will also help to coordinate the overall acquisition done within the Association.

Inclusion

Internationalization

In recent years, there has been an ongoing shift towards internationalization within Ibn Battuta. However, the Association has its roots in the Dutch culture. This Association Year, the focus will move towards the process of getting international students acquainted with the Dutch culture, language, and traditions. To work towards this, we will organize a Dutch Culture Night.

Friends Activity

This Association Year, we aim to reach 80 Friends. Furthermore, we will organize a Friends of Ibn Battuta Activity. The activity will focus on staying in touch with the Friends of Ibn Battuta and thanking them for their gift. This is not only an opportunity to preserve the number of Friends but it will also provide a moment to socialize.

Alumni Map

To give our members insight into their possibilities in the working field after their studies, we will develop an Alumni Map. This map shows at which part of the working field former members of Ibn Battuta ended up and what their daily work looks like. We strive to have a different section on every master and bachelor program, which will be available on the website for the members.



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Sustainability

Projectgroup Sustainability and Society

During the Association Year, we strive to improve the awareness of sustainability within the Association. We shift the focus of Projectgroup Sustainability towards society with activities involving active societal engagement and caritative activities. The events are providing our members with a chance to personally develop themselves as well as contributing to the professional image of the Association. Therefore, the Projectgroup is renamed to Projectgroup Sustainability and Society.

Societal Awareness Week

This year, the first Societal Awareness Week will be organized. During this week, there will be a focus on creating more awareness for a specific societal topic. The theme for this year will be waste awareness. During this week all activities will be focused on sustainability. Furthermore, members will get the opportunity to return and exchange old and no longer used clothes, as well as non-perishable food, that will later be donated to a charity.

Faculty

The close contact with the Faculty has proven to be of great value to the operation of the Association. We will maintain this connection by continuing to visit staff members, attending the Faculty coffee moments, as well as joining the Faculty Council.

Confidential Counselors

Since there has been unawareness amongst members about where to go with concerns regarding the Faculty, the Confidential Counselors have received training. This training, done in collaboration with the Faculty, consisted of gaining knowledge about the structure within the Faculty. Thus the Confidential Counselors know where to turn with such concerns. The role of the International Ambassador is taken up by one of the Confidential Counselors.

Committees

Committee Competition

To increase the cohesion within our committees and the participation at activities, even more, we will set up a Committee Competition. This way we will encourage committee members to engage within the Association actively. Committees will be automatically enrolled, while projectgroups and fellowships will have the opportunity to participate. During every General Members Assembly, the winner will be announced and will win a prize.

EGEA

This Association Year, there will be an extended focus on the EGEA community itself. This will be achieved by a group chat consisting of both active and inactive members, and by asking committee members to stay in the committee for longer than one year. The purpose of this is to provide members with the opportunity to get more actively involved in the EGEA community. Adding to that, we will create the opportunity for students from similar studies to become a part of the EGEA Groningen entity.

Social Drinks

During the last years, 't Gat van Groningen established itself as the home base of Ibn Battuta. Therefore, this Association Year, the Social Drinks will be held in 't Gat van Groningen. To provide the members with an opportunity to meet up with friends beforehand, Social Drinks will start at 10:00 PM. If Social Drinks cannot happen regularly, we will organize seated events on the terrace of the 't Gat van Groningen or Social Drinks with a limited number of people inside.



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Coffee Room

Coffee Delivery Service

To make sure Caffeine Card holders have the opportunity to enjoy coffee, we will implement a Coffee Delivery Service around the lecture halls where the Faculty organizes lectures. This will replace the Coffee Room for as long as the Interim is closed to members. Caffeine Card holders can request the delivery service on the ConnAction Forum. The Coffee Delivery Service will be available during the Coffee Hours.

Coffee Hours

A board member will be present during Coffee Hours to make and deliver coffee and tea. Coffee Hours will be hosted from 09:30 AM until 02:00 PM from Monday to Thursday. On Friday, it will be hosted from 09:30 AM until 01:00 PM. When the Coffee Room is open again, members are free to make coffee and tea for themselves outside the Coffee Hours. Furthermore, via the Committee Competition, we will encourage the committees, projectgroups, and fellowships to host Coffee Hours to promote their upcoming activities.

Caffeine Cards

Subscribing for a Caffeine Card and renewing subscriptions will be possible via the website from the beginning and throughout the Academic Year. During the year, we will promote the Caffeine Cards at the beginning of every period. Additionally, to promote the Caffeine Cards, we will host two weeks of free coffee and tea when the Coffee Room is open again. We will continue with the sale of a personalized mug. The price will be twenty euros with a mug and fifteen euros without a mug.

