

Ibn Battuta

Policy 2019 - 2020

59th Board of Faculty Association Ibn Battuta

Focus points:

- ❖ Process towards sustainability
- ❖ New Strategic Vision
- ❖ Increasing member participation

The Association

The Faculty Association Ibn Battuta highly values her open and positive atmosphere. Interaction between our members has always been an important matter, which is strengthened by the activities and by the heart of the Association, the Coffee Room. This goes together with a noticeable development of the Association in terms of her international focus and professionalism. To build upon the international focus, we will concentrate on culturally and internationally oriented activities. In addition, we will focus on becoming a sustainable association, which will contribute to the professional attitude of Ibn Battuta.

Introduction period

The content of the afternoon program of the introduction day will be changed. We will do this by organizing games that require more teamwork, which will improve social bonding within the Learning Communities. To introduce first-year and pre-master students to other organizations at the Faculty, we will include these organizations in the program. To introduce new students to Ibn Battuta, bachelor and (pre-)master, they will all have the opportunity to join the Introduction Weekend. Also, the committees that organize more than one activity per year will be introduced to the new students by organizing at least one activity in period 1A.

Masters Welcome Cafe

During the introduction period, we will again organize a Masters Welcome Cafe to introduce master students to Ibn Battuta. The program will be adapted in order to increase the participation of the master students. The Welcome Cafe will include a presentation, an activity, and a drink. This will make master students more familiar with what Ibn Battuta has to offer.

Sustainability

We will make a big step within the process of becoming a sustainable association and thereby receiving a bronze Green Office Sustainability Label. Receiving this label contributes to the professional attitude of the Association and anticipates on the sustainable developments that are taking place within the working field. Our focus will be on separating waste, the use of sustainable materials, and activities within this theme. We will implement this within committees, the Coffee Room, administrative affairs, and during the process of organizing the GMAs. To achieve more awareness, we will look into the possibilities to collaborate with the Faculty.

Projectgroup Sustainability

A projectgroup for sustainability will be appointed. This projectgroup will organize think tanks to get other members and faculty staff involved and get them to think along about sustainable solutions. This projectgroup can support the sustainable developments within the Association and will get the opportunity to come up with their own ideas.



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Day for Sustainability

We will organize a day dedicated to sustainability. This day will consist of a formal and informal activity. This will encourage our members to actively think about sustainability and emphasizes the importance of sustainability for the Association. The projectgroup will support the board in organizing this day.

Strategic Vision

During this association year, the Strategic Vision of 2015-2020 is coming to an end. This Strategic Vision has supported boards in setting goals for the Association. With its relevance over several years, it will contribute to the sustainability of the Association. In collaboration with our predecessors, we will work on the next Strategic Vision. In addition, we will involve our members in the process, using walk-in moments and surveys. We will present this Strategic Vision during the association year 2019-2020.

Faculty

Currently, the contact with the Faculty is good and there has been close collaboration between the Association and the Faculty. Visiting the faculty staff and the coffee moments of the departments help to maintain this relationship. We will therefore continue to visit these regularly. Moreover, we will attend the Faculty Council, so we will stay up to date regarding the ongoing affairs. To build upon the close connection, PhD students will be involved more in Ibn Battuta. We will do this by sending them monthly newsletters with activities that could be of interest to them. By collaborating closely with the Faculty, we can actively search for improvements and new ideas that are of interest for both.

Employability

We will offer our members the opportunity to get in contact with the working field as early as possible. To achieve this, we will offer side jobs and promote more traineeships together with our partners. By obtaining an internationally oriented partner, we can offer our members an insight into the international options within our working field.

Employability consultation

We will organize occasional consultation moments with the various parties at the Faculty who are concerned with employability. The moments will be set up in collaboration with the Student Assessor. During these consultation moments, dates and content of activities will be discussed, to see where the parties can complement each other. This collaboration will achieve smarter solutions on activities and partnerships.

Internationalization

Buddy-system

We will strengthen the integration of new students by implementing a buddy-system that links new students, particularly international students, to senior students. These buddies will support new students in practicalities and social matters. Students can profit from their buddy in getting to know the Dutch culture, the habits in Groningen, the social life, and by getting involved with Ibn Battuta.



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International Ambassador

The International Ambassador will be the point of contact for our members with questions and remarks regarding internationalization. Moreover, meetings will be arranged with students to get informed about the current affairs. In this way, the role of the International Ambassador can be adapted to current developments if needed.

Committees

Committee team-drive

We will provide the committees with a team-drive. This drive, to which all the committee members will have access, will contain a general year planning with the distribution of all activities. This ensures less overlap between the activities organized by committees and might therefore result in more participants for each activity. In addition, the transfer documents and a file with a list of points of concern and some practical tips on sustainability, promotion, finance, and privacy will be included.

EGEA

In recent years, EGEA has been less active within Ibn Battuta. However, since EGEA is a valuable committee with a lot of potential, we want our members to regain enthusiasm for the committee. We will maintain the entity of EGEA to be able to offer our members a European network. In addition, the committee will organize activities for members of Ibn Battuta, focused on international orientation and culture. By adding a second application moment in September, we can actively promote the committee on the Ameland introduction weekend and therefore get first-year students involved.

Promotion

We will continue to promote the activities of Ibn Battuta via the platforms that are already used. We will expand our promotion by making use of the television screens in Mercator, Duisenberg, and Kapteynborg, and the social media platforms of the Faculty. Additionally, we will use recaps of past activities as a way of promoting what Ibn Battuta has to offer. We will also broaden the function of the television screen in the Coffee Room. By making use of more interactive means, our members will be engaged with the promotion on the screen. The mentioned promotion tools will therefore make our members more aware of the upcoming activities.

Website

Cribn Battuta

We will offer our members a platform to advertise a spare room in their house or place a request when searching for a room. This will be done through a page on the website and will allow our members to reach out to others within Ibn Battuta. This extra service will help our members to find or rent out a room. When students can find a room in this way, it will also provide an easier connection with the Association. This platform will stimulate our members to create an Ibn Residence.

Initiatives page

We will create an initiatives page on the website via which our members will be able to send an email with ideas. We will post several topics upon which we would like to have ideas or feedback from them. With this page, our member's initiatives can be used for the Association.



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Acquisition

In recent years, a solid foundation has been laid in the contact with various companies. We will maintain this good contact by keeping partners updated about the ongoing affairs of the Association and by keeping personal contact. In addition, we will add more feedback moments to evaluate on the effectiveness of the collaboration. We will actively search for new partners, including internationally oriented partners. In line with our sustainability goals, we will have an extra focus on companies that are oriented on sustainability.

Friends of Ibn Battuta

During the association year 2019-2020, we want to increase the number of Friends of Ibn Battuta. Besides the contribution they provide to the Association, they also connect us to interesting companies and organizations in the working field. Our aim is to have 75 Friends of Ibn Battuta at the end of the association year.

Study

We will proceed with the booksale, however, we will look into the possibilities of working with a new supplier. In addition, we want to expand our offer of other study materials via the webshop. With an eye on sustainability, we will make sure that as many products as possible are sustainable. Moreover, we will strive to offer more summaries on the website by asking our members to share their summaries with us. Offering free summaries to our members is a good incentive for students to become a member of Ibn Battuta.

Coffee Room

Coffee hours

The 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. A board member will be present during these coffee hours to make coffee and tea. Outside these hours, our members are free to make coffee and tea for themselves. We will keep encouraging the committees, projectgroups, and fellowships to host coffee hours to promote their upcoming activities. To meet our sustainability goals, we will put a bigger focus on separating waste within the Coffee Room.

Caffeine Cards

Subscribing for a Caffeine Card and renewing subscriptions will be possible via the website during the whole year. To make sure our members know they can get a Caffeine Card at any time, we will promote these at the beginning of every period. With the eye on sustainability, we will continue using mugs only. With the subscription of a Caffeine Card comes the option for our members to buy a mug and have it personalized at the beginning of the year. The price will be twenty euros with a mug and fifteen euros without a mug.

Social Drinks pub

In recent years, 't Gat van Groningen has become the headquarters of Ibn Battuta within the city center. That is why we will gladly have our social drinks at 't Gat van Groningen again this year. This year we will set the starting time of the social drinks back to 10:00 PM. We believe this way the pub will be filled sooner after the starting time. However, on special occasions, when we can offer our members an incentive, we will let the drinks start at 09:00 PM.

