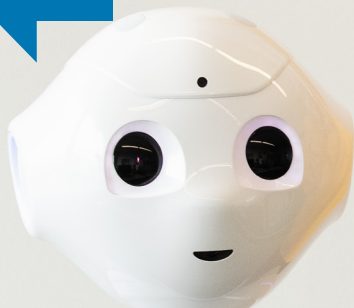


**I CHANGE
CONTACT**
WHAT DO YOU DO?
JOIN THE COURSE
A BROADER MIND

Starting
February 2021!



WWW.VU.NL/ABROADERMIND



A BROADER MIND FOR STUDENTS

Is the world changing? Or are you changing the world?

When do you
consider yourself
successful?
REDEFINE SUCCESS

How can humans and digitization achieve a healthy balance? How can we reduce poverty and our dependence on plastic? How far should we go in the field of biotechnological developments? These complex social challenges require a multidisciplinary approach; they need to be studied and tackled from a range of different perspectives, both scientific and personal. During the A Broader Mind course, you and fellow students from other degree programmes will work together on the issues that really matter in today's society. Online, offline and sometimes in practice. This will enable you to develop your academic skills, expand your network and get involved in contributing to a better world.

The course has been developed entirely by students and staff members of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Why should you sign up?

- **You will work on exciting themes.** Multidisciplinary themes that play an important role in our daily lives, beyond the limits of your field of study. You will study these themes from a personal, academic and societal point of view, allowing you to make the most of your potential.
- **You can choose from eight themes in two tracks.** In Track A you will work on the themes of Human Body, Poverty, Rebellion, and Success. Track B includes the themes of Digital World, Health & Happiness, Sustainability, and Viewpoints & Worldview. Every theme takes two weeks to complete.
- **You will alternate between online and offline activities.** Watch inspirational videos, read articles and interviews online and use a forum for discussions with other students. Next, complete a challenge in which you will really push your own limits. You will complete the theme with an event.
- **You will work with students from other degree programmes.** Expand your horizons by working on a societal issue from various academic and personal points of view. As an added bonus, you will get to expand your network!
- **You'll become aware of your own role, behaviour, predispositions and biases.** In societal issues you are a contributing factor to the issue, meaning that you also have a role to play in finding a solution. This way, we can change and improve the world together.
- **You will boost your CV and strengthening your network.** By further developing your strengths and working with other students, you will not only strengthen your network and boost your CV, but you also improve your future career prospects.

Track A

Can you live on €4.29 a day?
CHANGE POVERTY

1 Plenary kick-off meeting & *Start Assignment*



Theme 1:
Success & Failure

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide



Theme 2:
Poverty

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide

Mid-term Assignment Free week



Theme 3:
Human Body

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide



Theme 4:
Rebellion

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide

No lectures
Final Assignment
Final Meetings Group & Track
Certificate Ceremony Event (mid-June)

Track B

1 Plenary kick-off meeting & *Start Assignment*



Theme 1:
Viewpoints & Worldview

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide



Theme 2:
Health & Happiness

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide

Mid-term Assignment
Free week



Theme 3:
Digital World

2 weeks

1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide



Theme 4:
Sustainability

2 weeks







1 meetup
17:30-20:00 hrs

1 informal meetup
with group/guide

No lectures
Final Assignment
Final Meetings Group & Track
Certificate Ceremony Event (mid-June)

How much plastic do you use?
CHANGE WASTE

Practical details

-  Open to all VU Amsterdam Bachelor's students (1st – 3rd year)
-  Taught in English
-  Interdisciplinary with a mix of online and offline activities
-  Period 4 and 5 with the exception of regular exam weeks
6 offline meetups on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 17:30 – 20:00
Study load: approximately 40 hours (\pm 3hrs/week)
Online activities can be completed in your own time
-  **Track A:** Success & Failure, Poverty, Human Body, Rebellion
Track B: Viewpoints & Worldview, Health & Happiness, Digital World, Sustainability
-  Students will receive a certificate upon successfully completing the course

Interested in registering for this course?

Do you want to broaden your horizons, interact with students from other faculties and work on solutions to societal issues? Then join us and sign up for the A Broader Mind course via www.vu.nl/abroadermind

What kind of rebel are you?
CHANGE CLICHÉS

'I now realize that different areas of expertise are necessary to solve complex issues.'

Health Sciences student

'It was refreshing to hear the perspectives and views of people I wouldn't otherwise have met in the course of my studies.'

Medical student

'University is a good place to 'become something', but there should also be room to 'become someone'.'

Mirjam van Praag, President of the Executive Board

'We actively seek out dilemmas. Reducing our reliance / dependence on plastic is a noble idea, but you have to compromise, be willing to make concessions and make choices.'

Pieter van Beukering, Full Professor of Environmental Economics and construction team expert for the Sustainability theme