



Policy plan 2020 | 2021

1. ALPHA

The Algemeen Platform Humaniora Amsterdam is the faculty association for the study associations and magazines of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Amsterdam. ALPHA was founded in 1999, after the foundation of the Faculty of Humanities at the university, when the need arose for an overarching body that could help the study associations and magazines of this faculty. ALPHA still fulfills this role: a platform that all study associations and magazines of the faculty can turn to. ALPHA stimulates mutual cooperation between its members, proposes initiatives for associations and magazines, supports its members with financial contributions and organizes annual events for the students of the Faculty of Humanities. ALPHA also functions as the link between the study associations and magazines on one side, and the other bodies of the University of Amsterdam on the other. A number of times a year, General Council Meetings (ARVs) and press consultations take place, which focus on the subsidy distribution, the role of ALPHA and the mutual cooperation.

ALPHA's tasks are clear. The policy pursued this year will be similar to the policy pursued in previous years. More attention, however, will be paid to COVID-19, which makes cooperation between associations and the organization of activities within associations difficult. This will be elucidated later in the policy plan.

In recent years, developments have taken place at the University of Amsterdam that are also relevant to ALPHA. For example, the university is increasingly welcoming international students, and some studies within the Faculty of Humanities are completely switching to the English language. We are absolutely delighted to see more and more international students sit on the boards of study associations and the editorial boards of magazines. However, this requires a clear policy towards the language within ALPHA's communications. The language policy that ALPHA has pursued in recent years will also be continued in this policy plan.

In the past, the Faculty of Humanities has had to deal with student protests, that in some cases have also reached the study associations. We emphasize that ALPHA as a faculty association is apolitical. ALPHA will always ensure that political neutrality is guaranteed in its policy and, where necessary, adjust and advise the study associations.

It is important that everyone knows the existence of ALPHA and knows what we can do for magazines, study associations and the faculty. We try to achieve this through introductory

meetings, compulsory participation in ALVs / ARVs or magazine meetings, an inspiring information evening and acquisition evening, if possible cozy get-togethers, zoom hours and the Soccer Tournament of Humanities.

ALPHA likes to emphasize the annual agenda. This document contains all important dates, such as meetings and deadlines. Inform yourself about this and make a note of it in your calendars.

2. The language

With the increasing number of international students at the Faculty of Humanities, the need has arisen at ALPHA to develop a clear policy with regard to the language of instruction. Following the policy of the past year and in accordance with the policy of the Faculty Board, Dutch will also remain the language of instruction this year.

In practice this means that official correspondence will be in Dutch. The language of instruction during meetings, such as the ALVs and ARVs, will also be the Dutch language. As a compensation, support for English speakers will be offered during the meetings in the form of an English-language agenda with a summary of the points to be discussed. Furthermore, we will provide extensive and complete handouts and all information will be on the powerpoints in both English and Dutch. In addition, the contracts are also offered in English (it should be noted that the Dutch-language contracts are always leading and no rights can be derived from the English-language contracts). Personal contact, such as personal email exchange, questions during a meeting and the introductory meetings, if desired, are conducted in English. When inviting students to public events organized by ALPHA, the invitation will always be in both Dutch and English. The website will be available in both English and Dutch from this year, and all documents and forms will also be available in English on the website from this year.

We would like to point out to all board members and editorial staff that a lack of grasp of the Dutch language is no excuse for not fulfilling their responsibilities towards ALPHA.

3. Study associations

This year ALPHA will largely continue the policy with regard to the study associations of previous years. As in previous years, ALPHA will play a central role in stimulating cooperation between study associations and between study associations and magazines. ALPHA will have an introductory meeting with the board of each study association to explain our role as a faculty association and to discuss mutual expectations. In order to stimulate mutual contact from ALPHA, it will be assessed whether drinks are possible after the ARVs. In the first half of the year there will be little room for drinks in an informal setting. For the new year ALPHA has already included a board 'borrel' in the form of a New Years Reception, this event is of course subject to change. Money will be budgeted to pay for this event.

Normally constitution 'borrel' are also a good opportunity to get to know one another, as ALPHA we want to give study associations to think carefully about the planning of a constitution 'borrel'. These will have to take place in a different form, taking into account the measures of the RIVM. ALPHA will see for itself whether an alternative can be devised according to the guidelines of the RIVM.

In order to stimulate cooperation, financial resources for activities resulting from mutual cooperation will be available. The Big Projects Jar (Grote Projectenpot) will be continued for this reason. Here, too, the RIVM guidelines will have to be observed and ALPHA will consider the financial risks associated with organizing major events and determine whether these events can take place before granting funding. Every study association that is a member of ALPHA is entitled to a regular subsidy under certain conditions. The regular subsidy is intended for study-related activities that are substantively in line with the study association's field of study. In total, an amount of 7,400 euros has been reserved for the regular subsidy, divided over three application rounds. The application ceiling remains at 850 euros. Subsidies are also available for study trips. Just like last year, this amount will be 4000 euros. Based on the number of participants from two years ago, this amount is divided among all study associations that apply for a subsidy for their study trip. As study associations did not travel this year, we do not have any official documents from last year on which to base the distribution key. By basing the amount on the number of participants in the previous year, in this case two years ago, ALPHA has derived in advance how much subsidy each study association will receive. Study associations that expect a strongly deviating number of participants can report this during the introductory meetings. Study associations that do not wish to travel this year because of COVID-19, can also indicate this during the introductory meetings.

Thanks to the Large Applications for Allowances-regulation (Grote Aanvragen Tegemoetkomingen-regeling: from here on noted as GAT), a study association that wants to organize a large activity can apply for a minimum amount of 250 euros. When organizing a major activity, it is important that the study associations know in advance whether ALPHA will award the subsidy or not. Each study association may submit one GAT in funding rounds 1 and 2 for an activity that will take place later in the year. Different rules apply to these applications, these rules can be found on alpha-fgw.nl. Again, ALPHA must take into account the financial risks that COVID-19 entails when organizing large activities. The GAT are included in the proposal that is presented at the ARV, after which a vote is taken. If the proposal is approved, the study association guarantees that the amount applied for will be provided. The money is transferred after the activity. The GAT is practical for large study associations because of the higher costs of organizing an activity, while at the same time offering smaller study associations the opportunity to organize larger events with more financial security.

The money from the Disaster Fund that the boards transferred to ALPHA in the 2019-2020

academic year will be returned as soon as possible, after the board change. The Disaster Fund will continue to exist this year. We would also like to point out to the boards the possibility of obtaining subsidies from the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) and from Stichting Toekenningen. Further information can be found on the websites of both authorities.

4. Magazines

The magazines have access to subsidies that are primarily intended for production costs. The budgeted subsidy amount for the magazines is 4000 euros this year. During the Magazine Consultations (Bladenoverleggen), which takes place twice a year, the magazines vote about the subsidy distribution. In addition, during the magazine meeting there will be room for sharing experiences and the magazines can consult ALPHA or other magazines for advice. In order to introduce the editors of different magazines to each other and to stimulate collaboration, ALPHA will try to offer the opportunity to have a 'borrel' after each Magazine Consultations in order to exchange ideas in an informal way. Unfortunately, this will not be possible in the first half of the year due to the fact that the Magazine Consultations will be online.

The Grote Projectenpot is available for magazines and study associations that want to organize an activity together. Acquisition is important both for magazines and for study associations. Acquisition can be good for gaining external contacts as a magazine and for raising awareness of the faculty. To support the magazines in the field of acquisition, an acquisition evening will be organized, just like last year. This meeting is mandatory for at least one editorial member. The evening is also open to study associations, but not compulsory for them. Attempts will be made to invite a speaker who can give an instructive lecture or workshop for magazines and study associations. ALPHA would like to ask the magazines to think carefully about measures for dealing with COVID-19, such as making the magazines available online. The physical versions can optionally be replaced by an online version. Finally, ALPHA advises to maintain good contact within BLABLA (bladen binding letteren Amsterdam), despite the fact that collaborations such as the BLABLA festival will be difficult this year.

5. Big Projects Jar (GPP: *Grote Projectenpot*)

As has been mentioned before, collaboration between study associations and study associations and magazines is an important goal for ALPHA. For good collaboration, it is important that boards and editorial staff get to know each other and that sufficient funds are available for bigger events. For this reason, the Big Projects Jar (GPP) was created a few years ago. ALPHA will, despite circumstances, certainly stimulate collaborations this year as these are perhaps more important than ever. It will be a great challenge for associations and magazines to organize actual collaborations. ALPHA does ask to think carefully and creatively about possible collaborations. ALPHA will always want to contribute to the possibilities that are available and possibly play a coordinating role. However, to be eligible for funding, the projects must meet two conditions: they

must (I) originate from a collaboration between associations and / or magazines and (II) relate to the humanities. Despite the fact that many special GPP events have been organized in recent years, the amount in the GPP has never run out. This year the amount of the GPP pot will be the same as last year. The amount of a subsidy is determined by the number of actively organizing associations or magazines. The subsidy will be guaranteed in advance. An information evening will take place on Tuesday 27th of October, at which presence for all boards and editors is mandatory. During this evening, the rules for applying for the GPP will be further explained. For inspiration, ALPHA will provide examples of GPP events that have been organized in recent years. These events may not be possible now in due to COVID-19, but they may encourage other creative ideas. There are two funding rounds for the GPP. This year, like last year, the full amount available for the GPP will be made available in round one. The money that remains after the first round is carried over to the second round. The full regulations regarding the application of the GPP can be found on the website.

6. Events

ALPHA information evening

The ALPHA information evening is the second meeting of the academic year. All boards and editors will be invited to this evening. ALPHA's treasurer will provide the boards and editors with information regarding finances and grant applications.

General Council Meetings (ARVs)

This year there will be three ARVs. During these meetings, ALPHA's treasurer will present the proposal for the subsidy distribution. After the presentation, the boards of the study associations will vote on the proposal. In addition, during the ARVs there is room to discuss what the various associations are involved in. Attendance during the ARVs is mandatory for the chairman and the treasurer. This will be strictly monitored. If these are absent without a valid reason, no subsidy will be granted.

Magazine consultations (Bladenoverleggen)

Two magazine consultations will take place this year. During these meetings, the treasurer presents the proposal for the subsidy distribution, after which the editors of the magazines vote will be able to vote on the matter. Presence at the magazine consultations is mandatory. In addition to the two magazine meetings, a compulsory acquisition evening will also be organized.

Christmas gala

In recent years ALPHA has taken on a coordinating role in the organization of the Christmas gala. There will probably not be a Christmas gala this year. We would, however, like to ask you to consider a possible alternative, we will discuss this during the introductory meetings.

Board New Years reception (Nieuwjaars Borrel)

Subject to change, there will be a New Year's reception on 8 January 2021 in the coming academic year, as an alternative to the big Christmas gala. This is an opportunity for boards to discuss plans for the new year and to get to know each other even better.

Football Tournament of the Humanities

ALPHA has organized a football tournament for a number of years. This is a great success every year, but could unfortunately not take place last year due to Covid-19. ALPHA will take on a coordinating role this year in the organization of the FGw football tournament. This will possibly take place in collaboration with enthusiastic members of various study associations. This event is also subject to change.

Board picnic

After last year's great success in organizing a board 'borrel' at the end of the year, ALPHA will organize a board picnic at the end of the year this year. This gives both old boards and new candidate boards the opportunity to get to know each other.

7. Visibility

ALPHA believes it is important that associations, magazines, the faculty and people from outside know how to find their way to ALPHA and will actively endeavor to maintain and, where possible, increase the visibility of ALPHA. For this reason, the ALPHA website will be refurbished this year. Money will also be budgeted for this. As indicated earlier, the website will also be accessible in English.

ALPHA wants to be involved in what is going on among the boards and editors. Therefore, good contact is of great importance. The board of ALPHA will strive to visit drinks from every association and to attend major activities supported by ALPHA. The 'borrels' (where possible) after the ARVs, the magazine meetings and the New Years Reception will also serve as a means to stimulate mutual contacts. The board can always be reached by email. If for whatever reason there is a need for a personal meeting, this can always be requested from the board. It is also possible to approach the board through less formal channels, for example through Facebook.

This year ALPHA would like to pay attention to its visibility for people outside the faculty or the UvA. By means of the ALPHA Facebook page, boards and other students will be kept informed about what is going on within ALPHA and which events are planned. This year, a WhatsApp group will be created again for communication between ALPHA and the study associations and magazines. New this year will be ALPHA's Instagram page, where updates and reminders of ALPHA events will be posted.

8. Kantoor 2.01F/G (Office 2.01 F/G)

ALPHA is located in office 2.01F / G at the P.C. Hoofthuis (Spuistraat 134), together with a large number of study associations and magazines. At the moment, there is no policy from the faculty about the possibility of using the office space as a study association or magazine. As soon as this is known and it will be possible to meet in the offices again, ALPHA will take on a coordinating role by means of sign-up lists via Drive. ALPHA will also work to ensure that every board has an opportunity to use meeting space. This applies to all study associations and magazines of the Faculty of Humanities, not just the users of office 2.01F.

ALPHA would like to emphasize that all boards and magazines are jointly responsible for keeping the areas clean. House rules have been set up that everyone must adhere to. The house rules are stated in the contract between the study associations and ALPHA. In previous years there have always been several cleaning days. COVID-19 means that in the beginning little use will be made of the office and a cleaning day with several people in a small office is not justified. That is why ALPHA asks everyone who uses the office to clean it after their visit. ALPHA has planned a cleaning day for the second half of the year, in the hope that there will be more room for it at that time. The dates of the cleaning day can be found in the annual calendar. ALPHA is aware that not every association is present in the office with the same frequency. Where possible, we will meet you in the common office. ALPHA also wants to emphasize that study associations with offices at other locations can always contact ALPHA for advice or consultation in case of disagreements or problems regarding the office.

9. Covid-19

It will be extremely difficult this year for study associations and magazines to have an active and connecting year. Collaborations will also be difficult. Nonetheless, ALPHA will try to better the connection between associations and magazines. If there are any problems, ALPHA is always available for advice and questions.

The money left over from last year will go into an extra "Corona Jar" ("Corona Pot"). This will be able to be called upon if an event was canceled by Covid-19 last year. This money can also be used for events that have to be canceled by Covid-19 next year. There are, however, strict rules. When clear in advance that there is a good chance that the event will be canceled, the "Corona Jar" will not provide any form of insurance.

ALPHA is also introducing the Zoom-hours this year, which is currently planned three times a year. There will be room here to discuss issues surrounding COVID-19, but this will also be the place to discuss other issues, ask questions and exchange ideas. ALPHA will ask for updates several times this year and wants to help whenever needed.

10. Closing

Despite the current situation, the new board of the General Platform Humaniora (*Algemeen Platform Humaniora*) hopes for many great collaborations and an active year. The board hopes to meet everyone and come up with new insights and ideas together.

Kiki Dousebout – Chairman

Sophie Bonke – Secretary

Jasmijn Lyppens – Treasurer