

Proposal for the vacancy for a student civil servant, working for the municipality of Rotterdam.

This document describes the proposal and added value of a student civil servant, working for the municipality of Rotterdam. A working student civil servant is a civil servant who, in addition to his/her studies, works multiple hours a week in service of the applicable municipality. This proposal is based on knowledge and experiences gained from past and current student civil servants working for other municipalities in our country.

For further questions, please contact Anand Huizinga by [email](mailto:anandhuizinga@wiestudentenwelzijn.nl) at anandhuizinga@wiestudentenwelzijn.nl or by phone at +31 (0)6 155 137 80.

Value for the city of Rotterdam

Increasing student population

The most recent annual report published by the Erasmus University, shows that the number of registrations for Bachelor and Master studies is increasing. There is no indication that this trend will decline in the upcoming years. The growing student population creates new opportunities and threats for the city. The pressing issue on student housing for example, but also nuisance may increase. To be specific, the number of registrations among international students has doubled, representing a group with different values and wishes for their life in the city. In addition, youth well-being is an increasing topic of social concern, something that will become even more challenging to tackle with an enlarging student population. The University Council also expressed the concern that the city could be confronted with problems in matters where students have not yet encountered problems.

Integration of students in the city

As discussed earlier, Rotterdam is a city with a rapidly growing student population. With housing shortages and nuisance in Kralingen as examples of increasing problems, solutions will have to be found that provide structural improvement to the inhabitants of Rotterdam and its student population.

By further involving students in policy-making, appropriate customization can be provided. By actively mapping student problems, solutions can be delivered with a future-proof impact. In several cities with a student civil servant, his/her position has been found to provide an effective way to discuss with students, not for students. The student civil servant has the network to efficiently reach the appropriate contacts.

Responsibilities

Of course, the exact implementation of this role differs per city; every city is unique and it requires customization to connect this function to the existing way of working. The student civil servant can investigate this by:

1. Signalizing the needs of the students in Rotterdam;
2. Identifying where possible areas for improvement lay in the connection between educational institutions and the municipality.

A conceptual list of responsibilities for a student civil servant in Rotterdam could look like the following:

1. Be the bridge between the municipality and student associations and initiatives, i.e. student associations, study associations, sports associations, cultural associations, international associations, etc. In various cities there are examples of Broad Consultations in which the various types of associations regularly discuss certain themes with officials and/or the responsible alderman(s). Important themes in recent months have been student wellbeing, student housing, alcohol consumption and nuisance caused by students in corona time.
2. Collect information and inform relevant organizations, both within and outside the municipality, such as educational institutions and the GGD (Municipal Health Service)..
3. Give advice on all relevant policy-areas within the municipality, such as housing, facilities, culture and events.

Workload

In all cities with a student working as a civil servant, the student is employed for eight hours per week. Depending on the responsibilities and experience, a suitable salary scale can be found. Eight hours a week is experienced as pleasant because it is enough to actually get something done, but not too much to combine with the study. It is important that the student remains part of student life, because valuable information can be found there.

Supported by:

The work student civil servant is an initiative that can benefit the synergy of the student community with the city of Rotterdam, and is supported by the University Council of the Erasmus University Rotterdam.


Name: H.B. van den Berg

Role: Chair University Council Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date: 27-01-2022

Place: Rotterdam

Signature:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'H.B. van den Berg'.

Appendix

A. Working student civil servants per city.

City:	Hours:	Number of students employed:	Funded by:	Started by:
Tilburg	8 hours p/w	3	Municipality	07-2021
Enschede	8 hours p/w	2	Municipality	01-2017
Nijmegen	8 hours p/w	1	Municipality	09-2021
Delft	8 hours p/w	1	University of Technology, Delft	09-2021
Amsterdam	8 hours p/w	1	GGD/Municipality	09-2021
To lead	8 hours p/w	2	Municipality	11-2021

Tilburg

- 3 working students (MBO/HBO/WO student)

The aim of the working students in Tilburg is to improve the connection between the municipality and the student population. In addition, the working students are responsible for setting up and supporting various welfare projects, including the Tilburg Student App; an app containing all the information you possibly need for your student life.

Enschede

- 2 working students (HBO/WO student)

The purpose of the working students in Enschede is to maintain contact with the student population and associations and to further investigate issues related to students. It is a 1-year contract with the possibility of extension. One new working student gets hired in the middle of the academic year, to make the transfer more fluent.

Within the municipality there is close contact with the Alderman for Student Affairs, the Talent Opgave director and various other relevant officials, for example in the field of housing, permits, events, culture, etc.

Nijmegen

- 1 working student (WO student)

In Nijmegen, the responsibility of the working student is to develop a 'student and city'-action plan. This plan should not only provide clarity to the municipality, but also to the umbrella network of student organizations and institutions. In this plan, topics that should be prioritized are presented. Furthermore, information is provided on the expectations of multiple populations in the city. This student started in September and is now mainly busy starting up her tasks.

Delft

- 1 working student (WO student)

Just like in Nijmegen, this student started recently. In Delft, the working student is a person who establishes connections and initiates conversations between the student in Delft and the Municipality of Delft . Emphasis is put on the relationship with the associations. This working student is financed by the University of Technology Delft, and therefore coördinated by the Liaison Community Relations of the University, but has a fixed contact-person within the municipality.

Amsterdam.

- 1 working student (WO student)

In Amsterdam, the working student is currently coordinated by team [Thrive](#) . As a result, the working student civil servant in Amsterdam has contact with the various Thrive cities (New York, London, Helsinki, etc.).

The civil servant working student in Amsterdam has recently started and is currently working for GGD Amsterdam (Municipal Health Service). The responsibilities are given by the GGD on a project basis. Thanks to Thrive, several connections were quickly made with other relevant initiatives in the city. The task of the working student in Amsterdam is now to create structure within these connections. The focus is on the VU, HvA (University of Applied Sciences) and umbrella associations within Amsterdam.

Cooperation is also being sought with the [metropolitan region](#) .

Leiden

- 2 working students (WO student)

The students in Leiden are now mainly starting up