

Dondrite news

N° 3

Nijmegen, Monday, March 25, 2019

Spring is here! The sun is shining, the days are getting longer, flowers are blooming, and the campus turns greener everyday!

As we head into the new season, the Scribe committee are working double time to finish the yearbook and to keep you all up to date with the latest from Dondrite. The rest of the committees have also been busy bees organizing events

including the PubTalks, the Career Event, and the trip to Porto (pictures coming soon)!

In this edition of the DondriteNews, you'll find highlights from over the last month, plus everything you need to know for April. We recommend you find somewhere warm and sunny to sit back and enjoy this edition of the newsletter - happy reading!

The Aftermath: Brexit & Academia

Brexit: the political elephant in the room. If you don't know what it is, I'm sorry to say you've been living under a rock for the past 2 years. But if you don't exactly understand what is happening – don't worry, none of us do (including Theresa May). Here's a little low-down on what Brexit could mean for us as students, and academia as a whole.

Where do I begin? The 29th of March has been written into UK law as the official date that the United Kingdom was meant to leave the EU block. Over the past two years, the UK government and remaining 27 member states have been trying to come to an agreement of

what trade, movement and life in general will look like after this fated day. As it turns out, two years went by very quickly and now we're in the last week still not knowing what is going to happen. Hurray for competence! There are a few scenarios that could occur. The UK politicians either accept May's current deal, which has been severely defeated in parliament not just once, but twice, winning May the title of "Most Defeated British Prime Minister Literally Ever" (which must have stung a bit). If they do this, the UK are allowed to extend their leaving date to the 22nd of May to give time for more assurances and wrapping up of deals. Or we crash out of the EU with a no-deal next week.

As a student, you may be wondering what this all means for you.

No Deal

Students

In the case of no-deal, EU nationals who are registered for a 2019/20 course in the UK will still be eligible for 'home status' fees – i.e. will pay the same amount as citizens of the UK. After this, it cannot be guaranteed what will happen, but it could be that EU citizens will be expected to pay the international rate. For example, it would increase the rate for a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL from £5,210 to £24,250 per year. However, it has been confirmed that EU citizens who start a course in 2019/20 will still be eligible for financial support from the UK government if present at an English or Welsh university. If EU citizens arrive after the 29th of March in the event of a no-deal, then they will be able to travel and enter the UK for a maximum of 3 months. After this, it is possible to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain which is valid for 3 years. Once this is up, it appears that the UK believe they would have set up a decent enough immigration system to deal with these types of applications.

Research Funding

For university funding, in the event of a no-deal, the UK will no longer be eligible to receive Horizon 2020 funding. However, the UK government has pledged to continue the funding of successful Horizon grant applications for their full duration. If the UK is allowed to participate as a third-party country, this could be extended until the end of 2020 –

however single-beneficiary grants will not be supported. For example, the European Research Council (ERC) and some parts of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions.

Deal

Students

If a deal goes through, then there is a little longer that EU students can still receive 'home status' fees. This extends to 31st of December 2020 with the agreement of a deal as it covers the government's Brexit implementation period. That means that any EU student who arrives before this date and commences a study program will only be charged home status fees until the end of their course. EU citizens will also have the option to apply for settled status, which is if you have lived in the UK continuously for more than 5 years, or pre-settled status, which is what you'll receive if you have lived in the UK continuously for less than 5 years. This is all part of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Research Funding

When it comes to university funding, the UK will still be in receipt of Horizon 2020 funding until the end of 2020 in the event of a deal. After this, it is not entirely clear how the UK will form cross-university collaborations and what types of funding will be available.

In summary, there are a number of scenarios up in the air at the moment. Unfortunately, no-one can really guess what exactly is going to happen. Whatever does happen though, it can be certain to cause civil unrest across the UK and European block.

Recent Dondrite Activities

Career Event:

On Monday, March 18th, Dondrite hosted the Career Event 2019 together with the study

associations of the Research Masters Social and Cultural Sciences and Behavioral Science, Mosaic and Maizena. Numerous students came to Spinoza that night to hear about job possibilities outside of academia. There were eight speakers in total, including someone from the Netherlands Brain Bank, an organization that collects brain tissue for research, and a technological designer. Don't feel like doing a PhD (right) after your CNS Masters? Don't worry; there's so much more out there! Thanks, Education Committee, for reminding us to not freak out about our future :-)

In case you missed the event, you can find some information about it here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ls-EDbyI8es-RoOhY_K79Xzvu_6gKtDE?usp=sharing

RAGweek: PubTalks

Dondrite hosted our first ever PubTalks, a TEDTalk-style series of presentations in RU's very own Cultuur Cafe on Wednesday, February 27th. Speakers included the CNS programme director Rob van Lier, Donders Associate PI Esther Aarts, and PhD researcher Suhas Vijayakumar. They presented on topics ranging from optical illusions to the gut-brain relationship. This event was such a success, so if you enjoyed the PubTalks, stay tuned for more to come in the future!



Upcoming Dondrite & Donders Activities

Graduation Borrel:

Info: April 5th

General Assembly:

Info: April 24th 17:30-19:30

Upcoming Donders Events:

Date:

Formal DCC Lecture Doug Crawford
[\[url\]](#)

Tuesday, April 2,
 12:30-13:30

Crossing the Boundaries: Language in

Tuesday, April 9,

Interaction (Symposium)

[\[url\]](#)

09:00-18:00

The Donders session: "AI and machine learning"

[\[url\]](#)

Thursday, April 18,
10:00-12:00

Formal DCC Lecture Xavier Alario

[\[url\]](#)

Tuesday, April 23,
12:30-13:30

For more information see: <http://www.ru.nl/donders/agenda-news/agenda/>

A Word from the Board

New in Dondrite News, we kindly present you: *A Word from the Board*. The Board meets once a week to discuss all kinds of matters to keep Dondrite up and running and improve ourselves along the way, but what exactly is this sort of stuff the Board does? In *A Word from the Board*, we will from now on try to give you a little monthly update about what the Board has been discussing lately, or other things you might like to hear from us.

Currently, we mostly have Board transition and GA preparations on our mind. As you probably know, Tineke and Viola will sadly be leaving the Board in April. From then on (but we're already in our transition phase) Harshil will officially be taking over as Chair, Charlotte will take up the function of Treasurer and Karolis will start focusing on external affairs (sponsoring and the website), so we are now doing everything to get everyone ready for their respective Board roles and make sure there will be a smooth transfer of knowledge. We will be joined in our Board adventures by as of yet unknown new Board member(s), who will soon be selected through interviews by the Application Committee and

who you'll get to vote on at the GA. So mark your calendars, as April 24th is going to be the night this when this is all about to go down! We are working on our half year reports, and the policy plan and budget for next year (this is more exciting than it sounds, we promise), which you'll also hear all about at the GA.

If you want to stay up to date with our shenanigans, remember that the minutes of Board meetings are all shared! You can find them by logging in on the *Documents* section of our [website](https://dondrite.ruhosting.nl/documents/) (<https://dondrite.ruhosting.nl/documents/>), which you've recently all gotten a new account for.

Lots of love,
Your friendly neighborhood Boardies

Shout-outs!

We've alluded to it in the introduction: it is finally time for the beautiful season of spring! Well, Dutch spring that is. It hasn't been that great so far; we had hoped for a little more sun, a little more freedom and a little more green. So we thought: maybe if we give a shout-out to Dutch spring it'll improve. So here's to Dutch spring! May you be full of sun, love and cute baby animals!

If you, dear reader, have anyone/anything you'd love to put in the spotlight, don't hesitate to let the Scribe committee know. Shout-out your grandmothers for baking delicious cookies, shame your roommates for blasting music when you're studying or publicly message that one special student you have a crush on, everything's possible!

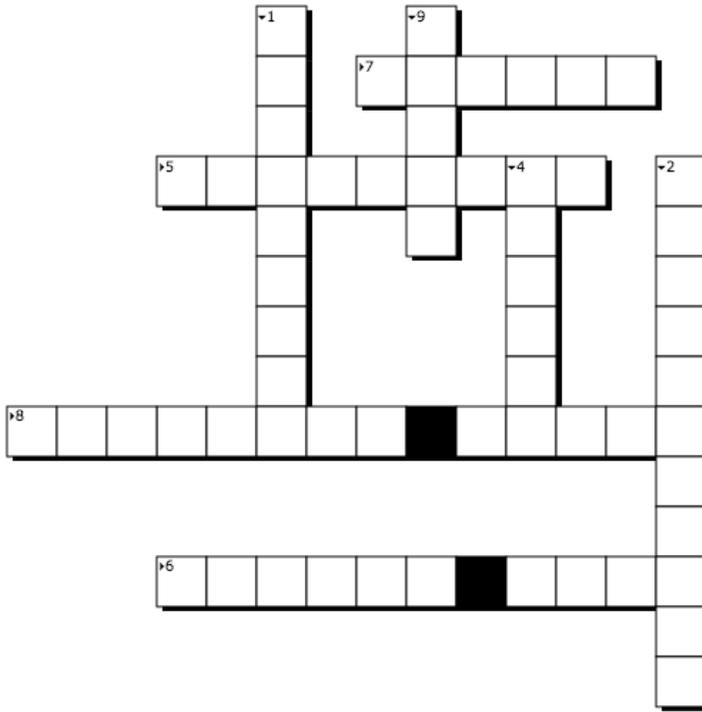
Fun Fact

As you probably have noticed while cycling this month, it was a bit rainy the first half of the month. Not a little bit rainy, but very, very rainy. Whereas on average there is between 60 and 70 mm of rainfall in the whole month of March, this year there was already between 45 and 60 mm

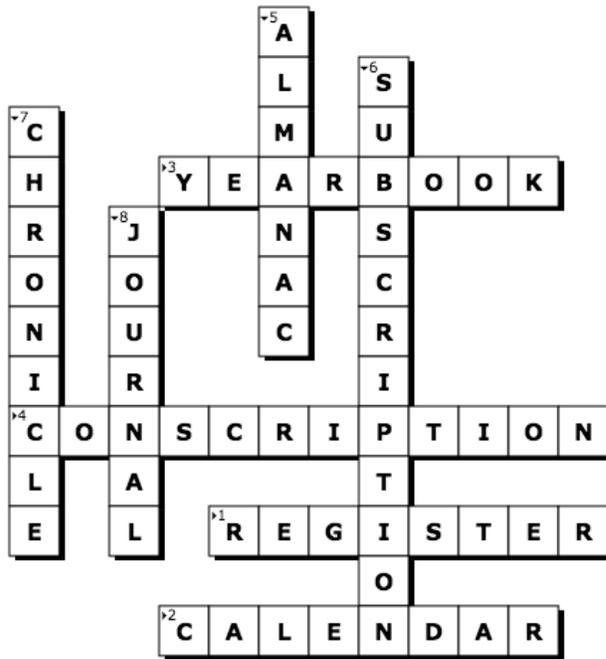
of rain in only the first two weeks of the month! So it looked like we were heading towards some rainy monthly record. However, the second half of March was luckily not as bad as the first. Like mentioned in the shout-out, we can't wait for spring to really set in!

Crossword

As the seasons transition from winter to spring, why not take a little time out of your day to procrastinate with this month's crossword? Or, check your answers from last month with the solution below!



Solution



1. Another name for a till.
2. Gregorian, Hebrew, Lunar, etc...
3. The one Scribe makes is awesome and you should be in it.
4. The draft
5. A collection of facts and details published annually.
6. An arrangement to receive something
7. The _____s of Narnia.
8. Nature, Science, Cognition, etc...