



university of  
 groningen

campus fryslân

**Opening Academic Year 2025- 2026**  
**3 September 2025**

### **Speech by Student Assessor Maya Motzkau**

Good afternoon, everyone.

Welcome to the opening of the academic year here at Campus Fryslân.

I want to warmly welcome you: the new students who just arrived, the returning ones (like me) who have already called this place home, professors, staff, colleagues and friends.

Personally, I feel very honoured to stand here today and to give this speech as your new student assessor.

Before I started studying, I always pictured “university” as a place of big lecture rooms, deadlines and long study nights. I used to think studying was just listening to the professor and doing assignments after. But now, when I think about “university”, I not only picture a beautiful building in the heart of Leeuwarden, I also think about the nice conversations I have with peers, the exchange and engagement of lecturers in classrooms, and generally, a nice and refreshing atmosphere between people at our campus. From the first step I walked into here, I was fascinated by the warmth and openness of the people and from this specific moment, I knew, I chose the right place. And that is exactly what Campus Fryslân makes it unique: it is not only the interdisciplinary programs and small scaled classes: it is also its people.

They are curious lecturers who remember your name and encourage you to think a little deeper.

They are students who are open and invite you in when you are new and nervous.

They are staff members who are always happy to help and make sure that we can learn and grow.

And lastly, they are the ones who listen, those who take your concerns seriously, and

motivate you when you need it.

After studying here for a year, I can tell that this place has shown me how impactful human connection can be. Not only in the classrooms, when receiving feedback but also in the conversations with others, shared ideas and discussions. That reminded me that not only the institution matters, but also the relationships and people within it.

In the past year, I have seen how this place thrives when we treat each other nicely. People who are learning from one another, working together on projects or just have an exchange of ideas and opinions. That all makes this place as unique as it is.

Yes, we are here to study. But we are also here to learn how to live in a world with complexity, difference and uncertainty. This learning does not only appear in lectures and readings but also in collaboration, in conversations and in community.

As your student assessor, I see myself in duty to support and strengthen this. I want to contribute to the relationships at our campus, and make sure that every student's voice is represented. Only then, we can fully guarantee a happy community which is crucial for the future of our campus. But I can not do it alone. We are all shaping this place together.

Therefore, I want to invite you to approach me if you have any questions, concerns and wishes. Every input, no matter how small, can contribute to an even stronger and vibrant campus.

So whether you are just about to start a new chapter or continue with your current one: remember that Campus Fryslân is not just a place to study, it is also a community you belong to.

So let us build upon that. Let's listen to each other, acknowledge different perspectives and expand our own horizons. With trust, exchange and openness we can achieve anything.

Thank you for being here today. I am truly excited for the upcoming year and I am very much looking forward to strengthening and shaping the future of our faculty - together with you.