



**university of
 groningen**

campus fryslân

Opening Academic Year 2026- 2027 3 September 2026

Speech by Student Assessor Hannah Meyer

Good afternoon everyone,

A very warm welcome to all of you at the opening of the academic year 2026–2027 at Campus Fryslân.

I am truly honoured and excited to stand here today as the new Student Assessor of our faculty. I would especially like to welcome all the new students who have just arrived in Fryslân, as well as the returning students who are joining us again after the summer break.

Around this time last year, I arrived at Campus Fryslân not really knowing what to expect. Like many students, I imagined university as lectures, assignments, deadlines, and exams. And after my first year, I can confirm that all of those things do indeed exist. And while all of those things are certainly part of university life, over the past year I learned that being a student here means much more than that.

The world increasingly asks us to work across disciplines, cultures and perspectives. Campus Fryslân gives us exactly that opportunity.

This summer, I experienced something that surprised me a little bit.

After a few weeks away, I found myself genuinely excited to come back to University.

And I realised something: I wasn't excited to come back because I missed deadlines or long study nights. I was excited to come back because of the people: the friends I had made and the opportunity to keep learning from people with completely different backgrounds and perspectives.

Sometimes you only realise how special something is when you're away from it for a while.

When I started writing this speech and thought about our campus I had some things in mind that I wanted to say but I thought: let me actually start doing my job already and ask my fellow students what they think. Without hesitation, the first words I heard were: family, close-knit, and community.

I think that says a lot.

And perhaps that is what makes this campus so special. The things we remember most from university are often not the exams we take or the assignments we submitted. They are the conversations we had, the people we met and the experiences we shared with them.

As Student Assessor, I want to help strengthen this community even further. One of my priorities for the coming year is to continue building connections across programmes. Some of the most valuable experiences at Campus Fryslân happen when students step outside their own programme and meet people with different backgrounds, interests and perspectives.

At the same time, I believe it is important to remember that we are not only part of Campus Fryslân, but also part of the University of Groningen. While we are proud of the unique character of our campus, we can benefit from stronger connections with students and faculties across the university. Building those bridges creates new opportunities and makes our community even stronger. I hope to help build those bridges in the upcoming year.

I also want to support our student organisation NCF and other Student Governing Bodies. They play an essential role in creating the amazing student life that makes this campus feel like home. I have great confidence in the students taking on these responsibilities this year, and I look forward to working together with them.

As a young campus, we are in a unique position. We have traditions that we value, but we also have the opportunity to create new ones. The culture we build today will shape the experience of future generations of students here at Campus Fryslân. So let's continue building!

For the new students here today, I would like to leave you with one thought. This year, do not only focus on building your CV.

Build friendships.

Join activities.

Talk to someone from a different programme.

Say yes to opportunities.

Because when you look back on your time at university, chances are that the people you met will matter just as much as the degree you earned.

And for all of us, returning and new students alike, I hope we continue building a campus where people feel welcome, connected and excited to return.

My hope is that when we gather here again next year, even more students will describe Campus Fryslân with the same three words: family, close-knit, and community.

Because that is what makes Campus Fryslân special.

Thank you, and I wish you all a wonderful academic year.