

Good afternoon, I am Hannah Huber. I am 24 years old and from Munich, Germany and am in my second year of "Global Responsibility and Leadership".

When I arrived at Campus Fryslân last year, I had just shaved off all of my hair and was hoping to finally find a place I could feel like I truly belong. To explain why this seemed drastic: My hair was very long before. Since I was a little girl I got acknowledged for my looks or for being nice. Like most girls I felt that in order to fit into society I needed to have long hair, smile and please.

Since I wanted to find my place in a community, I started working at 18. I enjoyed it a lot, pushed myself, learned a lot about myself and others, got to wear a uniform and look nice for customers - but still never truly felt part of that certain ingroup. I have various passions, such as feminism, equality and sustainability, that I had to hide away to adapt to the standards of society and my company.

I never believed that anything I might have to say, outside of work-related topics, would be a contribution of some kind. Then after taking on a promotion as a lecturer for the teaching department of my company, I felt, for the first time, that my voice actually does matter and that it is not just about appearances but more about being understanding, authentic and knowing that no one has all answers and especially about realising that nobody is perfect.

So, I took a leap and applied for a programme, even though I never saw myself in Academia. This programme combined my passions within governance, sustainability and humanities and additionally was located within a faculty that aims to combine these disciplines in order to find the interlinking solutions to many of our world's current problems. This meant breaking free from the scars developed within the boundaries of our current societies. It meant having to trust my knowledge and academic skills rather than social skills. As many of you know, packing up your life and moving to Leeuwarden is a pretty big step.

In the beginning I was anxious that being one of the oldest of the bachelor students - or as Andrej would say "more experienced ones" - that I would still not find my place within the community. Through the last year, through my courses, through the influence of lecturers and other students - bachelors, masters and PhDs- through the staff and myself I actually felt like I was encouraged to be unique rather than conforming to a group.

The faculty became my home and for the first time a place I truly feel like I fit in, as myself. A home where we fight for our values and are open to new and challenging ideas. A place where the power dynamics, normally found within academia, are tried to be broken down through conversations and discussions and inclusion.

Therefore, being able to get the position as student assessor and to work with the people around me for a better future, makes me very proud. I am looking forward to advising the Faculty Board and to represent the students of Campus Fryslân. I am excited to bring along the values of our faculty to the meetings with the other's faculties' student assessors. I am not scared anymore to speak up for what matters and feel empowered when being passionate or emotional, I hope to give all students a chance to find their own voice and to feel heard. To make sure that there is no one that does not feel encouraged, challenged, included or supported. That we bridge the gap between staff and students and make sure that we all learn from each other. That the different generations find a way to combine their

innovations, inspirations and passions to create change in our world. All of us should be able to be the person who we really are and hopefully Campus Fryslân can enable this for all of us.

I hope that we as a faculty can set an example, within the academic world. The future lies within all of us and we don't have to adhere to social norms. Every single student is a unique, intelligent and dedicated part of the community and together we have the ability to break stigmas, fight inequalities and make the world a better place.

I wish all of the students' good luck with their studies and all of us a wonderful start into the new academic year.