

Informal Internal Affairs Officer



It is an honour and a great pleasure to inform you a bit more about my function as Informal Internal Affairs Officer. This very long title basically means I'm responsible for supervising several informal committees and other activities such as Mengelmousse (a party together with several other study associations).

My committees are my everything. I'm always checking up on them and making sure that everything is going well. Generally, I read the minutes of their meetings to keep up with their progress, but if there is more I need to know, I reach out and ask directly. This means I'm communicating a lot via whatsapp and email, but you will get used to this ;)

Even though the committees do their fair share of work to organise everything, I still have the responsibility for arranging some crucial stuff. I have to book the location for the active members weekend e.g., or make sure we are registered properly for the Batavierenrace. These tasks do not seem to take much time at first, but they can be a bigger challenge than expected when things don't go the way you want them to. And for your committees to continue, these parts are vital. You will certainly (partly) become an active member in some of your committees when things get rough or busy. For Insomnia, I actively participated

Qualities

- Keep an overview
- Supervising
- Be flexible
- Solution-oriented
- Be responsible
- Be social
- Give critique (and handle critique)



within the committee when the event was coming up because it was directly after exams and therefore the chairs did not always have time to look properly over the to-do's of the committee.

Why I love my function

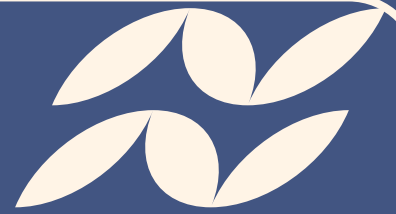
I actively engage with our members and am also able to organise many activities. Next to this, you will still have more formal responsibilities such as having writing the policy or bi-annual survey report. Such tasks help you develop formal/academic writing skills for example.



Time and Study

Regarding time and study I already finished my Master's and am not following any courses at uni. Still, I am very busy with my function tasks, hobby's, friends and work and I'm not sure if I would manage to take any extra courses in the second semester of the year with the amount of activities that are coming up. My planning is not bad, but I don't know if I would like to have that extra pressure and stress of taking courses along with all of the previously mentioned. I recommend taking 1 course per period. I've only taken a beginner course for music producers and I still struggle practicing producing when I'm not busy with SPiN.

Academic Relations Officer



Doing a board year is like a full-time job. You can expect it to have its ups and downs but first and foremost be super fun! Especially because you get really close with your fellow board members and all the lovely SPiN members. I enjoy the activities and playing a part in the association's development. Furthermore, I like meeting other associations as well as the many board activities you can go to such as a gala or cantus. You really get to connect with other board members this way. You will also always recognise people on campus, make many new connections and get the most out of student life.



Qualities

- Be representative
- Be professional
- Be critical
- Be communicatively skilled
- Show initiative
- Be flexible
- Set priorities

Through the many meetings that you have as Academic Relations Officer, you get to know a lot of people. And abbreviations. Do you know what FOSS, SOS, SSPN, SPS-NIP and SOFv stand for? Trust me, I can say all those abbreviations and their meanings in my sleep by now. It's a real skill.

A massive perk of my function are also the free lunches you get during all the meetings you have with the university bodies. I could honestly create an Instagram review page of all the lunches I have had. Of course, if there are leftovers, I always dutifully bring some for the rest of the board ;)

Generally, my function is quite versatile and I have a lot of room for designing the work the way I prefer. That's one of the main things I love about it! You will get to supervise committees, attend GMA's, and have meetings with people from the university. You also get to organise the book sale. I love making an overview of all the books that are needed and getting into contact with the teachers. I furthermore have contact with all other psychology associations in the Netherlands too. Here, we organised an event together and had a day where we all met up in Amsterdam.

Day to day

My day to day greatly differs. There are phases in which I do not have many function-related tasks going on, and then times where I have to do more. Then I completely focus on this task.

Usually, I check my mail every day, prepare for upcoming meetings and then attend them all prepped. I also have one or two room duties each week with another board member in which we hang out in the SPiN room and make sure all is stocked and looking inviting. It's definitely a highlight of my day. Especially the Wii tournaments that often take place.

Finally, it is also a function with a lot of personal and professional development. As a board member you can participate in a lot of trainings that are offered by the university, such as first aid courses, social safety classes and more. This is really useful! I also made a lot of professional connections in my function and improved on forming and formulating my opinions as well as really working on my knowledge of Dutch. A real versatile and fun function thus!



External Affairs Officer



Hey everyone, my name is Siri, and I'm the External Affairs Officer! I became interested in doing a board year when I realised that I wanted to take it slower with my studies, but I didn't want to take a gap year. Friends told me what it was like to be board, and that it was one of the best things they had done. It made me excited to see what I could learn and where this would take me.

Qualities

- Be representative
- Be professional
- Be flexible
- Have a social disposition
- Think creatively and be open-minded
- Take initiative
- Handle rejection

My function allows me to be super social. I maintain all contacts with external parties, so I'm always checking up on our partners. In the beginning of the year, it was my responsibility to arrange all the contracts. This meant a lot of meetings and negotiation. I think that this was the busiest part of the year, because there is so much to do and to take into account. Looking back on it, I really enjoyed this, because I got to know the parties we would be working with. Even now, it's fun to see them at their events and to

have a chat. I really enjoy negotiating and finding ways to make both parties happy. Additionally, I maintain contact with our alumni and I organise events for them. They are an important part of why SPiN exists, so its important to maintain a good relationship with them! Lastly, I'm responsible for obtaining general sponsoring. This means that I can be approached by people who want to post job applications or general information on our socials, newsletter, or website. I arrange all the communication for this and make sure it runs smoothly.



Day to day

My day to day really varies, to be honest. Each week, we have board meetings. Here, we discuss a variety of things, ranging from how everyone is doing personally to function specific tasks. This is a really nice way to get an update on what everyone is working on. Normally, we come across things that still need to be done. We 'volunteer' if we feel up to it. I often take on quite some of these tasks, as my function is fluid in workload and I often have some extra time to spare. Besides room duty, board meetings and SPiN activities, my week is pretty much free to plan in however I like. This leaves me room to take 1-2 courses each period, and to have a student job.

What I've learned

To be honest, the list is long. I had little expectations going into this year, but it's proven to be so meaningful. You grow your professional skills faster than I could have imagined. In addition, you learn a lot about yourself. You learn to set your boundaries, and you learn to be aware of others'. In the end, we're all just looking out for each other, and won't hesitate to jump to the rescue when a committee or board member needs it.





Why we chose a board year



This obviously differs per person, but there are many reasons. Some wanted to take time off of study, others didn't know what they wanted to do *after* their studies, but it ultimately all boils down to one thing. Doing a board year gives you the opportunity to grow and learn, in ways school cannot teach you.



You will end up developing yourselves in ways I cannot describe. Your professional and team working skills will improve immensely, and you will learn to navigate through difficult situations. This is what it boils down to in the end.

I think that to all of us, it seemed daunting. You don't *really* know what you're signing up for until you've begun.



Once you start a board year, you fall into this routine of tasks, assignments, and requirements. It's important to keep reminding each other to enjoy all the small seemingly meaningless moments, because in the end, that's why we chose to do a board year. To grow, learn, make mistakes, and enjoy the small part of our lives that is student life.



We realised that there was more to being a student than just studying or drinking/partying, and wanted to give back something to the association that gave us so much. It goes without saying, but if you have any questions or just want a chat, feel free to reach out to us. We are here for you <3

FAQ's

Can you combine a board year with your studies?

A full study year cannot be combined with a board year. However, you definitely can follow some courses and get around 20 EC.



How many hours a week do you spend on board tasks?

The amount of hours spend on a board tasks per week can vary greatly. However, an average would be around 35 hours a week.

Do you get financial compensation for a board year?

The university offers some financial compensation for boards, this will cover the costs for your studies that year. (You need to study to do a board year)



Do you need to have any form of experience to do a board year?

It is expected that applicants for a board year have been part of a committee within SPiN. Any other form of experience in a workfield is appreciated but not required.



What is the application procedure like?

To apply for a board year you would send in your CV and motivation letter. Then you will possibly get invited for an interview. Both of these factors will be taken into account when deciding on who will become the XVIIth board





What board looks like for us





Are you part of the the next board?



Send in your motivation letter and CV
to selection@spin-nijmegen.com
The vacancy opens on the 9th of April
and **closes on the 26th**

If you have any questions
feel free to send a mail to:
External@spin-nijmegen.com or
Chair@spin-nijmegen.com

