

Studium Generale TU/e

Annual Report Studium Generale 2025-2026

September 2026



Cabaret, Theater *"Lekker Alleen"*
(25 February, 2026) Photography by Maud Staassen



Intro week program *"Emojiii"*
(18 August, 2025)
Photography by Matthias Eijgenraam

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Foreword

Fresh Air

Fresh air: sometimes it makes us shiver, sometimes we long for it. Often, we need it—to keep the mill turning, to fill the sails, and to foster cross-pollination. Wind symbolizes change, renewal, freedom, movement and progress, inspiration and new ideas.

This year, a fresh wind blew through SG as well: a challenging, yet remarkable year. We gratefully said farewell to Lucas Asselbergs, who stood at the helm of SG for many years with great expertise and dedication, and we proudly welcomed Olga Coolen. In her, we have once again found a strong and passionate head of SG.

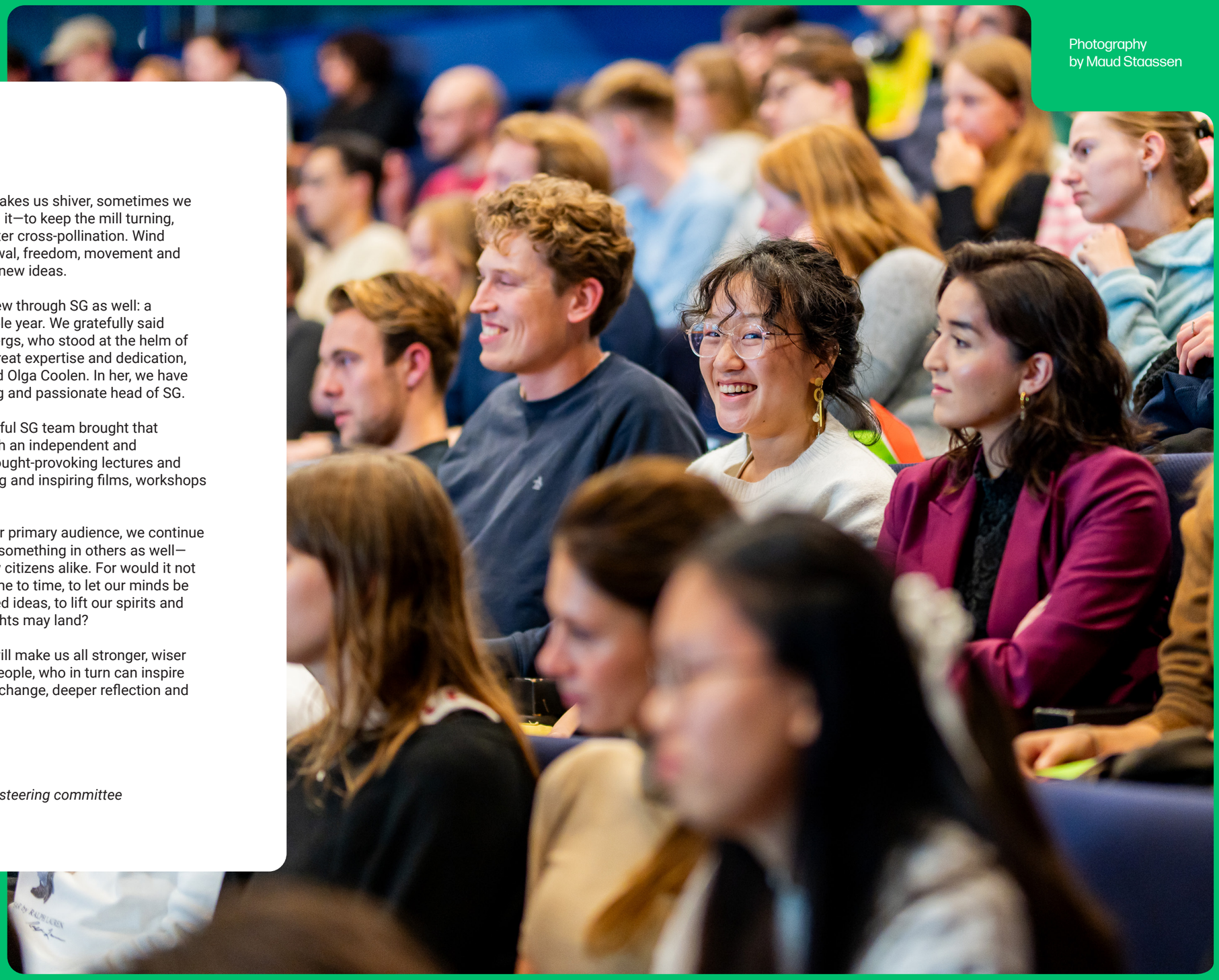
This year, too, the wonderful SG team brought that fresh wind to campus with an independent and distinctive program of thought-provoking lectures and performances, challenging and inspiring films, workshops and exhibitions.

While students remain our primary audience, we continue to look for ways to spark something in others as well—staff members and fellow citizens alike. For would it not do all of us good, from time to time, to let our minds be aired, to stir up established ideas, to lift our spirits and then see where our thoughts may land?

Who knows? Perhaps it will make us all stronger, wiser and more open-minded people, who in turn can inspire others towards welcome change, deeper reflection and contemplation.



Yvonne de Kort
Chair, on behalf of the SG steering committee



Photography
by Maud Staassen

Chapter 1 –
Profile Studium Generale

Mission

Studium Generale TU/e (SG) is committed to the development of broadly oriented students. Through societal, scientific, and cultural programs, SG stimulates curiosity and critical thinking, offering students striking experiences beyond their own field of study.

Vision

Studium Generale Eindhoven is the cultural and societal heart of TU/e. Here, pressing issues are discussed and meaningful experiences are shared. The goal is to shape engineers who approach the world with open minds, cultural awareness, and critical curiosity.

Target audience

Primary: Bachelor's and Master's students at TU/e. In 2025, approximately 14,000 students were enrolled in a TU/e degree program. These students are spread across 15 Bachelor's and 24 Master's programs, encompassing more than 35 specializations.

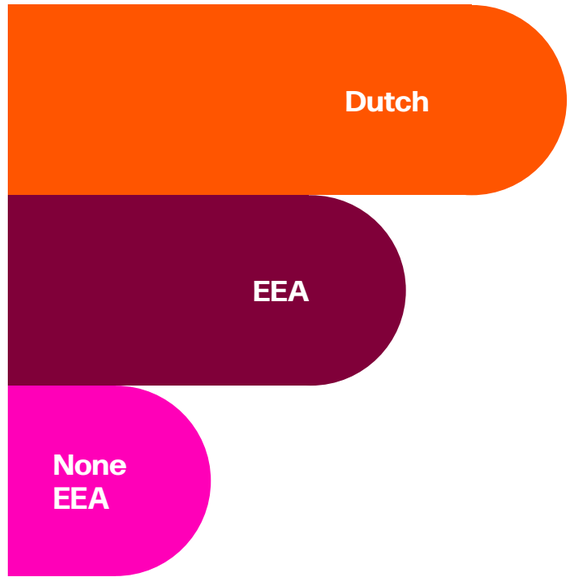
Of the Bachelor's student population, 50% is Dutch and 50% is international. Of the international students, 34% come from Europe (EEA) and 16% from outside Europe (None EEA). This diverse and international student body provides a broad range of perspectives and can help shape SG's programming.

Bachelor's students are introduced to SG activities through the ITEC track. Master's students, however, are often new to TU/e and may not yet be familiar with Studium Generale.

Secondary:

1. TU/e employees. Approximately 8,000 people are employed by the university.
2. Other interested members of the public.

Bachelor Enrollment by Origin



Bachelor's Students and the ITEC Label

Our mission and vision are strongly supported by the USE-ITEC label, which is part of the ITEC track that every Bachelor's student must complete. This course, which focuses on the impact of technology on society, requires students to attend five SG programs carrying the label in order to complete their Bachelor's degree.

The USE-ITEC requirement ensures that every Bachelor's student is exposed to SG programming and, in doing so, benefits from a broader academic education. Starting in the new academic year, the label will be renamed from USE-ITEC to simply ITEC.

The USE-ITEC attendance registration system also generates valuable data. Through collaboration with Education & Student Affairs (ESA), SG receives detailed attendance breakdowns by program, study discipline, and quartile. These data provide several insights:

- The total number of USE-ITEC registrations reached 10,837, representing 3,921 unique students, compared with 8,865 registrations and 3,423 unique students the previous year.
- The number of Bachelor's students in 2025/2026 is approximately 8,500, an increase of around 150 students compared with the previous year. So approximately 50% of all Bachelor's students attended at least one of our programs.
- The top five study programs by number of SG registrations are shown to the right. This is strongly correlated with the size of these programs.

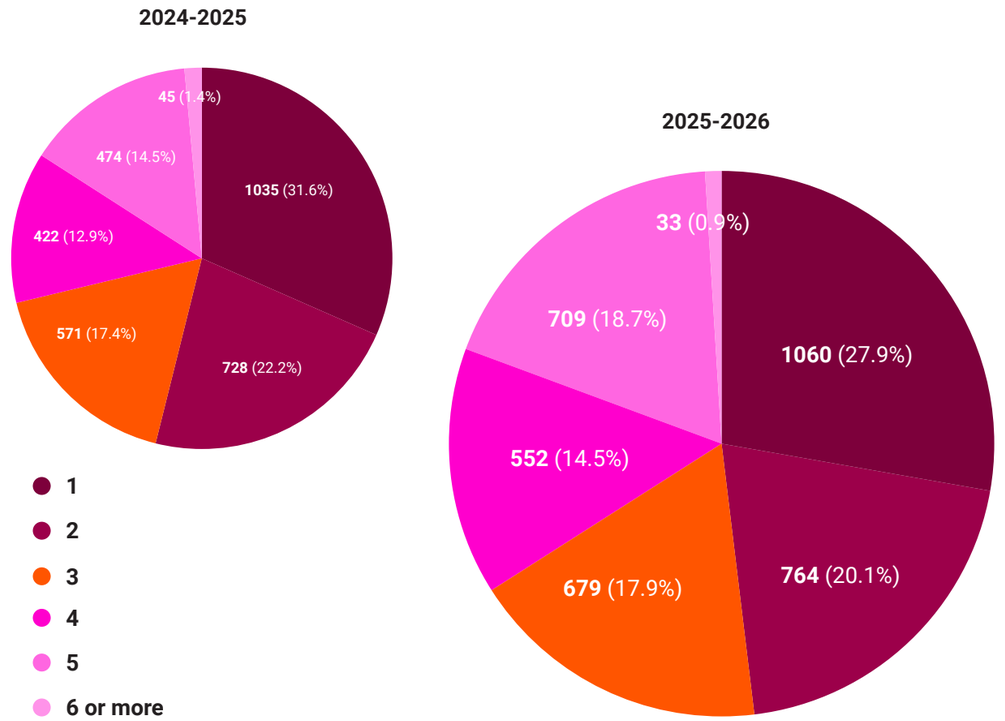
Education	Registrations
Mechanical Engineering	1.709
Computer Science & Engineering	1.592
Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences	1.239
Industrial Engineering	1.081
Electrical Engineering	785

- The average number of registrations per student increased slightly from 2024 to 2025. We will continue to monitor this trend in the coming year and explore potential consequences for our program.
- Distribution of visits across study years. First-year students tend to participate in SG activities less frequently than students in later years. Although participation among first-year students has increased slightly, this appears to be linked to the point at which they are first introduced to SG. In the coming year, we will place greater emphasis on communication and outreach aimed at first-year students.

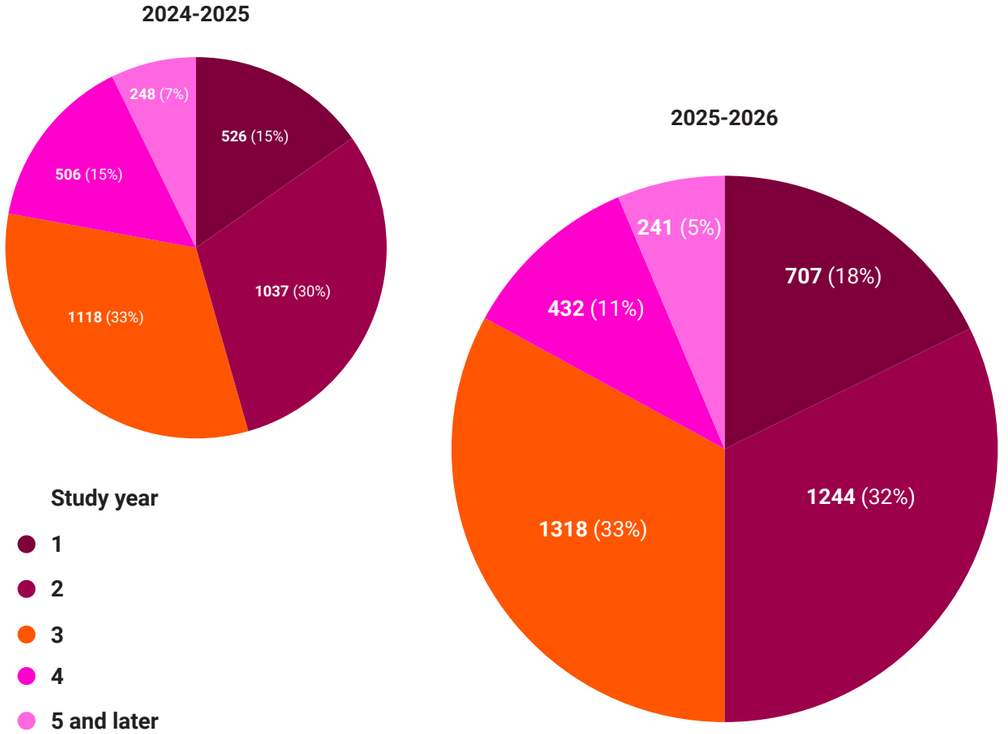
I was actually pretty pessimistic going into it, because I was mainly there to get the last SG point I needed. But Woody honestly surprised me with his beautiful storytelling, guitar playing, and singing! All in all, I really enjoyed it!

Type programma: *Americana Guitars*

SG registrations per student



Study year students with SG registration



Meet program organizer **Marle de Jonge**



Photography by Maud Staassen

> **The most entertaining comments, however, are the direct and unfiltered opinions, especially in the recurring category of *"I didn't feel like coming / I had to be here, but it turned out much better than expected."***

Profile

- **Name:** Marle de Jonge
- **Favourite classic:**
  A difficult question, but a classic I discovered this year (30 years after its publication, thanks to the Gen Z BookTok crowd) is *I Who Have Never Known Men* by Jacqueline Harpman. It is a dystopian story set in a post-apocalyptic world—in other words, a fitting book for our times.
- **Favourite podcast:**
  I really enjoy *If Books Could Kill*, a podcast that dissects and critiques so-called "airport bestsellers."

Take aways from the past year

Biggest surprise

I'll go with a small weekly surprise: the comments visitors leave through our feedback form. They regularly contain thoughtful and insightful observations, ranging from students attending their first live concert to suggestions for follow-up lectures and future speakers. The most entertaining comments, however, are the direct and unfiltered opinions, especially in the recurring category of "*I didn't feel like coming / I had to be here, but it turned out much better than expected.*"

When did you get goosebumps?

This year, I organized a lecture on coercive control. It was a challenging topic, especially considering that in the Netherlands a woman is still murdered every eight days, often by a current or former partner. Not easy to hear, but important to keep on the agenda. I was pleasantly surprised—and a little moved—by the strong turnout of male students, who also asked thoughtful and genuinely engaged questions. Made my week!

Most memorable moment(s)

A particularly special occasion this year was the farewell week for our departing head, Lucas. Not only because of the occasion itself, but also because it was truly a team effort. From the beautiful graphics to the perfectly orchestrated surprise acts, it was great fun to work on it together behind the scenes, just a little bit secretly.



Community activity *"BYO Book Cafe"*
(1 June, 2026) Photography by Maud Staassen

"

The introduction was really helpful, made me enjoy the movie more and escalated the experience from just seeing a movie to thinking critically about the underlying notions the director had.

Film: *The Shining*

"



Concert *"Vincent van Amsterdam"*
(11 November, 2025)
Photography by Maud Staassen

"

I love the concept of having cultural or non-mainstream music as part of the SG program. Please introduce more of this.

Concert:
Recess Relaxation: Thomas Beijer

"



Quiz *"SG Music Quiz"*
(18 March, 2026)
Photography by Maud Staassen

Meet program organizer **David Ernst**



Photography by Maud Staassen

Profile

- **Name:** David Ernst
- **Favourite classic:**
  Book: Narziss und Goldmund (Herman Hesse)
  Films: Back to the Future. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind / Grave of the Fireflies / Dogville
  Music: Almost all Hip Hop 1985 – 2003 / Doe Maar / Stevie Wonder / Michael Jackson / Prince / Bill Withers / Minimal Music
- **Favourite podcast:**
  Podcast is sooooooooooooooooooo 2021.
  Favorite YouTube channels: Mark Wiens / Aan & Matig Animatie / De Ideale Wereld

Take aways from the past year

Biggest surprise

I'm not easily surprised: you can usually see most things coming.

When did you get goosebumps?

During the last 10 minutes of the film *Grave of the Fireflies*, more than half the audience began to cry, sob, and swallow hard. Sitting in front of me was a tall, grown man (a student/PhD candidate) who had to be comforted the whole time by his girlfriend, who was three heads shorter than him. I have almost never felt 'The Impact of Art on Emotions' so strongly.

Most memorable moment(s)

Same as with 'Goosebumps': emotions at *Grave of the Fireflies*. But to avoid repeating myself: Music Quiz (we're REALLY good at making quizzes), nice guests like Nienke de La Rive Box or Prof. Stefan Stighel, who bounced around De Blauwe Zaal with a great scientific story, interaction with Film Committee members and interaction with Natlab, farewell of Lucas and selection-process of *The Brabanter*. And it's not just 'a moment, but the strong sense of family and teamwork, and the fact that Olga, as the new manager, seems to be settling in smoothly—much to my and our delight.

“During the last 10 minutes of the film *Grave of the Fireflies*, more than half the audience began to cry, sob, and swallow hard. […] I have almost never felt 'The Impact of Art on Emotions' so strongly.”

Chapter 2 – Impact & highlights

The year was filled with inspiring programs, highly diverse in both content and format. While no annual report can fully do justice to the breadth of the program through merely a summary, we would still like to highlight some of the year's standout moments in words, images and rankings.

By exposing the audience to societal issues, cultural- and scientific perspectives, and different ways of thinking, Studium Generale creates opportunities for curiosity, reflection, and dialogue. The strong participation rates, high satisfaction scores, and positive learning outcomes show that SG makes a meaningful contribution to the broader development of TU/e students, employees and others, helping them become critical thinkers, engaged citizens, and socially aware professionals.

In total, SG programs attracted an estimated 18,330 visitors in 2025/2026. Lectures accounted for the largest share of attendance, representing 51% of all visitors, followed by performances (20%) and film screenings (16%).

Engagement with SG reached a new high in the 2025/2026 academic year. Excluding exhibitions and festivals, attendance grew to 15,188 visitors, up from 13,939 the previous year. This growth was driven largely by TU/e students, who accounted for 86% of all reservations.

The impact of Studium Generale is reflected not only in attendance figures but also in the appreciation and learning experiences reported by participants. Across all program categories, visitors consistently rated the activities highly. The World Press Exhibition tours received the highest average rating at 4.83 out of 5, followed by performances (4.64) and films (4.62), workshops (4.58) and lectures (4,03).

Equally important is the extent to which participants felt they had gained new knowledge or insights. The more interactive program formats scored particularly well in this regard. Average scores on the statement "I learned something new" ranged from 3.72 for lectures, 4,02 for films to 4,15 for performances, 4.28 for workshops and 4.33 for the World Press exhibition tours. These results demonstrate that SG not only inspires and entertains but also makes a tangible contribution to the personal and intellectual development of the audience.

Top 5 best rated programs per category

Lectures, discussions, interviews, debate

	Program	Rating
1	When All Minds Thrive	4.69
2	My Fight Against My Death Penalty	4.68
3	How to Stay Focused	4.63
4	Guide in Complex Times	4.58
5	The Quantum Computer Revolution	4.45

Cultural programs (concert, theater, dans, comedy, quiz)

	Program	Rating
1	Lunch Concert Thomas Beijer	4.88
2	Americana According to Woody Veneman	4.80
3	Storioni	4.71
4	Lunch Concert Duo Vita	4.70
5	Godzilla Eats Las Vegas	4.70

Films

	Program	Rating
1	Whiplash	5.00
2	The Teacher Who Promised The Sea	5.00
3	Grave of the Fireflies	4.87
4	The Count of Monte-Cristo	4.79
5	F1 The Movie	4.73

Workshops, excursions and community activities

	Program	Rating
1	One Night Sax	4.83
2	Linocut	4.80
3	Photo Forensics	4.75
4	BYO Book Café	4.62
5	Classical Ballet for Beginners	4,33



Concert
"Godzilla Eats Las Vegas"
(21 March, 2026)
Photography by Maud Staassen





Dance *"The End"* (28 May, 2026)
Photography by Maud Staassen

World Press Photo at TU/e: A window on the world and a celebration of press freedom

Few exhibitions demonstrate the value of a free and independent press as powerfully as the *World Press Photo Exhibition*. Through images that are raw, moving, and sometimes breathtaking, visitors are invited to look beyond headlines and experience the world through the eyes of photojournalists. These photographs capture both major global events and stories that often remain unseen, highlighting the essential role of press freedom in documenting reality, fostering understanding, and encouraging dialogue.

In 2025, Studium Generale brought the *World Press Photo Exhibition* to the TU/e campus. Since 2003, SG has hosted this internationally renowned exhibition in Eindhoven because it closely reflects its mission: creating space for stories that broaden our horizons, challenge our assumptions, and inspire meaningful conversations. By bringing powerful photojournalism to the TU/e community year after year, the *World Press Photo Exhibition* reinforces TU/e's profile as a university that is actively engaged with the world around it.

The exhibition featured the winning images from the 68th annual *World Press Photo Contest,* selected from more than 59,000 submissions by photographers from around the world. Together, these images offered an honest and compelling portrait of our times, combining journalistic integrity with artistic excellence.

As in previous years, the exhibition was hosted in the Atlas building, ensuring a prominent presence at the heart of the university campus. The exhibition attracted an estimated 3,240 visitors, in addition to 1,090 secondary school students from schools across the region. A further 410 visitors participated in one of the guided tours. These guided tours are a particularly valuable element of the exhibition experience. Led by TU/e students, the tours provide context for the images and encourage discussion around topics that can be complex, sensitive, or controversial. By engaging visitors in conversation, the student guides help create an open environment where different perspectives can be explored and shared.

> "I was able to see what's happening around the world (sometimes we forget how lucky we are).
>
> Exhibition: *World Press Photo 2025*"

The Brabanter

What if North Brabant were a magazine cover? That question layed at the heart of *The Brabanter*, a colorful exhibition on the TU/e campus from 22 April to 12 May. *The Brabanter* is a fictional magazine inspired by the iconic cover pages of *The New Yorker*. The magazine itself does not exist, but the covers do. Created by artists and illustrators from the region, each one captures a personal perspective on North Brabant.

A special highlight was the latest cover, *Beyond the Lecture Halls*, by TU/e student Michèle Stassen. As the winning design of The Brabanter Cover Competition, organized by Studium Generale earlier this year, the work reflects on student life beyond the classroom; through moments of connection, rest, and belonging.

The Brabanter was initiated by Alessio Meroni (1986), an Italian expat who has been living in Eindhoven since 2017. By day, he works as an engineer in the high-tech sector; in his free time, he runs this project. On the final day of the exhibition we held a poster sale and more than half of the exhibited illustrations were sold to colleagues and students!

Collabs

Collabs demonstrate how Studium Generale serves as a bridge between the university, student organizations, cultural institutions, societal partners, and experts.

City of Eindhoven

We have strong partnerships in the city of Eindhoven. With Van Piere Bookstore through the Dutch-language series *Woord & Wetenschap*, in which we welcomed speakers this year to discuss topics such as sloppy science, the overlooked risks of AI, and the protein hype. In the run-up to the Dutch parliamentary elections, an election debate was organized on the TU/e campus featuring parliamentary candidates from a broad range of political parties. The central theme of the evening was Housing, combined with a discussion about the future of the Netherlands towards 2050. Next to that excursions to the Parktheater and Muziekgebouw helped students become familiar with these cultural landmarks. And SG partnered with the Storioni Festival, for the sixth consecutive year, to bring young high-quality chamber music to the TU/e campus with Duo Alyosha, winners of the Storioni Festival Competition 2025. Our largest cultural collaboration, however, is with Natlab, Eindhoven's independent cinema. Together, we create an annual program of special films, carefully selected in close collaboration with Natlab and with support from our SG student film committee.

Student associations and TU/e teams

New lecture programs were created in collaboration with various student associations like Liberation040, the Turkish Student Association, Bouwkunde bedrijvendagen, the Go Green Office, AEGEE and student team InMotion. With student support organizations TINT and Donatues lectures about fear and neurodivergence were initiated. At the end of the year Iranian students joined with a musical introduction for a lecture about the Middle East. With EAISI an interactive conversation was held to exchange ideas on the use of AI at the university.

For the second year in a row, we co-organized Social Heroes Day, during which students can participate in several charity activities throughout the city. The day ends with a shared dinner, giving all participating students the ability to connect and reflect.

Festivals were organized with AnArchi together with Tilburg Architecture Film Festival (TIAFF), with CHEOPS we continued the partnership with one of Eindhoven's leading student-driven music festivals: Plugged. Plugged has grown into a prominent cultural event within the student community. Studium Generale contributed to the festival through the Studium Generale Stage, featuring TU/e student bands and artist Gotu Jim.

Scala associations

In the role as Umbrella representative for the Scala board, representing all cultural student associations at the TU/e, SG team developed several collabs and gave advice where necessary. Workshops were organized to enable the larger community to join for once and get a flavor of cloth repair, board game design or sketching at a beautiful place, the Rijksmuseum. Studium Generale and Studentproof worked together on several initiatives like a lecture on the *History of Jazz,* the viewing of the movie *Whiplash* and the contribution of SG to the festival *JazzedUp* with the conservatory talent award winner Antonin Jaccuard.

Student Take-Over

Through the Student Take-Over initiative, individual students are given the opportunity to develop and organize their own programs with support from Studium Generale. This year, student-led events included an evening on travel featuring tv travel program presenter and writer Nienke de la Rive Box, as well as an interview and presentation by the popular YouTube creator Asianometry.

> "The performance by the Iranian students was very touching. I believe it is great to give them a podium to share their thoughts, feelings and emotions.
>
> Lecture: *The Forever Wars*"



Workshop *"Clothing repair & Customization"*
(19 November, 2025) Photography by Maud Staassen



Exhibition *"The Brabanter"*
(22 April, 2026)
Photography by Maud Staassen



Radio play *"Schemeren (Shimmering)"*
(May 6, 2026) Photography by Maud Staassen

It was a very different experience for me because it wasn't something I would usually go for because of my studies but I'm glad that I did it.

Concert: *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas*

Meet program organizer **Liza Gloudemans**



Photography by Maud Staassen

> **In Hungary, the exhibition faced significant resistance and was not accessible to visitors under 18 because it contained LGBTQ-related content. She saw the exhibition for the first time with us.**

Profile

- **Name:** Liza Gloudemans
- **Favourite classic:**
  That's a difficult question. Let's talk books instead: J.D. Salinger, Ali Smith, Toni Morrison, García Márquez, and *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. Or, if we're not talking about books, the classic Dutch TV program *We zijn er bijna!* from Omroep MAX.
- **Favourite podcast:**
  The Daily

Take aways from the past year

Biggest surprise

The *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas* concert by Auletes. Great music, a packed venue, and a delightfully absurd final scene. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and talent among students.

When did you get goosebumps?

One moment that has always stayed with me was an interview with a student who wanted to become a guide for the *World Press Photo* exhibition. In Hungary, the exhibition faced significant resistance and was not accessible to visitors under 18 because it contained LGBTQ-related content. She saw the exhibition for the first time with us. That really moved me. It showed how special it is that we can share these stories here, and how important it is that we continue to do so.

Most memorable moment(s)

The opening of *The Brabanter* exhibition was a lot of fun. It's always rewarding to work towards something for a long time and then finally see it come to life. The event was pleasantly busy, and there were *worstenbroodjes* (Brabant sausage rolls). Olé!

Chapter 3 – Next year

Mission x ITEC

Our mission and vision are leading principles in our programming. Therefore, we will no longer distinguish between ITEC and non-ITEC activities.

The films receive high ratings and score well on the “learned something new” criterion. However, they are affected by low accupancy. This can largely be explained by the fact that many films do not carry a USE/ITEC label. Together with Ines Lopez Arteaga, Dean of the Bachelor College at TU/e and responsible for ITEC, we have decided that from next season onwards all films will receive this label. This will allow capacity to be used more effectively and reduce the pressure caused by other programs selling out. Naturally, we will evaluate the results of this change. An additional benefit could be that the capacity freed up elsewhere can be used for the broader audience.

World Press Photo exhibition

The continued success of the *World Press Photo Exhibition* confirms its position as one of SG’s most visible and impactful programs. We will expand the impact of this exhibition next academic year. The WPP will be part of the TU/e 70 years Lustrum’s program and we will enhance the impact by adding extra side programming, such as talks by key TU/e researchers about how some of the exhibition’s main themes are mirrored in their own research, a lecture by historian and tv-personality Maarten van Rossem and a workshop photo forensics. We’ll also expand the number of guided tours from 42 in 2025 to 67 in 2026.

TU/e celebrates 70th anniversary

SG participates in the lustrum committee and contributes with a variety of programs ranging from the *World Press Photo Exhibition* to the concert by Auletes and Zephyr and the Big Five of the TU/e heritage (competition) and a new artwork by Alexandra Hunts.

Connecting with students

We will seek to engage more closely with first-year students and master’s students. The goal is to further position Studium Generale as an attractive and enjoyable extracurricular offering alongside their studies. To achieve this, we will increase the target number of newsletter subscribers and further refine our other communication channels.

Seasonality

Visitor numbers were significantly higher in Q3 than in Q2. This was due to the cancellation of three programs in Q2, which were rescheduled to Q3. The number of student participants peaked in Q3, which raised the question of how this trend would develop in Q4. All programs sold out quickly. Anticipating continued high demand, we scheduled additional programs in Q4. However, attendance levels dropped considerably, and visitor numbers returned to a level comparable to the previous year.

A better distribution of programs throughout the year is needed, and when cancellations occur, replacing programs is preferable to rescheduling them later in the season. This would help reduce pressure further down the line. Perhaps lighter programs could be scheduled towards the end of each quartile. Students appreciate relaxing activities during periods when they have a very busy schedule.

Optimizing Occupancy Rate

The no-show rate increases throughout the year, rising from 15% to 20%. In Q4, a cancellation button was introduced, and reminders are now sent on Mondays. We hope this will encourage people to cancel earlier, allowing places to become available again for newly interested participants. The impact of these measures is not yet visible in the figures, but it will likely take time for this behavior to become habitual.

At the same time, it would be advisable to increase the overbooking percentage—not to maximize it, but to determine the ‘sweet spot’ for each program type and for each week within the quartile, within logistical criteria.

Translation software

We will explore whether real-time translation capabilities can be used for Dutch-language programs.

Meet program organizer **Gijs van der Sande**



Photography by Maud Staassen

Profile

- **Naam:** Gijs van der Sande
- **Favourite classic:**
  This year, I discovered and experienced Wagner's Ring live at TivoliVredenburg: a one-hour orchestral adaptation of Richard Wagner's monumental four-part masterpiece, Der Ring des Nibelungen—a 15-hour opera cycle. A truly impressive experience.
- **Favourite podcast:**
  This year, I particularly enjoyed NRC's podcast Het Uur, hosted by Pieter van der Wielen.

> **How she was wrongfully convicted, escaped the death penalty, and helped change Uganda's justice system—gave me goosebumps**

Biggest surprise

Frénk van der Linden's A4 sheet of notes for the interview he conducted on 12 November with Lucas Asselbergs, the departing head of SG. It was a maze of words, written in pen and marker, crossed out, highlighted, and rearranged. There were coffee stains here and there, block letters mixed with tiny scribbles, and arrows adding extra structure. He had even marked timings down to the second. A work of art in its own right.

When did you get goosebumps?

While preparing for our own programme with Susan Kigula as the main speaker, I revisited a talk she had previously given at De Balie. Listening to her tell her life story—how she was wrongfully convicted, escaped the death penalty, and helped change Uganda's justice system—gave me goosebumps. Her experiences were horrific and deeply moving: the brutal violence, the relentless injustice, and the unimaginable strength it took to survive them. She told her story with remarkable sincerity and skill, like a true storyteller, and at times she could not hold back her tears.

Most memorable moment(s)

One moment I look back on with great pleasure, was an email exchange with a speaker. We had corresponded a few times, but had not really built a personal connection yet. In one of my emails, I wrote, "Time flies." The speaker replied: "You say, 'Time flies.' Tell me about it. Before you know it, you're almost retired and your daughter is pregnant." Absolutely hilarious!

Student Take-Over *"Meaningful traveling with Nienke de la Rive Box"* (5 February, 2026)
Photography by Maud Staassen





Excursion and workshop *"Visit and Draw at the Rijksmuseum"* (10 May, 2026) Photography by Evan Broeren

"It was a very interesting lecture, and the lecturer was extremely knowledgeable. Furthermore, answering so many questions and giving proper time to each was a very good way to further our knowledge even more"

Student Take-Over:
Engineering Curiosity with Asianometry



Lecture, Discussion *"Facing Fears"* (24 March, 2026) Photography by Maud Staassen

"Interesting, developing, changed my perception of the world."

Film: *Orwell: 2 + 2 = 5*

Afterword



Exhibition "*The Brabanter*" (22 April, 2026)
Photography by Maud Staassen

What a year it has been.

So much has been happening in the world around us, and at Studium Generale we strive to offer students programs that help them better understand specific aspects of that world and the issues shaping it. Over the past year, for example, we explored topics such as migration, elections, the Middle East, femicide, Trump, and many others—both on stage and on the big screen. We invited speakers who shed light on these subjects, always with the aim of broadening our perspectives, and especially those of our students.

At the same time, we introduced students to culture in its many forms, often for the very first time, something we regularly see reflected in the feedback on our programs. Throughout the study week, students could take a cultural (lunch) break and enjoy classical music, cabaret, dance performances, and for example an Americana concert. What a wonderful way to pause, if you ask me.

For me personally, this was also my first year at Studium Generale. The team organized a great goodbye event for my predecessor Lucas Asselbergs. I approached this year as a kind of treasure hunt. The SG team introduced me to the craft of organizing programs, and I quickly came to appreciate the wealth of knowledge and experience behind the inspiring program they have been creating year after year. Unfortunately we had to let go of our colleague Brit, who I want to thank again for all her commitment to our film program.

Across the university, I sought out colleagues—both those involved with SG and those who were not—and asked them how they view the role of Studium Generale within the university. I spoke with many students, also in my role as Scala umbrella manager. I studied the feedback from our program evaluations, co-organized several events myself, and even sat in on Virtue Ethics lectures to gain a better understanding of the ITEC courses to which SG is connected.

At the end of this journey, I can only conclude that I have discovered a remarkable treasure in Studium Generale: a treasure for TU/e, for our students, and for myself.

Olga Coolen, July 2026

Appendix:
Overview of all programs

Q1 September - October

Data	Program	Type program
02/09/2025 - 25/09/2025	World Press Photo exhibition + tours	Expo
03/09/2025	Guide in Complex Times	Lecture
04/09/2025	Canceled: Outdoor Movie: Paddington 2	Film
08/09/2025	Lee	Film
10/09/2025	Warfare	Film
10/09/2025	Freedom Isn't Free: A Veteran's View	Discussion
16/09/2025	Photo Forensics	Workshop
16/09/2025	Conclave	Film
16/09/2025	Journalism = Activism	Lecture
17/09/2025	Best of Kaboom 2025	Film +
17/09/2025	Fair Taxes: A Radical New Perspective	Lecture
23/09/2025	Deap Sea (2D)	Film
24/09/2025	Ik kom uit Brabant jonguh!	Interview
29/09/2025	Riefenstahl	Film +
30/09/2025	Classic: Festen	Film +
30/09/2025	Sloppy Science	Lecture
01/10/2025	The Promise	Film +
01/10/2025	The Right to Protest	Lecture
07/10/2025	BYO Book Café	Community
07/10/2025	Fabula	Film
08/10/2025	Onder het Maaiveld (Planet Soil)	Film +
08/10/2025	The Quantum Computer Revolution	Lecture
15/10/2025	The Political Transformation of Turkey	Lecture
15/10/2025	A Different Man	Film
15/10/2025	Verkiezingsdebat @TU/e: Wie bouwt de toekomst?	Debate
16/10/2025	Bad Nature @Parktheater	Dance
22/10/2025	Recess Relaxation: Lunch Concert Thomas Beijer	Concert
22/10/2025	Sinners	Film

Q2 November - January

Data	Program	Type program
10/11/2025	Surprise Movie Night	Film
11/11/2025	Lunchconcert: Vincent van Amsterdam	Concert
11/11/2025	The Teacher Who Promised the Sea	Film
12/11/2025	Psychopaths Among Us	Lecture
12/11/2025	De Avond van Asselbergs	Interview
13/11/2025	40 jaar cabaret met Erik van Muiswinkel	Lecture
17/11/2025	F1 The Movie	Film
18/11/2025	How to Deal with Polarization?	Workshop
19/11/2025	Clothing Repair & Customization Café	Community
19/11/2025	Mini Architecture Film Festival	Film +, Lecture
24/11/2025	Put your Soul on your Hand and Walk	Film +
25/11/2025	One Night Sax	Workshop
25/11/2025	Ocean with David Attenborough	Film +
26/11/2025	Electronical Music Studio	Workshop
26/11/2025	The System	Film +
26/11/2025	The Evolution of Computing	Lecture
02/12/2025	Clay Day	Workshop
02/12/2025	BYO Book Café	Community
03/12/2025	Sorry, Baby	Film
03/12/2025	Patents: Drivers of Innovation	Lecture
08/12/2025	Grave of the Fireflies	Film
10/12/2025	Classic: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly	Film +
11/12/2025	When All Minds Thrive	Lecture
15/12/2025	Caught Stealing	Film
17/12/2025	My Fight Against My Death Penalty	Lecture
07/01/2026	The Count of Monte-Cristo	Film
13/01/2026	Islands	Film
14/01/2026	Recess Relaxation: Lunch Concert Duo Vita	Concert

Q3 Febuary - April

Data	Program	Type program
11/02/2026	Surprise Film	Film
12/02/2026	NSO: Ongetemd	Concert
23/02/2026	Organ Playing	Workshop
23/02/2026	Hollands Licht	Film +
24/02/2026	Orwell: 2+2=5	Film +
25/02/2026	Lekker Alleen	Cabaret
25/02/2026	The Golden Spurtle	Film +
28/02/2026	Great Catch: Circus at Natlab	Theater
02/03/2026	Eternity	Film
03/03/2026	AI, wat niemand ons vertelt	Lecture
04/03/2026	From Atom to Icon: Oppenheimer	Lecture
09/03/2026	Mary & Max	Film
10/03/2026	Personality Test: Sense and Nonsense	Lecture
11/03/2026	Voor de Meisjes	Film
13/03/2026	Social Heroes: Gardening at Wasven Care Farm	Community
13/03/2026	Social Heroes: Baking Spring Waffles	Community
13/03/2026	Social Heroes: Casinomiddag met ouderen	Community
13/03/2026	Social Heroes: Creative Afternoon with People Living with Physical Disabilities	Community
13/03/2026	Social Heroes: Walking & Cleaning Up with the Elderly	Community
16/03/2026	One Battle After Another	Film
17/03/2026	Data Dilemmas in Smart Cities	Discussion
18/03/2026	Municipal Politics Shaping Your Daily Life	Lecture
18/03/2026	SG Music Quiz	Quiz
21/03/2026	Godzilla Eats Las Vegas	Concert
23/03/2026	Whiplash	Film
24/03/2026	Forrest Gump	Film +
24/03/2026	Facing Fears	Lecture
25/03/2026	The Migration Obsession	Lecture
25/03/2026	DJ Ahmet	Film
26/03/2026	Campus Art Tour	Excursion
30/03/2026	The Last Viking	Film
01/04/2026	Inside the Trump Mind	Lecture

Q4 April - June

Data	Program	Type program
22/04/2026 - 12/05/2026	The Brabanter	Expo
20/04/2026	Persepolis	Film
20/04/2026	Linocut	Workshop
21/04/2026	Objectified	Film +
22/04/2026	Water at risk	Lecture
22/04/2026	La Grande Arche	Film
22/04/2026	Opening Brabanter	Expo
28/29-4-26	Hamnet	Film
29/04/2026	The Myth of Neutral Sports Events	Lecture
30/04/2026	Excursion: heritage philips product design	Excursion
06/05/2026	When Love Isn't Love: Unmasking Coercive Control	Lecture
06/05/2026	Surprise (Amelie & the little character of Rain)	Film
06/05/2026	Schemeren	Podium
10/05/2026	Excursie + workshop Rijksmuseum	Excursion
11/12/13-5-26	The Secret Agent	Film
17/05/2026	SG@jazzed-Up: Antonin Jaccard	Podium
18/05/2026	Folktales	Film +
18/05/2026	Storioni	Podium
19/05/2026	Coriolis Effect	Film +
20/05/2026	Green Hydrogen and Decarbonization of the Steel Industry	Lecture
20/05/2026	Mr. Nobody against Putin	Film +
21/05/2026	Student Take Over: Asianometry	Lecture
26/05/2026	Kiki's Delivery Service	Film
26/05/2026	Board Game design	Workshop
27/05/2026	W&W #7 - Jop de Vrieze - De eiwit-hype	Lecture
27/05/2026	Americana According to Woody	Podium
27/05/2026	History of Jazz: the Origins	Lecture
28/05/2026	Dansperformance (The End)	Podium
1/2/3-6-26	Sirat	Film
01/06/2026	BYO bookcafé	Community
03/06/2026	Once upon a time... the Earth	Lecture
04/06/2026	Plugged	Podium
06/06/2026	Vintage Vibes: Sustainable Treasure Hunts	Excursion
08/06/2026	Father, Mother, Sister, Brother	Film
09/06/2026	Sentimental Value	Film
13/05/2026	The Forever wars	Lecture
10/06/2026	Classic: The Shining met Witold G.	Film +
10/06/2026	Workshop ballet voor beginners	Workshop
15/06/2026	Climate Anxiety and Action	Lecture
17/06/2026	Alp Celik op vleugel	Concert
17/06/2026	Classic: Jaws met intro Twan Arts	Film +
17/06/2026	The Future of Learning, Working and Researching with AI	Lecture



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