

BROADER MIND COURSE

Fuel change

Are you ready for tomorrow's world?

Do you control your digital environment or does it control you? How can we reduce poverty and our dependence on plastic? Are you satisfied with the way our society defines 'success'?

These burning issues – and many others – are covered in the Broader Mind Course. The course is designed as an extracurricular activity and has been integrated into some study programs as a core component. In a interdisciplinary group of students from all VU faculties you will be involved in an innovative course that will challenge your perspective on different topics and help you understand how to optimize on your differences from others - preparing you well for any future workplace in the dynamic world we know today.

The course is open for all students from all faculties as a complement to your regular program. It has been uniquely designed by students of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam with the assistance of many staff members.

The course runs from February till June 2025 (IP4 + 5).







Why should you sign up?

- **A challenge to look beyond your own discipline.** The multidisciplinary themes present you with both personal and societal challenges allowing you to develop your sense of self, academic, and interpersonal skills – all of which will help prepare you for success in any future workplace.
- **You can choose from two tracks with each 4 themes.** In Track A you will work on the themes of Success & Failure, Poverty, Human Body and Rebellion. Track B includes the themes of Health & Happiness, Digital World, Viewpoints & Worldview and Sustainability. Every theme takes three weeks to complete.
- **You will alternate between online and offline activities.** Watch inspirational videos, read articles and interviews online, complete challenges and come together for discussions and creative assignments with other students. You will complete every theme with a group event.
- **You will work with students from other degree programs.** Broaden your perspective by examining a societal issue from both academic and personal points of view which may be different to your own. An excellent preparation for your future career in which you will almost certainly find yourself working with people from different backgrounds.
- **You'll become aware of your own role, behaviour, predispositions and biases.** Societal issues can best be solved by synergizing all our unique backgrounds and perspectives in order to find solutions. This course helps you learn cooperation skills which will help you to impact the world together with your peers, fellow students and future colleagues.
- **You will make new contacts and friends.** Expanding your network is an added bonus! You will not only strengthen your network and boost your CV, but also

2024 - 2025

Track A







Track B

P4 Feb '25			1 Plenary Kick-off meeting	• Tue 04 <i>or</i> Wed 05 Feb	18:00-19:00
			First Group meeting	• Tue 04 <i>or</i> Wed 05 Feb	19:30-21:00
Mar '25	 Theme 1: Success & Failure	 Theme 1: Health & Happiness	2 on campus meetups	• Tue 11 <i>or</i> Wed 12 Feb • Tue 25 <i>or</i> Wed 26 Feb	17:30-19:30 17:30-19:30
	 Theme 2: Poverty	 Theme 2: Digital World	2 on campus meetups	• Tue 04 <i>or</i> Wed 05 Mar • Tue 18 <i>or</i> Wed 19 Mar	17:30-19:30 17:30-19:30
			Mid-term Assignment	Free week (Assessment Week)	
P5 Apr '25	 Theme 3: Human Body	 Theme 3: View-points & Worldview	2 on campus meetups	• Tue 01 <i>or</i> Wed 02 Apr • Tue 15 <i>or</i> Wed 16 Apr	17:30-19:30 17:30-19:30
	 Theme 4: Rebellion	 Theme 4: Sustainability	2 on campus meetups	• Tue 22 <i>or</i> Wed 23 Apr • Tue 06 <i>or</i> Wed 05 May	17:30-19:30 17:30-19:30
Jun '25			1 Final Group meeting	• Tue 13 <i>or</i> Wed 14 May	17:30-19:30
			Final Assignment Certificate Ceremony Event	• Wed 18 Jun (tentatively)	18:00-19:00

Learn to speak up

Reimagine success

Practical details

-  Open to all VU Amsterdam BA and MA students (1st – 3rd year).
-  Language: English.
-  Interdisciplinary: mix of students from all faculties.
-  Blended learning: mix of online and on-campus activities.
Runs in periods 4 and 5, except during exam weeks.
10 (on campus) meetups on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 17:30 - 19:30.
In addition, you will do online assignments at home.
Total study load: approximately 2 hours per week.
-  **Track A:** Success & Failure, Poverty, Human Body, Rebellion
Track B: Health & Happiness, Digital World, Viewpoints & Worldview, Sustainability
-  After successfully completing the course, you will receive a certificate of participation, be awarded an Edubadge and the course will be included on your diploma supplement.

*'Don't just become something,
become someone.'*

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

'I now realize that different areas of expertise are necessary to solve complex issues.'

Health Sciences student

'It was refreshing to hear the perspectives and views of people I wouldn't otherwise have met in the course of my studies.'

Medical student

'We actively seek out dilemmas. Reducing our reliance/dependence on plastic is a noble idea, but you have to compromise, be willing to make concessions and make choices.'

Pieter van Beukering, Full Professor of Environmental Economics and development team expert for the Sustainability theme

Interested in subscribing to this course?

Do you want to broaden your horizons, interact with students from other faculties and work on solutions to societal issues? Then join us and subscribe via VU Dashboard. For questions please send an email to broadermindcourse@vu.nl