



Free Higher Education Principles & Structure

Some remarks about the **principles of our Free Higher Education space** on Element:

- The goal of our space is to create an online discussion platform to facilitate exchange about the totalitarian threat to higher education, and what we can do to protect freedom in higher education. It is a space in which we can chat, exchange and keep each other informed. In this environment, I will also post updates about my whistleblower case at UvA, and ask for help wherever I need it.
- The space is for everyone who works or studies in higher education in The Netherlands and abroad, but also for everyone in with an interest in freedom of speech in higher education.
- Our online space is closed, confidential and highly secured. Everything shared in the space, remains in the space. It is not allowed to copy-paste comments of others or to take screenshots.
- Our online space is respectful, democratic and welcoming. Everybody who joins can share ideas and suggestions, and we are collectively responsible for the way the space develops.
- It is a collective responsibility to keep the space structured and clean. Please consider carefully which room is most fitting for your contribution each time before you post. Moderators will help keeping things clean.
- As most people at this time are still Dutch, most of the rooms will also use Dutch as the main language. However, you are always welcome to contribute in English in each room; the other participants are requested to switch to English as soon as an English-speaking person joins the discussion. There is also a specific room for international chat. We will see how we will deal with language, this will develop organically.
- Please write a brief introduction to the rest of the community after joining in the designated room “introduce yourself”.
- Please use your real name and upload your own picture in your profile, so people know with whom they are chatting.

Some remarks about the **structure of our Free Higher Education space** on Element:

- In Element language, our online environment is called a “space”, and within this space there are multiple “rooms”. Each room has a specific theme. We have a room for small talk for example, but also a room to discuss wokism in-depth. At this moment, our space has about 25 rooms.
- Each room is categorized into different sub-spaces in order to keep things structured. Our space currently has four different sub-spaces:
 - **A. Dorpsplein (Village Square).** In this sub-space, you can find all the rooms related to practical issues, introduction, principles and mutual agreements, small talk, etc. All rooms in this sub-space are marked with an A.
 - **B. Inhoudelijke discussie (In-depth Discussion).** In this sub-space, we discuss in-depth about what concerns us in the world. There is a room to chat about education specifically, but also rooms to chat in general about a range of topics, for example Covid, climate change, vaccinations, the war in Ukraine, etc. Open and free discussion is encouraged. All rooms in this sub-space are marked with a B.
 - **C. Strategie (Strategy).** In this sub-space, we will discuss strategies (legal, activist, media, etc) to expose totalitarianism in higher education and to fight back. Rooms in this sub-space are marked with a C.
 - **D. Bibliotheek (Library).** In this sub-space, we will make a collection of relevant podcasts, books, articles, documentaries etc, specifically relevant to free thought and free speech in higher education. All rooms in this sub-space are marked with a D.