

Welcome students, professors, colleagues, friends and new faces,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Campus Fryslân. It is a great honor to stand before you today as your new student assessor and to celebrate with you all as we have this opening ceremony. I am filled with excitement knowing that I am now a part of the same tradition that has shaped this campus and its community.

As I look around this room, I see a wonderful mix of familiar faces and new ones. Whether you are returning after a well-deserved summer break or just starting your chapter here, each of you brings something unique to our campus, which makes Campus Fryslân such a special place to learn and grow.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege and pleasure of immersing myself in the diverse and interdisciplinary world of Campus Fryslân. While beginning a new chapter at a new school—and for many, in a new city or even a new country—can be an adjustment, a challenge, and at times, a bit daunting, the warmth and support within this community have consistently risen above those initial fears, transforming uncertainty into a sense of belonging and excitement for the journey ahead. I have witnessed firsthand the passion and dedication that each of you brings to your studies and to our community. Whether it's in the classroom, in student organizations, or in casual conversations, there is an energy of curiosity and collaboration that drives us all forward. This shared enthusiasm reflects a deeper commitment that unites us—in both our studies and who we are as individuals, the common thread is a shared commitment to making a difference. Whether through technology, politics, tourism, psychology, health, data, or countless other fields, our diverse perspectives and personal motivations drive us toward meaningful change. It is genuinely inspiring to be part of a community where everyone is united by the ambition to leave a positive impact on the world, each contributing their unique talents and vision to the collective goal. It has touched me on a personal level, wanting to contribute to a better world but also give back to the community.

But as we look to the future, we must also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. The past year has shown us that growth is not always easy. We have faced difficult moments, moments that tested our determination and our commitment to each other. We have learned that communication is key, that understanding different perspectives is crucial, and that action must follow our words. It is precisely in these moments that we find opportunities to learn and to strengthen our bonds as a community and it is truly beautiful to witness how individuals within our campus community actively give back, demonstrating that the journey to a better world begins right here.

As your student assessor, I am committed to ensuring that every voice is heard and that every student feels represented. I want this year to be one where we continue to build on the foundations of inclusion, respect, transparency, and mutual support. Ensuring that every student feels safe to be themselves, uphold their values, and freely express their thoughts is a priority for me. It's our collective responsibility to foster an environment where everyone feels at home and every idea is valued.

Thank you for being here today, and thank you for the energy and passion you bring to our campus. I look forward to working with each of you and to making this year one of growth, connection, and success.

To a great year ahead!