

## **Maastricht Young Academy (MYA) – Regulations**

### *Article 1 – Definitions*

1. Member(s): Member(s) of the Maastricht Young Academy within the meaning of Article 5 of the present Regulations.
2. Chairperson: the Chairperson of the General Assembly within the meaning of Article 6 of the present Regulations. The chairperson can be supported by a vice chair.
3. Executive Board: the Executive Board of Maastricht University (*College van Bestuur*).
4. General assembly: the meeting of all members of the Maastricht Young Academy.
5. Sub Group: a committee, most often of a more permanent nature, which is appointed by the general assembly and which takes care of matters regarding a specific sub-topic.
6. University: Maastricht University
7. Secretarial Support: The secretary of the Maastricht Young Academy
8. Selection Committee: Committee tasked with selecting Maastricht Young Academy members.

### *Article 2 – Creation of the MYA*

1. The MYA is a platform consisting of excellent young scientists from all academic disciplines who have a special interest in science policy, science communication, interdisciplinary research and internationalization. Its members are young scholars who have been selected within Maastricht University, representing a diverse sample of the population of Maastricht University scholars.
2. The MYA strives for diversity in its operation and strives for its Committees, sub-groups and any other organisational forms to reflect the diversity of its Members.

### *Article 3 – Aims of the MYA*

1. The aim of the MYA is to operate as an independent platform within Maastricht University and to act as an advisory board for the Executive Board and the Board of Deans. The MYA

may, for example:

- Contribute viewpoints on, amongst others, science policy, science communication, talent development, impact/valorization, interdisciplinarity, and internationalization;
  - Consult with the Executive Board and the Board of Deans and advise them on the abovementioned issues;
  - Organize (internal) activities for UM scientists in the field of interdisciplinarity, science policy, and science and society;
  - Organize activities for the larger public in Limburg and the Euregion.
2. The MYA brings together a diverse group of young academics who openly exchange critical perspectives on academia, policy, and society in Maastricht and beyond.
  3. The MYA is a collaborative platform and network for the exchange and generation of ideas among young academics in Maastricht, the Euregion, the Netherlands, Europe and the world.
  4. The MYA contributes actively to policy on all levels of government both in and outside the university.
  5. The MYA gives a voice to young academics by reaching out to policy-makers in order to influence science and education policy within Maastricht University and beyond.
  6. The MYA engages with the wider public in order to make science accessible and to promote scholarly thinking in society, and to stimulate an open discussion about the role of universities in society.
  7. Persons who are not themselves Members of the MYA may also be involved in the performance of these tasks.

#### *Article 4 – Membership*

1. The MYA shall consist of eighteen (18) members in total. There are twelve (12) Founding Members of the MYA. Every two years, starting from the founding year, nine (9) Members will be added. Should there be interim vacancies, these will be filled in parallel with the bi-yearly selection. Interim vacancies are filled for the time remaining in the mandate period of the members being replaced. The General Assembly, possibly in the form of a delegated committee, shall decide on the filling of the interim vacancies, taking into account the total number of 18 in the long term is maintained.

2. The rules and order for stepping down of founding members of the MYA shall be decided on by a decision in the General Assembly.
3. The MYA strives to have an equal number of members from each faculty at all times. In the event that this is not possible, especially in respect to the Founding Members of the MYA leaving in a specific order to ensure a total of eighteen members, the General Assembly will have the final say as to the composition of the Members of the MYA.
4. To qualify for membership, young scholars must have obtained their doctorate less than ten (10) years before the date of application to the MYA and must be employed at a scholarly research institution of Maastricht University. In individual cases, an extension to the ten-year period can be granted in accordance with the Rules Concerning the Selection of New Members of the MYA.
5. Members that leave the MYA after their mandate ends or at their own request during their mandate shall become MYA alumni

#### *Article 5 – Application procedure*

1. Application, selection, appointment and termination of membership shall take place in accordance with the selection procedure adopted by the General Assembly and laid down in the Rules Concerning the Selection of New Members of the Maastricht Young Academy.
2. Every year (for members to be appointed the following year), the MYA General Assembly shall request nominations from one or more of the following individuals or groups from within Maastricht University:
  - a. Faculty Deans
  - b. Faculty specific persons as indicated in the Rules of Selection for New Members
  - c. Current members or MYA Alumni
  - d. The Executive Board
3. Individual as listed under 1(c) may only nominate candidates while employed at Maastricht University, with a maximum of two (2) nominations in total.
4. The Selection Committee shall be made up of three (3) Members of the MYA, including at least one male and one female member, who represent three (3) different faculties, as well as a non-voting secretary.
5. The Selection Committee may ask an external advisor, being for example a MYA alumnus/a or a Maastricht alumnus/a of *De Jonge Akademie* or the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW) to join them in the selection

procedure.

#### *Article 6 – Appointment and termination of membership*

1. After the Selection Committee has selected the new Members, it sends the names of the new Members to the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall appoint the new members.
2. Members shall be appointed for a four (4) year term, taking effect on the day of the *Dies Natalis* every other year. Reappointment shall not be possible. With the aim of achieving a sustainable rotation of eighteen (18) members, a separate term may apply regarding the founding Members, to be decided on by the General Assembly.
3. Members must be employed at Maastricht University. Should employment cease at any time during the four-year appointment, membership of the MYA will also cease, taking effect on the same day as the end of the employment.
4. Membership of the MYA will end:
  - a. automatically upon a Member's death;
  - b. at the end of the Member's term;
  - c. upon written request by the Member to terminate his/her mandate to the General Assembly;
  - d. following the resignation, termination, or honourable discharge of the Member's employment at UM;
5. MYA members may also be suspended or dismissed following a decision based on a two-third majority vote of the General Assembly and approval from the Chairperson, on the following grounds:
  - a. the relevant member (i) disadvantages in an unreasonable manner, (ii) discredits or (iii) otherwise causes damage to the University and/or the MYA and/or their respective reputations;
  - b. the relevant member frequently fails to attend meetings;
  - c. the relevant member is no longer deemed capable of effectively representing the interests of the MYA.
6. The decision to suspend a member pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 6 can only be taken after the person concerned has been offered the opportunity to a hearing on the matter. The written decision will state the grounds for this decision.

#### *Article 7 The General Assembly*

1. The General Assembly consists of all current Members of the MYA.
2. The General Assembly has decision-making power on:
  - a. the internal governance and mission;
  - b. the adoption and amendment of the MYA Regulations
  - c. the approval of the annual report on the previous year; the approval of the general financial plan for the coming year;
  - d. The selection of the Chairperson and vice-chairperson, as well as chairs of the sub-committees, which are each appointed for a term of two years.
3. The General Assembly has decision-making power on the approval of public positions on behalf of the MYA. The Chairperson and Vice-chair person can take a public position on behalf of the MYA in urgent matters that cannot wait until the next General Assembly Meeting, and will report back to the General Assembly at the earliest possible convenience. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will try to contact other MYA members as soon as possible.
4. When taking a public position, MYA shall communicate clearly that the public position taken is an MYA position.
5. If a public MYA position has the potential to cause or contribute to public controversy and/or MYA deems it necessary, it shall inform the Executive Board of its plans to issue such a position.
6. Individual or groups of Members may ask the General Assembly to decide on other matters.
7. For decisions to be taken in accordance with powers under Article 8(2), decisions will need to be taken at a General Assembly meeting, either in person or electronically.

#### *Article 8 Chairperson*

1. The General Assembly and MYA is chaired by a Chairperson, who may be supported by a Vice-Chairperson
2. The General Assembly, following the procedure described in Article 13, appoints a Chairperson from its members for a period of two (2) years. A Vice-Chairperson may be appointed by the General Assembly from its members for a period of one (1) or two (2) years.
3. A Chairperson or Vice Chairperson for a maximum of three (3) years
4. In principle, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson must at least have one (1) year of

experience as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

*Article 9 – Members' duties*

1. Members make active efforts on behalf of MYA.
2. Members who are unable to be active within MYA for a lengthy period due to particular circumstances, or who can only be less active than their membership in the MYA requires, must inform the Chairperson.
3. If a Member is inactive for a lengthy period, the Chairperson shall encourage this Member to become more active within MYA.
4. If, after encouragement by the Chairperson to become more active, a Member remains inactive for a lengthy period, the General Assembly may request this Member to submit a request for discharge or it may move to suspend or dismiss the Member in accordance with article 7(6).

*Article 10 – Meetings of the General Assembly*

1. The Members shall deliberate and adopt resolutions regarding matters concerning the whole of MYA during a General Assembly Meeting. Meetings are closed and external persons can attend by invitation only. After checking with the Chairperson every MYA member may extend an invitation.
2. A General Assembly Meeting shall be held each year, no later than in the month prior to the start of the Chairperson's term of office to discuss the annual report for the preceding year.
3. The Chairperson shall determine the dates of the planned General Assembly Meetings for the following year after consulting the Members and shall notify all Members of those dates in good time.
4. A General Assembly Meeting shall also be held if at least three (3) Members wish such to be done.
5. An invitation to attend the General Assembly Meeting shall be sent to all Members together with the proposal for an agenda. The necessary meeting documents—or a reference to

where an electronic version of those documents can be found—shall be sent to all Members no later than three (3) working day prior to the General Meeting.

6. A Member who wishes a matter concerning MYA as a whole to be discussed at a General Assembly Meeting shall submit a request to that effect to the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall not refuse such request without giving good reasons.
7. The General Assembly Meeting shall be chaired by the Chairperson or a deputy designated by the Chairperson.

#### *Article 11 – Programme of action, financial plan and annual report*

1. At the initiative and on the responsibility of the Executive Board, a programme of action and a general financial plan for the coming year shall be drawn up annually, as shall an annual report on the previous year.
2. The general financial plan and the annual report shall only be submitted to the Executive Board of the University after the Chairperson has submitted them to the General Assembly, within the meaning of Article 7 of these Regulations, and they have been approved by a majority vote of those present, and in accordance with quorum rules, as detailed in Article 12 of these Regulations. If the votes are tied, the General Assembly shall discuss which adjustments are needed for the position to pass. If no adjustments are suggested voting shall continue until the position passes.

#### *Article 12 – Voting procedures*

1. The General Assembly decides by consensus whenever possible. At the request of one of its Members a vote may be held.
2. For all decisions taken under the Regulations in accordance with Article 7 and 9, there needs to be a quorum of two-thirds (66 per cent) of all Members and a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Voting shall be by a show of hands, or electronically in advance of the meeting, unless the Chairperson, or those present, decide that voting must be by means of written ballot papers. If the votes are tied the position fails and does not pass.
3. For all decisions taken under the Regulations in accordance with Article 10, the adoption of a decision may be postponed until the following General Assembly Meeting if there is no quorum. When determining how many Members are present, proxy votes within the

meaning of paragraph 6 of this article shall also count.

4. For decisions taken under the Regulations in accordance with article 7, a two-third majority vote shall apply.
5. For decisions taken under the Regulations in accordance with Article 7, and in all cases of voting for which the Regulations do not provide otherwise, decisions shall be adopted by a majority of the votes of the Members present or a majority of the Members if voting electronically on urgent matters. Voting may be done electronically or by a show of hands, unless the Chairperson or those present decide that voting must be by means of written ballot papers. If the votes are tied the position fails and does not pass.
6. The adoption of a resolution on a matter (a recommendation, opinion, or other resolution) not announced in good time by means of an invitation shall be postponed until the next meeting, unless the nature of the resolution means that it cannot be so postponed and it may reasonably be assumed that a majority (where applicable, a qualified majority) of the members will approve the resolution.
7. A Member who is not present to vote at a meeting may authorize another Member, in writing, to represent them by proxy. A Member may cast no more than one proxy vote.

#### *Article 13 – Communication*

1. The Chairperson shall ensure proper communication with and proper provision of information for the Members.
2. The Chairperson shall arrange for proper facilities, including, in any case, electronic mailing lists for communication and the provision of information within MYA.

#### *Article 14 – Sub groups*

1. Sub-groups on Internationalisation, Policy, Communication and Interdisciplinary shall exist.
2. The General Assembly may decide on the establishment of further sub-groups by regular vote.
3. Sub-Groups shall be chaired by one of the MYA Members
4. Sub-Groups decide by consensus. When no consensus can be reached, the chair of the sub-group shall bring the matter to the General Assembly for regular voting.



### *Article 15 - Resolution of Disputes*

The Chairperson shall mediate in the event of a dispute arising between Members. If the Chairperson is involved the Vice-Chairperson may act as mediator.

### *Article 16 - Confidentiality*

The members of the MYA will ensure the confidentiality of any previously obtained information (or information to be obtained in future) that is related to Maastricht University and can reasonably be deemed confidential, and will not disseminate this information in any way whatsoever, in whole or in part, to third parties without the prior written consent of the Chairperson.

### *Article 16 - Final Provisions*

1. These Regulations may only be amended pursuant to a resolution adopted by the General Assembly with a quorum of two-thirds (66 per cent) of all Members, a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, and if the meeting has been convened in good time with the intended amendment being circulated. The latter stipulation shall not apply if all the Members are present and the amendment is adopted by consensus.
2. In any cases not provided for in these Regulations or in the event of any doubt arising regarding the interpretation of the provisions of these Regulations, the General Assembly shall decide on the matter.

Annex 1

Founding Members of the MYA (in alphabetical order)

Bram Akkermans

Anique de Bruin

Mariolina Eliantonio

Katlijn Haesebrouck

Anna Harris

Steven Kelk

Jill Lobbestael

Federico De Martino

Blanche Schroen

Tamar Sharon

Melissa Siegel

Paul Smeets