



Policy Plan for SA H.ER.A
Academic Year 2025-2026

Name & Location

- The association bears the name: Studentvereniging HERA
- The association is located in Enschede.

Goal

- The association aims to foster and act as a beacon for Hellenic traditions, customs and culture for Hellenic students, in addition to creating, maintaining and familiarizing those of non-Hellenic origins, with different aspects found in Hellenic culture.
- The association is authorized to demand rights from its members within the context of this goal. The association can engage with obligations at the cost of its members as long as a majority of at least two-thirds of those present at the relevant General Assembly vote in favor of the obligations in questions.

Core values

The student association HERA was initially founded to create a supportive and vibrant community for Hellenic students at the University of Twente. It serves as a cultural and social hub for individuals of Hellenic origin, including Greeks, Cypriots, and Hellenics living abroad. However, our vision extends far beyond this core group. We aim to foster an inclusive environment that welcomes not only Hellenic students but also internationals who are interested in learning about and engaging with Hellenic culture and traditions.

HERA's core values are centered around unity, cultural exchange, and the celebration of heritage. We believe in the power of community and the importance of cultural diversity. These values bring us together and form the foundation of our association. We are committed to promoting understanding and appreciation of Hellenic culture through various activities and events. These events include traditional dance workshops where members can learn and practice folk dances such as the Kalamatianos and Sirtaki. Through these workshops, we aim to preserve and share our cultural heritage, providing both Hellenic and international students with the opportunity to experience the joy and richness of our traditions. In addition to dance workshops, we host cultural nights featuring traditional Hellenic music, cuisine, and storytelling. These events are designed to immerse participants in the sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece and Cyprus, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our culture.

HERA is also dedicated to supporting the academic and personal growth of its members. We are planning to give network opportunities, mentoring programs, and study groups to help students succeed in their academic endeavors and build strong professional networks. By encouraging a sense of community and mutual support, we aim to create a welcoming environment where all members can thrive. In essence, HERA is more than just an association for Hellenic students; it is a bridge between cultures,

promoting diversity and mutual respect. We are united by our shared values of community, cultural preservation, and inclusivity, and we are committed to creating a vibrant and supportive environment for all our members. Through our events and activities, we strive to bring people together, celebrate our heritage, and build lasting connections within the University of Twente and beyond.

Members and Patrons

- The association is made up of: a)Members; b)Patrons;
- Signing up as a member happens through a written or electronic statement addressed to the board.
- The board decides on the acceptance of members. In case of declination by the board, a general assembly can decide to accept the person in question as a member. Extra conditions concerning acceptance can be stated within Internal Regulations, taking the contents of Article 19 into account.
- The board decides on the acceptance of patrons. In case of declination by the board, the general Assembly can decide to accept the person in question as patron.
- Patrons have no rights or obligations, except for those specifically addressed to patrons within the Internal Regulations.

Members registry

- The board keeps track of registry wherein names, phones, addresses, and emails of members patrons are stored. Members and patrons are obliged to ensure the board has up-to-date information regarding their addresses.

Yearly contributions

- Members and patrons are obliged to pay a yearly contribution. The specific amount is determined annually by the board. The amount patrons have to pay relative to the amount members have to pay is stated within the Internal regulations. For the academic year 2024-2025, the annual membership fee is set at twelve euros (€12). All current members, as well as individuals seeking to renew their membership, are required to remit the specified amount. However, members who initially registered in February 2024 and paid the full annual membership fee, as opposed to the half-year fee, are entitled to pay a reduced amount of six euros (€6), instead of the full membership fee.
- In special cases the board is allowed to (partially) waive the fee, a member has to contribute.

Termination of membership/ patronage

- The board keeps track of registry wherein names, phones, addresses, and emails of members patrons are stored. Members and patrons are obliged to ensure the board has up-to-date information regarding their addresses.
- A member can terminate the membership without providing a justification.
- The removal of a member through the association is done by the board and is only possible when: a) The member in question does not fulfill the obligations assigned to him by the association; b) When the association cannot continue said membership within reasonability with regards to the health of the association.
- Termination of membership can only happen in written form. Voluntary termination of membership can happen at all times, on a notice of at least 4 weeks. A member can terminate his membership within a month after receiving a notice regarding the changing legal continuation of the association or fusion with another association. A member is not allowed to immediately discontinue his membership should certain rights and/or obligations change.
- Expulsion is decided upon by the board and can only happen when a member acts in discordance with regards to the articles of the association, regulations or decisions made by the association. Expulsion can also be decided upon should the member in question unreasonably disadvantage the association. Specifically, the association is in line with the diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) principles of university of Twente, and violation of those principles will result in expulsion decided by the board. Expelled members cannot participate in any event organized by the association, after the notification of expulsion.
- The board will notify a member of the termination of his membership through the association or expulsion as soon as possible. A member can apply for an appeal at a general assembly within 10 days after receiving the notice.
- The rights and obligations of patrons can be terminated at all times by both the association and the patron in question. Termination of patronage by association is decided upon by the board.
- The patron is obligated to pay the complete yearly contribution, even if membership is terminated during the course of the financial year. This is also the case should the rights and obligations of the patron in question change during this period of time.
- The upholding of the DE&I principles extends to the patrons. In the case that the patron, or an organization affiliated with the patron, does not uphold the DE&I principles, this is considered as unreasonably disadvantageous to the association and leads to termination.

Board

- The board is made up of five persons, all of whom are chosen from the total member pool at a general assembly.
- Should the board temporarily consist of less than five persons the board is still qualified to operate under the condition that a general assembly will be held as soon as possible, where more board members are chosen to bring their numbers to five or higher.
- New members of the board are proposed by the board, or by at least four-fifths of the regular members in the general assembly.
- The chairman, the secretary and treasurer are appointed in function.
- The functions of secretary and treasurer can be combined.
- The board steps down yearly, based on the academic year. Previous board members are able to be re-appointed as soon as they step down.
- A board member can be suspended or fired by a general assembly at all times.

Permissions of the board

- The board is responsible for leading the association.
- The board is allowed to (should the General Assembly agree to this) engage with agreements to obtain, alienate or encumber the association with registered goods. The board is not allowed to engage with agreements where the association is intended to link itself to deposits or debts. Furthermore, they are not allowed to act for the sake of third parties and use association funds to guarantee third party debts.

Representation

- The board represents the association, as long as the law does not dictate otherwise. The permission to represent the association is granted to two jointly operating board members. Under unique circumstances special representation measures can be taken, but only if a written acknowledgement exists ahead of time in possession of the board.
- Every circumstance wherein the association experiences a conflict of interests with regards to one or more board members the association will be represented by the person(s) (annually) appointed through general assembly.

Board meetings and resolutions

- Board meetings are held in the municipality wherein the association is located.
- At least one meeting will be held every year.
- Board meetings are held when the chairman deems this necessary or if one or more of the other board members request a board meeting at the chairman in written form, including the reasoning behind it. The board member who requested a meeting is

allowed to organize a board meeting themselves (taking all mandatory formalities into account) should it take the chairman longer than 3 weeks to organize a board meeting.

- Valid decisions can be made through polling regarding any subject should all board members be present, by the drastic majority of 4 out of 5 votes. This holds true even if regulations concerning the organization of board meetings have not been met.
- Board meetings are led by the chairman. Another board member will temporarily be chosen as chairman by the other board members should the original chairman be absent.
- The board is only allowed to make decisions if all the board members are present (physically or virtually) and vote for the decision.
- Polls are executed orally, unless a board member wishes to do so in written form. Polls in written form are executed through unsigned folder notes.
- Every board member is entitled to exactly one vote.
- The verdict, as spoken by the chairman of the board meeting with regards to the poll is decisive and final. This is also the case for the contents of an accepted proposal, should this proposal be in written form.
- Minutes will be made of anything which happens or is said during a board meeting. Minutes are deemed valid, after the secretary has finished recording, and all the board members agree that they are truthful.
- The board is permitted to make decisions outside of board meetings, but only if all board members are present and able to make their opinion clear. Furthermore, none of the board members should be opposed to making a decision outside of the board meeting. The secretary keeps record of the proceedings outside of board meetings. These additional minutes will be added to the section 'inbound answers' of the next board meeting and will thus become a part of the regular minutes.

Financial year

- The financial year of the association equals the academic year of the University of Twente.
- The board is required to keep proper notes of the financial situation of the association allowing one to see the rights and obligations of the association at all times.
- The board is required to annually provide a financial balance of the financial year, in addition to presenting the ingoing and outgoing cash flows relevant to that financial year. This overview must be provided within 6 months after the relevant financial year has ended.

GMA

- General assemblies are held in the municipality wherein the association is located.

- Annually (within six months after the end of the financial year, or longer should a general assembly have agreed to it) the year assembly will be held.
- During the year assembly the board will report on their policy over the past financial year. The board will present the financial balance, in addition to the ingoing and outgoing cashflows. The Year Assembly decides on the approval of these documents. Approval of all financial documents allows the board to officially step down.
- If the financial documents are not verified by an accountant the Assembly appoints at least two non-board members to become part of a committee dedicated to checking the correctness of these documents. This committee is called 'Kas controlecommissie' (cash register control committee), or 'KasCo'. The committee will check the relevant financial documents and will report their findings at the Assembly.
- The board is required to provide this committee any and all information relevant to their research, even if this means giving them exact information on the current financial balance, bookings and such.

Other general assembly

- Other general assemblies are held as often as the board deems it necessary.
- The board is required to organize a general assembly within 4 weeks should one-fifths of the members qualified to vote request this in written form. The requesters are allowed to organize their own General Assembly in case the board has not shown any signs of organizing one themselves 14 days after the initial request.

Calling for a general assembly

- Other general assemblies are held as often as the board deems it necessary.
- The board is required to organize a general assembly within 4 weeks should one-fifths of the members qualified to vote request this in written form. The requesters are allowed to organize their own General Assembly in case the board has not shown any signs of organizing one themselves 14 days after the initial request.

Access and qualification to vote

- Non-suspended members and patrons have access to any general assembly. Suspended members only have access to the general assembly wherein their continued membership is discussed. Non-suspended members are allowed to lead the discussion regarding their continued membership.
- The board of the general assembly decides on the admission of people other than those mentioned in subsection 1.

- Every non-suspended member of the association is entitled to one vote. The non-suspended member must be physically or digitally present in real time, in order to exercise their right to vote.

Chairmanship/ Minutes

- The general assemblies are led by the chairman of the board or his replacement. Another member of the board is appointed by the board to take this place should both the chairman and his replacement be absent. In case of complete absence of the board the general assembly shall appoint their own temporary chairman.
- Everything which comes to pass at a general assembly will be noted down by either the secretary or a person appointed by the board. The minutes are set up together by the chairman of the relevant general assembly and the person responsible for the minutes. Both of the aforementioned persons have to sign the minutes as sign of approval. The minutes are presented to the other members at the following general assembly.

Decision-making during general assemblies

- Decisions can only be made through general assemblies if at least one-fifth of the total amount of members of the association are present at the General Assembly. If one-fifth of the total amount of members of the association are not present, then a follow up assembly is called which can decide based on the members present in the follow up general assembly.
- As long as the articles of association do not dictate otherwise an absolute majority is required for a proposal to pass.
- Blank votes are regarded as not cast at all. Should the amount of blank votes exceed one thirds of the cast votes the poll is voided.
- Every poll happens orally, unless the chairman of the general assembly or the members present at the general assembly wish for a written poll. Any written poll is enacted through unsigned, folded notes.
- The verdict, as spoken by the chairman of the general assembly with regards to the poll is decisive and final. This is also the case for the contents of an accepted proposal, should this proposal be in written form.
- A unanimous decision made by the members (even if they are not gathered in a general assembly) has the same power as a decision made by a general assembly, as long as the board has been notified of it beforehand.

Committees

- The board is allowed to create committees, save for the committee mentioned in article 12 subsection 4. Furthermore, the board is allowed to instate or fire anyone in said committees. Committee members are allowed to leave them voluntarily.
- Committee members are responsible at all times for any of their committee-related activities to the board. The board must also have access to any financial information regarding the committee in question.

Internal Regulations

- A general assembly is allowed to instate Internal Regulations. The Internal Regulations must be in alignment with both the articles of association as well as the law.

Disbandment

- The association can be disbanded through the decision of a general assembly, taking into account article 20 subsection 1. A keeper of books and minutes will be appointed should the decision be made to disband.
- As long as the general assembly does not name any other liquidators the board members will act as such in order to manage the liquidation of the association.
- Liquidators will be obligated to hand over any left-over wealth (after the payment of any creditors), to a non-profit, non-partisan, preferably charity cause that is aligned with article 2. After liquidation any books and minutes are to be stored for 7 years by the keeper mentioned in article 21 subsection 1.

Policy for Refunds

No refunds will be issued by the association under any circumstances. This applies to all payments made to the association, including but not limited to membership fees and event participation fees. All payments are considered final upon receipt. A member or participant is not entitled to a refund due to personal circumstances, change of interest, inability to attend, or any other reason. By making a payment, the member or participant acknowledges and accepts this policy. Exceptions to this rule shall not be granted, unless the board decides otherwise under exceptional and explicitly recorded circumstances.

Partnerships and Public Statements

The association is open to partnerships and collaborations with other associations, organizations, and institutions, provided that such partnerships do not conflict with the mission, interests, or integrity of the association. However, the association does not engage in joint statements, co-signed declarations, or public endorsements, whether

online or offline. This policy exists to safeguard the association's neutrality, independence, and internal focus.

In case it is deemed essential, any joint statement, co-authored publication, or online post in the context of a partnership may only be made after explicit approval by the board of the association. No individual member or partner organization may speak on behalf of the association or represent it publicly without the board's prior written consent.

In order to assess potential conflicts and ensure alignment with the association's goals, any proposal for a joint statement or public communication must be submitted to the board in written form, clearly outlining the reasoning, intent, and purpose of the statement or publication. The initiating party must also disclose any relevant background, interests, and motivations related to the collaboration.

Should a public statement be made without such approval, the association shall reserve the right to publicly distance itself from the content or presentation thereof. In the case of joint events or collaborations, the board retains the right to refuse participation in shared communications and may instead publish separate communications under the association's name.