

# RESEARCH ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2026

*Natural and Life Sciences towards  
a Sustainable Society*



**VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT  
AMSTERDAM**

Visit dates:  
February 2-4, 2026



Welcome,

Thank you for joining us for this research assessment visit.

Over the coming three days, we look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions and insightful exchanges as we present the work and vision of our Faculty of Science, specifically the research departments Amsterdam Institute for Life and Environment (A-LIFE), Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPS) and Physics and Astronomy (P&A)-LaserLab Amsterdam.

This visit provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on our academic culture, PhD training and policies, open science initiatives, and human resources practices. We are pleased to share our accomplishments, address your questions, and explore new pathways to further strengthen excellence in education and research.

On behalf of the entire faculty, we extend a warm welcome and wish you a productive and enjoyable stay.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the Research Assessment Coordination Team  
Faculty of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## VU Contacts

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## Addresses

### **VU - Spectrum 5/VUO**

De Boelelaan 1100  
1081 HV Amsterdam

### **VU - O|2 Labgebouw**

De Boelelaan 1108  
1081 HZ Amsterdam

### **Olympic Hotel**

Ijsbaanpad 12  
1067 CV Amsterdam

### **Restaurant NENI**

Stadionplein 8  
1076 CM Amsterdam

### **Restaurant De Veranda**

Amstelveenseweg 764  
1081 JK Amsterdam

## Committee

### **Chair**

Prof. Dr. Ineke Braakman

### **Secretary**

Dr. Jetje De Groot

### **P&A**

Prof. Dr. Niek van Hulst

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Popp

### **CPS**

Prof. Dr. Fernando Cossio

Prof. Dr. Koen Augustyns

### **A-LIFE**

Prof. Dr. Juliane Hollender

Dr. Sonja Billerbeck

Prof. Dr. Sandra Lavorel

### **Independent PhD**

Janek Betting



# DAILY PROGRAM

# Daily program

Please find below an outline of the daily program for your reference during the three-day visit to VU.



## Monday, 2 February 2026

Start meeting 14:00-16:00	Review content for the site visit, sharpen impressions and close gaps.	Committee	Olympic Hotel Meeting Room Zeus, Poseidon
Faculty talks 16:30 - 17:30	Welcome by dean, followed by an open dialogue with the dean and department heads. Key topics include Open Science, PhD-trajectory policy and training, Academic Culture and HR policy.	Aletta Kraneveld, Jacintha Ellers (A-LIFE), Juan Rojo (P&A), Eelco Ruijter (CPS) and Committee	Vrije Universiteit Spectrum 5 VUO
Committee 17:30-18:30	The committee will convene to reflect on the discussions and prepare for the remainder of the site visit.	Committee	
Drinks & Diner 19:00 - 21:00	Diner at NENI Amsterdam.	Committee, Juan Rojo, Eelco Ruijter, Jacintha Ellers and Alette Kraneveld	NENI Amsterdam



## Tuesday, 3 February 2026

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P&A management team 08:30 - 09:30	Meeting with the P&A management team, LaserLaB director and five heads of the P&A research sections.	Juan Rojo, Laura Dreissen, Oscar Versolato, Jordi Dahlberg, Kjeld Eikema, Johannes de Boer, Roberta Croce, Gijs Wuite, Andrea Baldi and Committee	Vrije Universiteit Spectrum 5 VUO
Mid Career Staff 09:30 - 10:20	Meeting with mid-career staff of P&A, including assistant and associate professors.	Olga Chukhutsina, Matz Liebel, Sven Askes, Laura Dreissen, David Dulin and Committee	
Break 10:20 - 10:35	Coffee and tea break	Committee	
Junior Staff 10:35 - 11:25	Meeting with junior staff, including PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers of P&A	Bram Hoogland, Sarah Lander, Mathilde Binnenkamp, Andre Lohde, Anouk Post, Eleonora Traverso and Committee	
Labtour P&A 11:25 - 12:15	Lab tour of P&A, including a meeting with technicians.	Laura Dreissen and Committee	
Break 12:15 - 13:20	A brief walk to the O 2 Building will be followed by lunch.	Committee	Vrije Universiteit 01W08 O 2 Gebouw



## Tuesday, 3 February 2026

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CPS management team 13:20 - 14:20	Meeting with the CPS management team and five heads of the CPS research sections.	Eelco Ruijter, Daan Geerke, Govert Somsen, Jeroen van Winsen, Luuk Visscher, Anouk Rijls, Martine Smit, Seino Jongkees, Bart Bossink and Committee	Vrije Universiteit 01W08 O 2 Gebouw
Mid Career Staff 14:20 - 15:10	Meeting with mid-career staff of CPS, including assistant and associate professors.	Ivana Drienovska, Sofia Moco, Jeroen Kool, Maikel Wijtmans, Pascal Vermeeren and Committee	
Break 15:10 - 15:25	Coffee and tea break	Committee	
Junior Staff 15:25 - 16:15	Meeting with junior staff, including PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers of CPS.	Theodora Athanasiadou, Matyas Bittenbinder, Andrea Istrati, Rosa Randoe, Yuman Hordijk, Fanny Beekman and Committee	
Labtour CPS 16:15 - 17:05	Lab tour of CPS including a meeting with technicians.	Elwin Janssen, Andrea van de Stolpe, Raya Sadighi, Daniel da Costa Pereira and Committee	
Committee 17:05 - 18:05	Dedicated time for the committee to review the day and discuss key findings.	Committee	
Diner 19:00 - 21:00	Diner at De Veranda Amsterdam.	Committee	De Veranda Amsterdam



## Wednesday, 4 February 2026

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A-LIFE management team 08:30 - 09:30	Meeting with the A-LIFE management team and six heads of the A-LIFE research sections.	Jacintha Ellers, Elma Brasser, Marja Lamoree, Frank Bruggeman, Matty Berg, Herwig Bachmann, Pim Leonards, Mariet Hefting, Majorie van Duursen, Joen Luirink and Committee	Vrije Universiteit 01W08 O 2 Gebouw
Mid Career Staff 09:30 - 10:20	Meeting with mid-career staff of A-LIFE, including assistant and associate professors.	Matti Gralka, Rik Oldenkamp, Lisa Baumann, Fredric Been, Mirte Bosse, Vasilis Kokkoris, Catalin Bunduc, Edith Houben and Committee	
Break 10:20 - 10:35	Coffee and tea break	Committee	
Junior Staff 10:35 - 11:25	Meeting with junior staff, including PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers of A-LIFE	Jeroen Koendjbiharie, Federica Nardella, Kim Heikamp, Baltus van der Steen, Ingrida Bagdonaitė, Bianca Turcu, Robin Kuijpers, Prajwol Manandhar and Committee	
Labtour A-LIFE 11:25 - 12:15	Lab tour of A-LIFE including a meeting with technicians.	Jacco Koekoek, Dennis Botman, Saskia van Genderen, Nathalie Hendriks, Alexandra Otto, Janine Mariën and Committee	



## Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Lunch 12:15 - 13:45	Committee meeting with lunch.	Committee
Valorisation 13:45 - 14:35	Meeting with P&A focused on valorization and impact.	Iwan de Esch, Oscar Versolato, Jeroen Koelemeij, Johannes de Boer, Imran Avci and Committee
Break 14:35 - 14:50	Coffee and tea break	Committee
Valorisation 14:50 - 15:50	Meeting with CPS and A- LIFE, focused on valorization and impact.	Iwan de Esch, Sandra Hasanafendic, Sjoerd Vleugels, Philipp Pattberg, Maria Margalef Jornet, Matty Berg, Rob Leurs and Committee
Committee 15:50 - 18:00	Dedicated time for the committee to review the day and discuss key findings.	Committee
Presentation 18:00 - 18:30	Presentation of the preliminary findings, followed by closing remarks.	Committee and invited staff
Drinks & Diner 18:00 - 21:00	The day and research assessment program will conclude with drinks and pizza.	Committee

## End of program

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This concludes the program. Thank you very much for your visit to Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. We hope you had an enjoyable stay and gained valuable insights for the future. On behalf of the entire Beta faculty, we appreciate your visit and hope to see you again.







Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Research Assessment Program 2026  
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2026 - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam