

GANYMEDES GUIDE

September 2023



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Introduction

Hi, new member! Thank you for joining our association. Out of the 100+ student associations in Groningen, you chose our queer bunch. Welcome!

Depending on how and when you found us, you're probably either overwhelmed with all the information you've gathered in the past few days, or you're in desperate need of *more* information and have no idea where to find it. Either way, this document holds all the information you need. From the basic structure of the association, to the ways you can be part of it, and the numerous other ways to utilise your membership to its fullest potential: this really is the Ultimate Gany Guide.

Don't worry - we won't quiz you on the contents, and you're not expected to know everything by heart within your first week - or at all. The Board and your fellow Ganymedians are always willing to answer any questions you may have, and you can read and re-read this guide as often as you'd like.

Above all, I hope this guide is as exciting to you as it is informative. Being part of an association is fun! Don't be daunted by all the new things you learn, but cherish this new life experience at the warm bath we call Ganymedes.

Una in diversitate!

On behalf of the Gany Guide team,

Nena Veenstra

Commissioner of Internal Affairs for Board XIV

Una in diversitate
is Ganymedes' motto. It's Latin for "unity in diversity". It was introduced at our 2nd Lustrum (10th anniversary).



1. A Brief History of Ganymedes

Legend has it that our lovely association was first inspired by a tradition of queer students getting drinks at gay café El Rubio and club Decadent every week. Three of these students (Sean Smith, Nanne Epema, and Geert Molenaar) wanted to formalise these queer student get-togethers. On December 18th 2008, they made it official: Ganymedes LGBT Studentenvereniging Groningen was born.



Over the years, Ganymedes has been found in bars all over the city. After many more joyful nights at the iconic El Rubio, the café closed down in 2013. Fortunately, its owners – Joop & Pieter – continued their work at Tram 13, and Ganymedes happily followed them! To this day, we still meet for drinks at our beloved Tram.



Rest in peace, El Rubio!

Although the Tram forms an important part of our past (and present), Ganymedes hasn't been monogamous in its go-to bars: we've often alternated weekly between Tram 13 and another venue. Memories were made in gay bar De Kast, which closed down in 2017. Older members will also fondly reminisce about gay bar De Rits, with its digital jukebox that allowed us to blare as many ABBA songs as we wanted. When De Rits became House of Scandal in 2020, that drag bar continued to welcome us with open arms. In 2022, Dorothy's Drag Bar took over from Scandal, and we partied our

1. A Brief History of Ganymedes

hearts out there until 2023. This year, the association is gladly adding gay café De Prins to its weekly drinks schedule. Cheers!

In the years since Smith, Epema & Molenaar, the association has grown and flourished into what it is today. What started out as a group of only 14 people is now a steady community of 100+ members. We have created our own association anthem, a motto, and many, many wonderful traditions – such as our yearly trips abroad, our Coming Out Day-flag action (which dozens of associations know us for), and our Dies Natalis. You can read much more on these traditions in this guide!

More important than historical facts are the members, who truly make Ganymedes the wonderful place it is. Ganymedes is made of overlapping generations of students who have found their home with us, and who have found each other and made connections for life. It is the type of history that cannot be put down in a short guide, though you may discover it by talking to some older members – they will gladly share their memories with you. And it is also the type of history you will be making in your time here: the connections you make, the adventures you have, and the ways in which you change and grow together.

But who is this Ganymedes person?

Ganymedes is a figure in Greek mythology. As with all ancient mythology, different versions of the story exist. However, *our* Ganymedes is based on one particular version.

In this version, Ganymedes was the son of Tros, founder and king of Troy. He was the most beautiful mortal boy at the time and of course, Zeus fell in love with him. As we all know, Zeus far preceded the *MeToo*-era, and so his way of dealing with his own infatuation was to turn into an eagle and kidnap the boy to Mount Olympus. Here, Ganymedes became Zeus' cup-bearer.

Throughout history, Ganymedes became a symbol for love between men. For this, our founding members named the association after him. Our logo is based on the painting *The Abduction of Ganymede* by Johann Frank Kirchbach.

2. Regular Events

Weekly Drinks

Every Thursday night, Ganymedians flock to the weekly drinks. We get together in one of our *stamkroegen* ('regular bars'), **starting from 21:00 onwards**. We have refreshing drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic), chat about our weeks, de-stress from uni, and – if the music is right, which it often is – we sing and dance the night away. Most nights, there's also a few people who'll sneak away to fuel up at snackbar De Hoek. Be sure to be back by 23:00, though – that's when our President takes the stage! They tell us all about upcoming Gany events that no one would want to miss out on. **The drinks officially end at 01:00**, but that doesn't mean the night has to. Nightlife venues in Groningen have no closing time, so there's always the opportunity to keep the party going at other beloved pubs or clubs.

Remember to wear your Ganymedes wristband on Thursday nights! It'll give you that extra-special discount on your drinks. And of course, don't forget to buy a round for your friends or companions – it's a beloved custom that keeps us in high spirits. :)

Gany Tuesdays

On Tuesday evenings, all non-drinks activities take place! The activity itself depends entirely on which committee's turn it is to organise an event (see [Committees](#).) During the introduction period, Tuesday events are mostly organised by the IntroCie. They organise events that help bring members (new and old) together, like a Crazy 88, speed-friending, or a photo hunt. The Activity Committee, on the other hand, organises relaxed and adventurous activities like lasergaming, game nights, or going ice-skating. Finally, the Societal Committee organises activities that focus on discovering more about our queer community. Their events may include discussion nights on queer topics, craft nights involving gender moodboards, and sharing coming out stories.

Sometimes, our lovely Board organises events on Tuesdays. For example, the Commissioner of External Affairs may organise an event with another (student)

2. Regular Events

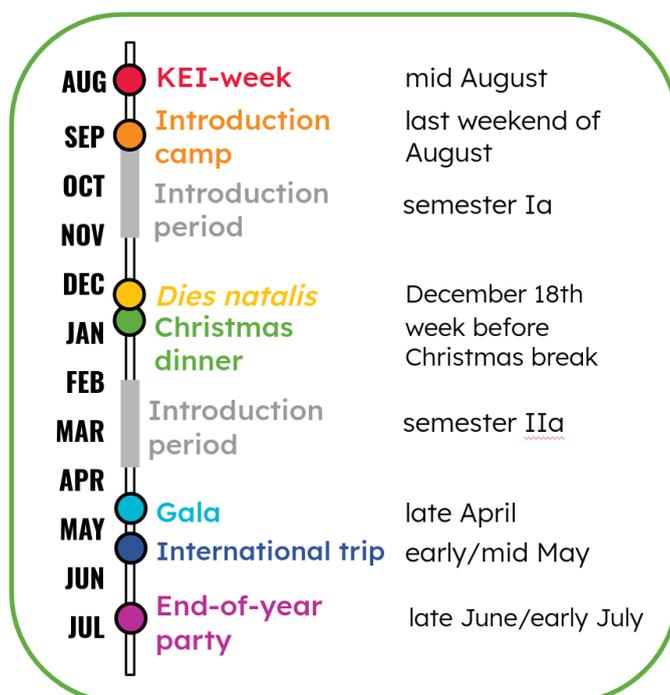
organisation that we're friendly with. Some samples from the past include the Flanyopatra parties (with our friends from Flanor and Cleopatra) or a pub quiz on safe sex with Sense.

Lastly, our lovely members sometimes bless the rest of us with an event of their own making. (For more on organising a member's initiative, see [Member's Initiatives](#)). Blasts from the past include clothing swaps, visits to the karaoke bar, a movie night, or a plant swap picnic. As you can see, Tuesday events come in all shapes and sizes!

Yearly Events

Every association has its traditional annual events. These return every year around the same time. The following is a more-or-less chronological journey through a traditional year at Ganymedes.

For many (new) students, the new year starts during KEI-week (the general Groninger student introduction week). Ganymedes organises all sorts of events to make sure new folks find us. Then, we'll want to get to know our new friends and make them feel welcome in the association! For that purpose, the Camp Committee organises an Introduction Camp at the end of the summer. New and old members spend a blissful weekend mingling, playing games, vibing by the campfire, and having a general blast. Once the academic year starts, the Introduction Committee also organises a few introductory activities to welcome new members. (Read more on the introduction period in [Section 3: Introduction Period](#).)



When the days get as short as they can get, it's time for two very important events! On the 18th of December, we celebrate Ganymedes' birthday. In fancy-schmancy student lingo, this is called the *dies natalis* or *dies* for short (pronounced *DEE-yes*). Of course, such an occasion can't go by

2. Regular Events

uncelebrated, and so the Party Committee will usually organise a *dies*-party. Around this time we're also very close to the winter break, which means the board will organise a Christmas dinner. Since the *dies* and Christmas are so close to each other, sometimes the events are combined, and we'll have dinner first before partying our socks off.

In February, another new group of students arrives in Groningen. This means that there will be a second period of introduction activities (with the exception of the Introduction Camp).

As the days get warmer, the usual hustle and bustle starts back up. Springtime sees the gala and the trip abroad – both big and exciting events! The start of summer is celebrated with the end-of-year barbecue and party (usually by the lake). The weekly drinks turn to summer drinks (meaning the Board takes a break from their obligatory drinks attendance) until the new year starts again.

Event Etiquette

First and foremost, Ganymedes aims to be a safe space to its members and to create a sense of community and belonging among them. For that reason, we have listed some etiquette rules below. The first set is aimed at making sure that everyone may feel comfortable during our events. These etiquette rules aim to address some things that people more easily forget about – but of course, general rules also apply (no violence, no discrimination, etc.). The second set is aimed at creating a sense of community, not only within the association, but also with the external parties we work with.

Safe Space Etiquette

1. **Be respectful with physical touch.** Many Ganymedians love hugs and casual touches, but certainly not everyone does. Body language can tell you a lot, but be sure to check in verbally as well if you're uncertain if your touch is welcome or not. This applies to platonic touching as much as it does to romantic/sexual touching.

2. **Be respectful with asking questions.** Everybody comes to Ganymedes with their own identity, perspective, and set of knowledge on queer topics. As such, Ganymedes is also a place where people learn from one another and their

identities. Some are very open to sharing personal information and experiences to educate others, but some are not. Feel free to ask questions, but also check in if the person you are asking is comfortable answering them. If not, there are many other topics to chat about!

'Is it okay if I ask you more about this?'

3. **If you suspect that you may have (unknowingly) crossed a boundary with someone, communicate with them about it if possible.**

'Earlier, I said or did X. Was that alright?'

That way you can get clarity and the other person can see that you have seen their discomfort and will not cross that boundary again.

4. **Keep an eye out for each other.** If you see someone possibly crossing somebody else's boundaries, there are several things you can do. You can insert yourself in the conversation and redirect its course. Sometimes a topic switch can be enough.

'Alright, let's talk about something else!'

(Remember that not everyone picks up on hints easily, though.) Other times, a light-hearted, but direct comment does the trick. Finally, in some cases, it may

'I don't think everyone is comfortable with this situation, so please lay off.'

be necessary to be more strict. Afterwards, check in with the member you helped out. If you are not comfortable doing any of these things, if the situation is of a very serious nature, or if you fear

escalation, you can also go up to one of the attending board members. They will take action if needed.

Community Etiquette

1. **Include new members.** As you may know from experience, it can be scary coming to an event for the first time, especially all on your own. If you see an unfamiliar face at an event, welcome them and include them in your conversations!
2. **Include all members.** Sometimes even older members have a hard time joining conversations and end up sitting by themselves at an event. Make sure to include them too!
3. **Speak English when there are international members around.** If you notice members closeby who do not understand Dutch, make the switch to English. It

2. Regular Events

is hard to join a conversation if it is already in Dutch, even if the participants would be willing to switch to English once an international joins.

4. **Support our bars.** We are allowed to host our weekly drinks for free at the bars that we visit. However, they also depend on selling drinks to stay afloat, so one drink is common courtesy. Tip from us, your fellow broke students: dedicate a small part of your monthly budget plan to social events (like those of Ganymedes). And for those weeks you still can't afford it, let the 5th point inspire you. ;)
5. **Buy others a drink every once in a while.** A time-honoured tradition is giving out rounds of drinks. If you're in conversation with someone (or a few someones) and you want to go get a beverage, it is nice to offer them something to drink too. It is not an eye-for-an-eye system, but pay-it-forward. You buy some people a drink, they buy some people (which may or may not include you) a drink, and then some other people buy you a drink. Do try to keep an eye out that it's not always the same people giving out drinks to others and try to mostly ask for cheaper drinks when offered one.
6. **Support the President's midnight speech.** When they get up to that mic at 23:00, the real question isn't what activities they'll announce for the upcoming week - it's whether they'll be able to be heard over the cheering of a bar full of adoring Ganymedians.
7. **Don't be afraid to get wild!** Oftentimes the drinks start out very chatty and calm, but don't be afraid to ask the board or the bar personnel to turn up the music, especially after midnight. You might find you're not the only one in the mood for a dance ;)



3. Introduction Period

Hooray, you're a member of Ganymedes! Now, you obviously want to get to know other members and start making new friends. How do you do that, you may ask? We've got just the thing for you! The introduction period is filled with fun activities designed to help you find your place within Ganymedes.

Introduction Camp

At the end of August, after KEI-week festivities are done and just before lectures start, Ganymedes usually organises its intro camp. This queer weekend getaway is a great start to your time at Ganymedes! New members (and often some older ones) spend a glorious weekend together in the countryside. There are campfires, outdoor activities, game competitions, deep conversations under the stars – you name it! Each year has a different theme, and dressing up is definitely not out of the question.

Gany Introduction Groups (GIGs)

One thing Ganymedians love is sharing good food and even better conversations. Therefore, part of our intro period are the GIGs. In this (usually) six-week series of dinners, you eat with varying groups of fellow newbies (and a set of more experienced hosts) every Thursday night. This not only provides a relaxed space to get to know each other, but also a tasty dinner (most of the time) and a group to head to our regular drinks with.

Introduction Activities

In the first month(s) of each semester, most activities are dedicated to introducing you to the association. Anyone can join, which is precisely the reason why they're the ideal place to mingle with your fellow Ganymedians. Examples of past intro events include "Welcome to my TED-talk" (where you can rant about their favourite subjects for ten minutes); a Crazy 88 (in which you have to complete as many challenges as possible within an hour); or a Running Games night organised by our disputen (see [Section 6:](#)

3. Introduction Period

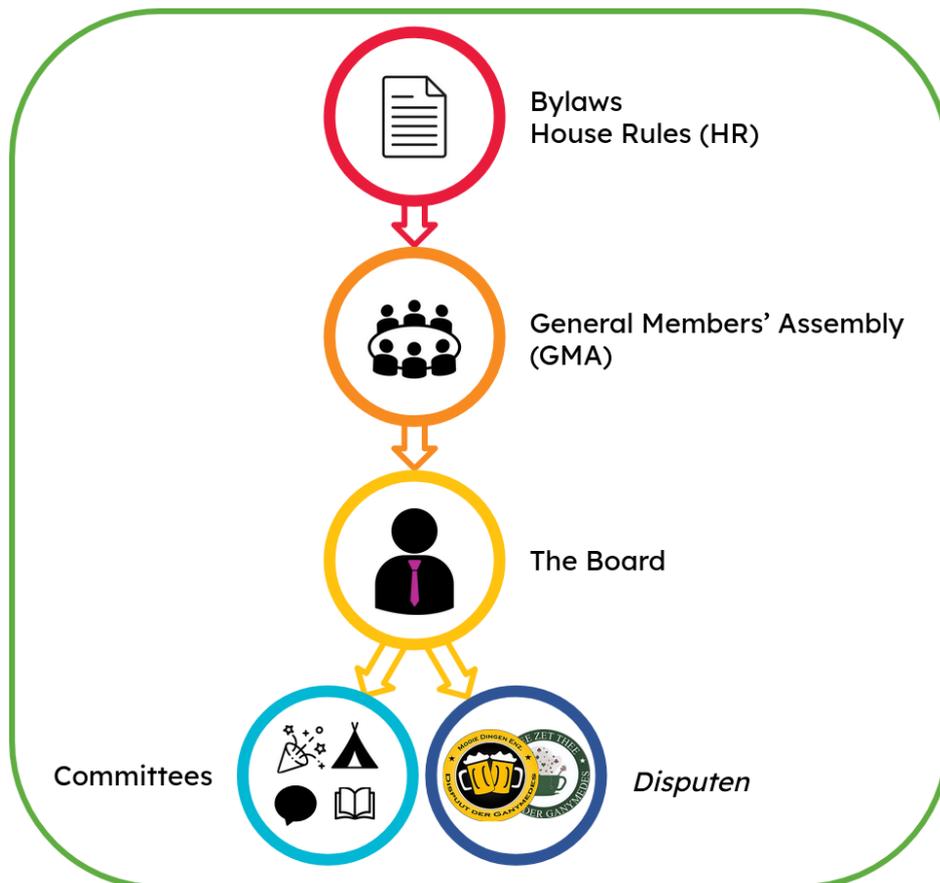
[Disputen](#)). Most of these activities are organised by the Introduction Committee, who pull out all the stops to make your first semester a blast.

As you can see, there's a whole range of things you can do to get acquainted with our association! After those first slightly-daunting days as a Ganymedian, you'll most definitely be ready to spread your wings and navigate your way through association life.



4. Association Structure

A student association is more than just a group of people who get together. To be a true *vereniging*, we need some shared agreements, commitments, and people to keep it all running smoothly. To achieve all that, Ganymedes has the following structure.



Bylaws and HR

To make sure we're all on the same page, we have two sets of ground rules: the bylaws and the house rules. (Both must be publicly available to all members! You can find them on the website or ask for someone to send them to you.)

The bylaws form the official foundation to *all* our other rules and procedures – from GMAs to payment options, and so on. The bylaws can only be changed through an official notary. In

Fun fact: the bylaws were first changed by Board XIV in 2023.

the rare cases that a board wants or needs to do this, they must organise a special GMA to get the members' approval.

The house rules (HR) are an extension of the bylaws. They contain the agreements and guidelines that shape the everyday workings of the association, such as members' rights and obligations. Naturally, they cannot contradict the bylaws.

General Members Assembly (GMA)

Although an official Board leads the association, the real power is with the General Members Assembly (GMA). This term is used to refer to two similar things:

1. The entire body of Ganymedes **members**. (For example: "This decision has to go through the GMA first, before it can be accepted.")
2. The meetings in which this body of members assembles to discuss and/or vote on certain matters. (For example: "Are you coming to the GMA tonight?")

Everyone is equal at Ganymedes. However, rules made by CUOS (the RUG-affiliated organ that subsidizes associations like ours) force us to distinguish between different types of members when it comes to technical things like voting rights at GMAs. See page 15 for an overview.

All big decisions – such as appointing and releasing boards, changing the bylaws or HR, unexpected large spendings, and so on – must be made by the GMA during these meetings. (Note that board members are part of the GMA, so they also get to vote during meetings – including on their own instalment or release.)

GMA meetings

The GMA assembles at least twice a year: once at the beginning of the year (September) and once halfway through (February).

September: the Transfer-GMA

At the TGMA, the change of Boards takes place. The year's Board presents their end-of-year report (including a financial report). The GMA discusses whether the Board has achieved their goals, and whether things like the finances are all in order. Then, it's

up to the new Candidate Board (see [The Board Application Process](#)) to present their vision for the year, written in the **policy plan**. The GMA then makes their thoughts known: they ask questions, suggest ideas, and can even present a counter board in protest.

A policy plan explains a Board's goals and ideas for the upcoming year, including a financial rationale. This is the basis for everything the Board will do in the following year, as well as for the half-yearly and end-of-year reports. The policy plan (and following reports) are always sent to all members one week ahead of a GMA, so everyone can prepare.

After all this, the GMA votes: can the current Board be released of its position, and can the CB be instated as the official new Board? If the GMA votes “yes” on both, the current Board will be officially released and the Candidate Board will be instated as the new Board. Then it's time for celebratory McDonalds!

February: the Half-Yearly GMA

During the HGMA, the Board presents their half-yearly report. They reflect on how their policy plan is working out so far, and on their plans for the second half of the year. Again, this is a good moment for the GMA to discuss how things are going and for possible changes to be brought up.

Special GMAs

It's possible to hold more GMAs, if needed. These SGMAs can be called by:

1. The Board. For example, to have the GMA vote on an important decision or on a change to the bylaws/HR.
2. The GMA itself. Members can force the Board to organise a GMA by sending them a request signed by at least 10% of those members of the association that are allowed to vote during GMAs. (This is done in special cases – for example, if the Board is dysfunctional severely.)

4 types of members (and their rights)

Although we often refer to anyone signed up at Ganymedes as a “member”, it’s technically a little complicated. There are different names under which you can be part of Ganymedes, which all come with their own rights and plights. A brief summary:

1. **Member:** if you are a student at either RUG or Hanze, you’re a full-fledged member. This means you have all rights of a regular member, which among other things includes: having the right to speak and vote in GMA meetings.
2. **Donor:** if you are a student of either MBO-education or private education, you are technically a donor. This means you do get the same discounts for activities as regular members and you are also allowed to partake in committees and dispuTen. However, your rights during the GMA meetings are a little different: you are allowed to attend and speak at the meetings, but you are not allowed to vote on matters.
3. **Alumni:** former Ganymedians who choose to keep supporting the association, despite no longer being full-fledged members. They, too, are allowed to attend and speak at GMAs, but they are not allowed to vote.
4. **Honorary members:** in exceptional cases, the GMA can name someone an honorary member. They are members of Ganymedes for life and do not have to pay the yearly contribution. Their rights at the GMA meetings are the same as donors and alumni: they are allowed to attend and speak, but not vote. (Our founding board members are the only current honorary members.)

The Board

Ganymedes is managed by the Board, which usually consists of four to six people. You can recognise them by the suits they wear to the drinks – including a purple tie, a rainbow flag pin, and an embroidered waistcoat. On less formal occasions (like Tuesday activities), they might wear a Ganymedes sweater with their name and function on it.

Ganymedes presents: Board XIV

- Cynthia Snijder (President)
- Lily de Vries (Secretary & Vice President)
- Evie Veenhuizen (Treasurer)
- Levi Bernáth (Commissioner of Internal Affairs)
- Deirdre O'Connor (Commissioner of External Affairs)
- Andrei Dumitriu (Commissioner of PR)

What does the Board do?

The general job of the Board is to keep everything within the association running. This includes the day-to-day stuff – like guiding the committees, attending the drinks, befriending other associations, attending activities, networking with external organisations, and so on.

On top of that, each Board has a policy plan, which they aim to bring into fruition during their year (see [GMA meetings](#)). Plans might include gaining publicity in the city, improving communication strategies, or growing as an association. (This year's plan can be found on the website.)

The Board is supported by the Advisory Council and the Audit Committee. The Advisory Council consists of former Board members, who offer their sage advice to the current Board. The Audit Committee usually consists of former Treasurers, who make sure our current Treasurer doesn't run off with all the association's money. ;)

Each Board member has their own task in keeping the world spinning:

President

The President leads the Board. They lead meetings, make sure everyone fulfils their tasks, write part of the newsletter, and give the midnight speeches at the drinks. On top of that, they are the face of our association, which means that they give interviews, know most of the members, and so on. If the President cannot do their duties for whatever reason, the Vice President takes over for the time being.

Secretary

The Secretary handles all administration. They make sure our list of members and their information is up-to-date. They are also in charge of the Board's e-mail, and will email members with association-wide information (such as the announcement of GMAs or the monthly newsletter). The latter consists of a message by the President, a monthly overview of upcoming events, a suggestion form and any other relevant information and/or announcements. The Secretary also takes minutes at Board meetings and GMAs (so that important details or quotes can easily be recalled).

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the finances. They write the budget plan at the beginning of the year and make sure that we stick to it. That includes collecting fees and requesting subsidies from the municipality to organise certain activities. The Treasurer is very important: without them we wouldn't be able to organise anything that costs money (or we'd have one *very* fun year, and file for bankruptcy after).

Commissioner of Internal Affairs

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs is responsible for almost all committees. They make sure that the yearly planning is filled with fun events, that organisational deadlines are met, and that event info reaches the secretary and Promo Committee in time. This Commissioner is the one to ask any questions about committees' activities. They are usually in twelve places at the same time, and they probably need a hug.

Commissioner of External Affairs

The Commissioner of External Affairs is in charge of maintaining our relationships with other organisations – like student associations, the *gemeente* (municipality), potential sponsors, and so on. They make sure that we stay in good relation with the entities that matter to us, and help organise activities together with other associations.

Commissioner of PR

The Commissioner of PR is responsible for all things promotion-related – including event announcements, taking photos at every event, posting on our socials, and communicating with our members via the WhatsApp group. The Commissioner of PR is aided by the Promo Committee (see [PromoCie](#)).

The Board Application Process

Each year around March, the Board starts looking for a set of members to succeed them. (Around this time, they will usually post some FAQs and answer any questions you may have about doing a Board year.)

Once applications have opened, interested members can apply by sending in a motivation letter. The Application Committee then reads all those letters and invites the applicants to interviews. During this interview, you get to lay out your motivation for doing a board year, and answer any questions the Committee may have for you. You also get to ask anything *you* want to know. The process might seem daunting at first, but they really don't bite! :)

When the interviews are done, all applicants get a phone call letting them know whether they made it into the Candidate Board and (if so) which position they'll fulfil. That's when preparation starts! Your summer is filled with getting to know your fellow Candies, having transfer meetings with your predecessors, taking pictures to announce your Candidacy, writing a policy plan, and more – all while keeping your Candidacy a secret until your official announcement at the end-of-year party.

From the moment you get that phone call, you are the *Candidate* Board until the Transfer-GMA. Once your policy plan has been approved and a majority of GMA attendees vote yes on your instalment, you are officially the new Board! After the arrangement of some final formalities, the Current Board (you!) and the Old Board will exchange rainbow pins and other gifts. Then it's time to celebrate!

5. How to Get Active

Of course, the Board cannot run Ganymedes by themselves. That's where we come in! There are countless ways you can add to Ganymedes – volunteering, coming to GMAs, or even just being part of the crowd at activities... Two main ways of contributing that we'll discuss here are joining a committee and organising a one-off activity (known as a member's initiative).

Committees

Ganymedes' committees can be roughly divided into two categories: one that organises activities for everyone to enjoy (such as the PartyCie), and one that provides more serious services (such as the Grievances Committee). Each committee is supported by a Board member (usually the Commissioner of Internal Affairs). They function as a connection between the committee and the Board. They're there for questions and guidance, and will occasionally attend the committee's meetings.

Benefits of joining a committee

- Get to know your fellow members in regular meetings
- Gain experience and useful skills by organising events of all types and sizes
- Learn about the association's inner workings
- Give back to the association 💜
- Shape Ganymedes: you get a big say in our events!

We're all busy students – but luckily, being in a committee doesn't have to take up too much time. The hours you spend per week or month depend on the committee and the way you decide to organise yourselves. Some committees organise monthly activities (such as the MaatCie or the AcCie), while others work toward a long-term goal (such as the KEI-Cie or the TravelCie). For monthly activities, the amount of work depends on the event: booking a lasergame event just takes a few phone calls, but organising a pumpkin carving contest takes a little more work. (Your guiding Board member will help you anticipate activities, so that you can spread the workload.) For committees

that work towards a larger goal, the workload can shift depending on how close you get to the big event. Still, the work can be pretty evenly divided by making a good plan at the start of the year.

Overall, committees can take as little as an hour per week on average, depending on what you do. This means you do need at least some spare time on a regular basis. You're in it together, meaning your committee will have your back and you can re-divide the workload if needed, but it is a mutual commitment.

Want more details? Just attend the Committee Drinks! In the beginning of the year, a few of the drinks nights will be dedicated to this theme. Here, you can ask former committee members anything you still want to know, and fill in the form to sign up to your preferred committees. You can also find these forms via the usual information channels. It's also entirely possible to join throughout the year: just contact the Commissioner of Internal Affairs to see if your preferred committee is low on members and could use some help.

Finally, if you somehow can't be on the committee you'd wanted to join, you can always turn to a member's initiative to make your ideas become reality (see [Member's Initiatives](#))!

Committees of 2022-2023

Below we will list this year's committees, accompanied by their responsibilities and examples of activities they've previously organised.

Activity Committee (or AcCie)

The AcCie is in charge of organising *gezellige* activities once a month. These take place on Tuesday evenings and can be anything the committee members set their mind to (and that the budget allows).

Examples of past activities: playing pool, lasergaming, ice skating, cocktail making workshop, and pumpkin carving for Halloween.

Book Committee (or BookCie)

The Gany Book Club picks their book-of-the-month democratically, but the Book Committee takes care of all the other practicalities: sending out the poll, promoting

each club meeting, hosting meetings at home, and coming up with discussion questions around the book.

Examples of past books: *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, *Loveless* by Alice Oseman, and *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters.

Buddy System

New or potential members may feel anxious about coming to the drinks on their own. Luckily, they can get together with someone from our buddy pool! The buddy meets up with the new(ish) person before heading to the drinks together.

As a buddy, you discuss how much checking-in your newbie would like and keep an eye on them accordingly. In any case, you'll introduce your newbie to fellow Ganymedians, make sure they're never lonely, and ask how their night was afterwards. Everything else is up to you two – some duos have dinner together, while others meet up five minutes before the drinks.

The Buddy System is a pool rather than a committee. This means the Board will ask the buddy group chat for a volunteer when needed. Since this happens only a few times a year, being a buddy is an extremely flexible way of contributing.

Camp Committee (or CampCie)

The CampCie organises the annual intro camp, which takes place after KEI-week. They book a place for the group to stay, pick a theme and wacky activities to go with it, and make sure all the practicalities run smoothly. This camp is many newbies' first big Gany experience, and the CampCie makes it an unforgettable time!

Examples of past camp themes: the Wild West, superheroes, Disney, and sports.

Confidential Advisors Committee

If a member is struggling or in need of advice, they can talk to one of the Confidential Advisors (CAs). The CAs are not professionals, but do provide a listening ear. Every CA is given their very own Ganymedes email address, which will be listed on the website. (For more information on the CAs, see [Section 7: In Case of Discomfort.](#))

Gany Introduction Groups (or GIGs)

At the beginning of each semester, Ganymedes organises the Gany Introduction Groups for new members. For six weeks, new and old members have dinner together on Thursdays. They get to know each other and then head to the drinks together! Members of this committee help coordinate the GIGs. This means you'll help with hosting and/or finding hosts for the dinners, making group chats for the groups each week, and answering questions if needed.

Grievances Committee (or KlachtCie)

The Grievances Committee processes formal complaints (from members and non-members alike). They act as a mediator between the relevant parties and aim to find a solution if possible. The Grievances Committee is one tool in keeping Ganymedes a safe and comfortable place. (For more information on formal complaints, see [Section 7: In Case of Discomfort](#).)

Introduction Committee (or IntroCie)

Though Ganymedes doesn't have a mandatory introduction period, the IntroCie does organise activities dedicated to getting to know each other. These take place during the first few weeks of each semester (October and February).

Examples of past intro activities: Crazy88, photo hunt, speed friending, and "Thanks For Coming To My TED-talk!".

KEI Committee (or KEI-Cie)

KEI-week is an amazing time for Ganymedes to present itself to new students and win new souls for the association. The KEI Committee gets to think of all sorts of fun activities and parties that make the KEI-week one of the most fun weeks of the year for KEI-participants as well as weathered Ganymedians.

Examples of past activities: karaoke parties, "Picnic & Gaymes", Endless Countdown parties, "Music & Chill", and "Love, Lust, & Lounge: Queer Edition".

Party Committee (or PartyCie/FeestCie)

The PartyCie is in charge of organising dazzling parties. These take place once every two months on Thursday night, replacing that week's regular drinks. The PartyCie also organises the yearly gala. PartyCie members can pour all their creativity into coming up with the wildest ideas for unforgettable nights!

Examples of past themes: Flamingos & Flowers, Saints & Sinners, Snow Pants or No Pants, and Olympic Drinking Games.

Promo Committee (or PromoCie)

The PromoCie creates social media banners for events, and captures all activities, parties, and drinks on camera – resulting in a beautiful monthly photo dump. PromoCie members are creative with graphic design, interested in social media, and like attending events from behind a lens.

Examples of past themes: photo throwbacks, queer horoscopes, awareness days, queer history lessons.

Societal Committee (or MaatCie)

The MaatCie organises monthly events with a societal flavour, such as lectures, panels, or discussion nights. During their activities, you'll find out there's always more to learn about our community.

Examples of past activities: "Beyond the Binary: Gender Variance Across History and Cultures", LGBTQ+ history pub quizzes, queer music nights, and the annual "Coming Out Stories".

Pride Committee

The PrideCie organises events during Groningen's Pride festival, which takes place in the weekend following the KEI-week. They work towards the festival during the year, and see their work come to fruition when all Groningers – queer or straight, student or citizen – come together to celebrate queerness.

Examples of past activities: Human Library, rollerskating workshop, queer film night, Pride Walk, "Hungover Brunch"

Travel Committee (or TravelCie/ReisCie)

The TravelCie gets months of fun before our annual trip abroad even begins! They decide where Ganymedes will be going this year and what exciting things we'll do when we get there. With help from the Board, they organise everything from accommodations to transit to making a little travel guide for the group. And as travel guides, they get a guaranteed spot on the trip!

Previous destinations: Hamburg, Belfast, Paris.

Member's Initiatives

One-Off Initiatives

Sometimes inspiration strikes and you get an amazing idea for a Ganymedes event. But what if you're not on a (relevant) committee? Make it reality with a member's initiative! We love to see everyone's unique ideas, so these one-off events are very welcome and encouraged. Simply fill in the member's initiative form (linked in the monthly newsletter) or contact a Board member. Once the schedule and budget have been consulted, the Board will help you organise your activity. Dream big!

Examples of past initiatives: clothing swap, movie night, visit to the karaoke bar, online cooking show, plant swap, international drinks.

Baby Committees

A baby committee (also called a trial committee) is a sweet mix between a committee and a member's initiative. If you'd like to see activities for which there is no committee yet, you can suggest and even trial-run one of your own. If you find at least two fellow committee members and present a plan for a few activities, the Board may guide and finance your idea for the year. At the next TGMA, the GMA will vote on whether your baby committee should be instated as a full-fledged committee for the upcoming year.

Fun fact: the BookCie started as a baby committee!

6. Disputen

What is a dispuut?

A *dispuut* is like a sub-association: it's a club that is part of Ganymedes, but also has its own rules and structure. A dispuut is based around *gezelligheid* and comradery, though it usually also has a certain **theme** that unites its members. Creating or joining a dispuut is a great way to find people with interests similar to yours. You get to know your fellow dispuut members very well and can make friends for life!

Our two current disputen (MOOIE DINGEN ENZ. and Thee Zet Thee) are commonly referred to as the 'beer-dispuut' and the 'tea-dispuut'. But any theme is possible: from sports to French cooking and from wine to philosophy.

In contrast to Ganymedes itself, you cannot just sign up for a dispuut and automatically be let in. To join one, you have to be personally invited, and you may have to go through an initiation period. What this entails depends on the dispuut.

Since disputen are part of Ganymedes, they have certain obligations. For example, their bylaws must be approved by the Board. They are also obliged to organise at least one activity for all of Ganymedes each year. For more details, check out the Ganymedes bylaws.

Current disputen

You can sometimes recognize members of disputen during the drinks through their merchandise (e.g., neckties). If not, just ask around and you'll be sure to find out who is a member of which dispuut.

MOOIE DINGEN ENZ.

MDE's philosophy is to make (un)forgettable memories with your friends. When MDE is together, the members like to



enjoy (craft) beers and other drinks, while playing some (drinking!) games. Every MDE member has a signature drink and a nickname that almost no one outside of the dispuut knows. With their silly and sometimes dry humour you'll be laughing until your stomach hurts.



Thee Zet Thee

Thee Zet Thee's mission is to play board games to their hearts' desire, eat Scholiertje-cookies, and drink as much tea as humanly possible. Or, as they like to call it: they let their inner elderly people shine! This dispuut also unites in their love of shitty puns, the superior discography of Swedish music group ABBA, and of course Ganymedes.

Since their founding in May of 2019, Thee Zet Thee's thirteen-and-a-half members have never had a dull moment.

Creating your own dispuut

Of course, you can also create your own dispuut – in fact: the more, the merrier! Creating your own dispuut starts with finding a group of people you like and picking a general theme to create your dispuut around. Next, you contact the Board and send in your idea.

Once the Board has given you the go-ahead, you can start shaping your dispuut. Most importantly, you will need to write bylaws. For inspiration, you can take a look at the bylaws of the existing disputen. You should also check out Article 5 of Ganymedes' own house rules (HR), which states a couple of rules for disputen. The HR can be found on the website.

When you've finished writing your bylaws, the Board will check them (and ask you to make adjustments if needed). Once they have approved, your dispuut is a fact! All the Board asks of you now is to organise one activity for Ganymedes each year.

Of course, a dispuut needs more than just bylaws. The real fun lies in the more 'quirky' things like your own logo, merch, and traditions. Be creative and have fun! Also, don't forget to regularly invite new people to your dispuut to keep your legacy alive. ;)



7. In Case of Discomfort

As a (queer) student, there are a lot of things that might happen in your life – both good and bad. Whether you're struggling with something personal or with a problem in the association, we have committees in place to help you out.

Confidential Advisors

If you need help with a personal issue (e.g. sexual or gender identity, loneliness, trouble with a parent, and so on), the Confidential Advisors are your shoulder to cry on. They may be able to give you some advice (though they are not professionals). If needed, they can point you in the right direction for professional help, or help you file an official complaint with the Board of Ganymedes.

How do you reach them? Good question, I am glad you asked. You can reach them by emailing them, or (sometimes) by texting them. It always takes some time at the beginning of the academic year to set up this committee, but once they are settled they will introduce themselves online.

The Confidential Advisors are subject to change, but in the year 2023-2024 they are:

Nienke de Jonge: nienke@ganymedes-lgbt.nl

Ines Gieske: ines@ganymedes-lgbt.nl

Grievances Committee

If you have a problem with someone within the association (including the Board!), you can approach the Grievances Committee. Whether it's because of actions or words that made you uncomfortable during, or outside of Gany events. The Grievances Committee can help you file an official complaint, and/or they can mediate between you and the person your complaint applies to. You can reach this committee by emailing them: klacht@ganymedes-lgbt.nl. If your complaint concerns a member of the Grievances Committee, you can contact one of the confidential advisors.

There are various reasons why you could contact Grievances:

- Unwanted touching (sexual or otherwise);
- Unwanted sexual behaviour (for example: explicit conversation, sharing explicit photos with someone, etc.);
- Physical violence;
- Verbal violence (for example: ridiculing someone's religion, appearance, etc.);
- Outing someone;
- Sharing photos (online) without consent (for example by the Board);
- The Board (knowingly) inviting people to events that decrease their safety;
- Or other words or actions that put the safety or comfort of you or other Ganymedians at risk.

Feedback form

Of course, sometimes you simply have some regular feedback that you don't need or want the Grievances Committee as a middle man for. In that case, you can let the board know directly, by filling in the feedback form. This form is attached to every newsletter they send (close to the member's initiatives form). Of course, positive feedback is also welcome! The board reads all the answers to this form personally, so you just might brighten up their day. ;)

8. Miscellaneous info

Merch

You might have gotten yourself a beer opener and some stickers during the KEI-week. But did you know we also have sunglasses, mugs, bottle openers and tote bags? Some of this merchandise you can order through a form, and others are gifted during activities – especially to groups who have won a game! You can find information about our merch in the monthly newsletter.

There is always room for other merch suggestions! Pitch them to the Commissioner of PR (Andrei Dumitriu) and they just might become a reality.



Partners & sponsorships

You can't organise fun activities without any money. Most of that money comes from the yearly contribution paid by our lovely members, but we also earn a little bit from our sponsors.

Sponsorships

To begin, we're affiliated with **SponsorKliks!** If you want to order something online, you can do so via the SponsorKliks website. Simply select the shop you intend to buy from and SponsorKliks will direct you to that shop's website. Part of the amount you pay will then go to Ganymedes as a so-called commission, without costing you anything extra! Shop & support Ganymedes at the same time via tinyurl.com/ganysponsorkliks.



In addition, Ganymedians get a discount at DressMe Clothing. This webshop allows you to print or embroider your own t-shirts and other products. If you tell them you're a member of Ganymedes, you'll get 10% off on your order.



Partners

Naturally, we wouldn't be Ganymedes without our welcoming bars. We have been happily hosting our weekly drinks at **Tram 13** since 2013! Unfortunately, our contract with Dorothy's Drag Bar ended in 2023, but we cherish the memories we made over there either way. From 2023 onwards, we are adding **Café De Prins** to the Ganymedes family.

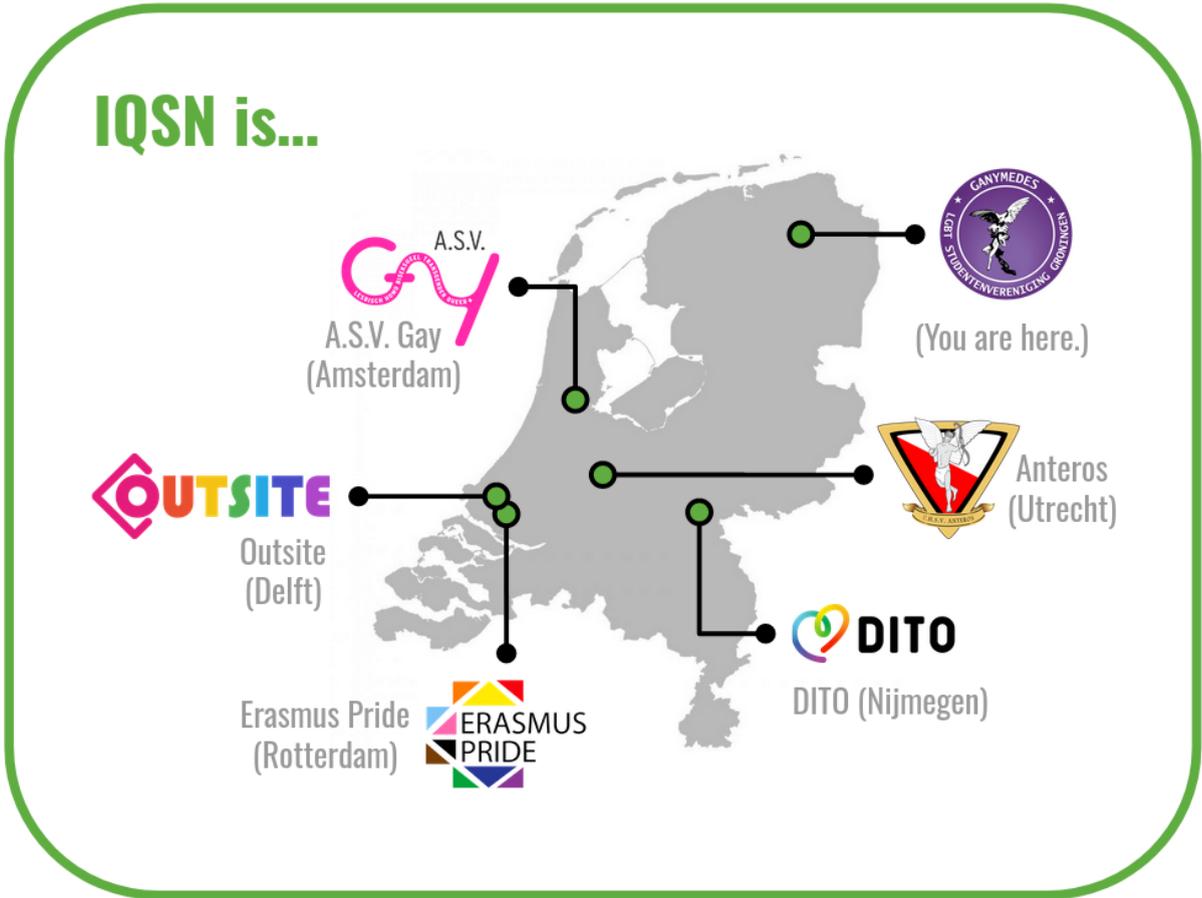
Finally, we are happy to work with other organisations in Groningen's queer scene. As a prominent face in the queer (student) landscape, we've partnered with COC Groningen, the municipality, Stichting Pride Groningen, and numerous others to organise events for and by queer Groningers.

Sister Associations (IQSN)

Ganymedes is not the only queer student association in the Netherlands! We have so-called 'sister associations' in most other student cities. We are united with them in IQSN, the *Interstedelijk Queer Studentennetwerk* ('Intercity Queer Student Network').



Every association that is part of IQSN assigns a board member to be part of the Sister Committee. Together, they organise activities to connect our associations, such as drinks or parties in one of our cities, the annual sistercamp, and other fun activities. This way, our members get to know each other, the associations can learn from one another, and if the stars align, *connections* are made that sate our need for gossip for weeks to come. ;)



A special thanks

A massive thank you to all the previous boards of Ganymedes, who have made the association what it is today:

Board XIV

Sam Broer (President), Demi/Dian Laan (Secretary, Commissioner of PR), Sander van Beek (Treasurer, Vice-President), Nena Veenstra (Commissioner of Internal Affairs), Lily de Vries (Commissioner of Internal Affairs), Yoana Nikolova (Commissioner of External Affairs).

Board XIII

Mari Pool (President), Fabienne Burkard (Secretary), Chris Vrieling (Treasurer, Co-Commissioner of Internal Affairs), Dacil Danioko (Commissioner of External Affairs, Co-Commissioner of Internal Affairs, Vice-President).

Board XII

Gilles Lijnzaad (President), Ida Klaassens (Secretary), Liesbeth Cnossen (Treasurer), Maxime Hartwig (Commissioner of Internal Affairs, Vice-President).

Board XI

Emma de Groot (President), Marley van Dortmont (Secretary, Vice-President), Margot de Bruin (Treasurer), Eileen Drenth (Commissioner of External Affairs), Emily Schmölz (Commissioner of Internal Affairs).

Board X

Max van der Meer (President), Lah Tascha Bhattoe (Secretary, Vice-President), Dana van den Brand (Treasurer), Nicole Wolken (Commissioner of Internal Affairs).

Board IX

Rande Duhoky (President), Bas Defauwes (Secretary, Vice-President), Bram van Dort (Treasurer), Lea Busweiler (Commissioner of Internal Affairs), Paula Bultstra (Commissioner of External Affairs).

Interim Board

Kirsten van der Geer (President), Dana de Jonge (Secretary), Johan Krijnsen (Treasurer), Celine de Bruijn (Commissioner of Internal Affairs), Ludo Aerts (Co-Commissioner of External Affairs), Daniël Hofstede (Co-Commissioner of External Affairs).

Board VIII

Kevin Schilder (President), Jonieke Rienstra (Secretary), Mijke Rigter (Treasurer), Rowena Voorstad (Commissioner of Internal Affairs), Ludo Aerts (Commissioner of External Affairs).

Board VII

Lisa Kuiper, Ludo Aerts, Esmee Schipper, Celine de Bruijn.

Board VI

Jikke van Deelen, Heleen Tuininga, Floris Harmanni, Daniël Hofstede, Marjolein de Voogd.

Board V

Nathalie Ruikes, Vincent Boswijk, Patrick Oosterveld, Jesper Mullink.

Board IV

Gerjan te Velde, Sevda Hoekstra, Nick van der Laar, Kim ten Hoeve, Laurens Middag.

Board III

Rianna Postma, Hilde Komduur, Justin Smith, Martijn de Vries.

Board II

Eric Hooijer, David Wegner, Daniël Kemper, Bert Kasperma.

Board I

Geert Molenaar, Bo Olischlager, Sean Smith, Jonathan Key.

Founding Board

Sean Smith, Nanne Epema, Geert Molenaar.

Credits

Text & editing

Paula Bultstra

Mari Pool

Nena Veenstra

Demi Laan

Gilles Lijnzaad

Design & layout

Gilles Lijnzaad (document)

Demi Laan (Ganymedes' brand style)

Appendix

Gany Anthem

*To 'Born This Way' by Lady Gaga
by Sam Broer, Flip Lijnzaad and Mille van der Spoel
February 2019 (for the 2nd lustrum)*

[Couplet 1]

Toen ik verhuisde naar Groningen
zocht ik naar een plek voor mij
Tussen de huizen en de woningen
twijfel ik waar hoor ik bij

Toen zag ik daar ineens een regenboog,
ik dacht,
bij die mensen moet ik zijn
Ik had gelijk al iemand op het oog
m'n avond was toen heel erg fijn

[Refrein]

Bij alle kroegen geweest, maar nergens
is het zo'n feest
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes want daar
is het 't gayst
Kom als jezelf, voel je vrij, want iedereen
hoort erbij
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes, daar is
iedereen blij

Ben je trans of ben je gay, Ganymedes
ga je mee
Ganymedes ga je mee

Ben je bi of ben je ace, nergens is het
zo'n groot feest
Ga-ny-medes, daar is het het gayst

[Couplet 2]

Feestjes en borrels, gezelligheid
Commissieavond tussendoor
Met elke week weer een activiteit
Kom je deze week wel door

Op deze plekken voel ik me thuis
Bij de Prins of bij de Tram
Ga 's avonds altijd pas heel laat naar
huis
Als ik bij deze mensen ben

[Refrein]

Bij alle kroegen geweest, maar nergens
is het zo'n feest
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes want daar
is het 't gayst
Kom als jezelf, voel je vrij, want iedereen
hoort erbij
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes, daar is
iedereen blij

Ben je trans of ben je gay, Ganymedes
ga je mee
Ganymedes ga je mee
Ben je bi of ben je ace, nergens is het
zo'n groot feest
Ga-ny-medes, daar is het het gayst

[Bridge]

Don't be a drag, just be a queen
Hier heb je 't zeker wel gezien
Regenboog over the place
Lesbian, trans, bi or ace!

Non-binair met mega flair
Pots and pans go clap your hands
Gender bender left and right
(Get your shine on!)

[Refrein]

Bij alle kroegen geweest, maar nergens
is het zo'n feest
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes want daar
is het 't gayst
Kom als jezelf, voel je vrij, want iedereen
hoort erbij
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes, daar is
iedereen blij

Ben je trans of ben je gay, Ganymedes
ga je mee
Ganymedes ga je mee
Ben je bi of ben je ace, nergens is het
zo'n groot feest
Ga-ny-medes, daar is het het gayst

[Outro]

Elke week is het feest
Elke week is het feest
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes want daar
is het het gayst
Elke week is het feest
Elke week is het feest
Dus kom naar Ga-ny-medes want daar
is het het gayst

Ganymedes Slang

Ganymedes wouldn't be a Dutch student association without the use of student slang. We made a (very basic) list of some words you might come across during your membership.

- **Gany** = Ganymedes.
Example: "Things are going really well for Gany."
- **Ganymedians** = members of Ganymedes.
Example: "It was lovely to see so many Ganymedians there."
- **-Cie/-Cee** = short for committee.
Example: "I'm gonna sign up for the PromoCie."
- **Consti** (used in Groningen) / **CoBo** (used anywhere else) = constitution drinks.
Example: "They had to go home by taxi after the consti."
- **KEI-week** = the yearly introduction week for new students in Groningen.
Example: "Ganymedes has a lot of interesting activities planned for KEI-week."
- **Afko** = afkorting (abbreviation - usually made up by students).
Example: "I just learned a new afko: esma, meaning espresso martini."
- **BVO'tje** = Biertje Voor Onderweg (a beer for on the road).
Example: "I didn't finish my beer in time - ah well, it's a BVO'tje now."
- **Kwarrel** = kwaliteitsscharrel (quality fling).
Example: "It's not a relationship, it's a kwarrel."
- **LaBo** = Laffe Borrelaar (cowardly drinker).
Example: "They're not at the drinks tonight? Such a LaBo! (But we love them.)"
- **Adtje** = downing your glass at once (from the Neo-Latin term 'ad fundum', which means 'until the bottom').
Example: "After the new board was installed, their President had to do an Adtje."
- **Active Member** = someone who has organised something for Ganymedes during the year - be it as part of a committee, as a member's initiative, or a different service (like writing an intro guide, ahem).
Example: "I am planning on becoming an Active Member."

We encourage you to come up with your own Ganymedes slang as well! Nothing like some language innovation. ;)

UNA IN DIVERSITATE!

