

WeDecolonizeVUB: *Open call for students*



Are you passionate about creating a more just society free of racism, colonialism and coloniality? WeDecolonizeVUB is looking for a group of 12 students to join the board next academic year 2024-2025 and organize activities with a decolonial lens! New to the project is that participants will be offered unique training program. Through different opportunities and experiences, such as **masterclasses** and **excursions**, students in the board will get the opportunity to network, develop new skills, learn more about decolonization and antiracism and **put all these skills and knowledges into practice** by organizing events, writing blog posts, going into dialogue with higher education actors, etc.

What is WeDecolonizeVUB?

WeDecolonizeVUB (WDVUB) is a student project of UCOS (University Centre for Development Cooperation). Since its creation by a group of racialized students at the VUB in 2020, WeDecolonizeVUB has served as a platform, a learning hub, a safer space and much more to (re)center racialized communities in higher education.

WeDecolonizeVUB has three main goals. Firstly, we want to **deconstruct the Eurocentric vision on knowledge** and knowledge production at the university and by extension society as a whole. Secondly, we want to **claim space** on campus for racialized students, which includes creating safer spaces, and put them at the centre of our working. And thirdly, we aim to create and foster **a community** of students united by principles of social justice, community and solidarity and an interest in decolonization and antiracism.

The project tries to accomplish these goals through its different facets. WeDecolonizeVUB exists of a decolonial library, a series of events, social media and a blog that are all managed by the board. On the other hand, we offer workshops, excursions and masterclasses to the board members. As such, you delve into the topics with your peers and develop the necessary skills to translate your ideas into concrete action. Working with partners from different sectors will also allow you to build a diverse and valuable personal network.

Have a look at [our Instagram](#) to see what we have created over the past three years!

Why do we exist?

We believe it is crucial to create spaces that are safer, where the experiences and knowledges of racialized communities are validated and centered and the dominant Western worldview is challenged and deconstructed. The importance of such spaces is further underlined by the current genocide taking place in Palestine and the violence against students protesting the complicity of Western academia.

What will you do?

Together with 11 other motivated students you will form the board and the beating heart of the project. Starting from your own experiences, ideas, interests, needs, joys and/or frustrations you will **collectively organize different events and activities** related to decolonization and antiracism. These can be panel talks, book talks, poetry nights, workshops, etc. During the regular meetings you will prepare these events with your teammates. Within the board you will be part of a specific working group: co-coordination, events, library, student affairs or communication/blog. In March you will organize **the (W)rightup!**: a one-day festival where you will have the chance to invite a decolonial thinker.

At the same time you will follow **a unique training trajectory** filled with master classes, workshops and excursions. This is a new trajectory, that will be organized by two project coordinators of UCOS, who will also support you throughout the entire academic year, and will be based on your collective needs.

What does the program look like?

Some dates you can already keep in mind...

- The academic year starts with **the board weekend** from 4/10/2024 until 6/10/2024 where you will get to know each other and the project, exchange on the topics, and start planning the academic year.
- At the beginning of the second semester, there will be **a working day** in the week of 10/02/2025 - 16/02/2025 for collecting ideas and inspiration for the second semester.
- From 07/02/2025 until 09/02/2025 there is **the interuniversity board weekend**, where you will meet with other students from other racialized student organizations. This weekend is optional.
- In March you will organize the **(W)rightup!** For this one-day large scale event, you will invite the chosen decolonial thinker and have a conversation on the themes you have touched upon and were important throughout the academic year.
- The activities will be finalised at the end of May.

Throughout the year, you will be organizing different activities and we will offer you several workshops. These dates will be decided upon during the first board weekend in October.

Open positions

- **Co-coordinator**
 - Prepare and chair meetings
 - Manage mailbox
 - Follow up different working groups and maintain overview
 - Guard over the vision and mission of WDVUB
 - Create a safe working environment within the team
 - Point of contact for members
 - Public speaking
 - Central point of contact
 - Lay contact with external partners
 - Lay contact with social movements and other ethnic minority student associations on campus
 - Provide feedback to UCOS
- **Communication and/or blog manager**
 - Manage social media
 - Manage the WeDecolonizeVUB blog and write articles/look for guest authors
 - Graphic design through tools such as Canva, Photoshop, etc.
 - Write texts and captions
 - Think of creative ways to promote our events and activities
 - Answer incoming questions via social media inbox
 - Follow up and share interesting cultural activities
- **Librarian**
 - Make an inventory of the collection
 - Manage new purchases
 - Shifts in the library
 - Publicity for the library (e.g. blog posts and reviews)
 - Organize book clubs, reading circles, writer's talks, ...
- **Events manager**
 - Create events within the mission and vision of WDVUB
 - Be aware of current world events and take action to organize around these events
 - Work out events (location, drawing up a script, etc.)
 - Follow up on events aftermath (payment, etc.)
- **Student affairs manager**
 - Think about community building among the members
 - Lay contact with other student organizations
 - Manage the members and volunteers group
 - Keep in touch with the needs and topics that live within the racialized communities at campus
 - Show (new) students the way around university
 - Help students with dealing with problems, referring them to institutions such as study guidance
 - Shift in library to stay in contact with the students/visitors and be visible

How to apply?

You can sign up for a position by filling in [this Google form](#). After filling this in, you will be sent an assignment and will be invited for an introductory meeting to get to know the project and the project coordinators.

The meeting will take place based on your availabilities.

The **deadline for national students is Sunday 28/07**.

The **deadline for international students is Sunday 22/09** (applying sooner is highly welcomed).

Don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or concerns. You can always reach out via mail: bengisu.girenizli@ucos.be or daisy.vandevorst@ucos.be.

WeDecolonizeVUB is made possible thanks to

