



This December, first-year students will finalize Modules 1 and 4 and begin Modules 2 and 5. Many second-year students have already started their thesis this academic year and will present their midterms in Utrecht. This newsletter includes information about the contact weeks in Utrecht, a message from NODE with details about the upcoming GIS Career Day, and general reminders concerning GIMA. We warmly welcome the new Programme Committee members and Student Ambassadors in this newsletter. Best of luck to everyone during the contact weeks in Utrecht!

Kaitlyn Fenster, MSc
GIMA Secretary | gima.geo@uu.nl | November 2025

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Contact Weeks Utrecht



The upcoming **Contact Weeks** will start on **Monday, 1 December 2025**, and **conclude on Friday, 12 December 2025** in Utrecht. Over these two weeks, we will wrap up Modules 1 and 4 (in the first week) and launch Modules 2 and 5 (in both weeks). For second-year full-time students, this period includes midterm presentations, and a graduation ceremony is scheduled for recent graduates.

You'll have lectures across the following buildings (accessible via Google Maps):

- **BBG:** Buys Ballotgebouw (Princetonplein 5)
- **Educ:** Educatorium (Leuvenlaan 19)
- **Ruppert:** Marinus Ruppertgebouw (Leuvenlaan 21)
- **VMA:** Vening Meinesz Building A (Princetonlaan 8)
- **VMC:** Vening Meinesz building C (Princetonlaan 6)
- **KBG:** Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw (Budapestlaan 4a-b)
- **Bestuursgebouw:** (Heidelberglaan 8)

More information on the buildings can also be found on the [UU website](#).

The detailed **schedule for the contact days** is available and may receive minor updates leading up to the event. You can access the timetable on **Brightspace > Communities > GIMA: General Information > Content > Programme information > GIMA Time Tables > GIMA Contact Days 2025-2026**. Module-specific details, like study guides, are also on Brightspace under their respective courses.

Midterms, Defenses, Graduation and Borrel on 3 & 4 December 2025



Most second-year GIMA students have been diligently working on their theses or internships this academic year. The midterm presentations and thesis defenses are scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 December 2025 (9:00–17:00)** and **Thursday, 4 December 2025 (9:00–17:00)**. A separate time schedule will be available on Brightspace.

During midterm presentations, two GIMA students will act as peer reviewers. We encourage all students to attend at least one other session, as it provides an invaluable learning experience and a solid preparation for future presentations. Congratulations to all students who have received the green light to defend their theses — we wish you all the best in your defenses!

We would also like to recognize and congratulate the students who have graduated since our last newsletter: Thomas Bonte, Djente van den Dries, Pleun Gottenbos (cum laude), Bart Hollink, Reinier van Kleef, Jelle Post, Jop Smeets, and Merlijn van de Wal.

The **graduation ceremony** will be held on **Thursday, 4 December 2025 (15:00–17:00)** in **Lava (formerly Bistro), Vening Meineszgebouw A.**

Note to all in GIMA: The student/staff borrel follows the graduation ceremony in the same location (VMA Lava) **from 17:00–18:30. All are welcome** to attend!

Dear GIMA students,

The year kicked off some time ago, and the months have flown by. The first years are tackling their assignments, while the second years are busy with their upcoming midterm deadline. But it's not all hard work - there's been plenty of fun, too! Firstly, of course, there was the amazing introduction in Enschede where had a lot of fun activities like a group dinner, playing pool, laser gaming, bouldering, and an unforgettable pub crawl with a crazy 88! During the first period we've had three BorrelNODEs at Walden, Mooie Boules, and Mick O'Connells and went on a company visit at Avineon-Tensing. Thanks to everyone for showing up and making each event a huge success!

With the Utrecht weeks starting in a few days, we have a lot of fun activities planned. After the first years are done with their exams they will have a nice group dinner, and on Thursday there will be a pub quiz for all GIMA students. Make sure to be there for the reveal of the destination of the NODE trip in March! In the second week, there will be a sports activity and a pub crawl. These are all made possible by our amazing internal committee: Janna, Jurian, Roos, Timo, Toon, Vidu, and Wouter!

Besides all these leisure activities, **the annual GIS career day will be held on Friday the 12th of December in the KBG hall.** This career day is organised by the external committee consisting of: Anushka, Karian, Lika, Mason, and Pelin. Make sure to show up to meet with many different companies, potential internships or thesis supervisors and expand your network. There will be food, exciting workshops, speeches, a pub quiz with cool prizes and a borrel afterwards. **Make sure to subscribe** and we will see you there! For more information: <http://www.gima-node.nl/aboutthegiscareerday/>

Quick recap of the upcoming events:

- Wednesday 3-12: Post-exams group dinner
- Thursday 4-12: Pub quiz
- Tuesday 9-12: Squash
- Wednesday 10-12: Pub crawl
- Friday 12-12: GIS career day

Good luck with your upcoming exams and presentations, we will see you soon!

Geographic regards and lots of love,
The 11th board of NODE



GIMA Programme Committee

The GIMA Programme Committee (PC) welcomes two new members this academic year: staff PC member **Maarten Zeylmans van Emmichoven** and first-year student representative **Pelin Erginer**. Pelin has joined the current second and third-year representatives to bring a student perspective to program discussions and improvements. The committee is chaired by faculty from Utrecht University, with members from all partner institutions working together to support and guide the GIMA program.

The PC meets regularly to discuss priorities, gather feedback from students and staff, and address any issues related to the program. Meeting notes from these sessions can be accessed on **Brightspace > Communities > GIMA: General Information > Content > Programme Committee**.

GIMA Student Ambassadors

We're pleased to introduce our new GIMA Student Ambassadors, **Carmel Suchard and Jasper Goldschmidtboïng!** They represent GIMA at master's open days, give presentations, and assist prospective students with any questions they may have. They also recently represented GIMA at the **GeoBuzz** conference, a major geo-information event to connect with students and professionals interested in the field.

Thank you to Carmel and Jasper for taking on this role and helping build a strong GIMA community!

Course evaluations

Course evaluations are an essential part of the GIMA program's continuous improvement. After each module, evaluations are conducted via Caracal, with additional feedback gathered through discussions with the module coordinator on the last contact day. This feedback is reviewed by both the Programme Committee and individual course coordinators to make improvements for future classes. **Students will receive an email when the Caracal evaluations have been posted and are ready to fill in.**

Please remember to complete the evaluations after each module, as your input is invaluable to enhancing the learning experience.

Graduation information

If you have questions about the graduation process, you can find detailed information on the GIMA student website [here](#). This page includes the final hand-in dates for grades, which are essential for determining your official graduation date. For students completing their studies with an internship, it's recommended to arrange with your internship supervisor the report submission date and grading deadline, as supervisors have up to ten working days to submit your grade. The official date of your graduation is determined by when your final grade is submitted to Utrecht University.

After you've graduated, you have two options for receiving your diploma: you can either collect it in person from Student Affairs Geosciences in Utrecht or attend one of the GIMA graduation ceremonies. Please note that the graduation ceremony is a celebratory event and does not coincide with your official graduation date.

The graduation ceremony schedule for this academic year is as follows:

Graduation Date in the Month	Graduation Ceremony
May, June, or July	Enschede (September)
August, September, or October	Utrecht (December)
November, December, or January	Wageningen (March/April)
February, March, or April	Delft (June/July)

Please check carefully the hand-in date for the month of your graduation date.

Approximately one month before your assigned ceremony, the GIMA Secretary will contact you to confirm your attendance and inquire about the number of guests you plan to bring. Following this, the GIMA Programme Director will send an official invitation with the ceremony's details, including time and location.

If you would like to attend a different ceremony than the one assigned to your graduation date, please inform the GIMA Secretary and Programme Director as early as possible. For example, if you graduate in August but wish to attend the ceremony in September in Enschede instead of December in Utrecht, they will do their best to accommodate your request. However, attending an earlier ceremony may not always be feasible, and we cannot guarantee guest accommodations in these cases.

If you have additional questions, please contact the **GIMA Secretary** (gima.geo@uu.nl) or **Programme Director** (gima_pd@uu.nl).

GIMA online information sources

To stay informed about the program, including schedules, study guides, and module information, be sure to check **Brightspace** regularly for the latest updates. The primary online resources include:

- **Programme Catalogue:** Detailed information on the program, individual modules, staff contacts, and regulations.
- **Study Guides:** Module-specific study guides available on Brightspace.
- **Year Schedule:** Lists all key dates, including contact weeks and thesis presentations.
- **Timetable:** Provides the latest schedules for contact days. A new timetable is typically uploaded a few weeks before each contact period, but check Brightspace shortly before each session for updates.

These resources, available on Brightspace and the UU student page, are essential for navigating the GIMA program.

Find MSc GIMA on social media

For non-academic updates, such as job opportunities, events, and news in the geo-information field, join the **GIMA LinkedIn group**. This platform connects students, alumni, and faculty, allowing everyone to stay informed and engaged with the wider GIMA and geo-information community. All GIMA students and alumni are encouraged to join and participate in our [GIMA LinkedIn group!](#)