

TSH Research Traineeships 2016

1. Projecttitel

Passing on freedom.

A digital monument for Tilburg University's community.

2. Project coordinators

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3. Project summary

On the 11th of May 2015, the Tilburg Cobbenhagen Center organized an [Academic Memorial](#) in the honor of Professor Martinus Cobbenhagen and his students during World War II. This memorial marked the beginning of a regional memorialization project called 'Passing on Freedom' (i.e. Vrijheid Doorgeven), which will continue throughout 2016-2017 and will result in a book publication, a TV-documentary, an education line for secondary schools, and a digital monument.

Crowdfunding

For the realization and development of the last product – the digital monument – the Tilburg Cobbenhagen Center has started a crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2015. The digital

monument will result into a website on which at least nineteen stories of the students who died during the war are portrayed. In an interactive way these stories will then be thematically connected to the stories of today's students. Tilburg University aims at engaging its students to committed citizens of the world. The question 'What does freedom mean to me?' is essential for an university that considers diversity one of its core values and stimulates international exchange, as with it a great plurality of stories and histories is introduced on its campus through the multitude of nationalities and backgrounds of its students.

Digital monument

Together with students from the TSH and a creative software company, the Tilburg Cobbenhagen Center aspires to develop a website that is to function as a digital monument. Also after the development of the website the Tilburg Cobbenhagen Center remains responsible for its content.

In the first place, the digital monument is to be a source of knowledge about the regional history of war (amongst which are the portraits and stories about the resistance of Prof Cobbenhagen and his students during the Second World War). Secondly, the digital monument is to function as a meeting ground by offering a platform for a wide spectrum of stories and histories. In particular, it should facilitate discussion and exchange between various communities in the Netherlands.

The visitor of the digital monument is not only an observer, but is also invited to become an active participant in the development of a community of memorialization that crosses various social and political boundaries. Questions such as: 'what is freedom to you?', 'Which choices do you make when your or someone else's freedom is threatened?', 'What makes a choice right?', 'Which values matter in making a choice?', are central in the development of the digital monument and the interaction of the visitor with the digital monument.

In short, the digital monument is:

- 1) A website on which Tilburg's students, who died in the resistance during the Second World War, will be commemorated. This shall be done via (written) portraits of said students and additional visual and autobiographical materials. After registration, visitors themselves are also offered the possibility to add materials to enrich the digital monument.
- 2) Through the development of the website and its interactive modules, the core themes that connect the stories of the student in the Second World War and students today are explored. Furthermore, through the interviews with Tilburg University's own students, the connection between the ideals of the past and today's principles is sketched.
- 3) The ideals and themes will be distilled into articles that are to be written by the academic community.

Research-assistants

Two research-assistants are needed in 2016, who in cooperation with the project-coordinators, will develop the digital monument (2 x 0,15 fte). This includes the development of the ideas, content, website and working together with a creative software company. Moreover, the research-assistants will be responsible for collecting substantive information for the monument. This also entails setting up and executing an interview project on the TiU campus in which approximately 30-50 students will be asked about their ideas on freedom and experiences with war and conflict. These stories will then be connected by the research assistants to the stories of the students back in 1940-1945 and are also placed on the digital monument. In other words, the dilemma's students had to face in 1940-1945 – 'Do I sign a declaration of loyalty? Do I join the resistance? Also if that means risking my friendships or my studies?' – are connected to issues students are concerned with in today's society. The interview project is based on qualitative research. Hence, the research assistants will also be asked to develop an interview protocol. Moreover, the data collected in the interviews are to be distilled into journalist portraits by the research assistants.

NB. The set-up of the monument is in principle Dutch (due to the regional character of the project) and the website will be updated and maintained by the research assistants in the first months after its launch.

4. Project Itiniary

January-February 2016	Initial historical and thematic research 'Passing on Freedom'
March-April 2016	Development of a basic format for the website with a software company and the TiU web-team
May-June 2016	Development of the historical content of the website (archive research in cooperation with partners)
Juli-August 2016	Development actual content website (qualitative research/ interview project university campus)
September-October 2016	Development of a communication plan (regional and national) and an event for the launch of the digital monument
November-December 2016	Updates and maintenance of the digital monument

5. Profile Research Trainee

What are we looking for?

For the development of the digital monument – in cooperation with a professional software company – we are looking for two pro-active, cooperative, and creative students that are connected to one of the bachelor (year 3!) or masters within the TSH. Due to interdisciplinary set up of the project and the knowledge and skills needed for the job, our preference goes out to two master students from two different Bachelor- or Mastertracks. Moreover, affinity with historical research and science journalism is desirable, as is an excellent oral and written skills in both the Dutch and English language. Ideally, candidates are able to combine this project with a graduation project on digital and visual story-telling. Furthermore, in consultation with the TSH internship coordinator, the possibility to accredit the position of research-assistant as an extra-curricular research internship can be explored.

What do we offer?

The research-assistants will be a part of a very enthusiastic and interdisciplinary project-team. As can be observed below, the project planning has been divided into six phase in which you will learn various important research skills.

Onderzoeksfase	Vaardigheden
1. Initial historical and thematic research ‘Passing on Freedom’	Project coordination, literature study
2. Development of the basic format in cooperation with a software company and TiU webteam.	Professional communication and networking skills

3. Development historical content website (archive research with partners)	Historical research
4. Development of actual website content (qualitative research/ interview project university campus)	Qualitative research, interview skills, data-analysis, writing skills
5. Development promotion plan (regional and national) and organisation of an event for the launch of the digital monument.	Organisational skills and media training
6. Maintenance and updates digital monument	Target group policy

In concrete terms, the project will result in 1.) The development of a digital monument (website), 2.) Articles in magazines and newspapers (in cooperation with project-coordinators) 3.) An event (launch website).

Interested?

You can apply until the 18th of January 2016 via cobbenhagencenter@tilburguniversity.edu by sending your motivation letter, your CV and a proposal (max. 1 A4) in which you shortly describe your ideas and vision for the development of a digital monument for Tilburg University’s community. The interviews will take place on the 20th and 21th of January (week 3).

For more information about the crowdfunding campaign and the digital monument, please visit:

- [Crowdfunding page](#)
- [Infographic](#)
- [Brochure](#)
- [TCC webpage](#)
- Follow the project on [Facebook](#) I [Twitter](#)