The Committees of IFMSA-Groningen

What is IFMSA-Groningen?
IFMSA-Groningen is a non-profit foundation with an international and idealistic character. IFMSA is not only located in Groningen, but also at 8 different medical faculties in the Netherlands. IFMSA is present in more than 110 countries and has a total of more than 1.3 million members.

In Groningen we consist of about 100 active members who volunteer to improve global health and thereby develop into students who dare to look beyond their own national borders. Every year IFMSA-Groningen organizes exchanges, internships and about 25 projects/activities. These projects fall under the 13 different committees that each highlight a different aspect of global health. In this way students can get to know subjects like sexual health, medical education, refugees and human rights, public health and European integration. Are you looking for a foundation/association where besides a lot of fun you can also do something for your society? Then IFMSA is for you!

Becoming a member at IFMSA-Groningen means choosing between being a passive member or an active member, the latter being that you become active within one of the committees. Below is a brief explanation of what all our committees do. In addition to being active within a committee, you can also participate in national and international activities.

SCOME – Standing Committee on Medical Education
This committee aims to offer additional education for students. These may be things that they feel are insufficiently highlighted in the current medical curriculum or that are a nice addition for the physician in the making. They do this by organizing activities for students outside the curriculum. In recent years, this committee has, among other things, put together a KPP family medicine. With this KPP, ‘Aches & Pains’, students learn more about home, garden and kitchen ailments. Furthermore, they organize the course Medical Spanish and Breaking the Silence every academic year. The latter is a course that aims to improve the relationship and communication with potential deaf patients. Sign language and deaf culture are discussed. In addition to these projects, SCOME always organizes one or more other projects, for example about how to take blood samples.
SCOPH-projecten – Standing Committee on Public Health, projects
This committee is involved in many activities in the field of public health and everything that can affect it. This is a very broad topic, with many opportunities and room for creativity. They organize the Organ Donor Project, which pays attention to awareness campaigns through street actions, workshops and lectures. They also give lessons about organ donation at secondary schools. In addition to this they try to raise awareness for stem cell- and blood donation. Next to this they organize interactive lectures about Dr. House and they organize a Mental Health Symposium for students yearly.

SCORCE – Standing Committee on Research and Clinical Exchange
This committee organizes four weeks of clinical internship for medical students from all around the world. During these internships students will join a physician in a clinical unit of their preference. Every year, they send more than 100 Dutch well prepared students abroad for a clinical internship. They receive about 90 foreign students here in the Netherlands. In addition to taking care of the internship, SCORCE also provides shelter and a social program for foreign students.

Furthermore, SCORCE offers students from countries affiliated with IFMSA the ability to join a research project abroad. This can be for a period of four to twelve weeks. Students have a large number of countries to choose from. Also, for foreign students, research places in the Netherlands are arranged and, just as with the clinical follow-up internships, a fun social program and shelter is provided.

SCORA – Standing Committee on Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS
This committee tries to draw attention to the issues surrounding STDs, HIV, unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence and to stimulate healthy sexual behavior. They do this by organizing various projects. The biggest project is Het Voorspel, where students are trained to give sex education in secondary schools. In addition, activities are organized on World Aids Day and SCORA tries to attractively draw attention to women’s rights on International Women’s Day. They give away condoms or organize a self-defense course for women.

SCOPH-stages – Standing Committee on Public Health, stages
This committee focuses on developmental aid by organizing internships for medical students. They provide clinical, but also non-clinical internships (such as teaching at a school) in developing countries such as Nepal and Ghana. The committee organizes an internship information evening together with SCORCE, selects the students who apply for an internship and has contact with the foreign countries.

SCORP – Standing Committee on Human Rights and Peace
This committee deals with all issues surrounding human rights and peace. They organized a lecture on doctors in conflict areas, a lecture on “The road of a Refugee”, a debate on the Millennium Development Goals and many more lectures on current issues. In addition, students have recently been given the chance to become active in various organizations regarding refugees and human rights as a volunteer. SCORP also gives information about human rights to secondary and primary school students.
Berendokter
The Berendokter committee trains students who visit the children’s departments of the UMCG and the Martini Hospital. Here, the students offer the ill children distraction by letting them play the doctor of their sick teddies. The members of the committee also take part themselves in the ‘Berendokteren’. They also maintain contact with the UMCG and Martini Hospital and ensure that enough material is available every year.

TBH – Teddy Bear Hospital
This committee works all year toward one week in which children visit the hospital with their “ill” teddy bears. Several elementary schools from the area participate in this big project and even newspapers report about the event. Together with students the children “heal” their teddy bear in the Teddy Bear Hospital. The goal here is to take away to take away any preexisting fear of the hospital.

Mini-TBH – Mini Teddy Bear Hospital
This committee visits schools that cannot go to the regular Teddy Bear Hospital themselves. You can think of special education schools or schools that give education to refugees. The committee brings bears and materials to the school. This will set up a mini hospital, so the children can play doctor and make the teddy bear better.

Konijntje Medicijntje
The committee Konijntje Medicijntje aims to prevent drug poisoning in children. They do this by educating students so that they can teach in primary schools about medicines and the pharmacy. Toddlers often have no idea what effects drugs have and during this project this is explained in a playful way. During a lesson, for example, the children will make medicine boxes and pills.

SSGH – Summer School on Global Health
SSGH organizes a ten-day summer program for students from all over the world. Together with the other members they create the educational program that focuses on Global Health, but also the social events like the parties or Dutch pancakes eating. Next to this they make sure that there is accommodation for the foreign students.

TP – Twinning Project
This committee organizes an exchange between European medical students. The project lasts two weeks, during which students learn about each other’s medical curriculum, culture and social life. The committee makes contact with the country that they want to have an exchange with and organize the activities for the exchange in their own country.

AvD - Ambassadeurs van de Duurzaamheid
This committee was established in the year 2017-2018 and is therefore still a fairly new one. This committee was created in collaboration with Green Office. As the name implies, the committee is focused on sustainability. They look form possible improvements in sustainability at the medical faculty, such as look at the use of light and paper.

If you have any questions about IFMSA you can mail to groningen@ifmsa.nl or come visit us in our room at the end of the board hall (Room S22). You can find us there on Mondays from 13:00 - 16:00 and on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 13:00. You can also visit facebook.com/IFMSA-Groningen, instagram.com/ifmsa_groningen/ or our website: ifmsa.nl/groningen.