



## Digital Student Card

From Student Party SAM  
To The University Council  
12 December 2019

## Introduction

In 2020 a new staff member is set to be hired to re-evaluate the use of the student card. Student Party SAM has created the following initiative to support this new project and to share our ideas in this matter. We as SAM believed digitising the student card is the most efficient way going forward. The amount of student cards being produced is, due to the growth of the university, growing rapidly. Up to now, the order rate of the student cards has grown by 50%. That is kilo's of extra paper and plastic being wasted on a card that is barely used by the students of Tilburg University. The Tilburg University student card has lost most of its purpose: the coffee machines now require the use of regular bank cards, students can identify themselves at exams using an ID and printing can be done with an OV chipcard. These are all cards that students have with them daily. This and their mobile phones. Therefore, SAM suggests to digitise the student card.

## Digitising the Student Card

Integrating the student card into Tilburg University saves money, is efficient and is sustainable. In this day and age, no one ever forgets their phone: so no student will ever be without their university card. This means forgetting your student card will no longer be punished by, for example, not getting access to the Tilburg University library. Elsewhere, digitising the student card means a shorter waiting time for students to receive their student card (as soon as enrollment is completed) and deduces overcrowdedness at the student desk; especially at the beginning of the year.

## Integration into the MyTiu app

The current MyTiu app is directly linked to students' osiris and schedule. The same App software is used by Universiteit Utrecht (named the 'MyUU' app) and this app allows the digital student card as an option.

## The use of a QR-Code

One of the things that students do still need the student card for is for access to the library during examination periods. The student card as shown in figure 1 does not yet have a QR code. The daypasses used for access to the library also make use of QR codes to grant access. Therefore, a scanner is already available in the acces gates, meaning no new scanners need to be installed. Creating a QR code that is unique to a student number and implementing this should solve this issue.



## Sustainability

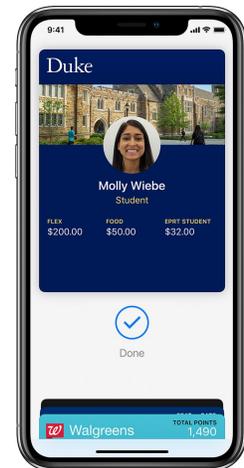
Apart from the financial savings, the implementation of the digital student card also saves yearly on the use of plastic, paper and ink. This is immediately inline with the strategic plan of 2018-2021: “we are committed to sustainability in the day-to-day running of our campus. Limit our own negative impact on the environment and -even better- actively contribute to delivering solutions.”

## International Legitimacy/ Exchange Students

When first implemented at Utrecht University, there were many concerns as to whether the Student Card would be perceived as legitimate abroad. To solve this, an official statement has been uploaded on the Utrecht University website, that states the official use of the digital student card (appendix 1). Alternatively, Tilburg University has the option to collaborate with ISIC (International Student Identity Card), for their students going on an exchange, for a small rate of 5 euros. Or the option for outgoing exchange students to buy a physical Tilburg University student card can also be made available.

## The use of E-Wallets

Another possible option is for the student card to be made available via E-Wallet or Android Pay (or other available alternatives). This would save the cost and procedure of implementing a new function into the MyTiu app. The implementation of the card into E-Wallets also allows for a QR code to immediately be added into the same application.



## Student Boards

Another concern that may occur is the access to buildings for students, especially student boards' access to the key closets. Student Party SAM proposes to keep a limited amount of physical cards that are linked to the associations. These can be handed down to successors and therefore the production of these cards will be minimal. An example of this idea can be seen in figure 3.

