Healthcare Humanities: A master's program for deepening understanding of healthcare's complexity

In September 2026, Radboud University launched a new master's program, Healthcare Humanities, designed to provide inter- and transdisciplinary education – various social sciences and the humanities - focused on complex healthcare challenges. In a two-hour workshop, several of the program's professors will present you the program's rationale, show an example from their educational approach, and guide a reflective discussion on the value and impact of such a program.

The example focuses on educating the virtue of empathy in healthcare professionals. It is specifically aimed at fostering empathy toward patients with severe mental health issues. While we expect our residents and young professionals to provide appropriate care for these patients from the outset, comprehensive training is often lacking. Together with students, experts by experience, and psychiatrists, we developed four training modules. In these modules, medical master's students are offered a dedicated space to practice key components of empathy, including imaginative engagement, awareness of bodily attunement, and the development of practical wisdom. The arts—such as literature and drama—serve as stimuli to support these practices, providing concrete opportunities to strengthen empathic skills.

This workshop offers participants a firsthand experience of some elements of the program, along with the opportunity to engage and interact with fellow colleagues.