

# How-to Pandora

## Pandora Campus Map

When solving puzzles, make use of the map of the campus. The one Pandora uses is located here: [https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/pandora\\_campusmap.pdf](https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/pandora_campusmap.pdf).

Please note that we maintain the compass that is displayed on the supplied map. This compass points towards campus north, which is not exactly north. This means that a real compass does not point to the correct direction.

## Restricted Areas

Some areas are restricted during Pandora. For instance, The Horst is off limits. A map with all restricted areas can be found at [https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/pandora\\_campusmap.pdf](https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/pandora_campusmap.pdf).

## Translations

Pandora is held in English, but most names of buildings and works of art are in Dutch. To help international students with associating puzzle answers with locations a list with translations is provided.

Translated buildings <https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/TranslationsOfBuildingNames.pdf>

Translated works of art <https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/TranslationsOfWorksOfArt.pdf>

**Note: It might also be useful for Dutch students to have a look at these files.**

## GPS Coordinates

When puzzles involve GPS coordinates, use the Google Maps Coordinate System.

## Useful links

- Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
- Lyrics: <https://genius.com>
- Ciphers & cryptography:
  - <https://www.dcode.fr/en>
  - <https://hashtoolkit.com/>
  - <https://cryptii.com/>
- Maps:
  - <https://www.google.com/maps>
  - [https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/pandora\\_campusmap.pdf](https://iapandora.nl/media/pdf/pandora_campusmap.pdf)
  - <https://maps.utwente.nl/>

## List of tips for puzzle-solving

- No puzzle is as difficult as it seems
- Some puzzles are really as easy as they seem
- Read the instructions carefully
  - The title is often an important hint, or function as an indicator that you are on the right track
  - Language is not always unambiguous, often there are "hidden" meanings in a sentence that may be relevant
  - Normally, Pandora is in English, but a title in another language often means that this puzzle does not work in English, but in that language
- Think about what you're looking for, and how that information may be hidden in the puzzle
- Think 'outside the box', do not just make assumptions, be open to new interpretations of existing structures
- Rarely there is unnecessary information in a puzzle, so things that seem insignificant can be of great value
- Things that are not described in a puzzle can be just as important as things that are (why are these things omitted?)
- It's never bad to let someone else from your team have a look at the puzzle. Take note of what the other is thinking, without sending them in certain directions
- Check your work. Did you make any calculation errors? Did one of your teammates make any calculation errors? When it's late small mistakes can have big consequences.
- Associate, associate, associate. Not only with things on campus, but with everything.
- Count the things you see. Numbers are often a reference to a known set, such as 52 (a pack of cards) or 26 (letters)
- Look at the title again
- If you get stuck:
  - Check whether the title contains a hint
  - Type everything in Google
  - Did the organisation provide you with things besides the puzzle? (Pack of cards, a link to a website)
  - Sort things in alphabetical order
  - Try to make an anagram of the (first) letters
  - Check whether it's a Caesar encryption
  - Translate letters to numbers (A = 1 / ASCII / etc.)
  - Look at the xth letter of each word (Is x given / calculated? Does x differ per word?)
  - Try to search for synonyms of the words
  - Translate the numbers to words (A = 1 / ASCII / etc.)
  - Try to change the number system (decimal to binary, binary to hexadecimal etc)
  - Check if the numbers represent a date

- Check if the numbers represent coordinates
- Check if the numbers represent a building number
- Check if the numbers represent an ISBN
- Check if the numbers are prime
- Check if any known series can be constructed with them (Taylor, Power, etc.)
- Try to mirror the puzzle
- Make a negative of the puzzle
- View the puzzle upside down
- Read the puzzle out loud to a team member
- Fold the puzzle in a certain way
- Connect the points
- Check if the dots represent braille code
- Check if the dots represent morse code
- Check if the dots correspond to places on the campus map (place a map over the puzzle)
- Try to follow your instinct
- Try to follow a team member's instinct
- Explain what you tried to another team member
- Try to brute force the puzzle
- Go kill other teams and look at the puzzle at a later time with a fresh mind
- Request a hint in exchange for 10 of your precious points