

School System Redesign



UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS AND HUMAN SCIENCES
IN WARSAW

Name: Patrick Strzelczyk

Student ID: 53120

Table Of Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Purpose

1.2 Redesign Overview

5. Information Architecture

5.1 Sitemap Comparison

5.2 User Flow Summary

5.3 UI Elements Used

2. Background & System Analysis

2.1 Current Student System Overview

2.2 Key Problems Identified

6. Design Showcase

6.1 Page-by-Page Walkthrough

6.2 Key Improvements Over the Original

3. Student Research & Feedback

3.1 Insight

7. References and Inspiration

7.1 Visual References

4. New System Concept

4.1 Vision and Goals

4.2 Design Objectives

4.3 Color and Typography

4.4 Accessibility Features

8. Final Reflections

8.1 Summary of the Redesign

8.2 Lessons Learned

1. Introduction

➤ 1.1 Project Purpose

- The goal of this project was to revamp the Vizja student portal in order to enhance the overall student experience, usability, and navigation. Although it works, the **current system is unclear and does not meet design standards**, which makes it challenging for students to effectively access important academic resources. The goal of the makeover is to **produce a more streamlined, user-friendly interface that puts students needs first**, speeding up and simplifying processes like scheduling checks, grade viewing, and application submission.

➤ 1.2 Redesign Overview

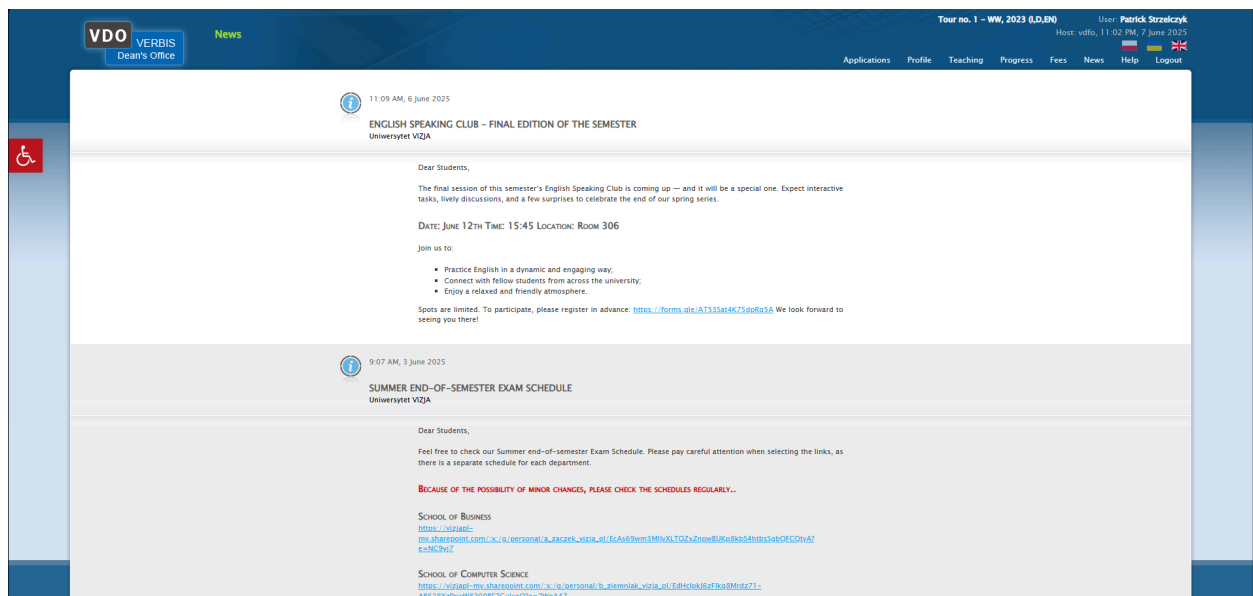
- The redesigned portal introduces a more organized and student-centered interface, addressing many of the structural and usability issues found in the original system. By improving the **visual hierarchy, grouping related features, and streamlining navigation**, the new design allows students to access essential tools with fewer clicks and less confusion. The updated layout also reflects a more modern and accessible visual language while maintaining the university's branding.
- In this project, I focused on redesigning the following key pages and features: **Profile Page, Landing Page, Calendar Page, Applications Page, and Login Page**

2. Background & System Analysis

➤ 2.1 Current Student System Overview

- The existing Vizja student portal provides access to essential academic tools such as course schedules, grades, applications, profile details, and payment information. While the

system contains the core functionality needed by students, it presents information in a cluttered and disconnected way. Features are often spread across multiple tabs or hidden within dropdowns, requiring unnecessary navigation to perform basic tasks. The visual design is outdated, with inconsistent layouts and limited use of hierarchy, which can make it difficult for students to find what they need quickly. Overall, the system functions but not with the clarity or ease students expect.



➤ **2.2 Key Problems Identified**

- While the current AEH student system provides access to core tools such as announcements, payment tracking, applications, and scheduling, the structure and user experience present several major challenges. Key information like announcements and updates is buried in long, scroll heavy pages that offer no filtering, categorization, or visibility beyond posting date. The applications section is especially fragmented features are distributed across multiple tabs, many of which display blank states or duplicate options, making it difficult to understand what actions are needed. Payments are displayed in dense tables with minimal visual guidance, and there's little clarity around status or urgency. Additionally, the interface suffers from visual clutter, outdated design language, and inconsistent navigation. Student feedback highlighted frequent frustration with the number of clicks required to access basic functions, the lack of mobile-friendliness, and confusion about where to find certain tools (e.g., request forms or exam schedules). Overall, these limitations not only slow down basic tasks but also increase cognitive load and reduce the feeling of control within the system.

3. Student Research & Feedback

➤ **3.1 Key Student Insights**

- From our research, several consistent themes emerged, Lack of clarity and structure: Students found the current system's structure overwhelming. As one participant put it, "There are too many options at the top and I never know where things will take me."
- Others said the feeling of being unsure where to begin once logged in. Poor use of visual hierarchy, Important items like upcoming deadlines, application progress, or unread messages were often hidden in small text or placed too low on the page.
- Applications tab was particularly confusing: Students were unsure what status labels like "To complement" or "Historic" meant.

- Outdated visual design made the experience feel tedious. Students used terms like “old school,” “boring,” and “like an admin panel from 2005.” While this didn’t prevent use, it affected motivation and made even simple tasks feel heavier.
- High interest in centralization of updates: Multiple students mentioned they wanted a single place to see everything relevant to them today announcements, deadlines, class schedules rather than jumping through multiple tabs.

4. New System Concept

➤ 4.1 Vision and Goals

- The vision for the redesigned Vizja student portal is to create a modern, intuitive platform that puts student needs and daily tasks at the forefront. Rather than functioning as a static, form-heavy system, the goal is to deliver a responsive experience where information is easy to access, visually prioritized, and logically grouped. Students should be able to log in and immediately understand their schedule, deadlines, academic standing, and outstanding tasks. The redesigned system aims to reduce clutter, simplify workflows, and elevate the portal from a passive tool into an active academic companion. By focusing on usability, consistency, and visual clarity, the new design ensures that students can complete core tasks like checking payments, submitting applications, or viewing announcements with less effort and fewer clicks.

➤ 4.2 Design Objectives

- The primary objective of the new design was to restructure the student portal in a way that enhances usability while maintaining consistency across all pages. Each screen was carefully organized to minimize clutter and create predictable, easy-to-navigate layouts. The left-aligned sidebar was introduced to the profile page to provide quick access to core modules like messages, fees, profile details, and academic progress ensuring students always know where they are and how to move between sections. Another major goal was to consolidate redundant or spread-out content. For example, applications that were

previously split across multiple unclear tabs are now unified into a single, scrollable view with filter support. The calendar pages were reimagined to function more like weekly planners, with clear visuals for events and classes, and navigation arrows to flip between weeks. Overall, the design emphasizes clarity, task orientation, and reduced cognitive effort making the experience more user-friendly without overwhelming the student

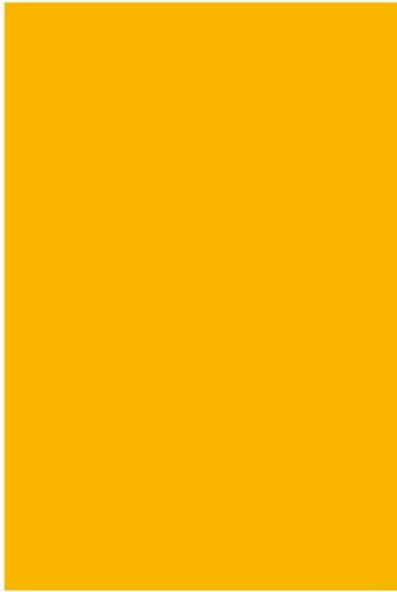
➤ **4.3 Color and Typography**

- Color System: The redesigned system uses a refined color palette that balances modern professionalism with institutional identity. Each color has a specific role in enhancing user experience:
- Primary Highlight: **#FBB800** – A vibrant golden yellow that draws attention to key interactive elements (e.g., buttons, links, page titles). It represents energy and urgency in a subtle academic tone.
- Primary Background/Dark UI Blocks: **#404040** – Used for sidebars, navigation bars, and strong content separators, providing strong contrast while reducing visual strain.
- Neutral Grays (**#ACACAC**, **#E2E2E2**, **#D9D9D9**) – These colors help structure the layout with subtle gradients and background layers. They are used for cards, inactive fields, and grouping panels without overwhelming the main content. The contrast between yellow and dark gray ensures strong visibility for important elements while allowing users to focus on content without excessive visual distraction.

Element	Style	Size	Weight
Main Header	Inter	34px-52px	Bold
Title and Section Headers	Inter	24px-28px	Bold
Subheaders	Inter	18px-20px	Medium
Body Text	Inter	12px-18px	Regular

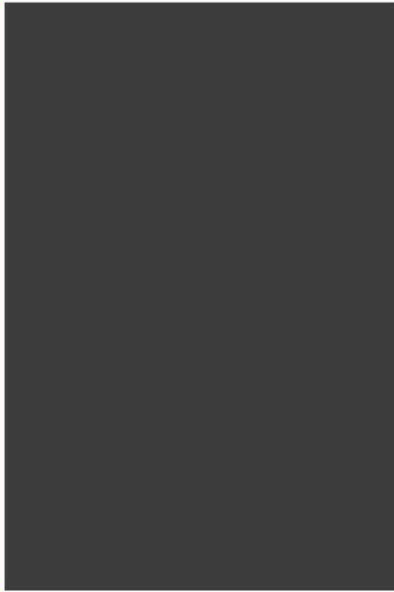
Interactive labels	Inter	12px-14px	Medium
System Buttons/Text	Inter	10px-12px	Semi-Bold

- The typographic hierarchy in the Vizja Extranet redesign is carefully structured to support clarity, navigation, and visual balance across the user interface. At the top of this hierarchy are the primary page titles, such as “Progress Dashboard,” which are set at 52 pixels in bold weight and use the signature gold (#FBB800) to ensure they stand out immediately as the focal point of each screen. Directly beneath them are section headings, typically ranging between 28–36 pixels, which organize page content into intuitive modules like “Upcoming Events” or “Applications.” These headings are semi-bold or bold and colored either dark grey (#404040) or white, depending on background contrast. Supporting these are subheadings and labels (20–24 pixels), which clarify smaller groups of information, like card titles or category labels, using a medium font weight and neutral tones for harmony. The body text, set at a legible 16 pixels, carries the bulk of the content such as descriptions, schedules, and notifications and is designed for comfortable reading across devices with standard line height and consistent alignment. For supplemental details like timestamps or statuses, a lighter type treatment (12–14 pixels) in grey (#ACACAC) is used, ensuring they remain accessible but unobtrusive. Buttons and call-to-action elements are bold and clear, usually 16–18 pixels, with white text on dark grey or gold backgrounds to ensure high contrast and easy interactivity. Together, this system creates a logical flow of attention, guiding users through key content while maintaining visual hierarchy, consistency, and readability throughout the platform.



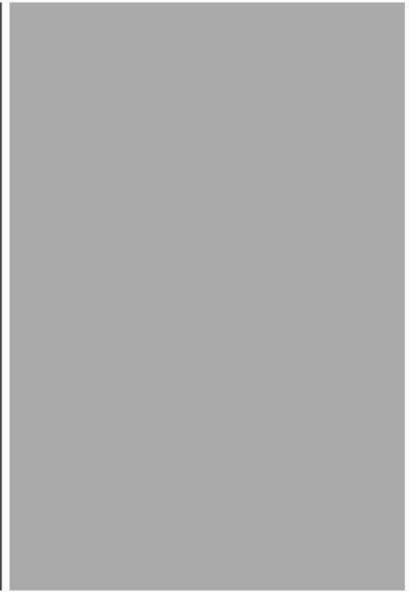
#FBB800

RGB 251, 184, 0



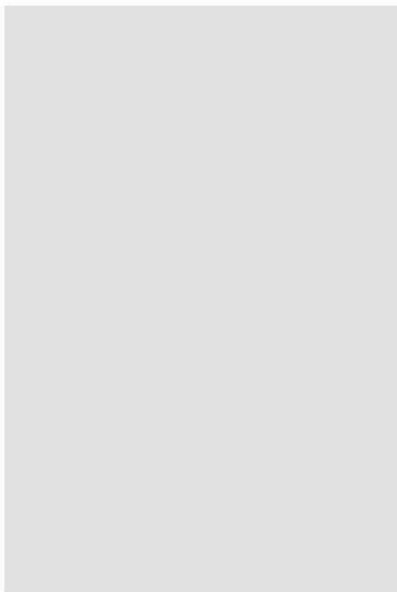
#404040

RGB 64, 64, 64



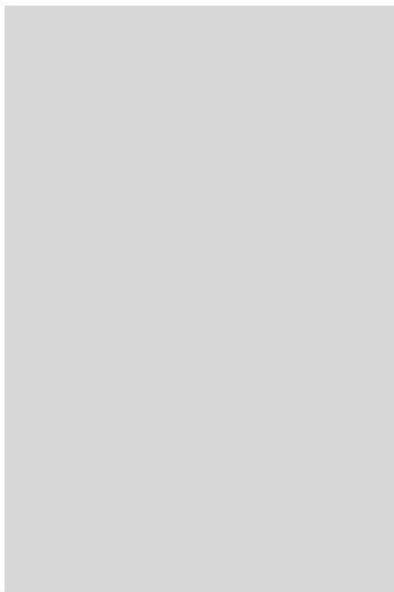
#ACACAC

RGB 172, 172, 172



#E2E2E2

RGB 226, 226, 226



#D9D9D9

RGB 217, 217, 217

Base Value: 16 Scale: 1.2

52px
3.000rem

Heading 1

40px
2.500rem

Heading 2

34px
2.062rem

Heading 3

28px
1.750rem

Heading 4

24px
1.438rem

Heading 5

20px
1.188rem

Heading 6

16px
1.000rem

Heading 7

12px
0.812rem

Heading 8

10px
0.688rem

Heading 9

➤ 4.4 Accessibility Features

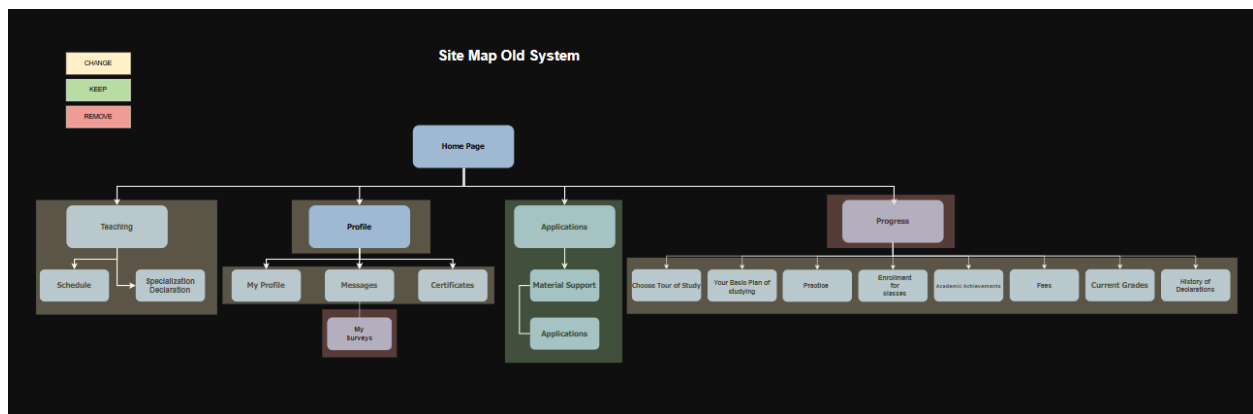
- Accessibility was a key consideration in the redesign of the Vizja Extranet, ensuring that the platform remains usable and inclusive for all students regardless of ability. The color palette was carefully chosen with contrast in mind—most notably the use of high-contrast combinations such as gold (#FBB800) on dark grey (#404040) or white text on charcoal backgrounds—to meet WCAG guidelines and enhance readability for users with visual impairments. Text sizes follow a scalable hierarchy, with large, bold headers (e.g., 52px for main titles) that are easily distinguishable, and body content maintained at a readable 16px

with consistent line height. Interactive elements such as buttons and filters feature clearly defined shapes and ample padding, making them accessible for users with motor impairments or those navigating via touchscreens. Icons and symbols (like notification alerts or navigation icons) are paired with text labels to support users who may rely on screen readers or cognitive aids. Additionally, the layout adheres to a clean grid system, avoiding visual clutter and maintaining logical content flow to help users with attention-related challenges or neurodivergence. While advanced accessibility features such as keyboard navigation, ARIA labels, and dark mode support are outside the scope of this static prototype, they are considered for future development stages. Overall, the new design reflects a more inclusive approach, aligning both visually and functionally with modern accessibility standards.

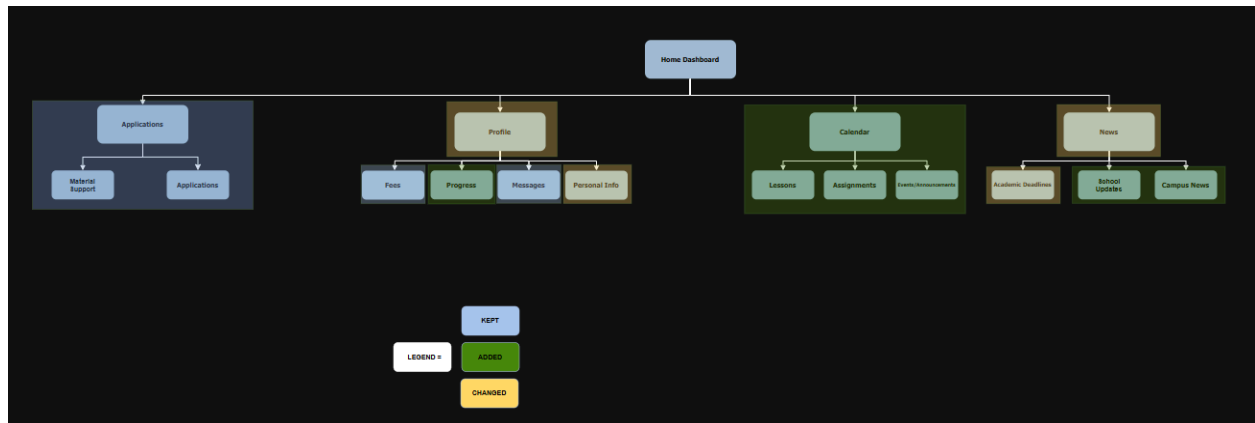
5. Information Architecture

5.1 Sitemap Comparison

OLD SYSTEM



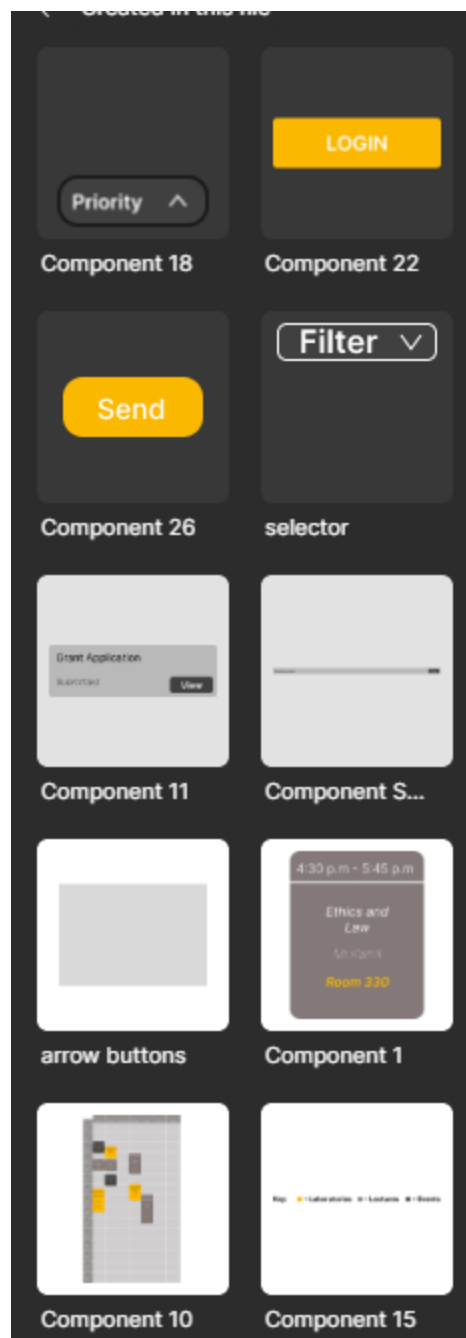
New System

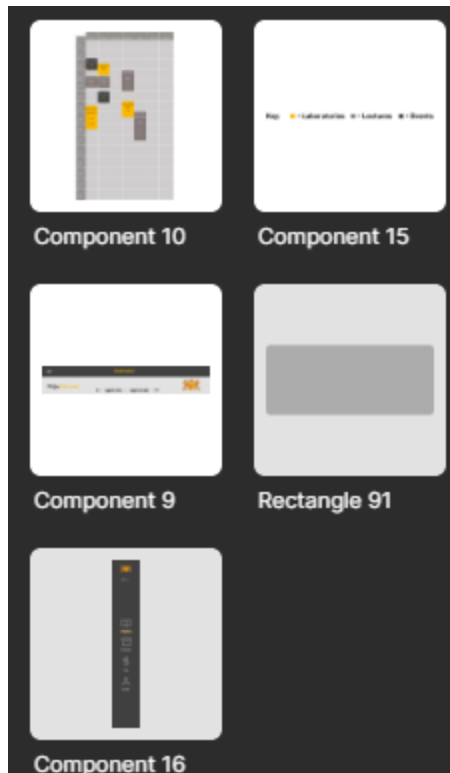


Explanation:

The redesigned system introduces a clearer, more streamlined sitemap structure compared to the original. In the old system, essential features like academic progress, messages, and fees were nested deep within broader categories such as “Progress” or “Profile,” making them harder to locate. The new sitemap simplifies navigation by flattening the structure and organizing content under intuitive, purpose-driven categories like Applications, Profile, Calendar, and News. Redundant or outdated sections like “Surveys,” “Tour of Study,” and “Specialization Declaration” were removed or integrated more thoughtfully (e.g., progress and registration tools are now part of the calendar system). New sections such as Notifications and Events/Announcements were introduced to keep students better informed, while visual cues (color-coded labels for kept, changed, and added items) help clarify the scope of improvement. This restructuring enhances usability by grouping similar functions and prioritizing frequent tasks, ultimately reducing cognitive load and supporting quicker task completion.

5.3 UI Elements Used

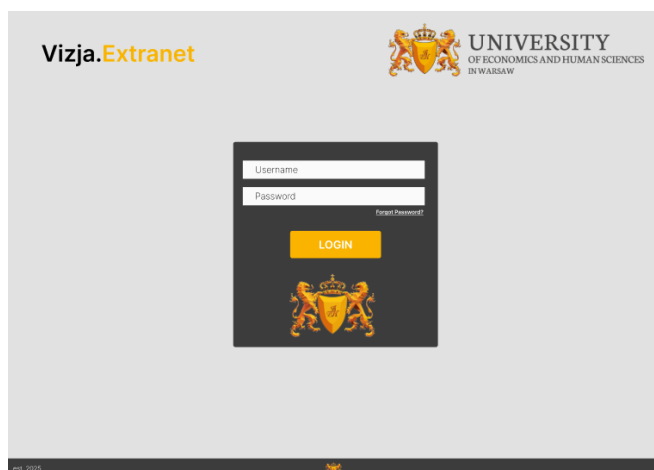




6. Design Showcase

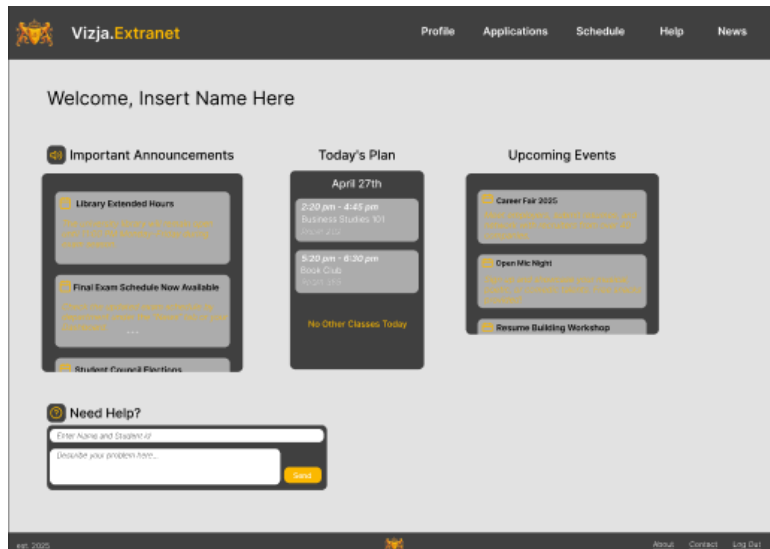
6.1 Page-by-Page Walkthrough

Login Page



The login page is a minimal entry point for users, prompting them to input their credentials. It includes a clearly marked login button and a “Forgot Password?” option for accessibility. Visual emphasis is placed on the university crest and brand colors, establishing institutional identity from the outset.

Dashboard / Landing Page

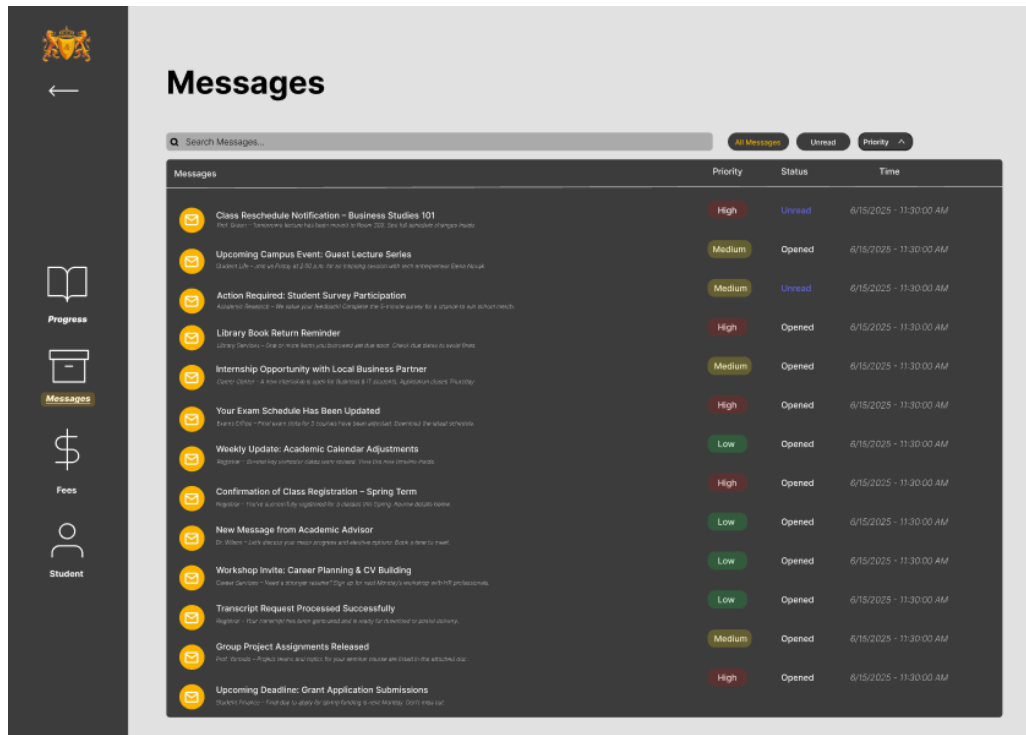


This serves as the user's central hub upon login. It displays three main content areas: Important Announcements, Today's Plan, and Upcoming Events. A contact/help section below encourages communication. Navigation tabs at the top make it easy to reach key sections like Profile, Applications, and Calendar. The layout prioritizes immediate information and task awareness.

Profile Page



Designed for daily academic engagement, this dashboard offers an overview of ongoing assessments, lesson schedules, and goal-tracking. A unique "Meeting In Progress" box enhances interactivity and immediacy. A section at the bottom "What's Coming Up?" previews deadlines and upcoming tasks, keeping users proactive and informed.



The Messages page presents an organized inbox where students can view and manage all communications from the university. Each message includes a subject line, sender, priority label (color-coded), status (read/unread), and timestamp. A functional filter bar allows users to sort messages by priority and status, enhancing accessibility for urgent or pending items. The design borrows from familiar email interfaces, making it intuitive for students. The visual hierarchy is supported by icons and labels that allow for rapid identification of important updates.





Fees



Progress



Messages



Fees





Student


Semester	Fee Number	Title	Account Number	Due Date	Amount
2025 L	1107882	Payment For Semester	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2025	2,300.00
2024 Z	858221	Payment For Semester	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2024	2,300.00
2024 Z	1107882	Exam Retake Fee	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2024	500.00
2023 Z	858221	Student Id Fee	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2023	35.00
2023 Z	1107882	Administrative Fee	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2023	6.00
2023 Z	858221	Administrative Fee	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2023	20.00
2023 Z	1107882	Administrative Fee	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2023	150.00
2023 Z	858221	Payment For Semester	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2023	2,300.00
2023 Z	1107882	Payment For Semester	58 3741 9035 6382 1479	01/10/2023	2,300.00

Paid
Payment Delayed
Late Payment

This page provides a detailed financial breakdown for each semester's fees. It lists the semester, fee number, title, account number, due date, and amount. Status colors (green, yellow, red) help students instantly see whether payments are complete, delayed, or overdue. The table-based layout ensures all data is easy to scan while the legend reinforces clarity.

Personal Info



Frank Kocun

Zim Address
Abcd123456@gmail.com
 School Mail
Abcd123456_sen@vija.pl
 Faculty
Business Management








Updated 31.08.2022

Phone Number	Live in	Gender
+48 123 456 789	Warsaw, Poland	Male

GPA	ECTS Credits Earned	Courses Completed	Graduation Year
4.32	180/180	23	2027

Internship Hours	Study Progress	Student Status
132/750	Semester 4	Active

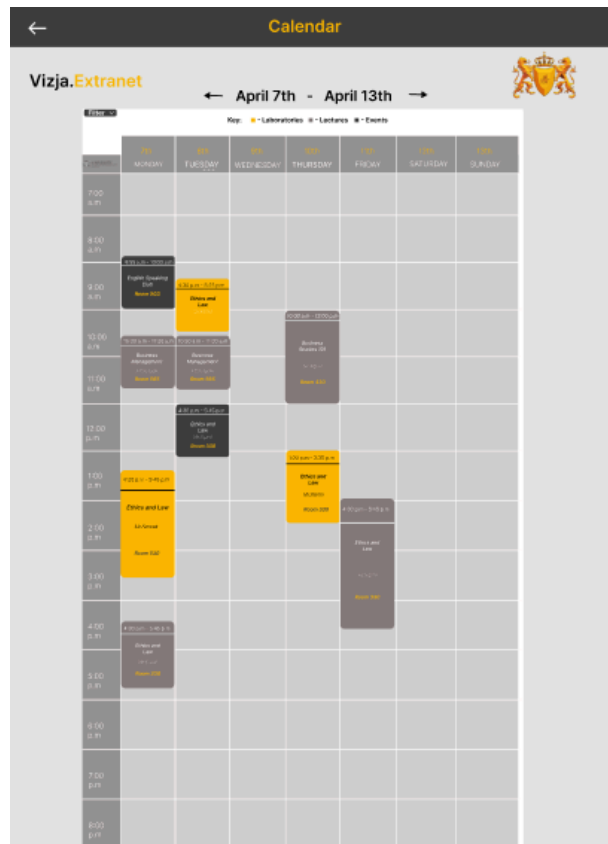
Attachments

Endowment Certificate
Endowment Certificate
Endowment Certificate
Endowment Certificate
Endowment Certificate
Endowment Certificate
Endowment Certificate

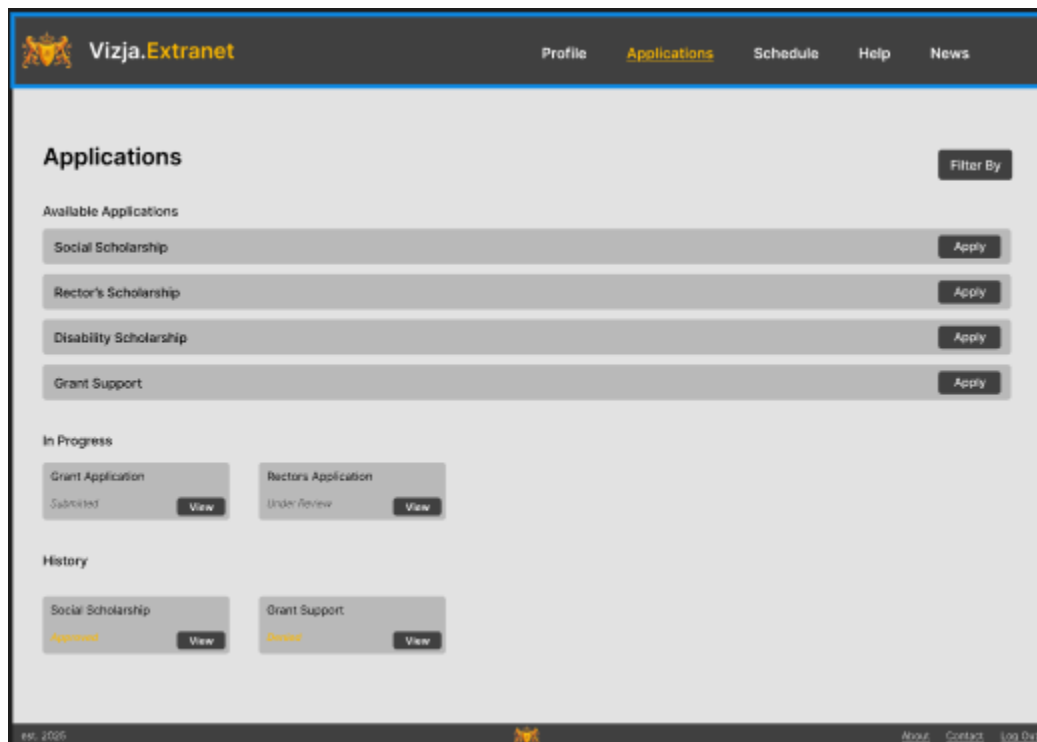
This page provides a detailed financial breakdown for each semester's fees. It lists the semester, fee number, title, account number, due date, and amount. Status colors (green, yellow, red) help students instantly see whether payments are complete, delayed, or overdue. The table-based layout ensures all data is easy to scan while the legend reinforces clarity.

Calendar Page



The calendar provides a detailed weekly schedule with categorized blocks for lectures, labs, and events, using distinct colors. Navigation arrows allow users to flip between weeks, while a key ensures clarity. The page supports planning and time management, helping students balance their academic obligations.

Applications Page



This page organizes all application-related processes. The layout distinguishes between available scholarships, in-progress submissions, and past history. Each card includes status tags (ex, “Approved,” “Under Review”), while a “Filter” button improves sorting flexibility. It’s structured for efficient browsing and submission tracking.

6.3 Key Improvements Over the Original

The redesigned system introduces several key improvements over the original AEH student portal, focusing on usability, structure, and clarity:

1. Centralized Dashboard Experience

In the old system, essential tools like messages, grades, deadlines, and meeting info were scattered across

unrelated pages. The new design introduces a unified Progress Dashboard where students can view their test deadlines, weekly goals, active meetings, and lesson schedule all in one glance. This streamlines task tracking and supports daily use.

2. Visual Hierarchy and Design Consistency

The original portal lacked visual clarity—font sizes, color hierarchy, and layout spacing were inconsistent. The redesigned system applies consistent typographic and color systems (e.g., bold yellow for calls to action, dark gray for containers, and lighter backgrounds for text), improving scannability and accessibility across all screens.

3. Enhanced Application Management

Previously, scholarship and support applications were nested in unintuitive tabs with little feedback. The new Applications Page introduces clear sections: Available, In Progress, and History. Status indicators (e.x, Approved, Denied, Under Review) are visually distinct, helping users understand their progress at a glance.

4. Improved Event and Announcement Visibility

In the old system, announcements and news updates were limited and difficult to find. Now, both Announcements and Upcoming Events are displayed directly on the landing page, with scrollable containers and a "View All" option, making information more accessible and engaging.

5. Better Navigation Flow and User Paths

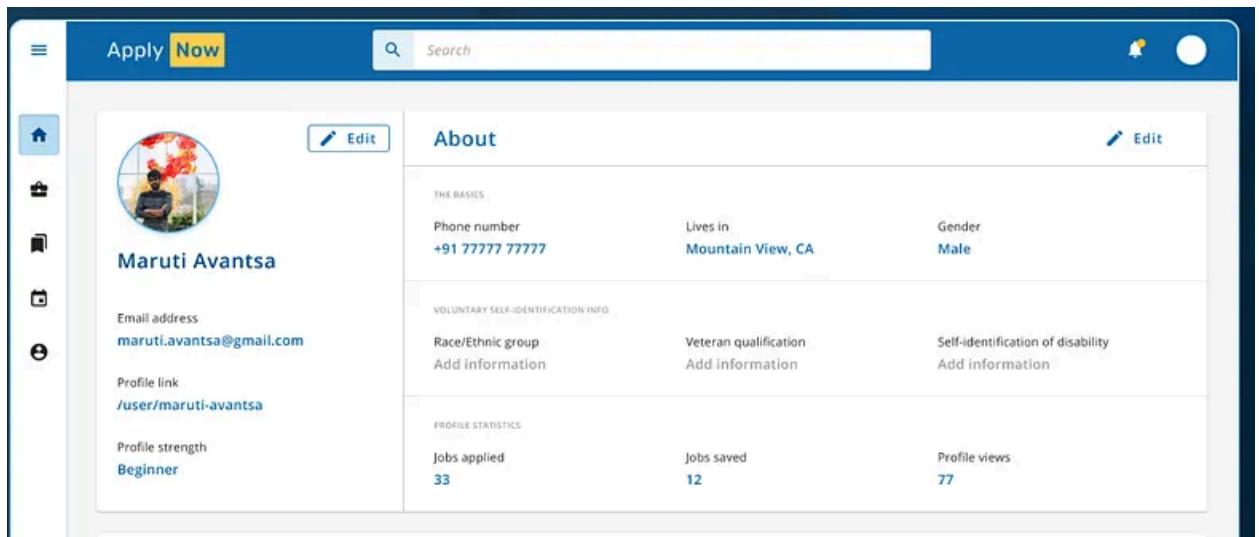
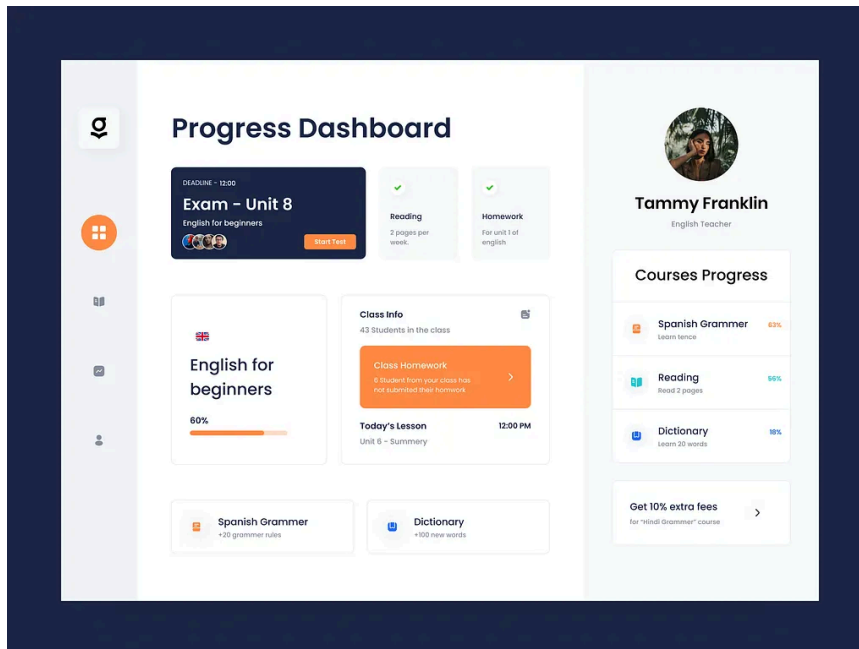
The old system used overly deep menus and lacked guidance. The redesigned navigation bar is streamlined, reducing cognitive load and improving speed. User flows like accessing the profile or calendar are now simpler and include fallback states (ex., meeting not started, no events today) for better UX.

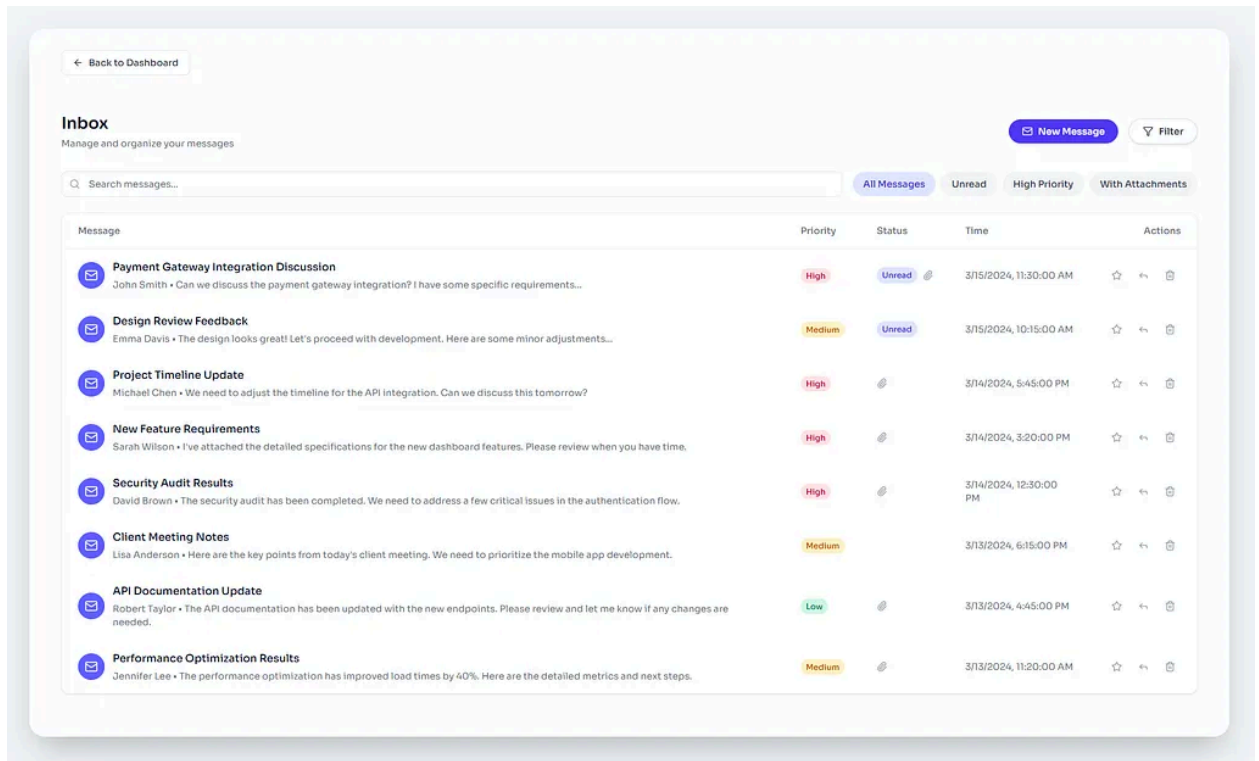
6. Added Interactivity and Feedback

The new system includes interactive components like meeting timers, join buttons, filter options, and progress bars for weekly goals and course completion. These elements provide real-time feedback and foster a sense of control and progress, which the old system completely lacked.

7. References and Inspiration

➤ 7.1 Visual References





8. Final Reflections

➤ 8.1 Summary of the Redesign

- The redesign of the AEH student portal was guided by a strong focus on improving clarity, consistency, and overall student experience. The original system, while functionally complete, suffered from visual clutter, poor information hierarchy, and outdated aesthetics that hindered usability and navigation. In response, the new design introduces a modern interface that balances form with function.
- Key sections of the portal, including the Profile, Applications, Calendar/Schedule, Fees, and Progress Dashboard, were redesigned with user-centered principles in mind. Each page now features clearly defined layouts, intuitive navigation, and a consistent color palette that reinforces visual identity without overwhelming the user.
- Functionality was also streamlined: unnecessary submenus were removed, and elements like filters, summaries, and contextual actions (for ex. “Apply,” “Download,” “View”) were integrated directly within user workflows. Visual elements like badges, status highlights,

and scrollable containers were added to ensure that students can scan and interact with data efficiently.

- Overall, the redesign offers a system that not only reflects the university's visual brand but also better supports student needs making common tasks more accessible, timely information easier to find, and the platform more cohesive and professional in its tone.

➤ 8.2 Lessons Learned

- This project offered a valuable opportunity to better understand both my design strengths and the areas where I still need to grow. One of the most rewarding yet challenging aspects was working with Figma's prototyping tools. While I had a clear visual direction from the outset, bringing interactive features to life, such as button states, navigation transitions, and dropdown filters was an area where I initially lacked confidence. Navigating these limitations pushed me to explore tutorials and learn through experimentation, which ultimately helped me become more comfortable with Figma's interactive capabilities.
- Another hurdle I encountered was making decisive design choices. Balancing form with functionality isn't always easy, and I often found myself questioning layouts, spacing, and component sizes. Fortunately, browsing strong reference material gave me clarity and helped translate vague ideas into more structured solutions.
- On the other hand, a major strength was having a strong conceptual vision from the beginning. While specific pages such as the calendar and profile underwent significant changes later in the process, the overall tone, layout logic, and color palette remained consistent. This early clarity helped ensure cohesion across the system and gave me a solid foundation to build on, even when revisions were necessary.
- Additionally, I learned the importance of pacing. Trying to manage the entire redesign at once was overwhelming at times. Breaking the work into sections (landing page, navigation system, individual modules) allowed me to maintain focus and steadily improve each area.
- Ultimately, this project deepened my understanding of how design systems are structured, how users experience information hierarchies, and how much effort goes into even small interface decisions. I leave this project with stronger skills, greater design awareness, and a better understanding of how to turn user needs into practical, polished outcomes.

