

Erasmus Charter for Higher Education Policy Statement Utrecht University

May 2014

Strategy, objectives and priorities in the context of the Erasmus+ Programme (2014-2021).

Utrecht University's strategy is laid down in the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan. The University aims to sustain its position as a research institution of the highest international quality, to provide clear research focus areas with a particularly interdisciplinary approach, and to take the lead in implementing the Bologna principles into its teaching programmes.

As a large and multifaceted international knowledge centre of academic and scientific excellence Utrecht University defined the following mission statement:

Utrecht University is a large, diverse knowledge centre offering education and research of international quality. Its objectives are as follows:

- to provide young people with an academic education
- to train new generations of researchers
- to train academics who possess the right combination of knowledge and professional skills
- to conduct pioneering research
- to contribute fitting solutions for societal challenges

This mission statement is also of great importance for the University's position in global knowledge chains, the importance of valorisation and the focus on its international educational ambition and excellence.

At Utrecht University special attention is paid to international strategic collaboration. With its partnerships with the Utrecht University Partners (UUPs), Utrecht University has a strong and internationally well-regarded model in place to strengthen collaboration and create an informal network with leading research universities at the institutional level.

A UUP is a research intensive university where there is:

- mutual interest in institutional collaboration
- quality in research and education
- an institutional profile that fits with the profile of Utrecht University
- complementary expertise
- existing collaboration with Utrecht University in research and/or education
- an wide offer of English-taught courses for (exchange) students
- a pro-active international policy

The focus for UUP's, but not exclusively, is on Europe (mainly LERU), North America and Asia (China, India).

International strategic collaboration through UUPs offers an excellent opportunity to achieve university-wide sustainable collaboration. In addition to the university-level partnerships there are also strategic partners at the Faculty level. As collaboration in research and education is a bottom-up process these Faculty level partnerships assure that partnerships can also be adapted to Faculty needs and interests. LERU, Utrecht Network and the Oxford Network are the main and complementary international networks for Utrecht University.

- LERU (22 partners): Research intensive universities, cooperation in European lobby and agenda setting, research, education, support;
- Utrecht Network (32 partners): Mobility of students and staff, internationalising curricula;
- Oxford network (14 partners): Sharing information on development of teacher quality in research intensive universities.

Based on developments within and outside the University at both national and international level, Utrecht University has developed a general profile that will serve as a guideline for our development over the coming years. This profile also serves to set out the University's mission. It builds on previous strategic choices, such as the UU teaching model, the research focus areas and the development of the Utrecht Science Park. Utrecht University will be applying the following institutional profile over the 2010-2020 period:

Utrecht University:

- applies quality as the guiding principle for all decisions;
- offers special opportunities for exceptionally talented (international) staff and (international) students;
- makes integral investments in the knowledge chain from a wide range of academic domains;
- promotes interdisciplinarity in education and research;
- has defined focus areas for research and links academic excellence and fundamental research to projects with a social aim (as formulated in the policy for the Dutch Top Sectors and EU Societal Challenges);
- offers innovative, high-quality study programmes with high study success rates, and links education and research;
- stimulates the development of an active student community;
- is developing an ecosystem for 'open science', innovation and value creation at Utrecht Science Park;
- plays a vital role in society through cooperation with outstanding partners;
- is one of the engines powering the most competitive region in the EU;
- involves alumni in research, teaching and university life.

Utrecht University's organisational culture is defined by the core values of ambition, inspiration, commitment and independence. These core values form the basis of our code of conduct, which describes how we expect our (international) students and staff to act and interact. The core values and code of conduct provide the foundation for UU's international academic community.