20 years pioneering in Liberal Arts and Sciences

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

Utrecht University
University College Utrecht
Twenty years is a long time for a Dutch Liberal Arts and Science College to have existed. In marking the two-decade milestone of University College in September 2018, we took time to reflect on all that has changed. In 1998, liberal education was – literally – a foreign concept in the Netherlands. Now ‘LAS’ is one of the largest study programmes in the Netherlands, both inside and outside the many university colleges that have followed in the wake of University College Utrecht.

From the outset, our adventurous students and teachers were real trailblazers; they had to make up the playbook as they went along. Nowadays their script has been taken over and modified by others. This changing context means that University College Utrecht itself is challenged to continually innovate as a vibrant and international learning community. Though we were warmly praised for our distinctive education – not least by the Accreditation panel that visited us in the wake of our twenty-year anniversary – we possess the internal drive to strive for continual improvement. The allocation of scholarship time to all academic staff – which allows them time to pursue their own research passions – is one important way to strengthen our exceptional teaching for the future. Opening new opportunities to follow interdisciplinary courses and develop community engagement is another, alongside the priority to further enhance a challenging but supportive climate where our students can flourish.

We acknowledge the need to continue offering liberal learning. It matters to the future of our prospective students, but it is also in the interests of society. May we find ways to be ever truer to our mission.

James Kennedy
Dean
Accreditation
In September we were accredited by the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). The accreditation, which takes place every six years, resulted in a positive evaluation of our academic curriculum. The commission especially valued our educational approach, in which input from students plays a substantial role in the curriculum building.

For the sixth consecutive year, we were awarded the Top Rated Programme quality seal 2019 by the Keuzegids, a Dutch study choice guide. We score particularly well on the quality of the study programme and the lecturers, and are valued by experts.

New Students
We welcomed 260 new students, 28 in the Spring and 232 in the Fall semester. They were selected out of 1,007 applicants in total. Following the trend in previous years, female students (180) outnumbered male (80). Nearly half of the new students were Dutch. 34% of the newcomers were European and 18% non-European.

Educational Development
Faithful to our Liberal Arts and Sciences educational model, our courses covered a broad range of subjects in Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences, amounting to a total of 124 in Spring and 126 in Fall. On a scale from 1 to 5, students gave the overall quality of the courses 4 in average.

666 Degree Students
(February 2019)

Top 5 non-Dutch Nationalities

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<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>20</td>
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103 Non-European
218 Non-Dutch European
New Courses and Tracks
We introduced nine new courses: Chinese Language and Culture IV, Politics and Religion in the Modern World, Visual Culture Studies, Humor and the Classical Tradition, The Digital Citizen, Global Health and the SDGs, Human Trafficking, Global Religions: Ideas and Practices, and Implementing Sustainability. Next to the existing Double Degree in Law, we started a new Double Degree programme in Physics in cooperation with the Utrecht University Department of Physics.

Innovative Projects
The Seneca programme funds projects that innovate our curriculum. In 2018, the following projects were funded: One Book One Campus, (Re)Conceptualizing Africa, Bridging Brugge Heritage Visit, Iconography: XYZ of the Bible, Development of Research Clinics, Global Mental Health Jamaica, Philosophy Connections and Arts, and Sciences of Food.

Senior Teaching Fellow Project
Director of Education Sabine Uijl received the Comenius Senior Teaching Fellowship of The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) for the two-year project “Student agency at UCU, redesign of a personalised curriculum”. The project will help students more effectively set their goals, make curriculum choices and reflect on their study by using digital storytelling.

Spending (x 1,000)
- Academic and support staff: €6,258
- Academic housing: €1,264
- Material costs: €1,252
- UU education: €6,158
- UU academic housing: €1,309
- Non-EEA tuition fees: €411
- Other revenues: €737

Revenues (x 1,000)
- Total: €8,615

Total: €8,775
**Student Exchanges**
University College Utrecht has 52 partner institutions for student exchange, in 24 different countries, on 5 different continents. New partner universities include the Okayama University in Japan. In 2018, two new destination countries were added: Estonia and Jamaica. In total, we received 112 incoming exchange students, while 88 of our students went abroad on exchange.

**Scholarships**
73 students received a scholarship, 19 of them from EEA countries and 54 from outside the EEA area. Most scholarships cover only a part of the study fee, with an average of € 9,043. In total, the scholarships amounted to € 488,300.

**UCU Fund Becomes a ‘Named Fund’**
The UCU Fund, comprising all our fundraising activities, including those for the UCU Scholarships and the Rosemary Orr Scholarship, became a Named Fund under the umbrella of the Utrecht University Fund. This gives donors the advantage of donating to an organisation that has the ANBI status, meaning the gift is fully or partially deductible from their taxable incomes.

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**Scholarship Revenues**

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<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition fees</td>
<td>€ 357,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utrecht Excellence Scholarships</td>
<td>€ 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship donations</td>
<td>€ 25,791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aurelius Fund</td>
<td>€ 5,000</td>
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</tbody>
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**Total** € 488,300
Newly Joined and Departed Staff Members
Meindert Fennema, emeritus Professor in Political Theory (University of Amsterdam) was nominated as a temporary fellow.

Lonia Jakubowska, Fellow in Cultural Anthropology, retired after 18 years at University College Utrecht. She was especially praised by students as an outstanding teacher, and perceived by colleagues as a key pillar of the Social Sciences Department.

Elisa Veini started as Communications and Marketing Advisor. Wendy Holwerda, Paddy Haripersaud and Hanna Szabo joined the Admissions Office. Kim Zunderdorp replaced Elzelien van Buuren as Head of the Registrar and Admissions Offices.

Staff (FTE's)

- UCU appointed academic staff: 38.55
  - of which with tutorial tasks: 7.2
- UU or externally appointed staff: 13.1
- Support staff: 10.2

Total: 69 FTE
**Academic Staff Awards and Recognition**

Head of Humanities Department Kiene Brillenburg Wurth was guest editor of a special issue of the journal *Comparative Literature*, the oldest American journal in the field of literary studies: *The Material Turn in Comparative Literature*. She was also co-editor of the publication *Book Presence in a Digital Age*.

The Senior Teaching Qualification (SKO) was awarded to Jocelyn Ballantyne, Lecturer in Linguistics, and to Chiara Robbiano, Lecturer in Philosophy.

The Basic Teaching Qualification (BKO) was awarded to Robert Renes, Lecturer in Psychology, and to Brian Dermody, Lecturer in Earth and Environment.

UCU Teacher of the year was Robert Renes.

Chiara Robbiano was nominated for the UU Outstanding Teacher award, and Patrick Wijchers, Lecturer in Biology, for the UU Teacher Talent award.

**Alumni Achievements**
Josien Botje, alumna of 2010 and teacher of Arabic and Spanish, won the OnderwijsToptalent in Higher Education Award.

Cato Bui, alumna of 2016, won the Rough Diamonds League of the Philips Innovation Award 2018 with her start-up Circa Technologies.


Iris Otto, alumna of 2009, won the annual PhD student competition Breaking Science of Utrecht University.
4th Lustrum
In September, University College Utrecht celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a week of activities, ranging from the screening of a documentary about our history by alumna Abigail Pride and a fundraising dinner, to a full-day festival that concluded the celebrations. The week started with our participation in the national Open Monuments day together with our neighbouring Kromhoutkazerne. The day attracted 2,000 visitors to the campus and was well covered by local media.

UCU20 Exhibition
Twenty years of University College Utrecht history was beautifully displayed in an exhibition curated by Mary Bouquet, Fellow in Heritage Studies. The exhibition, designed by architect Henk de Haan, highlighted personal stories and belongings of our students and staff members. Also included were paintings by Fahed Ibrahim, as well as a film about his background as a refugee student and artist.
Interdisciplinarity Symposium
Also part of the Lustrum celebrations, we organised an international symposium about interdisciplinary learning. The panellists were Rosi Braidotti (Utrecht University, Humanities), Alfredo Brillembourg, (Zurich, Architecture), Wendy Carlin (University College London, Economics), Naomi Ellemers (Utrecht University, Psychology) and Martijn Snoep (Chairman of Netherlands Authority of Consumers & Markets, Lawyer).

One Book One Campus
For the second time, Agnes Andeweg, Lecturer in Literature, organised the One Book One Campus project. All students and staff members received their personal copy of Maxim Februari’s novel *The Book Club*, which they read and discussed from multiple perspectives. The project culminated in a public event with the author on campus during the Lustrum week.
Alumni Homecoming
In October, University College Utrecht welcomed fifty alumni back to the campus for our second Homecoming party. This was a special day full of shared memories and catching up with former classmates.

Food for Thought
In December we enjoyed a preview of the documentary series *Food for Thought* about world philosophies, in which five of our students participated. An initiative of Chiara Robbiano and Viewpoint Productions, the series will be shown on Dutch television in 2019.

Voltaire Quiet Area
The study area on the first floor of the Voltaire building was fully renewed and put into use in December. The new quiet study area offers students improved work spaces, catering for various individual styles of studying and need for concentration: large tables, smaller sections and a reading area.
227 students graduated
191 students graduated in June, 123 received the title Bachelor of Arts and 68 the title Bachelor of Science. In December, we congratulated 36 graduating students: 21 in Bachelor of Arts and 15 in Bachelor of Science.

Julian Merkle, graduated in December 2018

“We study at University College to learn what is valuable in life and who we want to become.”
University College Utrecht provides English-language Liberal Arts and Sciences undergraduate education. Founded in 1998 as the first university college in the Netherlands, we are part of Utrecht University. Our campus is home to 750 students with 70 different nationalities. We encourage our students to explore and design their individual curriculum cross-cutting Science, Social Sciences and Humanities, and to engage in extra-curricular activities. At University College Utrecht, students learn for life.