Profile Rector Magnificus Utrecht University
December 2017

General
Utrecht University (1636) is a European research university that takes pride in offering excellent education. The university scores highly in international rankings and is a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). Education and research, which are closely interwoven at Utrecht University, are derived from scientific and social issues. The university has four core values – ambition, inspiration, involvement, independence – which have been translated into a code of conduct for staff and students. The Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 guides the university’s development over the coming years. Utrecht University has built strategic alliances with UMC Utrecht, Eindhoven University of Technology, the University of Toronto and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, among others.

University organisation
The organisation of the university is compliant with the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW) and laid down in the administrative and management regulations. Utrecht University has seven faculties – Sciences; Veterinary Medicine; Humanities; Medicine; Geosciences; Social and Behavioural Sciences; Law, Economics and Governance – in addition to University College Utrecht and University College Roosevelt; the Faculty of Medicine’s organisation is integrated into UMC Utrecht. Faculty leadership is assigned to the Deans. The university also has two service departments: the University Library and the University Administration. Students and employees are represented at the university level in the University Council and the University Labour Representation Board. Utrecht University is co-author of and adheres to the VSNU Code of good governance for universities.

Executive Board
The Executive Board governs the university in close cooperation with the Deans of the faculties and in close consultation with the university’s employee and student representation. The Executive Board comprises three members: a President (Prof. Anton Pijpers), a Rector Magnificus (Prof. Bert van der Zwaan, until 26 March 2018) and a Vice-President (Prof. Annetje Ottow). Utrecht University has a collegial Board under the leadership of the Chair: Board members hold primary responsibility for the agreed portfolios and are collectively responsible for the governance as a whole. The Rector Magnificus is primarily responsible for education, research and students. As a whole, the Executive Board is accountable to the Supervisory Board. Members of the Executive Board are appointed by the Supervisory Board.

Task
Utrecht University has adopted an ambitious Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2020. While internationally oriented, the university is also firmly rooted in the region. The Executive Board is tasked with achieving the strategic objectives, in the light of shrinking government resources and the consequent need to generate more resources from European funds as well as the private sector. Prerequisite to this task is compliance with the Dutch National Science Agenda and the European Societal Challenges. This compliance demands precise profiling of research within the multidisciplinary strategic themes as defined by the university – life sciences, sustainability, dynamics of youth and institutions for open societies – as well as strong links with other parties such as businesses, knowledge institutions and universities. In terms of education, the university focuses on the quality rather than the quantity of students. The Utrecht educational model contributes to students’ academic success and prepares them well for the job market. In its strategic plan, the university chooses to increase diversity and enhance students’ international orientation. The university has built strategic collaborations with national and international partner
universities and is an active member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). In conjunction with various partners, the university is co-developing a unique combination of large research institutes and research departments of businesses, organisations and institutes: Utrecht Science Park. To realise its educational and research ambitions, the university invests in personal contact and close-knit communities supported by innovative, sustainable operational management, high-quality accommodation and modern facilities.

Profile
Utrecht University seeks to appoint a respected scientist, Professor and experienced manager whose thinking and actions are consistent with the university's core values: ambitious, inspirational, involved and consonant with the independent position of the university in society. The Rector Magnificus provides leadership to and is the face of the academic community, and is responsible for the continuous improvement in quality of education and research. He/she has both knowledge of and strong views on major international developments in higher education. The Rector is aware of the issues facing Dutch universities in general and Utrecht University in particular. He/she has excellent communicative skills, operates transparently, binds and connects, and is result-oriented. Together with the other members of the Executive Board, he/she governs the university, leads the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees (of which all the Deans are members), and creates a basis of support within the university community through connection and visibility. The Rector Magnificus operates transparently and respectfully towards the university consultative bodies. He/she has experience of managing a professional organisation in the public and/or semi-public sector, and of managing complex change processes in an inspirational and motivating way. The Rector Magnificus knows that this situation demands both providing direction and creating support, as well as communicating decisions clearly and transparently, both internally and externally. Furthermore, the Rector is open to widely supported bottom-up initiatives and changes. The Rector takes the staff and their professional development into consideration. He/she contributes to effective collaboration with Utrecht Science Park partners, local and regional government authorities, national bodies (VSNU, NWO, KNAW, SURF) and other relevant actors. The Rector is familiar with the Dutch higher education system. He/she has broad interests and is able to represent as well as connect the full range scientific disciplines at the university. The Rector has a passion for both research and education. He/she has affinity with the themes of the university's Strategic Plan, such as sustainability, internationalisation and diversity.

Terms of employment
The appointment is for a period of four years, with the possibility of reappointment. Terms of employment will be agreed. Utrecht University complies with the Public and Semi-public Sector Senior Officials (Standard Remuneration) Act (WNT).

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