



Program of action Utrecht Young Academy September 2018

After its foundation 2016, UYA formulated its goals and ambitions as follows:

Mission of the Utrecht Young Academy

The Utrecht Young Academy (UYA) brings together a diverse group of young academics who openly exchange critical perspectives on academia, policy and society in Utrecht and beyond.

The mission of the Utrecht Young Academy can be split up in three areas: academia, policy and society.

Utrecht Young Academy and Academia

- the UYA is a collaboration platform and network for the exchange and generation of ideas among young academics in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and the world;
- the UYA is committed to multidisciplinary and inclusivity in research and education;
- the UYA promotes open science within academia.

Utrecht Young Academy and Policy

- the UYA contributes actively to evidence-based policy on all levels of government both in and outside the university;
- the UYA gives a voice to young academics by reaching out to policy-makers in order to influence science and education policy in and outside Utrecht.

Utrecht Young Academy and Society

- the UYA makes science accessible and promotes open science in society;
- the UYA promotes scholarly thinking in society
- the UYA stimulates an open discussion about the role of university in society.

The members have initiated various projects and activities since the foundation of UYA on the basis of these goals. These projects have been listed below:

1) Area: Academia

A. Collaboration platform young academics

- General Assemblies: the members come together 6 to 10 times a year to discuss various topics, exchange ideas and plan projects and activities.
- Network National Young Academies: the members of young academies across the country are in the process of setting up a network for more collaboration at a national level. The first meeting will be in October 2018.
- Town hall meetings: UYA has already set up a Town hall meeting at REBO faculty. Other faculties will also plan a meeting in the autumn of 2018. The goal of these meetings is to introduce the UYA especially to young researchers and colleagues (both tenured and on temporary contracts) within different faculties and create a space for them to ask questions, speak their mind and share ideas on the future of the University. This is also an opportunity to engage people in UYA-affairs and encouraging them to nominate themselves next year.

B. Committed to multidisciplinary and inclusivity in research and education

- Platform for interdisciplinary teaching: this platform was started in 2017. The group has implemented several activities so far:
 - Workshop TAUU on interdisciplinary teaching (2017)
 - Workshop Interdisciplinary teaching & traveling concepts at the Onderwijsparade 2018
 - Several guest lectures for Decartes (2018)
 - Co-taught masterclass Humanities-Geosciences (2018)

The members are planning also the following activities for next year(s):

- Development interdisciplinary course together with Studium Generale (autumn 2019)
- Book on experiences developing interdisciplinary education with at least six different faculties (2019)
- Platform for interdisciplinary research: this group organised a network evening where young academic staff came together to connect and make university wide connections. The aim was to develop long-lasting or short collaborations for interdisciplinary research.
A group is now working on a NWA proposal, following the network evening.

- Diversity
 - Diversity group: this group has had a brainstorm session before the summer. However, they will need to discuss the ideas brought up by the members and decide which one they are going to implement in the next year.
 - In March 2018, the UYA organized a workshop for young cardiovascular researchers at Young@HeartEvent with the theme “Diversity”.

C. Promoting Open Science

- Collaboration with the University’s Library on e.g. organising a public consultation meeting in 2017.
- Podcast series “Road to Open Science”: the main objective of this project is to raise awareness about developments towards Open Science internationally and inside our University. The first three episodes have already been completed as a pilot project. After a mid-term evaluation the outcome of internal consultation and audience feedback, we will be proceeded with the rest of the series.

2) Area: Policy

A. Influence science and education policy

- UYA has made statements on the procedural changes in “embedding guarantee” for “*Vernieuwingsimpuls*” and “*Open Competition*” scheme for Social Sciences and Humanities by NWO. The members have spoken to the Board of the University and have sent their statement to the deans of UU-faculties.
- Participating in *WOinactie*-group: UYA supports the call for action in higher education. They are represented by one of the Board members at the meetings of the *WOinActie*-group.
- Open Science: UYA, through involvement in the task-force Open-Science, has been given a leading role in developing the University strategic plan.

B. Reach the policy-makers

- UYA-Board members have had meetings with the deans of faculties.
- They also visited both Rectors of UU and discussed their plans of UYA.

3) Area: UYA and Society

A. Making Science accessible

- Movie & Science: Benefit of the doubt
This was a collaboration between *Studium Generale* and UYA. The first series took place in the Utrecht movie theatre ‘*t Hoogt*, where three members introduced a film in the light of different topics. UYA and *Studium Generale* decided to make this a recurrent event and enrich the collaboration.
- From Parochialism to an Inclusive City: in order to make a change, the UYA has worked together with the City of Utrecht to produce a short film about social segregation in the city.

- Project “Etched into our memory”: with the members of UYA and with the help of video fragments, *Studium Generale*, will look back on that has passed during an evening in Nov. 2018.
- Climate change group: this group had the kick-off meeting in June 2018. They intend to organise an event on this topic for a broader audience and are in talk with Tivoli Vredenburg to find out the possibilities for collaboration.
- Participating at “Betweter Festival”. Each year, UYA-members contribute on the program by giving short lectures for a broad audience (October 2018)
- Public Lecture: the members selected in 2018 are planning a lecture for broader audience. (Feb-May 2019)

B. Promote scholarly thinking

- “*Waar of niet Waar?*”: a project for the primary school students. In this project UYA-members do scientific experiments at schools together with the students. The aim is to introduce the scholarly thinking to young students and let them experience how interesting and fun it can be.
- “*Feiten en Fabels*”: “*Weekend van de Wetenschap*”, in which some of the members participate. In this project, the children (8-12 years) will learn about some facts and fables (October 2018)

C. Stimulates an open discussion about the role of university in society (no projects yet)

Planned projects and activities in 2019

Beside these projects, some other activities have been scheduled for next year.

- Visiting fellows: Inviting young scholars from countries where there is no academic freedom. This project will be in the second half of 2019.
- Public Lecture (Feb-May 2019)
- Development interdisciplinary course together with *Studium Generale* (autumn 2019)
- Book on experiences developing interdisciplinary education with at least six different faculties (2019)
- “*Waar of niet Waar?*”: this project will be implemented in Nov. 2018 and will continue in 2019
- Climate change: the activities will be implemented in 2019

However the current projects and activities cover the most of UYA goals, UYA needs to be more active in:

- Stimulates an open discussion about the role of university in society
- Diversity
- Influence the research and education policy