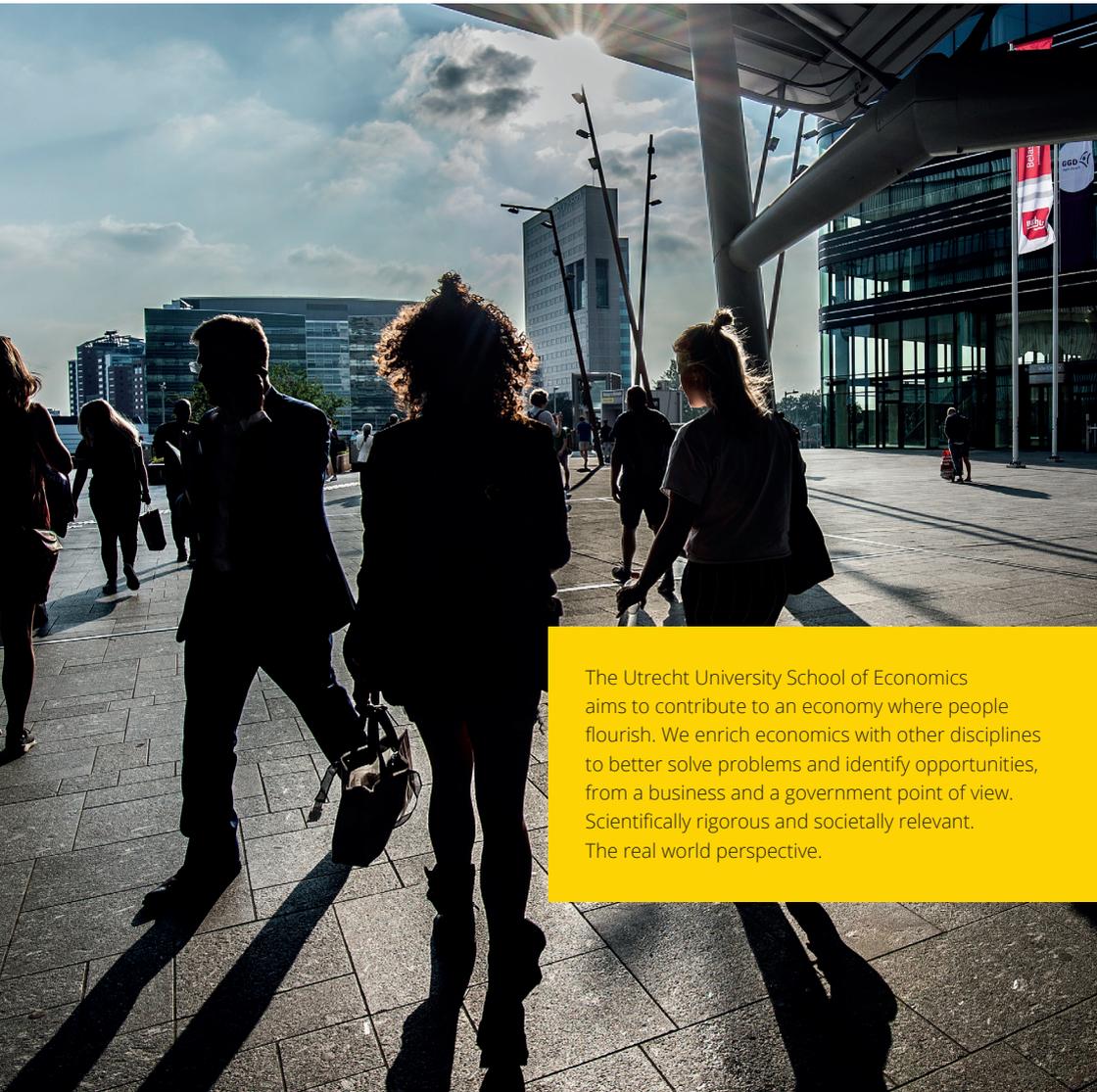




Utrecht University

School of Economics

On behalf of the *real* world



The Utrecht University School of Economics aims to contribute to an economy where people flourish. We enrich economics with other disciplines to better solve problems and identify opportunities, from a business and a government point of view. Scientifically rigorous and societally relevant. The real world perspective.

The real world perspective

At the Utrecht University School of Economics (U.S.E.) we are fascinated by the economy, how it works and how we can improve it. U.S.E. aims to contribute to an economy where people thrive, by taking a broad view on welfare and all factors involved. Cooperation, innovation and curiosity are our core values.

Our research has scientific rigour, but we also cherish relevance for society. This means that we are inspired by society, including business and government, but also that we contribute to solutions of problems and opportunities. For this we enrich economics with other disciplines, because this gives us a better view on the economy and how to improve it. This also makes our education special, in which you can combine economics with other disciplines including geography, law, social sciences and data sciences.

What distinguishes U.S.E.? The real world perspective. We are an economics department, that teaches the tools of economics, but with a keen eye for solving problems and identifying opportunities in their context: and this context is more than economics.



ERIK STAM —
Dean of the Utrecht University
School of Economics

WHAT'S THE ESSENCE OF EUROPEAN

ENTREPRENEURSHIP? HOW DO WE BUILD ON

SUCH A RICH HISTORY AND GREAT DIVERSITY

THE REAL WORLD PERSPECTIVE WHAT HAS

IF A TEAM OF ECONOMISTS, HISTORIANS AND

JUNIOR RESEARCHERS WORK TOGETHER ?

HOW CAN WE REFORM?

CASE #1

Financial and Institutional Reforms for an Entrepreneurial Society

In the research project Financial and Institutional Reforms for an Entrepreneurial Society (FIRES) researchers from economics, law, innovation studies and history analysed European economies to better understand how institutions affect entrepreneurship, and how these institutions can enhance productive entrepreneurship in Europe. Spin off from the research programme are for instance highly concrete proposals for policymakers, practitioners for an optimistic, socially inclusive view on entrepreneurship.

The FIRES programme is a collaboration with a large group of European Universities, including London School of Economics, KU Leuven, and Politecnico de Milano.

Team of researchers

Mark Sanders × Niels Bosma × Erik Stam × and others

HOW DO WORKERS ADJUST TO

NEW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES? HOW DO PEOPLE

SEARCH FOR NEW JOBS? WHO ARE THE MOST

VULNERABLE WORKERS? **THE REAL WORLD**

PERSPECTIVE DOES AUTOMATION CHANGE

THE FUTURE OF WORK? HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND

IS GOING ON AND SHARE IT WITH GOVERNMENT

AND LABOURMARKET INSTITUTIONS?

CASE #2

**Technology,
automation and the
future of work**

We also conduct research on technological change and the labour market. Researchers analyse the effects of technological change on the demand for particular skills and the changing relevance of particular tasks, job polarisation, and how this changes the future of work. This research is undertaken together with firms like Randstad, Ahold-Delhaize, and other universities including MIT and Boston University.

Team of researchers

Maarten Goos × Anna Salomons × Ronja Ruttgers × and others

Photography — Bert Spieritz



Education: economics for the real world

If you choose to study Economics and Business Economics in Utrecht, you choose a broad-based view on economic issues: the real-world perspective. What are the needs and objectives of people and organisations in our complex society? What choices do they make in order to fulfil their needs and achieve their objectives? To find the right answers to these questions we analyse economic issues with the insights of other disciplines, including geography, law, social sciences and data sciences.

We offer a broad Bachelor's programme in Economics and Business Economics and offer specialised Master's programmes in Banking and Finance, Business Development and Entrepreneurship, Economic Policy, Financial Management, International Management, Law and Economics and Multidisciplinary Economics. Education at U.S.E. is English-taught. One third of the students and one fourth of our staff come from abroad. Most of our staff has an international background. The student population comprises more than 50 nationalities.

Location

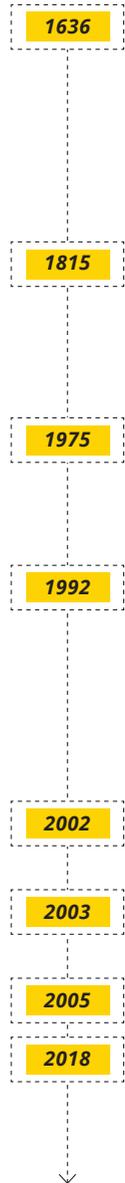
U.S.E. is located in Utrecht (The Netherlands), close to Amsterdam. The buildings of U.S.E. are located on the International Campus Utrecht (ICU), between Utrecht Science Park and the inner city of Utrecht. An inspiring setting that stimulates international exchange and is also the ideal location for building a strong community of students and faculty.

Research: impact in society

The U.S.E. Research Institute works from the joint research programme Multidisciplinary Economics. Our research programme Multidisciplinary Economics focuses on the future of work, behavioural insights for policy making, entrepreneurship, sustainable finance and sustainability and economic development. We are organised in four sections: Applied Economics, Economics, Entrepreneurship and Finance. U.S.E. also accommodates the Sustainable Finance Lab, the European Centre for Alternative Finance, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship.

On a regular basis we share and discuss the results of our research during seminar series, with working papers and workshops. Even more importantly: we strive to have societal impact with our research.

Economics at Utrecht University, a little (pre)history



Already in 1636, the year that Utrecht University was established, the **first PhD student in Economics** arrived. In that year, Justus Kriex applied for a PhD with a study on profiteering ('woeker-rente') for the poor. Inequality and a real world perspective were already prominent in Economics at Utrecht University at that time. There was no Economics department, so he applied for a PhD at the newly established Faculty of Law.

It took a few centuries before economics got more institutional recognition, with the establishment of the **first chair in Political Economy** ("Staatshuishoudkunde en Statistiek", Professor Janus Richardus de Brueys), in 1815 at the Faculty of Law; even before Oxford (1825) and Cambridge (1828).

Economics has had many connections to other disciplines at Utrecht, as is reflected in the **first Economics Nobel Prize winner** from Utrecht University, Tjalling Koopmans (1975 Prize). He studied mathematics and physics at Utrecht in 1927-1933.

In 1992 the Faculties of Law, Geography, Social Sciences and History joined forces to establish the economics combination program Utrecht (ECU'92, the name of the study association for Economics students at Utrecht University). Over the last decades there has been a consistent focus on **combining economics with other disciplines** in order to better solve economic problems.

Start of the Bachelor's programme Economics and Business Economics in 2002.

The Utrecht University School of Economics has been founded in 2003.

Start of the Master's programmes in Economics in 2005.

In 2018 a new **Politics, Philosophy and Economics Bachelor programme** has been started, reviving the Political Economy tradition at Utrecht University.

<i>WHAT'S THE BEST APPROACH TO WELFARE</i>		
<i>BENEFITS?</i>	<i>WHAT WORKS?</i>	<i>THE REAL WORLD</i>
<i>PERSPECTIVE</i>	<i>WHAT IF PEOPLE BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY TO WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT ACCORDING</i>	
<i>TO STANDARD ECONOMIC THEORY?</i>		<i>HOW CAN WE</i>
<i>DEFINE WELL BEING?</i>	<i>IF WORKING PAYS OFF</i>	

CASE #3

Working together on a better approach to welfare benefits

In collaboration with the municipality of Utrecht, researchers from Utrecht University conduct a study into a better approach to welfare benefits. The current rules in social assistance are complicated and strict. We want to know if it can be done differently. Is this really the best way to help the welfare recipients? Can it be done in a simpler, better way? We will try this out in practice, together with a group of 900 welfare recipients, divided in four research groups. Each group will try a different approach. After one and a half years, the researchers can draw conclusions about which approach works best. We investigate the different effects that a different approach can have on welfare recipients. We look at whether people find work more quickly, but also to study the effect on their health, on their financial situation and whether people are more or less satisfied with their own situation.

Team of researchers

Stephanie Rosenkranz × Loek Groot × Timo Verlaat × and others

EUROPE →
THE NETHERLANDS →
UTRECHT

Amsterdam

⊙ *UTRECHT*

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