

Interdisciplinary Education Programme (“Leergang”)

An interdisciplinary education affords students experience in disciplines other than their own. Students learn to reflect on the core elements of their own discipline in a multidisciplinary context and, with suitable guidance, learn to formulate integrative answers to innovative research questions of scientific and/or social urgency.

A university such as UU, one with a broad disciplinary focus, is ideally suited for this type of education. It is precisely in high-quality interdisciplinary education, that disciplines — both established and more recent — take centre stage. Disciplines and interdisciplinarity complement one another—interdisciplinarity questioning the tendency of the disciplines to specialise, whilst the disciplines ensure interdisciplinary answers are not only more encompassing, but also based on thorough research.

Universities such as UU are often still structured along disciplinary lines, thus interdisciplinary education comes with its own specific questions and challenges. Such challenges also bear upon the competencies, skills, and attitudes of its often disciplinarily trained teachers.

This programme offers didactic tools and a broad network of colleagues for teachers who are or want to get involved in interdisciplinary education in various contexts (disciplines, types of education, levels of education, etc.).

Objectives

This programme aims to enable participants to systematically and creatively shape interdisciplinary education. After completing the programme, participants will:

- be able to make choices that are appropriate for the learning objectives and the subject of their interdisciplinary education, within their specific context;
- be able to choose and design assignments and ways of assessing student competencies that are appropriate for the formulated learning objectives;
- have an acute awareness of the complexity of interdisciplinary education;
- understand the building blocks required to organise interdisciplinary education (for example in terms of governance, finance, and administrative processes);
- have gained knowledge concerning the development, implementation, and evaluation of interdisciplinary education;
- have carried out an intervention, based on a question of their choosing, either within an existing or a new programme (or part thereof).

The intervention mentioned above can be conducted within the full range of education offered at UU, varying from BA courses to Continuing Education, and from curriculum design to the setting up of a working group.

Language

The third edition of this teaching course will be taught in English.

Target Group

The programme “Interdisciplinary Education” is intended for experienced teachers and lecturers working at UU, UMC Utrecht, UCU, and UCR who, for the duration of the course, are involved in the development and implementation of interdisciplinary education at Utrecht University, and who are committed to improving the design and quality of interdisciplinary education. It is possible to work on an intervention in the context of the EWUU alliance, and teachers working at WUR and TU/e are invited to contact the course organizers to express their interest in joining this edition. Potential participants include:

- Teachers who want to broaden or deepen their experience in developing, implementing, and evaluating interdisciplinary courses or learning activities;
- Teachers and course coordinators who will set up an interdisciplinary course or part of the programme for a disciplinary course in the near future;
- Coordinators who will be setting up an interdisciplinary course, minor, track, or programme.

Professional development

The programme has an agile structure—one guided both, by the questions with which, and the level at which, participants arrive. As such, whilst progress will always be made, diverse participation inevitably yields diverse (positive) outcomes. Where relevant, the Scholarship of (Interdisciplinary) Teaching and Learning will be implemented to monitor the progress of the intervention.

Each participant will receive 2 hours of individual coaching, amongst others, pertaining to the implementation of the intervention. It will be strongly recommended to also meet with peers in between meetings. These intervision-style meetings will be organized as buddy dates.

Selection Procedure

Those who are interested can register for this programme by submitting the following documents before **15 May 2023, 5pm**, via cat@uu.nl:

- Letter of motivation, learning questions, and a short description of a proposal for an intervention (together comprising a maximum of two A4);
- (Education) CV (maximum two sides of A4);
- Approval from their project leader, manager, or education director to participate.

This edition of the programme can accommodate a maximum of 16 participants. We aim to assemble as diverse a group of participants as possible in terms of (amongst others) discipline and experience with interdisciplinary education. In addition, we will determine whether the motivation, learning questions, and intervention are appropriate for this particular programme and its objectives, as defined above.

In addition, the following formal criteria apply:

- The participant is in possession of a University Teaching Qualification (“BKO”, in Dutch);
- The participant is able to complete the whole programme from beginning to end—i.e., to participate in all meetings and to carry out all of the interim assignments;
- The applicant’s project leader or manager supports their participation in this course and allocates time for them to participate in the meetings, as well as to prepare for meetings and to carry out the intervention;
- The project leader or education director confirms the relevance of the proposed project;
- The participant has registered before the deadline.

The selected candidates will receive an invitation for an interview. The selection committee (comprising the programme supervisors) will interview a maximum of 24 candidates. The selection committee advises the Board of the Centre for Academic Teaching and Learning, which will ultimately select the successful candidates.

Programme Management

[Rianne van Lambalgen](#) (Liberal Arts and Sciences), [Esther Slot](#) and Elma Zijdeveld (Educational Consultancy & Training).

Guest Speakers

Henk Kummeling (Rector Magnificus), Iris van der Tuin (Dean for Interdisciplinary Education), Linda de Greef (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, UvA), Christel Lutz (UCU), and more.

Cost

Both the faculty and the participants are expected to invest time in this course. The Executive Board of UU will bear the financial costs.

Programme 2023-2024	
1	Meeting 1: 24-hrs Thursday 12 October 2023 16:00 hours until Friday 13 October 2023 16:00 hrs.
2	Meeting 2: day Thursday 23 November 2023 09:00-17:00 hrs.
3	Meeting 3: day Thursday 25 January 2024 09:00-17:00 hrs.
4	Meeting 4: evening Thursday 29 February 2024 16:00-21:00 hrs.
5	Meeting 5: closing afternoon Thursday 18 April 2024 12:30-17:00 hrs.