

New generation of critical global citizens

At Utrecht University (UU), almost every student comes into contact with sustainability, regardless of their field of study. Every year, around five thousand Master's students graduate from UU. The university trains this new generation to become leaders and drivers of the sustainable transition. The university does this by integrating sustainability into education and working on sustainable awareness among students, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2022, we took the following steps

Utrecht 2040 game

UU's goal is for every student to be involved with sustainability in education. This can be done, for example, by playing [the game 'Utrecht 2040'](#). The game is widely used within the UU. The solutions students can come up with, focus on the ideal Utrecht in 2040. In academic year 2021- 2022, 1001 students (from inside and outside the Netherlands) played the game. Since 2022, the game has also been accessible to players without a solis-id, increasing its scalability. Further development of the game started at the end of 2022, with two new games being developed: in the second bachelor year the game focuses on worldviews and in the third bachelor year on the student's position as a professional in society.

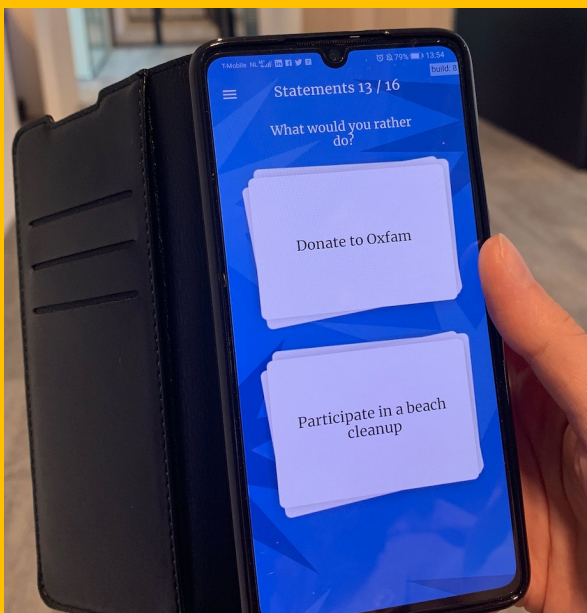


Photo: Charlotte Ballard

Course planner

There is a wide range of courses within the university in which sustainability plays an important role. UU encourages students to take these courses by increasing the ease of finding them. One way this is done is through the [Course Planner](#). Starting from academic year 2022-2023, students will be able to search university-wide in the Course Planner by theme, for example courses that fall under the theme 'sustainability'. This will give students the opportunity to make a more sustainable and interdisciplinary contribution to their profiling scope.

Pathways: community 'Sustainability Education and Engagement'

The UU Strategic Plan 2020-2025 includes efforts to encourage interdisciplinarity in the regular and free-choice part of the curriculum, with a visible place for the strategic themes. This is also expected to expose more students to the theme of sustainability, such as through the Pathways to Sustainability strategic theme. Within the [Pathways to Sustainability](#) strategic theme, the 'Sustainability Education and Engagement' community was established in 2022. The community aims to connect sustainability education initiatives within UU and develop new initiatives.

CHARM-EU

Utrecht University is part of the [CHARM-EU alliance](#). This alliance of several European higher education institutions aims to offer transdisciplinary, challenge-based education. Education that can be followed on the move, flexibly and online. Sustainability is one of

the core values represented in all CHARM-EU education. The Master's programme Global Challenges for Sustainability started in September 2021 and has a focus on sustainability issues. During this 18-month Master's programme, students take courses at five CHARM-EU partner universities and connect with other campuses online. The Master's started with 75 students. Some students dropped out mid-term and 69 students completed the Master's in February 2023. A second cohort of 62 students started this Master's in September 2022 and they will complete their Master's in February 2024.

SIG Sustainability in education

In early 2022, the [Special Interest Group \(SIG\)](#) 'Sustainability in Education' was launched, where lecturers and students can exchange knowledge and experiences with each other in the field of sustainability in their education. Four meetings were organised in 2022, each with a different theme, such as 'sustainability education at UU and HU' and 'sustainability and open education'.

LERU Doctoral Summer School

In the first week of July 2022, the League of European Research Universities ([LERU](#)) Doctoral Summer School was organised by Utrecht University's [Urban Futures Studio](#). Sixty European PhD students came together to write a manifesto on 'the university of the future', with a focus on sustainability. From this came [a plea](#) to let go of traditional ideas and patterns and an invitation to be playful and imaginative. [Watch the aftermovie of the Doctoral Summer School 2022 here.](#)

EWUU Alliantie

In 2022, the [EWUU](#) Alliance actively contributed to the organisation of five challenges focused on sustainability: Replacing Animal Testing (RAT), Dutch Dairy Challenge (DDC), Inter-university Sustainability Challenge, Regenerative City Challenge, and the Bio-Tech-Med Nutrition Interdisciplinary Team Training challenge (BITT). All challenges were open to students from the partner institutes: Eindhoven University of Technology, Wageningen



Photo: LERU doctoral Summer School

University & Research, Utrecht University and University Medical Center Utrecht. In total, about 170 students participated in these educational programmes, in which they were challenged to actively research and find solutions in the field of 'preventive health' and 'circularity in society', two themes directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The transdisciplinary setting encouraged and leveraged interaction between professionals and peers from different scientific, professional and cultural backgrounds.

Utrecht Challenge Alliance

In 2022, the Utrecht Challenge Alliance organised the Sustainable City Challenge. It took place from 27-30 September and on 7 October 2022. During this challenge, 16 student teams (about 100 students) from Utrecht University, Utrecht University of Applied Sciences (HU) and the Regional education centre (ROC) worked on the following five themes: sustainable mobility, the circular city, more energy-efficient living, a healthier neighbourhood and a green environment. This was done in

cooperation with the Municipality of Utrecht and the Municipality of Amersfoort. The issues were proposed by Merwede Utrecht, Cartesius Utrecht, Daalsebuurt Utrecht (in cooperation with Utrecht Community (UCO)) and the Hoefkwartier in Amersfoort (from the sdghub.nl). [Watch the aftermovie of the Sustainable City Challenge 2022 here.](#)



Photo: Sustainability Education and Engagement