



Collaborating with students and
teachers of Utrecht University?

Community Engaged Learning

Utrecht University (UU) aims for education to contribute to current social issues. We do this together with partner organisations and citizens. Do social issues also play a role in your organisation? Then UU would like to collaborate with you, with the aim of learning from and with each other. We call this form of education Community Engaged Learning (CEL).



WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CEL)?

- Education in which students, teachers and community partners work together. Partners range from local residents and small foundations to large (government) organisations and companies.
- A social issue is central: from local to global issues.
- CEL links the university's theoretical knowledge with knowledge and experience from practice.
- Reflection is a key component: students learn by reflecting on their experiences.



WHAT DOES THE COLLABORATION BRING YOU?

- New insights for your issue: fresh perspectives from students based on scientific knowledge.
- Putting social issues you care about on the map.
- You create valuable impact by preparing students for their role in society.
- Expanding your network with talented students and scientists.





FROM IDEA TO COLLABORATION: HOW DOES IT WORK?



PRECONDITIONS

- During which period do you have time for the collaboration?
- How many students will/can you work with?



CONTACT THE UU

Send your idea/question to CEL@uu.nl. From here we can refer you to one or more teachers. Or contact university teachers from your network directly.



MEET & MATCH

Meet with a UU teacher to explore whether your idea/question fits a programme or course.



GOOD PRACTICES OF CEL

Connecting neighbourhoods

Social Geography and Planning students in Utrecht have teamed up with Stad&Co to explore how the food culture of the multi-cultural Lombok neighbourhood can inspire the Jaarbeursplein area to become more interconnected.

Charlie Hoge of Stad&Co:

"Creating impact is one of our core values. What better way to do that than to give students a chance to experiment in practice in the work they might want to do later on? I really enjoyed working with them and being able to contribute to that, to see them grow and learn."

App design

Information science students helped the platform Podiumkunst.net design a prototype for a future theatre encyclopaedia app that resonates well with a younger audience.

Milco Feijnenbuik of Podiumkunst.net:

"The design recognisably reflected the look and feel of the current website, but in refreshed form with a better overview. All in all, the results were inspiring. In the coming period, we will consider which elements can already be applied to the current website."

Organising social activities

Students from University College Roosevelt collaborated with the monastery Simpelhuys in Middelburg and organised a concert, lunch meditation and open day here to strengthen the monastery's social function.

Jan Zwemer of Monastery Simpelhuys:

"It was great to work with this group of talented and critical young people. With the arrival of the students, a distinctly different age group entered the walls of the monastery. I think it is useful to introduce students to activities that have a social need."

Find more examples at uu.nl/en/CEL



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- The CEL project must fit with a course at the university. A course usually lasts one teaching block (ten weeks) or two blocks. Please note that students are not available full-time.
- The CEL project does not have the set-up of a classic internship, where a student comes to work entirely for an organisation for a number of days a week. The aim of CEL is to really learn and work together on a social issue (co-creation). This collaboration also demands time from you as a partner.
- Realise that the 'products' (research, advice, design, service, etc.) may not fully meet your initial expectations and may also produce surprising or 'out of the box' outcomes.
- The UU aims to build long-term relationships with partner organisations. A pilot with CEL may grow into a structural partnership.