



Performance agreements for Utrecht University

In further elaboration of the outline agreement between the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science and the Dutch universities, Utrecht University will commit to the following performance agreements.

Quality and excellence

- Excellence: the number of students enrolled in honours programmes will increase from 5% in 2006 via 9% in 2010 to a projected 12% in 2016.
- Quality: Utrecht University will manage to retain 3rd place in the top six of general research universities with the highest number of Bachelor's programmes rated good/excellent by the NVAO. All study programmes will retain their NVAO accreditation, and Utrecht University will retain its unqualified institutional accreditation.

Study success expressed in terms of dropout rate, number of switches, and study success rate

- Dropout rate: the percentage of all full-time Bachelor's students (first-year higher education students) no longer enrolled at the institution after one year will decline from 20% in 2006 via 18% in 2010 to a projected total of 15% in 2016.
- Switch: the percentage of all full-time Bachelor's students (first-year higher education students) to switch to another study programme at the same institution within one year will develop from 6% in 2006 via 7% in 2010 to a projected total of 6% in 2016 (the percentage will remain stable due to more effective matching/selection before the start of the study programme and better options for students seeking to switch to another study programme in the first year).
- Study success rate: the percentage of all full-time Bachelor's students (first-year higher education students) to re-register at Utrecht University after the first year and obtain a degree certificate at Utrecht University within four years will develop from 69% in 2006 (2003 cohort) via 74% in 2010 (2007 cohort) to a projected total of 77% in 2016 (2013 cohort).

Measures regarding educational intensity and the quality of teaching staff

- Quality of teaching staff: the percentage of (permanent) lecturers with a basic teaching qualification (BKO) will grow from 20% in 1999 via 60% in 2010 to a projected total of 80% in 2016. The percentage of lecturers with a senior teaching qualification (SKO) will also grow, from 25% in 2006, via 30% in 2010 to a projected total of 35% in 2016. Utrecht University will thus retain its position as the Dutch university with the largest percentage of lecturers with a BKO or SKO qualification.
- Educational intensity: By 2016, the number of scheduled contact hours and other structural education-related hours in the first year of all full-time Bachelor's programmes will total 12-18 hours per week. By 2016, the average number of scheduled contact hours and other structural education-related hours in the second and third years of all Utrecht University Bachelor's programmes will total 12-18 hours per week.

Educational profile

- The following study programmes will be phased out after 2011: Master's programme in Tax Law, Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Portuguese

Language and Culture, Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Theology, and the Master's programme in Astronomy.

Development of core research areas

- Utrecht University will invest in four strategic themes and research focus areas (including the recruitment of exceptionally talented staff, partnerships and additional funding) as a part of its contribution to the eight Dutch Top Sectors and six EU Societal Challenges. This should help ensure that the number of research groups to be rated with four fives according to the Standard Evaluation Protocol has increased by 10% within each of the strategic themes by 2020.

Valorisation

- By 2016, Utrecht University will spend at least 2.5% of all public government research grants on activities in the area of valorisation.
- The percentage of students enrolled in entrepreneurship courses will increase from 1% in 2006, via 3% in 2010 to a projected total of 5% in 2016.
- In terms of the amount of funding obtained from the 7th Framework Programme/Horizon 2020, Utrecht University/UMCU will manage to retain its current (= leading) position relative to other general research universities/university medical centres.

Effective allocation of funds

- Utrecht University will continue to allocate its funds in an effective manner, ensuring that the ratio between overhead and turnover does not exceed 20.0% (Utrecht University's result according to the 2011 Berenschot benchmark). The University will strive to shift the emphasis within this 20% from generic support to direct support for education and research.

Each year, Utrecht University will invests at least 15 million euros in the realisation of its objectives and performance agreements: 1/5 of this amount goes to education while 4/5 is allocated to research. If funding were to be fully or partially terminated in connection with performance agreements or a major cutback in government grants, the University still expects to realise its objectives and performance targets, albeit at a somewhat slower pace.

Utrecht University will annually monitor the aforementioned performance agreements, and report on their progress in its Annual Report. These performance agreements have been approved by the deans, the University Council and the Supervisory Board.