

Sector Report 2012 universities



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Cooperation, profiling and performance!

Preface of the president

Turbulent and dynamic. That is how I'd like to summarise 2012 from an academic perspective. "Turbulent" was the political situation: the fall of the Rutte I cabinet was followed by the Lente Akkoord (Spring Agreement), a long election campaign and the formation of a new government. Policies and policy proposals turned out to be extremely fluid, especially where the ever-changing interpretation of the 'long study fine' was concerned. Fortunately, in addition to unexpected cuts, the Coalition Agreement of the Rutte II government also contained a more positive message for the universities: significant investments in basic research, and resources for matching and continuation of the 2011 coalition agreement and the individual performance agreements between the universities and the Minister of Education, Culture and Science. The universities are now hopefully looking forward to a little bit of 'rest' on the policy front. The coalition agreement and performance agreements must be the foundation for close collaboration, profiling and performance!



Karl Ditttrich, President VSNU

The universities once again received great international recognition for their performance. In the annual rankings of the Times, 12 universities made it into the top 200. This prompted an editorial in which the Dutch model of an impressive platform consisting of all universities in the Netherlands was once again brought to the attention of the policymakers. The successes in Europe (ERC grants and KP7) and the parts the universities played in the Global Competitive Index and international impact and productivity scores were also marvellous. This is no reason to sit back and relax, however. Education must achieve better results, in particular by offering high-quality, challenging teaching. This is one of the reasons more is being invested in the further professionalization of lecturers, new kinds of education, and a more structured curriculum. The latter tends to give rise to criticism, but it does seem to work well for certain students.

Universities are also enjoyable, amazing and awe-inspiring places! There are many initiatives by students and staff, teaching and research are incredibly dynamic, there are many partnerships with international institutions, and there is so much scope for opportunities at and collaboration with businesses, public organisations and regional authorities! This not only means that universities are veritable breeding grounds for talent, but it also makes them exciting and vibrant places to be.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Sijbolt Noorda, for his leadership of the VSNU over the past six years. He did so with passion, as a powerful advocate for the universities. With his keen insights and proactive strategy, he was the architect of a coalition agreement that will guide the sector for many years to come. He laid a solid foundation for a clear course of action and future development. I will continue to build upon this with pride, and will not hesitate to relentlessly bring the importance of universities for the Netherlands to everyone's attention. This will be achieved through dialogue, public appearances, the revamped VSNU site, press releases and tweets. The strong Dutch knowledge-based economy makes the Netherlands incredibly competitive. And through their teaching and research, the universities create a solid foundation for this economy. They are marvellously dynamic, and inextricably linked to our society.

About VSNU

The VSNU – the Association of Universities – is formed by the fourteen Dutch Universities. It represents its members to the government, the political world, and governmental and civil organisations. In addition, the VSNU is an employers' organisation that consults with the government and trade unions about the employment conditions of the university sector (which employs around 43,000 people).

The Dutch universities are organisations with a public mission. They were created to enrich society in the Netherlands with their education, research and inventions. As such, they are eager to shed light on how they fulfil this social mission. You will find this information – plus information about other subjects – in this annual sector report.

There are three technical universities: Delft University of Technology (Technische Universiteit Delft, TUD), Eindhoven University of Technology (Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, TUE) and the University of Twente (Universiteit Twente, UT). Wageningen University is specialised the field of Life Sciences, healthy food and living environment. The remaining ten research universities are non-specialised. The country also has eight university medical centres, closely affiliated to the research universities.

Technical universities

- [Technische Universiteit Delft \(TUD\)](#)
- [Technische Universiteit Eindhoven \(TUE\)](#)
- [Universiteit Twente \(UT\)](#)

Non-specialised universities

- [Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam \(EUR\)](#)
- [Universiteit Leiden \(LEI\)](#)
- [Universiteit Maastricht \(UM\)](#)
- [Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen \(Radboud\)](#)
- [Tilburg University](#)
- [Universiteit van Amsterdam \(UvA\)](#)
- [Rijksuniversiteit Groningen \(RU\)](#)
- [Universiteit Utrecht \(UU\)](#)
- [Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam \(VU\)](#)
- [Open Universiteit \(OU\)](#)



Life sciences, healthy food and living environment

- [Wageningen University](#)

The [NFU website](#) has information about the teaching and research hospitals in the Netherlands.

Facts & Figures

University revenue 2011

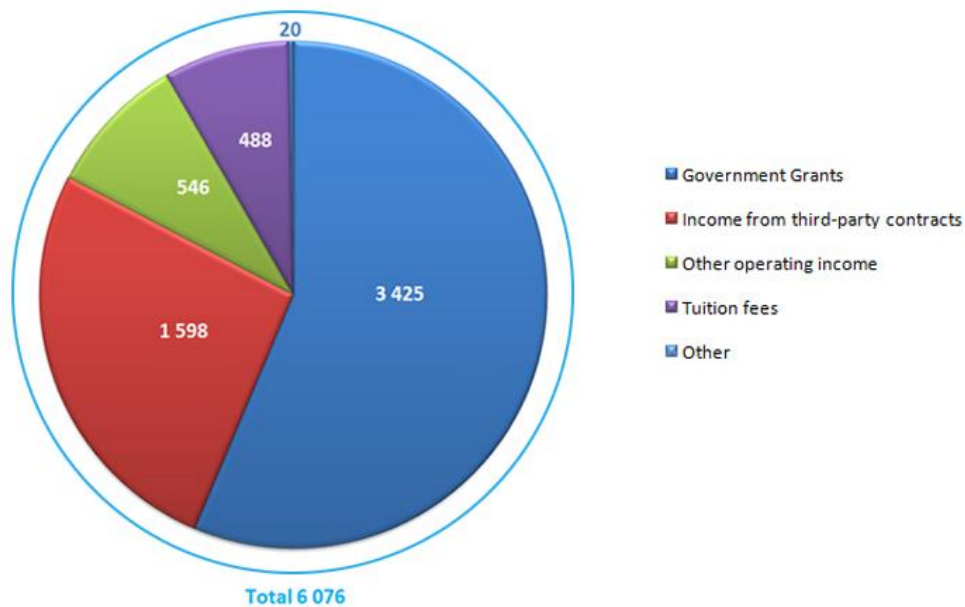


Figure 1 shows the income of the universities in the year 2011. The overview includes the income of all fourteen universities, including the OU. Amounts are in millions of Euros.

Source: OCW/DUO, Financiële Gegevens Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs, jaarrekeningen 2007 t/m 2011, edited by VSNU

Number of students in 2011 and 2012

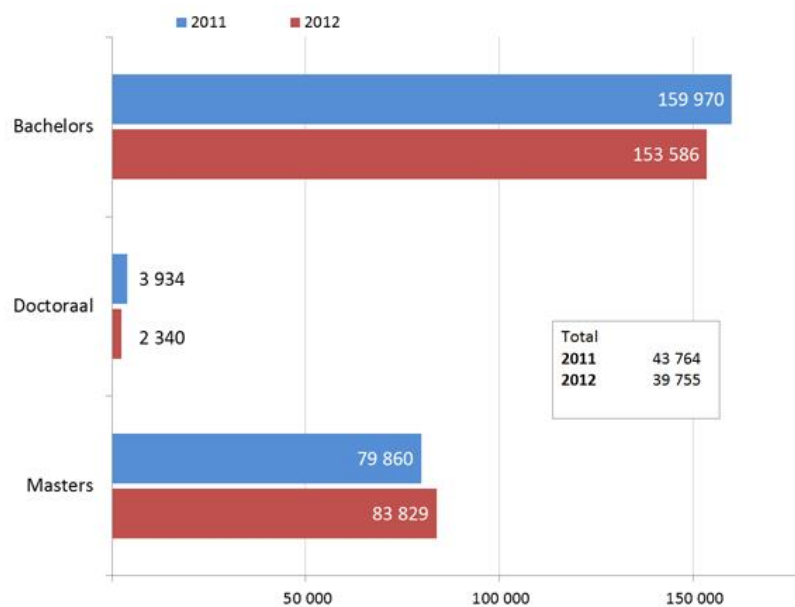


Figure 2 shows the number of students enrolled in university education on 1st October 2011 and 1st October 2012. Only first registrations have been included. Students studying for a second degree are not included in this figure. Because of the impending "long study fine", more students graduated in

2011/2012 and fewer students are currently registered. The number of registered students is expected to go up again next year.

Source: VSNU/CBS 1cHO 2012 Aggregaat ingeschrevenen. Hoofdinschrijvingen on 1st October

Number of staff in fte in 2011 and 2012

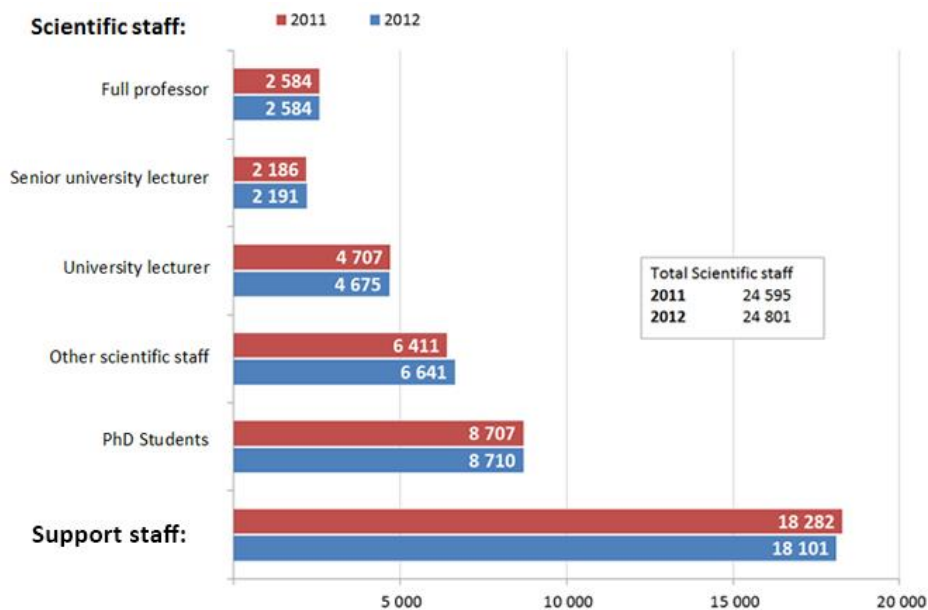


Figure 3 shows the number of employees working at Dutch universities on 31st December 2011 and 31st December 2012. Compared to 2011, the total number of staff has increased slightly by 200 FTEs. The number of support staff has fallen by almost

200 FTEs. The figures are shown as full-time equivalents. Since certain appointments are part time, the universities actually employ more people than indicated here.

Source: WOPI, reference date 31-12

Number of graduates 2011-2012

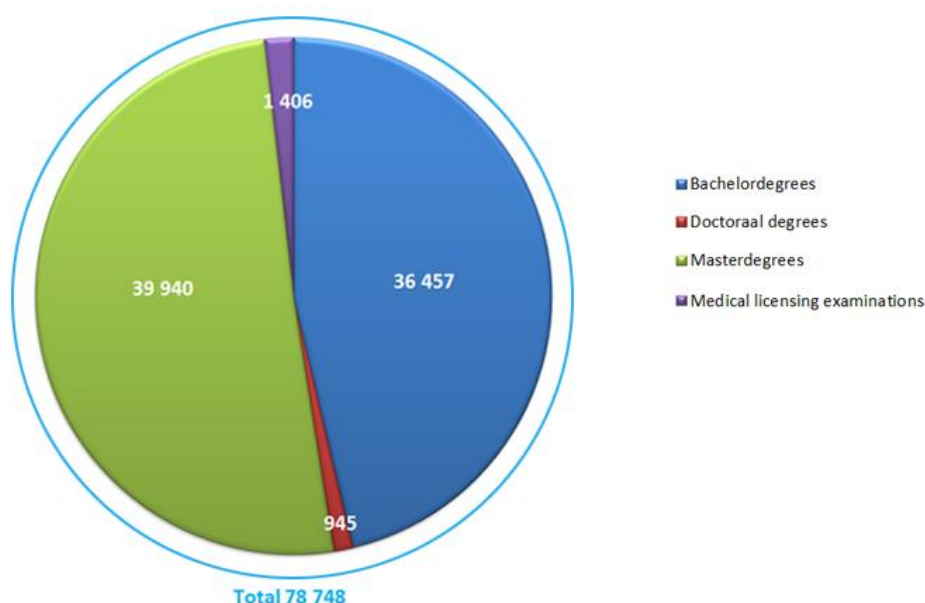


Figure 4 shows the number of students who left university in the Netherlands with a degree in the academic year 2011/2012. The figures are based upon the number of degrees that were awarded. In the academic year 2011/12, it was possible to receive a "long study fine", which meant that those who were enrolled for their studies for a time that significantly exceeded the nominal study time would receive a fine on top of their university fees. In addition, in 2012/2013 more universities introduced the so-called "hard cut" (harde knip), which means it is now only

possible to continue to the master's course if the student has a bachelor's degree.

These measures have resulted in an increase in study pace. This increase can be partially explained by students applying for their degree faster after meeting the required conditions. The number of doctoral (=doctorandus) degrees is falling steadily and will disappear completely once the bachelor-master's structure has been fully introduced.

Source: VSNU/CBS 1cHO 2012 Aggregaat diploma's

Scientific publications published in 2011

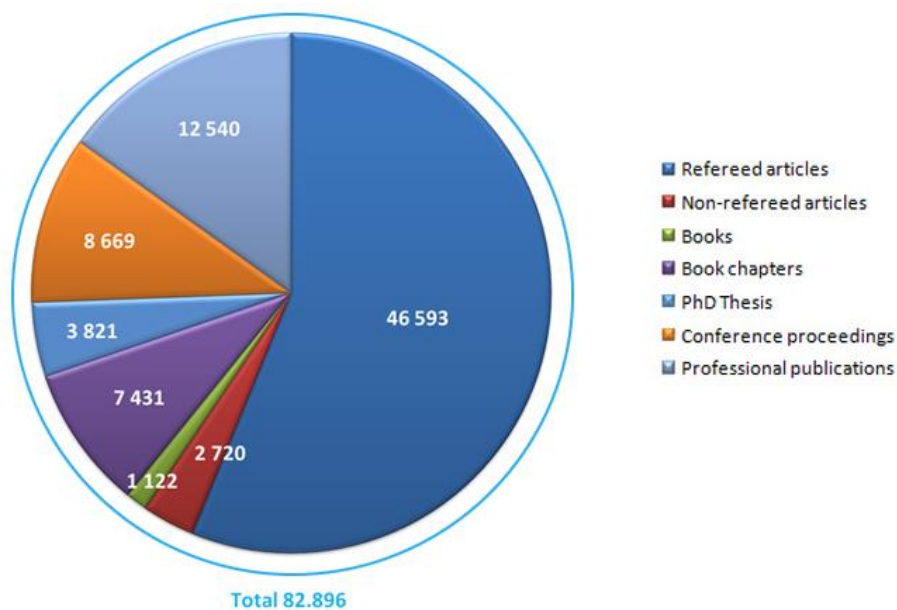


Figure 5 shows the number of scientific publications published in 2011 by Dutch university staff. The figures take account of all scientific publications (including academic theses) and professional publications of that particular year. In total, the number of publications has increased by approx. 1400. This is mainly due to an increase in the number of refereed articles, which rose by

2300 when compared to 2010. Conference proceedings, non-refereed articles, books and professional publications show a slight decrease.

The number of people receiving a PhD increased by 120, thereby continuing the steady increase since 2008.

Source: Onderzoeksinzet en -output 2011

Citation-impact score Dutch universities

2003-2006	2004-2007	2005-2008	2006-2009	2007-2010
1,37	1,36	1,37	1,42	1,45

Figure 6 Universities contribute significantly to the international visibility of the Netherlands as a research country. Dutch researchers published around 33,000 publications in 2011, which equates to around two publications per 1000 inhabitants. This ranks the Netherlands in fifth place across the globe.

Dutch researchers are not just productive; their publications are also well received across the border. This can be measured by the overall citation impact, which measures the extent to which fellow scientists value particular scientific publications. The citation impact is measured by counting the number of times fellow scientists cite another article in their own publications.

There is a strong correlation between

publishing a great deal and a high citation impact score. It is common practice to use a size-independent variable for the assessment of citation impact. Here, this is done using a field-normalised citation impact score, which indicates whether the publications have scored above or below the world average (=1.00).

Figure 6 shows that the citation impact of the Dutch universities is high and still increasing. In the period 2007 to 2010, the publications of researchers at Dutch universities were cited 45 per cent above the world average.

Source: Trends in citation impact per institutional sector Thomson Reuters/CWTS Web of Science. Edited by: CWTS/NIFU. (updated 15/06/2012)

Field normalized impact score countries

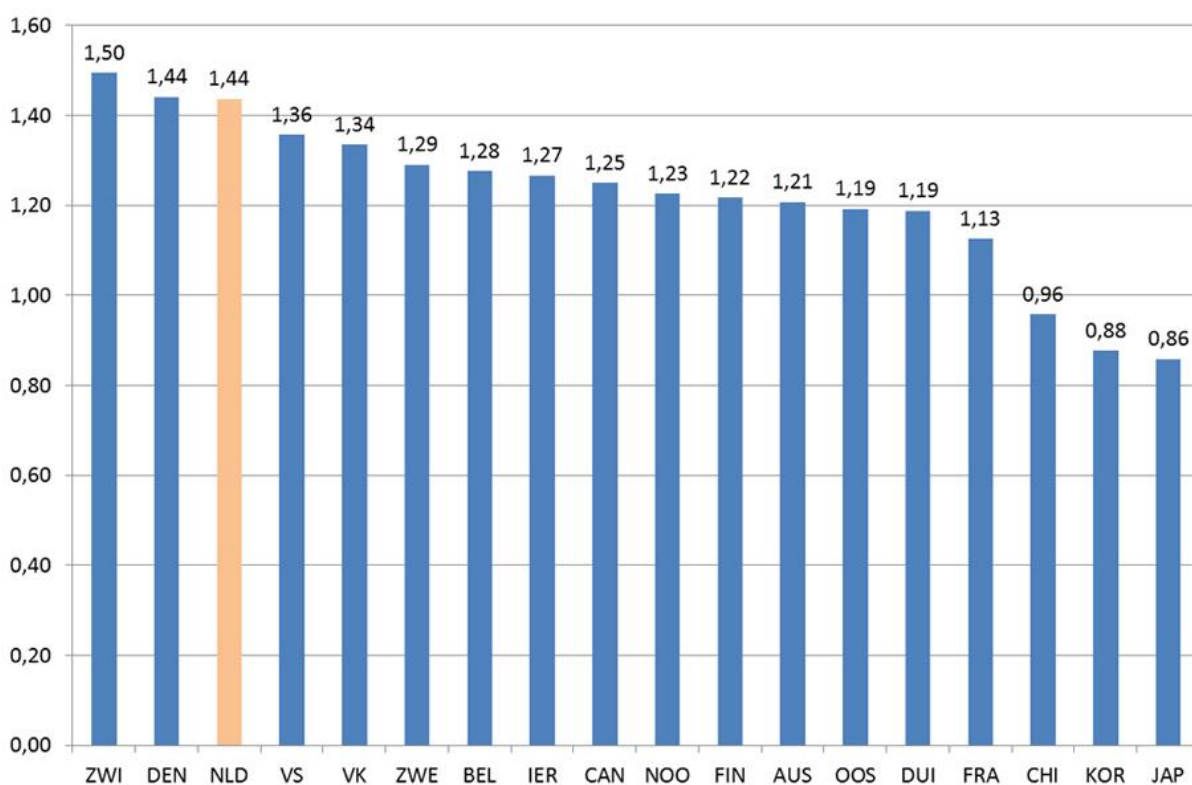


Figure 7 shows the citation impact score of all researchers in the Netherlands is 44 per cent above world average and that Dutch researchers overall rank third of a worldwide benchmark.

Source: OESO; Thomson Reuters/CWTS Web of Science. Edited by: CWTS/NIFU. (updated 15/16/2012)

Investments in higher education 2012 as % of GDP, numbers from 2009

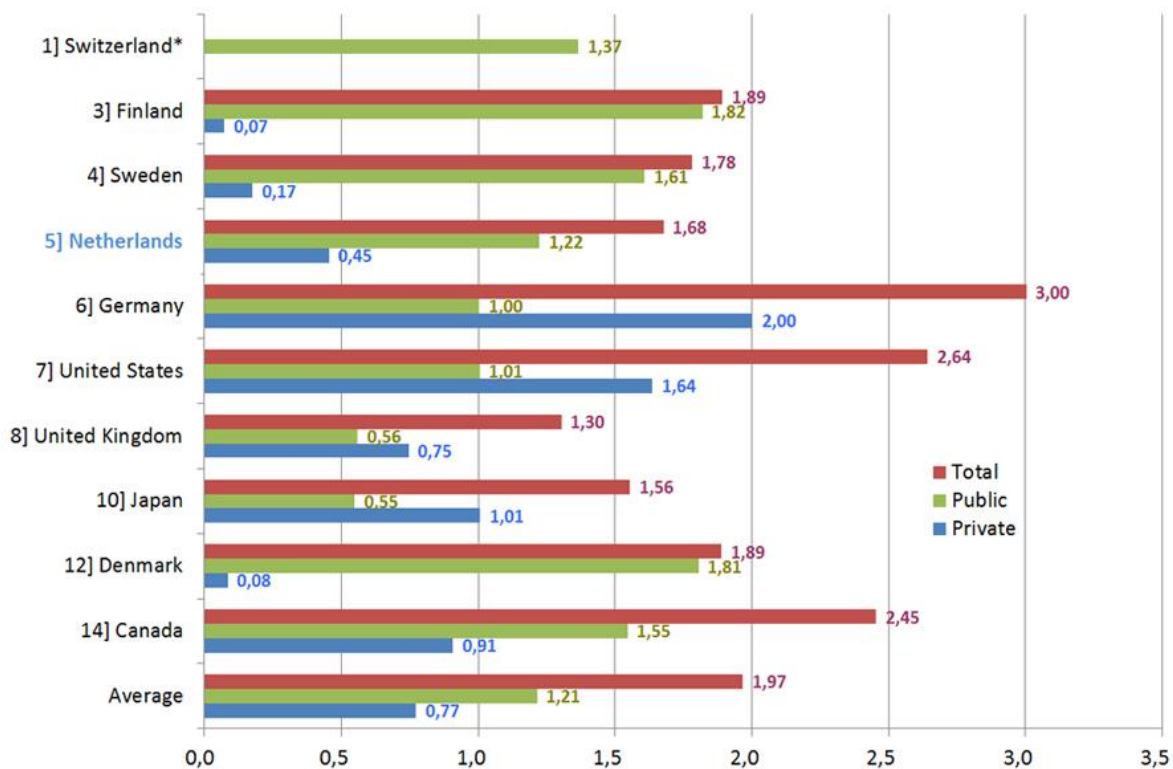


Figure 8 shows the investments of the ten most competitive OECD countries in the world with regard to higher education, expressed in a percentage of their gross domestic product. The figures are broken down into state investments and private investments. Public investments in the Netherlands are just above average in this top 10, while private investments are below average. Reference countries such as Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Denmark publicly invest more in higher education and only the United Kingdom and Japan invest less overall. To

achieve the average investment level (1.97% of the GDP) of these ten countries, the Netherlands will need to invest approximately two billion Euros extra each year.

Source: OECD, *Education at a glance 2012* Table B2.3. Expenditure on education institutions as a percentage of GDP, by source of fund and level of education (2009) Rank order of the Global Competitiveness Index 2012-2013, World Economic Forum. Numbers refer to the position of the OECD countries on the index.

Coalition Agreement – Performance Agreement

Performance agreements on course for the future

In 2012, the universities negotiated and signed performance agreements, based on the **coalition agreement** between the VSNU and the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science from December 9th 2011. The coalition agreement outlines the performance agenda for the coming years.

The universities will focus on:

- Academic achievement
- Teaching quality
- Profiling and differentiation in teaching
- A more compelling research profile
- Better use of research results

In turn, the cabinet has promised to facilitate the creation of a legal framework and has guaranteed financial stability, in order to enable the universities to realise the performance agenda.

In the **performance agreement**, the universities have translated the joint course into concrete ambitions for each separate institution. The universities had to submit their performance agreement proposals to **the Review Committee** at the start of May 2012. The committee sent its advice to Secretary of State Zijlstra on September 24th. On October 29th, all universities and Secretary of State Zijlstra **signed the performance agreement**: a bilateral agreement in which the political world committed itself to ambitious plans for the quality improvement and profiling of the universities.

The performance agreements are part of an experiment by OCW (Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschappen, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science) and will be evaluated in 2016, when it will be decided whether this method of conditional and performance-based funding should be continued and/or expanded. The universities will report on their progress in their annual reports.



Politiek committeert zich
aan ambitieuze plannen
van universiteiten

Rijksoverheid:
Universiteiten tekenen
prestatie-afspraken



Prestatieafspraken
Nederlandse
universiteiten: UM scoort
zeer goed



Open Universiteit: Leren in
tijden van verandering

Top Sectors

Closer collaboration between businesses and universities is imperative

In 2012, further steps were taken regarding the development of the top sector policy. On February 13th, the [top sectors presented their Human Capital Agendas](#) and the Masterplan Bèta en Technologie 'Naar 4 op de 10' (To 4 in 10) to Minister Verhagen of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

In order to meet the demand in the nine top sectors – the most competitive and promising sectors to strengthen the Dutch economy – the number of those with a scientific degree ('bèta' students) must have increased by 40% in 2025. The efforts universities are putting into encouraging students to choose a scientific subject are finally beginning to pay off: in 2012 there was an increase of 9% in the number of students choosing a degree in life sciences, and an increase of 3% in the number of students who chose a technological subject.

April 2nd saw the [signing of the innovation contracts](#): research agendas drawn up in close collaboration between researchers and businesses. The universities have put their signature, but remained concerned about the new policy of the Rutte I cabinet. A closer collaboration between businesses and universities may be imperative, but not at the expense of individual and fundamental research outside the top sectors. And, since a large part of the NWO (Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research) budget was assigned to the top sector policy, this was exactly what was likely to happen. The organisational structure, which includes the 19 top Consortiums for Knowledge and Innovation, was also a cause for concern, not to mention the link with Europe, which, due to the Grand Challenges, now had a more societal angle.

After the fall of the Rutte I cabinet, the VSNU, together with the other knowledge parties and the employers' organisation VNO, presented [a joint manifest](#), urging the political world to invest more in research: not just in strategic fundamental research by the top sectors, but also in separate independent research. The VSNU is delighted with the fact that the coalition agreement of November 2012 has taken most of these wishes into account.



Investeren in topsectoren



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

Minister Verhagen:
'Doorgaan met de
Innovatiecontracten is juist
nu van belang'

VSNU-Café in teken van Techniekpact



Factsheet:
**Techniekpact 2020: samen
werken aan meer
techniektalent**

Carbohydrate Competence Center (CCC)

In 2009 startten Rijksuniversiteit Groningen en Wageningen Universiteit het Carbohydrate Competence Center. Inmiddels werken hier 21 grote industriële partners samen met zeven kennisinstellingen en overheden. Het kennisinstituut richt zich op innovatief en precompetitief koolhydraatonderzoek, gerelateerd aan gezonde voeding en biobased economy.



Rankings

Dutch universities are amongst the best in the world

Since the publication of the first global university rankings, the Dutch universities have been in the top 500 every year, without fail. The universities' excellent scores are largely determined by the significant number of publications and the quality thereof, expressed in the number of times these publications are cited by other researchers.

The fact that Dutch universities consistently appear in the rankings is less obvious than it seems. Each ranking has its own criteria. In general, only universities that teach and have a particular volume of publications are considered. Of around 17,000 universities in the world, only 400 to 500 (around 3%) are included in the rankings. The clear and consistent presence of the Dutch universities is a sign of their strength and quality. When one compares the number of universities in the rankings with the number of universities in each country, the Netherlands is amongst the best in the world.

The rankings are dominated by two countries: the United States and United Kingdom. At the top of the rankings are many universities that are able to select the best students and can use their own funds and private investments to finance leading research and research staff.

Dutch universities are public institutions, however: all carrying out the same social task and therefore all financed on a similar basis. They do not have the same advantageous starting position as the universities at the very top. Dutch universities educate large numbers of students taking bachelor's and master's degrees and do research in a wide range of fields, all for the benefit of society.

Striving to be first among equals



QS TOPUNIVERSITIES

It might not be the first name on everyone's list, but **the Netherlands** is one of the world's unsung study abroad gems

rt(⊙)

Nederlandse universiteiten scoren zeer goed op ranglijst

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

UvA maakt opnieuw sprong op THE-ranking

VSNU: Nederland doet het zeer goed op de mondiale rankings

When one considers the social task of Dutch universities, and the conservative financing of both education and research, the excellent performance of the Dutch universities is something of which we can be truly proud.

The rankings below were presented in August (ARWU), October (THE) and November (QS) 2012.

Position Dutch universities

	ARWU world top 500 (2012)	THES world top 400 (2012)	QS world top 500 (2012)	Leiden top 500 (2011)
Utrecht University	53	67	85	92
Leiden University	73	64	75*	100
Radboud University Nijmegen	101-150	127	136	183
University of Amsterdam	101-150	83	62	104
University of Groningen	101-150	89	109	148
VU University Amsterdam	101-150	140	177	75
Wageningen University	101-150	70	161	69
Erasmus University Rotterdam	151-200	72	99	74
Delft University of Technology	201-300	77	103	115
Maastricht University	201-300	115	107	206
Eindhoven University of Technology	301-400	114	158	84
University of Twente	301-400	187	224	64
Tilburg University	401-500	201-225	401- 450	-

Sorted by position on the ARWU ranking

* shared position

Bron: websites rankingorganisaties (ARWU, THE, QS en Leiden) meest recente informatie

APRIL

Quality in Diversity Act

Quality agenda of universities under pressure

In the performance agreements of 2012, the universities promised the government that they would focus on improving teaching quality and academic success, and aspire to enhance the differentiation between the institutions. In turn, the government would provide the right legal and financial conditions. Starting in spring, 2012 was marked by the preparations for this legislation – the Quality in Diversity Act – for which the VSNU supplied the required [background information](#).

The [bill was passed by parliament](#) in the spring of 2013. With the final bill, OCW honoured the agreements partially. Unfortunately the arrangements that lay at the heart of the performance agreements were not included in the proposed bill at all. This means universities have fewer resources and tools available for improving teaching quality and academic achievement.

More scope for selection within differentiating courses and diversification of tuition fees are barely touched on in the bill. These are essential tools for the creation of a more ambitious study structure, differentiation of courses and ultimately the profiling of universities. Tools, which, according to the Veerman Commission, are required to make higher education future-proof. Moreover, universities are expected to charge [no more than 1.5 times the legal tuition fees for transitional years](#). In many cases, this new standard is not cost effective. Furthermore, the universities are disappointed with the fact that there will be no introduction of tuition fee differentiation for honours tracks, and that there is still no legislation for the utilisation of PhD students, even though this had been promised.

The universities are more optimistic about the application date for students – brought forward to 1st May – and about the organisation of study advice. Research has shown that late deciders are more likely to drop out, which is disappointing for students and leads to unnecessary costs for the universities. Bringing the application date forward and providing study advice helps students to make more informed decisions with regard to their choice of course. In addition, universities are also optimistic about the gradual abolishment of the “lottery” system for courses with a fixed number of places, which is to be replaced with a selection procedure.

The Quality in Diversity Act has yet to be passed by the Senate.

Zorg bij universiteiten om prijs schakeljaar



Factsheet:
Promotiestudenten dragen bij aan sterke kennissamenleving

Factsheet: Programma's voor excellente studenten staan onder druk

NOS: Vwo-scholieren in Rotterdam krijgen de Erasmus Universiteit op bezoek



Factsheet: Universiteiten klaar voor studiekeuzeactiviteiten

NOS: Bindend studieadvies ook na tweede jaar



Karl Dittrich: “Dit kan instellingen helpen om de ambitieuze studiecultuur waar we naar toe willen meer vorm te geven.”



Trend Report

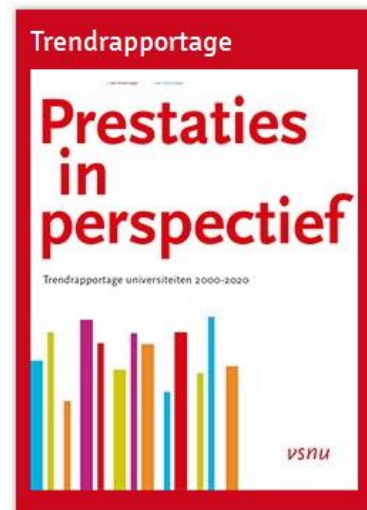
Universities support global knowledge-based economies

On May 9th, **VSNU president Sijbolt Noorda presented the Secretary of State with a VSNU report called 'Prestaties in Perspectief: trendrapportage universiteiten 2000-2020'** ('Performance in Perspective: trend report universities 2000-2020 '). Prestaties in Perspectief uses data to describe the performance of the universities with regard to teaching, research, valorisation and competence management over the past ten years. In addition, it gives an outline of their ambitions for the future. The report serves as a background document for the individual performance agreements the universities submitted to OCW within the framework of the **Coalition Agreement**.

With this report, the VSNU demonstrates that the individual performance agreements are part of a continuous process within the universities, focused on profiling and quality improvement. Together with the performance agreements, the report gives a good impression of the future trends and ambitions within the universities.

The trend report consists of two parts. The first part describes the developments regarding teaching, research, valorisation and impact, competence management, internationalisation and profiling, and collaboration. The second part consists of extensive appendices that elaborate on the trends regarding these subjects, substantiated in figures.

The main message of the report is that universities are indispensable where the Netherlands' ambition of becoming one of the world's top knowledge-based economies is concerned. Over the coming years they will continue with further profiling, collaboration and quality improvement. Continuity with regard to policies and legal and financial conditions is an essential part of this process.



Prestaties in Perspectief: trendrapportage universiteiten 2000-2020' aangeboden aan staatsecretaris Zijlstra



De VSNU heeft een trendrapportage universiteiten 2000-2020 uitgebracht

dringende kennisgeving
veranderingen in
de wetgeving
technische wetenschap
wetenschap en technologie

Rathenau Instituut

Academic Achievement

Academic Achievement Conference: ways to achieve an ambitious academic culture

It goes without saying that all universities do their utmost to realise an ambitious academic culture. Key to this are the motivation of students, ensuring students and courses are well-matched and ensuring teaching quality. In their performance agreements, the universities set goals regarding increasing academic success rates, reducing dropout, and improving teacher quality. To facilitate an exchange of knowledge about this subject, the VSNU organised two events on the subject of academic achievement in 2012.

In March 2012, the [VSNU-Café](#) in restaurant Dudok, The Hague, was dedicated to ways of achieving an ambitious academic culture. Maria Henneman lead a discussion amongst university administrators, politicians and students about measures such as ECTS minimal requirements, the importance of inspirational lecturers and motivational teaching methods. Two of the speakers were rector magnificus of the Erasmus University Rotterdam Henk Schmidt and 'Eerst de klas' teacher Simon Verwer.

Drawing on the success of the VSNU-Café, [a large conference about academic success took place](#) on the Erasmus University campus in Rotterdam in June 2012. More than two hundred university staff members attended sessions during which colleagues talked about the introduction of measures to achieve academic success at their own institutions. The workshops dealt with the transition between VWO (grammar school) and the first bachelor year, the bond between students and the institution, ECTS minimal requirements, alternative testing, and predicting academic success. In addition, a number of universities presented the complete redesign of their bachelor degrees.



Terugblik symposium Studiesucces

Studiesucces, de
vrijblijvendheid voorbij

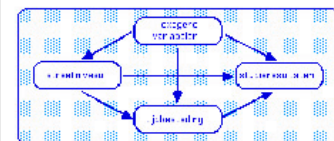


Minimaal 60 studiepunten
bij opleidingen Erasmus
Universiteit Rotterdam



Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

Om zo goed mogelijk te
helpen, bied de Radboud
Universiteit studenten de
nodige begeleiding



VSNU organises a large number of conferences, seminars and VSNU-Cafés throughout the year. With these meetings, the VSNU facilitates discussion and an exchange of knowledge at various levels about current topics in the scientific sector. These events are well attended by our associates. Attendees do not just include university administrators, scientists and university staff: politicians, leaders of student organisations and others working in the sector are also keen participants.

‘NEXT: loopbaanbegeleiding voor, tijdens en na je studie’



‘Career services’ als studiekeuzebegeleiding, studieloopbaanondersteuning en arbeidsmarktoriëntatie dragen bij tot studiesucces. De Rijksuniversiteit Groningen heeft daarom NEXT ingesteld: servicepunten op centrale plekken in de binnenstad en op het Zernikecampus. Studenten, alumni en werkgevers/bedrijven kunnen elkaar hier vinden.

Eerste afgestudeerden Academische Lerarenopleiding Basisonderwijs



Universiteit Utrecht

**Factsheet: Universiteiten
klaar voor
studiekeuzeactiviteiten**

**Factsheet: Studenten
universiteit studeren
sneller af**

**Factsheet: Selectie
studenten werkt;
universiteit blijft
bereikbaar!**

Scientific integrity

Tightened policies and more transparency for all universities

In 2012, the universities published their [tightened policy](#) with regard to fraud in higher education as a response to several serious fraud cases discovered in 2011 – in particular those of social psychologist Diederik Stapel (TiU) and heart specialist Don Poldermans (EUR). The policies include a model for complaints procedures, a list of violation definitions, an example prevention policy and a tightened Scientific Practice Code, plus also [the publication of a number of anonymous violations](#). The new policy tightens the existing rules and pursues greater transparency regarding scientific integrity.

The national media continued to show an interest in scientific integrity, however. There was a lot of interest in Uri Simonsohn, for instance, who is an American scientist whose research brought to light the scientific misconduct of psychologist Dirk Smeesters at the EUR. A number of members of the media asked the VSNU for its opinion about the desirability of the intervention of scientists like Simonsohn. The VSNU responded by stating that this is a good example of the “self-cleansing” nature of science. Given the fact that Simonsohn’s method was verified by the EUR, it looks like it is an excellent addition to the methods already used to detect scientific fraud. This response was in line with that of the Stuurgroep Onderzoek en Valorisatie (Research and Valorisation Steering Committee). The Levelt Committee presented its [final report](#) on Wednesday November 28th.

It concluded a large-scale investigation into the scientific misconduct of former professor of Social Psychology Diederik Stapel. Current VSNU President Karl Dittrich made the following [statement](#): ‘The actions of Stapel have significantly affected people’s trust in science and scientific researchers. This is incredibly unfortunate and brings other scientists into disrepute.’

Aanscherping van code tegen plagiaat op universiteiten

nrc.nl

Ontvangst Interim-rapport inzake zaak Stapel

TILBURG UNIVERSITY

Onderzoeken Stapel waren 'slodderwetenschap'



Toelichting Karl Dittrich tijdens de presentatie



Universiteit Utrecht

Digitale tool ondersteunt aandacht wetenschappelijke integriteit

Faculteiten besteden in het bachelor- en masteronderwijs en in het onderwijs aan promovendi aandacht aan wetenschappelijke integriteit. De Universiteitsbibliotheek heeft ter ondersteuning van het onderwijs een digitale tool ontwikkeld, libguides. Voor het onderzoek hanteert de Universiteit Utrecht de Nederlandse gedragscode wetenschapsbeoefening, die in 2012 in VSNU verband is herzien.

AUGUST

Long study fine

The drive against the long study fine

In August 2012 the VSNU started a new drive against the 'langstudeerboete', the long study fine. Students had to pay a 3000 Euro fine if their degree took longer than the standard duration plus one year. The offensive really took off on the January 21st 2011, when thousands of professors and lecturers in academic garb demonstrated on the Malieveld – the largest student demonstration since 1988. The VSNU launched an intensive lobbying campaign, contacting politicians, the government ministries, and the media, stating that the long study fine is unjust, unworkable and has unexpected adverse effects. A number of amendments and court rulings led to great uncertainty amongst students and institutions. Piles of objections from students resulted in an unnecessary administrative burden for the universities. The VSNU argued for a social loan system in order to facilitate investments in the quality of teaching and research. On August 17th VSNU President Sijbolt Noorda joined BNR in debate on long study fine, selection and innovation.

In the run up to the parliamentary elections, a political majority in favour of the abolishment of the long study fine arose. The parties could not agree on financial coverage, however. The VSNU appealed for a well-considered abolishment of the long study fine. President Sijbolt Noorda, too, argued against the long study fine and for a social loan system as a way to invest in educational quality.

After two years of lobbying, protesting and great uncertainty for students and institutions, things were finally cleared up in October 2012. The Rutte II cabinet retroactively abolished the long study fine, thus lowering the high student fees. In addition, some of the cutbacks in university funding were reversed. The new coalition agreement also provided for a social loan system with significant investments in the quality of teaching and research.

Sijbolt Noorda als BNR-gastpresentator in debat over langstudeerboete, selectie en innovatie



Volkskrant.nl

'Serius voorstel: waarom geen bonus voor langstudeerders?'



Sijbolt Noorda: 'Gebruik student niet als melkkoe.'



Uitleg staatssecretaris Zijlstra afschaffing langstudeerboete



Elections

Knowledge and science trending topic during parliamentary elections

The election debate for the elections of September 2nd was dominated by healthcare, housing, Europe and the economic crisis. Together with the knowledge partners and the industry, the VSNU made every effort to get the importance of knowledge for society high on the political agenda.

VSNU united with KNAW, NWO, TNO, the HBO Council, MKB-Nederland and VNO-NCW to convey the following message:

Research and innovation are the driving force behind the (future) wealth and wellbeing of the Netherlands. In order to stay internationally competitive, we must uphold and achieve the ambition to get the Netherlands into the top five of knowledge-based economies. The Netherlands is close to reaching this goal, but will have to take extra steps to achieve it. And this requires public and private investments in both research and innovation.

Besides personal interviews with politicians, VSNU launched the following activities:

1. Industry and knowledge institutions manifest

VSNU has **joined hands** with knowledge partners and the industry to create **a joint manifest** for working on the future of the Dutch (knowledge) economy. Its message: 'It is the ambition of the Netherlands to get into the top five of knowledge-based economies across the world. More structural investments are required to achieve this position'. First of all, the approach focuses on free and independent research, which has always lead to major scientific breakthroughs and innovations. Secondly, it focuses on applied science, helping businesses to innovate. By partnering with Europe, the Netherlands can also get more out of the funds invested in Europe.

2. Twitter debate:

#kennisdebat trending topic all day

On September 3rd, Twitter **became the location** for a lively debate about the future of the Dutch knowledge-based economy.



With more than 6000 tweets, 34,000 retweets and 1600 participants, many prominent parties involved in science, industry, and the government and politics, such as astronaut André Kuipers, Minister Jan Kees de Jager, DSM CEO Feike Sijbesma and top scientist Robbert Dijkgraaf, joined in. Most tweets were about the precarious position of the Netherlands as knowledge-based society, the best ways for the industry and research institutions to collaborate, and the link between education and the labour market. Afterwards a special [Twitter Newspaper](#) was compiled based on the debate.

3. The Higher Education Election Debate 2012

At the end of the campaign period, on September 10th 2012, the VSNU, LSVb, the HBO Council and ISO held [the big Higher Education Debate 2012](#) to allow the various parties to finally own up to their ambitions regarding the quality and accessibility of Dutch higher education. During this debate, Halbe Zijlstra (VVD), Sander de Rouwe (CDA), Manja Smits (SP), Jesse Klaver (GroenLinks), Paul van Meenen (D66) and Tanja Jadnanansing (PvdA) discussed Dutch knowledge talent and the future of higher education and research.

4. VSNU-Café: from Campaign to Agreement, a reflection on the election results

After the elections, the VSNU talked with Aukje van Roessel (political editor De Groene Amsterdammer), Aleid Truijens (De Volkskrant columnist), Ruud Koole (professor of political science at Leiden University and PvdA member of the Senate), Gijs Rademaker (editor and opinion pollster EenVandaag) and other parties about what the election results could mean for the Dutch knowledge-based economy and higher education in particular. The VSNU café took place on September 20th.

The VSNU's response to the Coalition Agreement presented by the VVD and the PvdA at the end of October was [moderately positive](#). Despite the fact that the Cabinet set a major financial austerity task, education and research came off relatively lightly, and it was even announced that there would be more investments in scientific research over the longer term. It is widely agreed that the manifest played an important part in the decision-making process.



Sijbalt Noorda (VSNU) overhandigt de twitterkrant over het #kennisdebat zojuist aan deelnemer Alexander Pechtold (D66).

OCTOBER

U-meet

The university meets ... U-meets

Between October 2nd and 10th, around the Science Weekend, **nine universities opened their doors** to allow people to contribute ideas for getting the Netherlands out of the crisis. During these so-called U-meets, scientists presented their latest insights in TEDx-like talks. Then, politicians, companies, scientists, students and civilians got together to discuss ways to find a solution. Former president Sijbolt Noorda: 'Universities work at international level on solutions for urgent problems that affect everyone. Think about food-related or environmental crises, for instance. Universities contribute to an accelerated economic recovery in those cases. These core tasks are explained through short, inspiring lectures by leading scientists. The impact of scientific contributions will become truly tangible this week'.

U-meets were launched by the universities in 2012 as annual events aimed at bringing the general public and science together, and to position universities as partners in solutions. During these U-meets, science, politics and civic organisations meet to jointly look for new solutions for social problems.

The U-meets took place around the Science Weekend: a weekend in which the knowledge institutions, museums and other knowledge-related organisations open their doors to the public. The next **Science Weekend** will be on 5th and 6th October, when the universities will organise a U-meet with "Safety" as its main topic.

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

Ondernemende houding
past de wetenschapper



Universiteit Utrecht

Publieksdebat 'U-meet'
over crisis en pensioen

U-MEET
WHERE SCIENCE MEETS SOCIETY



'Exportkans voor
Nederland: slimme
oplossingen voor
mobiliteit 2020'

TU/e Technische Universiteit
Eindhoven
University of Technology

Wageningen University
organiseert Food4You
Publieksdag tijdens
Weekend van de
Wetenschap



International missions: Brazil and Russia

International missions promote academic collaboration and economic ties

Brazil

From November 18th to 24th, a large educational delegation travelled to Brazil, visiting universities and ministries in Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte. The mission, which was organised by Nuffic, coincided with a trade mission lead by [Crown Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Máxima](#). On several occasions, they emphasised the importance of the cooperation between the Netherlands and Brazil where research and education is concerned. In 2012, Dutch universities and colleges already received a large number of students within the framework of the [Science without Borders programme](#). Research partnerships were also reinforced, for example through the foundation of Brazilian branches of the TU Delft and BE Basic.

Russia

Also in November 2012, more than 20 representatives of Dutch universities, government agencies and companies travelled to Moscow for the 'Russian-Dutch University Partnerships: Shaping Innovative Academic and Research Agenda' Conference. This conference is part of a series of activities for the [Netherlands-Russia Year 2013](#). It allows VSNU to not only strengthen the vital academic ties between the two countries; it also reinforces their economic connections. In addition to this conference, organised by the VSNU, Nuffic, the New Eurasia Foundation and the Russian Higher School of Economics (HSE), the Dutch participant also visited the [Skolkovo Foundation](#).



Hogeronderwijsmissie
Nuffic groot succes



TU Delft en BE Basic
openen kantoor in Brazilië



VU bouwt mee aan Brazilië

Nederland organiseert een breed programma in het kader van het Nederland-Ruslandjaar met economische, culturele en maatschappelijke activiteiten.





The Skolkovo Foundation is responsible for the construction of Skolkovo City, which has a huge campus where the best researchers and entrepreneurs will gather in future.

Since the return from Moscow, several meetings between individual universities and groups of universities have taken place to work out project proposals, and consortiums of companies have been formed in order to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Skolkovo. The foundation was also laid for the activities of the VSNU within the framework of the Netherlands-Russia Year 2013.


**rijksuniversiteit
 groningen**

'Nederlandse wetenschappers zetten instituut voor stamcelonderzoek in Rusland op'

Een consortium van instituten, waaronder het Groningse ERIBA, het Hubrecht Instituut (KNAW) en het MIT (VS), gaat helpen het Skolkovo Center for Stem Cell Research op te zetten. Het wordt onderdeel van het Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (SkTech), nabij Moskou.

UMCG tekent samenwerkings-overeenkomst voor opzet stamcelinstituut in Rusland in bijzijn van Poetin


umcg

NOVEMBER

Student Research Conference

Student wins award for research into the improvement of methods for detecting breast cancer

On November 21st 2012 bachelor student Rogier Wildeboer of the University of Twente received the [Student Research Award 2012](#). Wildeboer conducted research in the field of photo acoustics, a method used to detect breast cancer, among other applications. The award was presented by Pieter Duisenberg, a VVD MP.



The award was presented during the 2012 [Student Research Conference](#) at Utrecht University, which received a record number of submissions that year. More than 150 students of more than 30 institutions took part. 120 papers were submitted in total.

The conference is an annual event organised by the universities themselves, and focuses on undergraduate research. Students often carry out high-level research at a relatively young age. The conference focuses on putting this type of research in the spotlight, thus encouraging more students to get into scientific research.

The SRC works like a normal academic conference. Once a call for papers has been published, students can submit a report of their research in a standard format. All papers are then assessed by a jury of experienced scientists. The jury gives feedback and selects the sixty best papers. The students who wrote these papers will be asked to present their research at the conference.

The next conference will be organised by the Amsterdam University College on November 20th 2013.

Terugblik SRC 2012



'Je kunt mensen niet jong genoeg bij wetenschap betrekken' Hans Clevers



Harmonic Photoacoustic Imaging:
a new approach using ultrasound detector harmonic
resonances to improve image resolution in
photoacoustics

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ABSTRACT
Photoacoustics is an emerging imaging technology in
medicine, in which absorption of laser pulses by
structures in tissue generates detectable acoustic

around the surface of the sample and subsequently
used to reconstruct its internal structure [1]. This
method has been used to image large vessels in
respiration and provides applications to breast cancer
detection, dermatology, and tumor angiogenesis.

De winnende these van
Rogier Wildeboer

CLA Universities

A breakthrough in the modernisation of employment conditions

On December 12th, Employers' Organisation VSNU and the Labour Unions Abvakabo FNV, CNV Publieke Zaak, CMHF and AC/FBZ **negotiated** the Collective Labour Agreement of the Dutch universities. The agreement was signed by the VSNU president and Union officials of the Labour Unions on February 6th 2013. 'A balanced agreement. A first step towards the modernisation of employment conditions,' according to an enthusiastic Karl Dittrich, the current VSNU president. For the more than 50,000 employees covered by the Collective Labour Agreement, arrangements were made regarding wage increases, work-to-work procedures and the modernisation of the CLA. The CLA was last modified in 2010. The new CLA will run from January 1st 2011 until January 1st 2014.

The CLA includes an increase in staff wages over 2013. Employees will receive a pay rise of one percent on January 1st 2013 and another rise of one percent on September 1st 2013 thus deviating from the government-imposed pay freeze in order to remain competitive on the international talent market.

As it is in the universities' interest to motivate their employees throughout their entire career, any specific CLA arrangements for senior staff members were replaced with policies focused on employees of all ages. The key point here was to invest in sustained employability and the development of employees.

The parties have also agreed on the modernisation of the university-related statutory additions to unemployment benefit. For all CLA parties, the premise is that involuntary unemployment should be prevented. It means universities will do their utmost to help employees who are at the end of their contract find new jobs. Should this "work-to-work" approach fail to produce results, a simplified safety net remains available.



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[To the route description](#)

Note: The links on the pages support the text, but are unfortunately not available in English.