The character 謹 (pronounced mù) symbolizes the deep relationships between the University of Groningen and its Chinese partners. In Chinese, 謹 expresses warm and harmonious relations between countries and cultures. The character consists of two main components, the left component 目 means eye and hints at the general meaning of the character. As in the West, the Chinese regard the eyes as the mirror of a person's emotions and intentions. In English we say that by 'looking someone in the eyes' you can read a person's genuine intentions. Genuineness is the basis of friendship and mutual trust. The right component 坑 means 'land' or 'local'.

The whole character 謹 thus symbolizes the deep bond between partners from two different civilizations: The Dutch University of Groningen and its Chinese partners.
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On 26 October 2015 Sibrand Poppema and Ke Bingsheng, the Presidents of the University of Groningen and China Agricultural University respectively, and Mayor Zhang Yongxia of Yantai signed the financial agreement to establish the University of Groningen Yantai (UGY). King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China attended the ceremony. The University of Groningen wants to be the first Dutch university to open a branch campus in China.
Dear Reader,

On behalf of the University of Groningen, I am delighted to present to you this wonderful brochure about the collaborations we have had for many years with our Chinese partners. The UG is an internationally orientated university with deep roots in the Groningen region. When it was founded over 400 years ago, it already attracted lecturers and students from abroad.

In order to offer our local and international students the highest possible quality of education in line with the latest insights, we attract lecturers who are leaders in their fields, researchers who work at the frontiers of knowledge every day. Over the centuries, many renowned academics have contributed to making the UG what it is today: an international top 100 university offering first-class education.

In the past 20 years, the UG has developed a strong international profile. We have attracted talented foreign staff and students, sent our own students and researchers on exchanges and founded study centres, including two in China. Internationalization expands your horizons. You are confronted with similar challenges as at home, but you are exposed to other ways of resolving them. That is the basis for intellectual creativity – the ability to resolve issues in more ways than one, a characteristic that we want to impart to our students and researchers.

To this end, many Groningen students have studied for one or more semesters at a Chinese partner university. Many Chinese students and researchers have also come to Groningen. I know at first hand that they leave a good impression. Take Chuanhui Xu for example. He was one of the first PhD students I trusted to come up with his own programme. It was a great success. Even after graduating, he continues to develop research initiatives. He is a daring man with an enterprising soul. I really admire that, as I do all the many Chinese students who come to Groningen to study. They are intelligent, take the initiative and have the courage to study abroad for years.

Our long-term collaborations with our Chinese partners are based on mutual benefits. We complement each other in academic research and are continually improving each other’s teaching. This can be seen not only in the experiences of researchers, but also in the hard data presented in this brochure.

Building on our long-term partnerships and activities in China, the UG wants to start an international joint university in Yantai in collaboration with Beijing’s China Agricultural University. It will be a broadly-based university with research-intensive teaching at the same high level as at the UG. Top-quality research facilities will generate opportunities for fundamental research and for collaboration with the business world. It will be an international campus, with researchers and students from China, the Netherlands and the rest of the world.

The internationalization of teaching and research – coupled with our activities in China in particular – has enabled the UG to develop into a university with regional roots and global significance. We are very proud of the long and fruitful collaborations with our Chinese partners. I hope that we can continue to deepen them and that our new partnerships will be just as successful.

I hope you enjoy reading the brochure.

Sibrand Poppema, President of the Board of the University
Dear Reader,

The relationship between Fudan University and the University of Groningen dates back 14 years to 2003. That was when a delegation from the UG visited our university and the foundations were laid for a healthy long-term relationship. We are very happy to work with international top universities with a good reputation. The UG is one of them. Teaching and research at the UG is top rate, and it has many famous academics, including Nobel Prize winner Professor Ben Feringa.

We have achieved a lot together over the years. We have initiated several double degree programmes for both Bachelor’s and Master’s students of the UG and Fudan. Many of our researchers have exchanged views in seminars and conferences and inspired each other to new insights and groundbreaking research. These exchanges have enriched both the research and the lives of many students and researchers.

The Dutch Studies Centre has made a significant contribution to the durable relationship between our universities. For years, the Centre has been introducing Fudan students to Dutch culture and history. The relations between China and the Netherlands are hundreds of years old. The academic and cultural activities of the Dutch Studies Centre clearly further mutual understanding and trust between the Netherlands and China.

During President Sibrand Poppema’s visit to Fudan last year, I spoke extensively with him about our flourishing relationship with the UG and how we can expand and intensify it in the future. We are both convinced that international collaboration is not only good for our universities, but also makes a positive contribution to further integration in the world around us.

It is also good to see that Dutch and other foreign students are finding their way to Fudan University. It gives me great pleasure every day to see young talented people coming here to study from all corners of the world.

I really hope that the harmonious collaboration between our universities will continue to deepen and expand in the future.

Kind regards,

Xu Ningsheng
President of Fudan University
History of an international university

In August 2014 the University of Groningen celebrated its 400th anniversary. The entire month was filled with festivities. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the UG has had an international orientation right from the start. Many of the first students and professors came from outside the Netherlands. Nevertheless, the speed at which internationalization is currently taking place at this university is staggering. And essential.
Van Berkel also sees that over the past 20 years, students have started to study at more than one university and in different cultures. For example, many more students are coming to the UG nowadays. According to him, the current speed and scale of internationalization are unusually high. ‘The University was also internationally orientated at its foundation. You could almost say we’re back to square one. After all, the University is currently doing exactly what it did when it was founded 400 years ago: attracting foreign students. But the growth in the number of international students seen over the last 20 years is unprecedented. Huge.’

Klaas van Berkel 克拉斯·范·伯克尔 is the Rudolf Agricola professor of history. He studied History and Philosophy at the UG and gained a PhD from Utrecht University. After a brief stint as a researcher and professor for the Open University in Heerlen, Van Berkel joined the UG in 1988. He was also a member of the KNAW. Alongside university history, he is also interested in the history of culture and ideas and in the history of science. He is the author of the monograph Universiteit van het Noorden: vier eeuwen academisch leven in Groningen (University of the North: four centuries of academic life in Groningen).

Jost Herman 乔斯特·赫尔曼 is Professor of Globalisation Studies and Humanitarian Action and Director of the Globalisation Studies Groningen Institute. He holds a PhD in law from Utrecht University and joined the UG in 1995. He is president of the international NGOs network. He regularly gives guest lectures at China Agricultural University and Beijing Normal University. His research interests include Globalisation and Humanitarianism, Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Action.

J.C. Kapteyn

In 1877 the UG did not even have an observatory when J.C. Kapteyn was appointed professor of astronomy. Kapteyn had to be very creative in his research into the structure of the Milky Way. His research material was provided by the British astronomer David Gill, who was making a photographic record of the southern hemisphere and was based in Cape Town (South Africa). Gill sent crates of photographic plates to Groningen, which Kapteyn then used to determine the position and the intensity of the photographed stars with a great deal of precision. In this way Kapteyn and Gill determined the coordinates of 450,000 stars. With the help of this data – and a healthy dose of statistics – Kapteyn later constructed a model of the Milky Way. This pioneering research led to Kapteyn becoming one of the most internationally prominent astronomers of his time. In 1901 he was awarded the Gold Medal by the Royal Astronomical Society in London, still the most prestigious international prize for astronomy. Starting in 1908, Kapteyn spent six months every year on Mount Wilson in the US, where the largest telescope in the world was at that time. Together with his good friend the eminent philosopher Gerardus Heymans, he gave the UG an international reputation. They were close friends. When Kapteyn was no longer able to read at night due to eye problems, Heymans used to read aloud to him.

Johann Bernoulli

In 1695, a new professor of mathematics arrived in Groningen, and not one to sneeze at either. Johann Bernoulli came to Groningen from Basel on the advice of Leibniz and Huygens. The Bernoulli brothers Johann and Jacob were part of the international top in mathematical pioneers, together with Leibniz and Newton. They were working on the recently developed differential and integral calculus and applying it to mechanics. Bernoulli introduced a new field to Groningen: experimental physics. As he needed space for his experiments, he conducted his research in the choir of the Martinikerk. It goes without saying that not everyone was happy about this. Bernoulli, who was internationally renowned, remained in Groningen for 10 years. The annual Bernoulli Lecture at the UG, where a famous mathematician speaks to a wide academic audience, still honours him.

Van Berkel sees that over the past 20 years, students have started to study at more than one university and in different cultures. For example, many more students are coming to the UG nowadays. According to him, the current speed and scale of internationalization are unusually high. ‘The University was also internationally orientated at its foundation. You could almost say we’re back to square one. After all, the University is currently doing exactly what it did when it was founded 400 years ago: attracting foreign students. But the growth in the number of international students seen over the last 20 years is unprecedented. Huge.’

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On 10 December 2016, Ben Feringa was presented with the Nobel Prize for Chemistry by the Swedish king. Together with Frenchman Jean-Pierre Sauvage and Brit Sir James Fraser Stoddart, Feringa received the prize for their research on molecular nano-machines. It is generally assumed that this will result in important medical applications. Feringa has spent virtually his entire working life at the UG. He also holds two honorary professorships in China.

Shortly before the presentation ceremony in Stockholm, Nobel Prizewinner Ben Feringa was in China, where he was awarded honorary professorships by the East China University of Science and Technology and by Sinap. He collaborates with both institutions in the field of smart materials. Feringa is full of admiration for the progress made by research in China, particularly in the field of materials science. ‘China is currently generating extremely good fundamental research. They are investing a lot in science, technology and innovation and are building the most modern of facilities. At the East China University of Science and at Sinap they have top quality equipment available to them.’ According to Feringa, the Netherlands would do well to emulate the Chinese attitude to science: ‘The determination of the Chinese to gather knowledge, gain insights and lift themselves onto a higher plane knows no bounds. But they don’t just work hard, they also invest a lot in teaching and research. They realise that science is the way ahead.’

There are more than enough challenges that can only be resolved with the help of science. Environmental pollution is one example. Feringa thinks that far too much time is being spent on talking about sustainability and clean technology and far too little time on actually searching for new solutions. For example, new energy carriers, efficient recycling processes and clean catalytic processes need to be developed. He is working on that last aspect in his lab: ‘Developing such sustainable catalytic processes is one of our most important aims. We are working here on solutions that will reduce the ecological footprint by a factor of 30 to 40. That is a huge challenge.’

Ben Feringa has spent his entire academic career at the UG – he studied here and gained his PhD here, and later established his own department here. He became Professor of Organic Chemistry in 1988. He has been awarded numerous national and international distinctions, including the Spinoza Prize in 2004 and the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2016. He is also an Academy Professor at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). His research interests include organic chemistry, catalytic processes and molecular nanotechnology.
Feringa has built up an international team of researchers for his research. ‘I have people from 14 different countries in my team, including 6 researchers from China. This kind of international team of people with different backgrounds and expertise is extremely valuable. We challenge each other. The team spirit is amazing.’

Feringa also works a lot with foreign researchers. ‘Because our research is complex, I work a lot with experts from all over the world. I also regularly send students and researchers abroad because it is a good idea to spend some time in a different research environment. Every lab has its own atmosphere, and you get new ideas and gain experience with new technologies. This is extremely important. It helps researchers experience the international nature of science: ‘Science knows no bounds’, emphasizes Feringa. ‘When I’m chatting with chemists in China, or draw a molecule for them, they know exactly what I’m talking about. We have a joint language where we communicate with chemical formulae and structures. Someone from China understands that language just as well as someone from the US.’

Feringa himself has pretty much stayed in the same place during his career. He gained both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at the UG, and gained his PhD there too under the renowned chemist Hans Wijnberg. After gaining his PhD Feringa worked for Shell for 6 years, after which he returned to the UG. ‘The most important reason for coming back was that I wanted to establish my own research group. I wanted to train students, conduct fundamental research and do exciting new things. Groningen gave me the chance to start as a young lecturer and establish my own group. That was very unusual in those days.’ In 1988, Feringa succeeded his mentor Wijnberg as professor of organic chemistry. Right from the start of his professorship he worked on molecular switches, research that would form the basis of his later molecular motor. These switches may have important medical applications. You can direct a drug to work very precisely at one site in the body without it having unpleasant side effects in other places, for example. However, Feringa warns that this kind of application is very complex and medicine is not nearly at that point yet. A lot more research still needs to be done on this kind of smart drug.

Feringa did not receive the Nobel Prize for his contribution to molecular switches, however, but for the fact that he went one step further than switches at nano level. Feringa thought that if you can switch a molecule back and forth on its axis, then it should also be possible to make it rotate around its axis. After years of research, he published his synthesized nanomotor in 1999 in Nature. Feringa: ‘We constructed the first molecular rotational motor in the world. That enabled us to construct tiny molecular machines. It opened up a whole new field of science.’ Twelve years later, Feringa built his iconic nanocar. There are no actual applications for it yet, but Feringa believes that that is exactly what fundamental research is all about: ‘We are passing beyond the boundaries of knowledge into the unknown, into no-man’s land. We are trying to make new discoveries there, gain new insights and learn better how things hang together. Synthetic chemists construct molecules and materials that have never existed before. We have the endless world of possible molecules and materials rolling out in front of us.’ In that sense, too, science knows no bounds.
The Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen (CEASG) plays an important role in the research and teaching on current developments in East Asia. Because the centre brings academics from different faculties together, it is also the logical starting point for multidisciplinary teaching and research.

‘The idea behind the Centre is that we bring East Asia to Groningen, and take the University of Groningen to East Asia,’ says Professor Tjalling Halbertsma, Director International of CEASG. ‘The initiative was not only due to the consideration that East Asia is an important geopolitical and economic player that deserves our attention, but also that the region is rich in broad and relevant research opportunities.’

The Centre focuses on China, Japan, Mongolia and North and South Korea. In addition, CEASG also aims to expand and deepen the links to universities in East Asia. ‘When the Centre was founded we already had many links with China, but a more structured approach was needed to deepen and expand those links.’ And that is precisely what CEASG has done, says Halbertsma. ‘With our research centres at Tsinghua University and Fudan University, we have gained over 10 years of structural teaching and research experience in China. In addition, the UG collaborates with over 50 universities in China and the region.’

CEASG is currently coordinator of four research centres in East Asia. ‘It is a wonderful network that started 12 years ago when the first Dutch Study Centre was founded at Fudan University.’ That Centre turned out to be a great success for both parties and heads a list that now numbers four UG research centres in East Asia. ‘Alongside all the teaching activities, the double degree programmes and student and lecturer exchanges, the overseas research centres also contribute to the UG’s research activities. ‘For example, we recently published a collection of articles on the relationship between the EU and East Asia, with contributions from Chinese, Japanese and other authors from East Asia. That sort of research collaboration also enriches us here in Groningen.’

Prof. Tjalling Halbertsma is professor of East Asian Studies, with a focus on modern day Mongolia, and Director International of the Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen. He holds a PhD from Leiden University on the Nestorian heritage of Inner Mongolia. Before joining the University of Groningen in 2012, he served as the first Netherlands’ diplomat posted to Mongolia and as attaché with the Dutch Embassy in Beijing.

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'Knowledge about East Asia is certainly not only important for people who want to go there’

One of the strengths of CEASG in Groningen is its collaboration with the Groningen Confucius Institute and the Osaka University European Center for Academic Initiatives. These collaborations make CEASG the logical starting point at the UG for multidisciplinary teaching and research concerning East Asia. The East Asian Studies Master's specialization is a good example of this. It is taught by a range of experts from different fields from both Europe and East Asia, including economists, historians, lawyers and experts in the field of international relations. Students also have the opportunity to learn Chinese or Japanese and spend a semester studying at a university in East Asia. ‘We really can offer something special because we have a long list of partner universities in East Asia where our students can study. It includes top universities such as Fudan, Tsinghua and Osaka University,’ says Halbertsma.

If it was up to Halbertsma, the teaching activities of CEASG would be expanded with a full Bachelor’s degree programme in Chinese Language and Culture. ‘Learning Chinese is essential to understand China properly. Many secondary schools have already understood that and offer Chinese language and culture as a school certificate subject. This is where there are opportunities for the UG, both for a Bachelor’s programme and for a teacher-training programme for Chinese. Compared with our neighbours, the Netherlands is really lagging behind with such degree programmes. For example, Germany already has over 30 degree programmes for the Chinese language. And knowledge about East Asia is certainly not only important for people who want to go there. On the contrary, East Asia is coming our way more and more too.’
Chinese Studies in Groningen

The British sinologist Oliver Moore was recently appointed to the Chair in Chinese Language and Culture. Next semester he will start teaching Chinese as an elective to IR undergraduates. But his main task is developing a Bachelor’s programme in Chinese Culture and Language. With this, the UG will become the second Dutch university to offer a programme in Sinology. Moore’s Chair is co-funded by Hanban, the organization that promotes Chinese language and culture all over the world.

Is there a need for a Bachelor’s programme in Chinese Language and Culture?
It is limiting that there is only one place to do Chinese studies in the Netherlands: the University of Leiden. I believe in spreading university education regionally. That’s why we want to offer a programme in the North of the country. In addition, although Leiden is a European leader in Chinese studies, it has not covered every square yard of the pitch. Two programmes offers choice to both students and researchers.

When will the programme start?
We are still in the process of developing it. This autumn we will start teaching Chinese within the Bachelor’s programme in International Relations (IR). That is a good place to start. IR is a fast-developing field that incorporates aspects of sociology, economics and history. Chinese Studies fits into this. We want to piggyback off this success for our own programme. We hope our component within IR will be a success so that we can start teaching Chinese Studies as an independent Bachelor’s degree, with a focus on 20th-century modern China.

You studied at Fudan University yourself as an undergraduate in the early 1980s. What was that like?
The University of Leeds, where I did Chinese Studies, sent us to Fudan University for a year. It was a subdued period. Shanghai and Fudan University were very dark at night, because there was not much electricity to run anything. The only lights on were in classrooms where you saw students swotting at their books until 10 o’clock at night. The campus itself was incredibly bare. And as a foreigner you were regarded with some distrust. There was a lot of reserve among Chinese students about making friends with us. In those days, China had fewer than 30 cities declared open to Westerners. If you wanted to go to Beijing, you had to get an internal visa. Unimaginable today!

Can you tell us a bit about your own research?
My primary interest is in the social phenomena behind literature, history and art. At Cambridge, I did my PhD on the social history of civil service examinations in the 9th and 10th centuries. This system sounds very meritocratic, but it wasn’t. The elite was regenerating itself through intellectual testing. But together with the common writing system, these civil service exams had a massive unifying effect. It was an incredible piece of social engineering. My most recent project is very different. I am writing a book on photography in China. What attracts me this time is a visual and intellectual history that links China to the West. Photography has been a global movement that socially spread from top to bottom and repeatedly adapted to local circumstances. It also fits in with my interest in a wide variety of reprographics. China has a very interesting history of regenerating texts and images, and spreading them for political, educational and cultural reasons. What links all of my interests is that they have to do with social patterning. Another way of describing this is an interest in civilization (or culture). The Chinese word for culture is related to pattern.
He actually wanted to be a writer when he was a child, but things turned out differently: he’s a professor of robotics. His meteoric academic career started at Tsinghua University and led him via Yale and Princeton to Groningen. Within eight years he became a professor in his field. He will soon be joining the UG’s Young Academy, a club of the most talented, enthusiastic and ambitious young researchers. He has also received several prestigious European and global distinctions.

Ming Cao is Professor of Networks and Robotics. He studied at Tsinghua University, holds a PhD from Yale University, and did a postdoc at Princeton University. He has been awarded with Veni, ERC and Vidi grants, and received the European Control Award and the IFAC Manfred Thoma Medal. He is a member of the UG’s Young Academy. He is particularly interested in building mathematical models for complex systems and multidisciplinary research.

You studied at China’s most elite university, Tsinghua, and then moved to Yale and Princeton. Why did you come to Groningen?

My research field is called ‘systems and control’, which is where applied mathematics and engineering intersect. Emeritus professor Jan Willems, (who worked in the Mathematics department, ed.) was one of the global leaders in this field. So although Groningen does not rank as high as Yale or Princeton, in my research field it is well known because of this professor’s influential work. His research was the reason to join this university.

In recent years you have been awarded several prestigious prizes and grants. You will also be joining the UG’s Young Academy. Have these distinctions had any effect on you?

I don’t think about it a lot, but I do feel fortunate to have them. In the Netherlands, there are good opportunities for young researchers to develop. I was awarded a Veni grant the same year that I came to Groningen. That was a good start. And in subsequent years, several other grants were awarded. Without them, I couldn’t have assembled such an excellent research team of postdocs and PhD students. The ERC, Veni and Vidi grants were particularly generous. Also, I noticed that our research at the UG generates attention from all corners of the globe. People want to come here to work with me. Some of the recent results are pure teamwork. So I see these awards (the Manfred Thoma Medal and the European Control Award, ed.) as recognition of my team.

And what do you think of the research environment at the UG?

Just like Tsinghua University and Yale University, the UG is a comprehensive university that promotes multidisciplinary research. The Young Academy is an example. We are all at an early stage of our careers and still exploring which niche to take with our research. That’s what binds us and what motivates us to reach out to others to see what they are doing. They inspire me because, although I was trained as an engineer, I don’t consider myself as someone who only works with engineering problems. I have learnt a lot from biologists and sociologists. Some of the software we develop for the robots is in fact inspired by how animals and humans behave. I think this is one of the strengths of a comprehensive university.
Can you give us an example of interdisciplinary research that you have been involved in?

Two years ago, I co-supervised a PhD student together with Professor Franjo Weissing, who studies evolutionary models in animal groups here at the UG. The student learned from the biology group about modelling, programming and doing experiments. In my group, he worked with robotic fish and programmed them as if they simulated real fish behaviour. Thanks to his research, we can put models of real fish and robotic fish together and better study schools of fish. That student, Jiajie Zhang, is now an assistant professor at Nankai University in Tianjin. And right now, I have a PhD candidate called Pouria Ramazi, who works on models that originated in the social sciences. In his research, he does a lot of theoretical analysis and predictions about human groups. We published these results in the social science section of a top journal. Sociologists really appreciated our work, because they did not expect that one of the results could be proved mathematically — that groups of people can reach a stable equilibrium.

Can you explain this?

People all have different personalities: some people tend to agree more with others, whereas some tend to disagree more. But if you mix those people together in a group, they will interact with and adapt to each other. After some time, this dynamic social process stabilizes, because if I am satisfied with the decisions of the people around me, I don’t have to look for new friends. And don’t have to change my opinion. There is something like an equilibrium here; a state of harmony. But this is indeed only a mathematical model. Sociologists should still test it in real human groups, because that is not my expertise. So together with Professor Andreas Flache, who is a professor in sociology at the UG, we are now designing experiments to check this model in human groups. This is just one example of collaborating with people from different fields within our university. It can create promising new results. And it really is a two-way exchange: we get ideas and inspiration from different fields, but we are also giving back to those fields.

A swarm of robots

To produce quickly for small orders, factories rely on networks of intelligent robots that can make decisions without any human supervision. This is called Smart Industry. These robots are not only intelligent in the sense that they can perform a specific task, they must also communicate with other robots about how to perform the task as a group. This kind of Swarm Intelligence is at the heart of Professor Cao’s research. “The problem of how to make a team of robots collaborate is very complex. Take cooperative transportation as an example. To perform their task, the robots have to decide together how to cooperate as a group, and in which formation to move.” To perform this task, the Nexus robots in the picture are equipped with a 3D camera, laser sensors and omni-directional wheels. Professor Cao and his team try to program these individual robots so that they can collaborate in chaotic industry halls where they can run into all kinds of obstacles, and where they may not always receive each other’s signals clearly. “Sometimes even I am surprised about the decisions they make as a team.”

What are the applications of your research for industry?

Have you heard about Smart Industry? Factories need to be smart in the sense that they can respond quickly to small and fast-changing orders. Traditionally they have an assembly line that they can use for years, but nowadays their production lines can be shuffled around easily. To produce quickly for small orders, factories rely on complex monitoring systems that can do the decision-making for them, instead of relying on a hierarchical human decision-making structure. Robots and sensor networks are playing a central role in this revolution. That’s the core of my research.

Can you tell us something about the state of robotics research in China?

Japan is still the biggest market for industrial robots, but it will be soon surpassed by China, because the Chinese government has a lot of funds available for innovation and technology. But because the application process for these funds is very competitive, you cannot rely on them if you want to run a big research group. That’s why, in China, you see closer collaboration with industry than in the West. Companies here have their own research departments, but in China companies often outsource their R&D to universities. This has advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is that a lot of developments are driven by market demand. But the disadvantage is that universities sometimes repeat the same research for different companies.

What is your ambition for the future?

I really enjoy this multidisciplinary approach. And I believe that engineering is at the beginning of a major period of transition: it can both benefit from and give back to other research fields. I think I want to be a leader in this transition.
The Dutch Studies Centre at Fudan University and the European Studies Centre at Tsinghua University play an important role in the relations between the UG and its Chinese partners. The Centres facilitate joint research projects, forge contacts for double degrees and sandwich PhDs and provide teaching. What began in 2003 as a daring idea has grown into one of the cornerstones of the UG in China.

In 2003, a delegation of UG deans headed by the Rector Magnificus Frans Zwarts made a trip to China. They visited 5 universities in 5 days: Tsinghua University, Peking University, Fudan University, Jilin University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Tom Wansbeek, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the time, remembers the visit well: ‘We went to China to investigate the possibilities for collaboration. In hindsight, that visit heralded the current relationship between the UG and China.’ The links forged during that trip still form the basis of many of our most durable collaborations.

‘During our visit to Fudan University, we saw that the Scandinavian universities were represented there by a Nordic Centre. That inspired us to establish a Dutch Studies Centre (DSC),’ explains Wansbeek. After some negotiation, the DSC was opened in 2005 and the comparable European Studies Centre (ESC) at Tsinghua University followed in 2011. ‘We are extremely proud of the collaboration with such prominent Chinese universities,’ says Jan van der Harst, academic director of both Centres.

The aim of the Centres is to facilitate interdisciplinary research and to provide teaching. Every semester, UG lecturers give lectures to Chinese students. The student with the best paper wins a scholarship to come to Groningen to study for a semester. The lectures are often closely related to the research conducted by the Centres. ‘The focus is on the international relations between the EU and China, including fields such as economics and law,’ says Van der Harst, who is Professor of European Integration. ‘We were recently awarded a KNAW grant for a research project on the economic diplomacy between China and the EU.’
Another important goal of the Centres is to stimulate mutual knowledge and understanding. The DSC, for example, inspired two Chinese students to write their theses on Dutch social security and the Dutch pension system. According to Van der Harst, this demonstrates that the Chinese are very willing to learn from other countries. ‘I really admire that open attitude’, he praises China.

On the other hand, Van der Harst and his Groningen colleagues also gain valuable insights through their contacts with Chinese researchers. He calls it enrichment: ‘In Europe and the US we are used to viewing international relations from a Western perspective - both theoretically and in practical terms. But it is extremely important to be open to other points of view because that teaches us more about the world. We recently organized a conference on IR theory and Asia. There’s a serious need for more research on the Asian contributions in this area. ’This is an important reason to treasure the Centres.

The exploratory trip in 2003 paved the way to the flourishing relationship between the UG and two of the most prestigious Chinese universities. According to Wansbeek, we should be really proud of this. ‘Internationalization is simply something that the UG is good at. A university world market is developing and it’s vitally important to be one of the international top. In 2009, Frans Zwarts saw that Chinese scholarship would really take off. Our current president Sibrand Poppema has nurtured the relationships with our Chinese partners and expanded the network even further. ’The DSC and the ESC are the fruits of their labours.

Tom Wansbeek 王堂堂 is Emeritus Professor of Statistics and Econometrics and initiator of the two double degrees with Fudan University. He studied Econometrics at the University of Amsterdam and gained a PhD at the University of Leiden. For some years he was guest professor at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. As Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business, he was a member of the first UG delegation to China. His research interests focus on econometric methods.

Jan van der Harst 范德哈斯特 is Professor of European Integration. He studied History at the University of Leiden and gained his PhD at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He is the academic director of the Dutch Studies Centre at Fudan University and the European Studies Centre at Tsinghua University. His research interests include the policy and management of European integration and China-EU relationships.

Diversity of Collaborations
Co-publications of UG and Chinese partners by academic discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number of publications</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exact sciences</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Economics</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tsinghua and Fudan
Tsinghua University and Fudan University are two of the most prestigious universities in China. They score highly on international ranking lists and have produced many famous academics, intellectuals and politicians, including the current president Xi Jinping (Tsinghua) and vice president Li Yuanhao (Fudan). Fudan has a wonderful campus in Shanghai and Tsinghua a wonderful one in Beijing.

Double Degrees and Sandwich PhD programmes
In the field of education, the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) has always fostered initiatives that involve China. As early as 2005, FEB and Fudan set up a double degree Bachelor’s in Economics for Chinese students, whereby they study for two years at Fudan and two years at the UG. In 2014, FEB also initiated a double degree Master’s for its own students. After a Master’s at the UG, they can follow the English-taught Master’s ‘China and the World Economy’ at Fudan. They are also offered the opportunity to follow a placement in Shanghai. Together with the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), in 2006 FEB started a sandwich PhD programme which has already resulted in 10 successful graduates. A comparable sandwich PhD programme with Zhejiang University is in the pipeline.
The main activities of the Groningen Confucius Institute (GCI) comprise the provision of lessons in Chinese language and culture, says Xuefei Knoester-Cao. She is director of the Institute and policy advisor for international relations at the UG.

Knoester-Cao explains what the advantages of the Institute are for the UG: ‘The GCI helps the UG to further expand and deepen its sustainable relationship with China. In addition, we have access to funding for lessons in Chinese language and culture. ’ That translates into all kinds of advantages for the UG in the long term. For example, by setting up 11 Confucius classrooms, the GCI is helping the development of a Chinese curriculum in secondary schools across the country. According to Knoester-Cao, this is important for the UG because ‘these pupils will soon have had 3 to 6 years of Chinese and some will really want to continue with that. Starting next year, they can follow Chinese with us as a subsidiary subject, and in the future there will also be a degree programme in Sinology. That makes the UG attractive to this group. Because thousands of secondary school pupils leave school with Chinese on their school certificate.’

And that group of secondary school pupils is growing, according to Knoester-Cao. ‘Every year secondary schools are surprised at how many pupils sign up for Chinese lessons.’ There are many reasons for learning Chinese, according to Knoester-Cao, and the fact that China is becoming more visible globally certainly plays a role. Some school pupils want to challenge themselves or simply choose something unusual. Others are interested in Chinese language and culture from an economic point of view. They may want to go into business or trade. They realize that it will be important for them to know something about Chinese language and culture: ‘The GCI also provides training to secondary school teachers of Chinese. Chinese became a subject in the final examinations in 2007, alongside French and German. We provide training about new teaching methods in Chinese language and culture to teachers who want to continue to develop in their field.’

Alongside the focus on language and cultural education, the Institute also provides tailor-made training courses for Dutch and German companies who want to do business in China. On the other side of the coin, Chinese companies can follow a training course about doing business in the Netherlands. According to Knoester-Cao, this is not only important because there are many cultural differences, but also because both countries are ‘organized in a completely different way.’ The GCI also organizes cultural activities and lectures focusing on China beyond the traditional clichés. ‘Most Dutch people think of China as a traditional country of terracotta soldiers and red lanterns. We also tell them about modern China, a dynamic and diverse country that is changing rapidly.’

The Groningen Confucius Institute has been a valued partner of the UG since its foundation in 2010. It contributes to Chinese language and cultural education and helps with the acquisition of funding in China. In addition, the Institute forms a bridge between China, the Netherlands and north-west Germany. In that sense it can be compared with, for example, the Goethe Institute and the Alliance française.
Xuefei Knoester-Cao 曹雪飞

She’s virtually invisible to the outside world, but insiders know Xuefei Knoester-Cao is one of the most important links in the relationship between the UG and its Chinese partners. She is praised for her pragmatic approach, knowledge of both cultures, and extraordinary diplomatic talents. She, however, warns against exaggerating her contribution. ‘Thanks to my Chinese background I knew a number of universities there and I could sense the best way to promote the UG. In the end, the most important factor is that you are creating a win-win situation for all parties. That is the basis for a good and sustainable collaboration.’

Her boundless efforts and creative initiatives are the driving force behind the success of the Dutch Studies Centre at Fudan University, the European Studies Centre at Tsinghua University and the Groningen Confucius Institute. She guides the president of the UG during all the negotiations about the branch campus in Yantai, and is thus able to prevent misunderstandings and hiccups. Further, in China she promotes Groningen not only as a beautiful and safe city to study in, but also as a ‘gateway to Europe’.

In 2016 she was made a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau in recognition of her contribution to the good relations between Groningen and China. ‘That felt like huge recognition of my contribution to society. There is nothing better than recognition of that calibre from the country you live in as an immigrant. It empowers you.’

Before she came to the UG in 1996 to do a Master’s degree in International Business, Knoester-Cao studied at the University of Nanjing, where she gained a Bachelor’s degree in Economics. She was 21 when she came to Groningen. ‘My mother had always encouraged me to learn English so that I could go to America or Europe to study. By the time I finished my Bachelor’s degree she had collected piles of folders, brochures and application forms about studying abroad. They covered the whole table and I had to read them all to her because she didn’t speak English.’ Luckily Knoester-Cao was able to choose where to go herself. Groningen. ‘I thought, how about choosing somewhere unknown. Because Groningen did not appear on my map of Europe, I thought that it was a very exotic destination. I also had a good feeling about the Netherlands. Even after I had boarded the flight, my mother was still asking herself whether Groningen actually existed!’ There was no internet back then, so it was difficult to find information about Groningen.

After graduating, she joined the UG staff as a Policy Advisor for International Affairs. In 2003, part of her work involved organizing the first trip to China by UG deans and the Rector Magnificus. ‘That was a very entertaining and inspiring trip. China was a real surprise for most of the deans. We really wanted to build a sustainable relationship with a Chinese university. That was when the idea to found a Dutch Studies Centre at Fudan was born. That trip was the start of all our sustainable partnerships in China.’
Alumni

Victor Jiang

My name is Victor Jiang  and I'm 31. I was born in Fujian, in Puzhou province. I studied at the University of Groningen from 2007 to 2011. After graduation I moved to Amsterdam where I now work as a Channel Manager at a Japanese company. After more than 10 years, the Netherlands has become my second home. I've even learned to speak Dutch!

As a secondary school student in China, I always dreamt of coming to Western Europe to study because its history and culture appealed to me. It was a quick decision to come to Groningen: it had many English-taught Majors, a high position on international ranking lists, and it seemed a good base to visit the rest of Europe from. I applied for the Bachelor's degree programme in International Business and Management and got accepted. I had never been to Europe before, but I felt confident about the decision.

Upon arriving in Groningen, I immediately felt at home. I soon left the international students' dormitory to live with Dutch students. This way, I quickly made Dutch friends and became acquainted with Dutch language and culture. And I got involved in student life. On weekends I studied, went out and participated in events organized by my student association Marug. During the weekends, I travelled around the country to play in badminton tournaments and competitions.

As I blended well with Dutch student life, I never experienced a real cultural shock. But obviously, life in Groningen is very different from life in China. The pace of life is much faster, however. You have to work harder and life is a lot less secure than in the Netherlands so you have to be able to cope with that. But it's also really exciting to work here. You get a lot of chances to develop and grow. I'm definitely planning on staying in China for at least 5 more years.'

Chuanhui Xu

My name is Chuanhui Xu and I'm 31. Before I joined the University of Groningen in 2008, I was part of the MD-PhD programme in Clinical Medicine at Peking University. Two years later, I completed my PhD in Groningen. Currently, I am working as a doctor in Singapore. Although it's been ten years since I lived in Groningen, it remains an important part of my life.

I miss the friendly people, the research project, which was rewarding, the social life I had there, and the beautiful city.

Nowadays, it is essential to be trained as a researcher in order to become a good doctor. Therefore I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to do a PhD programme in the prestigious Hodgkin Lymphoma working group at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG). I vividly remember the working group meetings I had with my supervisors Prof. Anke van den Berg and Dr Lydia Visser every Monday at noon. We would discuss the progress of the project, review new literature, and make plans for the upcoming week. I also remember Dr Arjan Diepstra, who took the time to go through all the Hodgkin Lymphoma tissue slides with me. And then there was Prof. Sibrand Poppema, who had just started his job as President of the University but still joined our Friday morning meetings whenever he happened to be in Groningen. The anecdotes he shared with us were simply delightful, and his wisdom and optimism always encouraged me to continue facing academic challenges. Despite the fact that he is a famous pathologist, I guess these were the only times after he became President of the University that he looked at tissue slides under the microscope.

I believe Groningen is the best city for cycling that I know. I loved riding my bike through the beautiful city centre from the Central Station and the Groninger Museum to the Groote Markt and the Martini Church. Such an amazing feeling! Once I rode my bike all the way to the gorgeous village of Giethoorn - a 160-km round trip! I am also grateful to WIRE, back then called the University Foreign Guest Club, which introduced me to the unique Dutch culture and organized canal cruises, various visits to windmills and hikes on the Dutch islands. I had a great time in Groningen and at the UMCG, and will always think fondly of my time there.

Yali Yu

I grew up in Groningen and studied International Business and Management at the UG from 2008 to 2011. Before that I spent a semester on an exchange at Beida (Peking University, ed.) My parents come from China, but I’d never been there for a long period of time before. I wanted to experience the country and learn about the culture and the language.

It was an amazing experience. Beida has a beautiful campus and I loved living there. Nearly every day we visited some of the many temples, palaces and monuments in Beijing. It’s my favourite city (despite the air pollution) and I took thousands of photos and lots of videos. No other part of my life has been so thoroughly documented!

I accidentally joined a Chinese opera class. Through it I met the local Chinese and got to know Chinese culture. We performed for the elderly in the neighbourhood, and even for a local TV show. I just hope that none of that material ever surfaces again, ha ha!

I also met my French fiancé at Beida. After I graduated I moved to Hong Kong to be with him and did a placement at the Dutch Embassy. I then went to work for CAC Holdings, a food company. Last summer I moved with the company to Shanghai. My fiancé and I now live in the centre of the city.

Several times a year I go back to Groningen to visit my parents and friends. It still feels like coming home. I really like living in Shanghai, though. There is good public transport and a wide range of food to choose from. The pace of life is much faster, however. You have to work harder and life is a lot less secure than in the Netherlands so you have to be able to cope with that. But it’s also really exciting to work here. You get a lot of chances to develop and grow. I’m definitely planning on staying in China for at least 5 more years.'

Daan Hogeboom

My name is Daan Hogeboom and I am 27 years old. I did a double Master’s degree at the UG and Fudan. Since I graduated, I have been working as a Project Developer for a Chinese jeans brand in Shanghai.

After gaining my Master’s degree in Industrial Engineering and Management at the UG in 2014, I wanted to do another Master’s before going to work. The UG had just started up a double degree programme with Fudan University then, and I was one of the first batch of Groningen students to go to Shanghai. I didn’t know all that much about China then, other than it was undergoing enormous economic growth and swift urbanization. I was also curious about how the Chinese economic and political system actually worked in practice.

The programme at Pudan did not differ at all that much content-wise from that in Groningen. After all, you are using the same economic models. But because government here is much more centralized, the models do look different. That’s what makes it interesting. Practical course units like Doing business in China were very educational because you are learning from a hands-on expert about the business culture here and what you have to look out for. The network that you create during your programme is one of the best things about it. You meet so many people with different backgrounds. My lectures were full of people from all over the world: Asians, Europeans, South Americans, everything under the sun!

When I graduated in 2015, I could choose whether to go job hunting in the Netherlands or in Shanghai. I thought, a few years in China will look good on my CV. So I decided to stay. In addition, I got to know my Russian girlfriend at Fudan. She still had two years to go, so that made the choice a bit easier. Fudan’s high reputation made the difference when finding my current job. When I told the owner of the company that I had studied at Fudan for a year, he hired me immediately. Fudan has a very good reputation in Asia. It is really good to have that piece of paper under my belt.
The mutual benefits of collaboration

The University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) maintains good links with its Chinese partners. Under the flag of the Abel Tasman Talent Program, it has had strategic partnerships with Shantou University Medical College and with Tianjin Medical University since 2008. It also has many contacts with other Chinese universities, including Fudan University and Peking University. Many Chinese PhD students study at the UMCG too. Mutual complementarity in research forms the solid foundation for these successful collaborations.

‘Medical research is increasingly conducted internationally’, says Han Moshage. He is Professor of Experimental Hepatology and Gastroenterology at the UMCG, and the driving force behind the Abel Tasman Talent Program, which coordinates the UMCG’s international activities. ‘The quality of research is always better if you collaborate with others because a partner often has something that makes your research better. That could be equipment or access to certain materials or techniques, or simply good ideas. You complement each other. 

Sandwich PhD programmes form the backbone of the Abel Tasman Talent Program: two researchers with comparable research interests put a PhD student to work researching for two years at one university and then two years at the other. The costs are shared, and after four years the candidate gains a PhD from both universities. In the meantime, no fewer than 35 PhD students from Shantou University and Tianjin Medical University have taken advantage of the opportunity to conduct research at the UMCG. In their wake, dozens of Chinese PhD students have decided to do their full PhD at the UMCG, usually with a grant from the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC). According to Moshage, these talented young researchers come here mainly because the UM has a strong profile in China and a good international reputation.

The UMCG has good experiences with training Chinese PhD students and conducting joint research with Chinese partners, says Moshage. ‘I myself have been the co-supervisor of a Chinese sandwich PhD candidate. She conducted research at Shantou University on natural products. She then isolated and characterized active compounds from medicinal extracts. She then tested all those samples here in all kinds of models. This led to a number of very nice publications. This is a good example of the complementarity of joint research. There’s something in it for all parties.’ The UMCG is very satisfied with the quality of the collaboration with its Chinese partners.

Although it’s currently mainly one-way traffic from China, Moshage expects that Dutch PhD students will soon take advantage of the sandwich PhD programme. ‘It’s simply a question of time, I think. As the possibilities in China become better known at the UMCG, more professors will send Dutch PhD students there for research.’

Moshage also hopes that the number of PhD students funded by the CSC will increase in the future. He would also like to take collaborations with the strategic partners to a higher level. ‘I would like to improve participation with them in large-scale international research alliances. For example, we could submit joint EU grant applications.’ However, we first have to collaborate more closely and build up a good track record of joint research.

Abel Tasman Talent Program

The Abel Tasman Talent Program (ATTP) is run by the Graduate School of Medical Sciences. It was founded in 2009 to coordinate all the internationalization activities of the UMCG and to attract talented young researchers. All the collaboration links with strategic partners in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Colombia and China fall under the flag of the ATTP. The programme is named after the Groningen explorer Abel Tasman, who discovered Tasmania, Tongatapu and New Zealand for the Western world.
The University of Groningen Yantai

The University of Groningen, in partnership with the China Agricultural University in Beijing, wants to be the first Dutch university to open a branch campus in China. The campus in the city of Yantai will offer both parties good opportunities for recruiting the very best international students and researchers, acquiring funding and attracting long-term interest from the business sector.

China Agricultural University (CAU) is a Project 985 university. The 39 best research-driven universities in China are in this category. These universities are allowed to recruit the best students in the country after they finish secondary school. CAU is also known as one of the best agricultural universities in the world. This makes it particularly interesting for the University of Groningen because agri-food is a relevant research area for us. We envisage a lot of opportunities in collaboration in this field. CAU has two campuses in Beijing and acquired a campus in Yantai in 2003.

Yantai

A large part of the UGY campus has already been developed. It is located in the middle of a high-tech zone covering 38 km² in the north-east of China. As Yantai is the home of many high-end industries, companies and research institutes, it provides good opportunities for top sector jobs and cooperation in the area of research. The Yantai region has about seven million inhabitants and its climate is pleasant, with conditions similar to the Netherlands. Yantai is situated in the province of Shandong, whose 97 million inhabitants offer great potential in attracting future students. In addition, Shandong is one of the cornerstones of the Chinese economy.

UG and China: The mutual benefits of long-standing relationships

Opening a branch campus in Yantai is in line with the University of Groningen’s status as one of the world’s top 100 universities with a long-term vision. The initiative is similar to that of the University of Nottingham and New York University which previously (and successfully) opened branch campuses in Ningbo and Shanghai respectively. The financial agreement to establish the University of Groningen Yantai (UGY) was signed on 26 October 2015 in the presence of the heads of state of the Netherlands and China: the Dutch King Willem-Alexander and the Chinese president Xi Jinping.

UGY will generate huge opportunities for both the University of Groningen and China Agricultural University (CAU). By working together with CAU, the University of Groningen can recruit top students and researchers in China and Asia. Researchers in Yantai will be eligible to apply for Chinese research grants and they will be in a position to secure new research assignments thanks to improved relations with the business sector.

The partnership will also provide CAU with exciting new opportunities. CAU will be able raise its global image and attract more international students, companies and research projects. In addition, the partnership will benefit both parties in the area of academic research. Studies have shown that if researchers from the University of Groningen publish together with Chinese researchers, the Field Weighted Impact of the publications will be significantly higher than normal for both parties.

Co-publications are Mutually Beneficial

Strong correlation between co-publication with the UG and higher Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI).
The UG has many years of international experience and a reliable track record in China. Therefore, it is only natural that we should start providing transnational education. In addition, it is generally assumed that the number of international students is set to rise, especially students from Asia and Africa. Therefore, English-taught degree programmes must be offered, so that we can compete with other European, Asian and particularly Anglophone countries and recruit international students. As China is the largest education market in the world and an up-and-coming academic world power, the move towards China is logical.

Research carried out by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) showed that internationalization is a vital development for the Dutch knowledge economy. VSNU calculated that international students generate annual earnings of €1.57 billion for the treasury. The University of Groningen wants to keep pace by raising its international profile. The University of Groningen Yantai does not only intend to attract Chinese talent, but also talented international students and researchers from the rest of Asia and the world.

The branch campus in Yantai will also give students and researchers from the University of Groningen an opportunity to gain experience in China. This applies equally to students and researchers from UGY, who want to come to Groningen. The fact that the teaching at UGY is guaranteed to meet University of Groningen standards makes it easier to award ECTS credit points. Finally, the modern research facilities in Yantai will encourage collaboration with Dutch, European and other international companies in China keen to conduct research and develop products in association with UGY.

The fact that it is research-driven distinguishes UGY from other foreign branch campuses in China. Other branch campuses tend to concentrate on the education side, whereas the University of Groningen and CAU want to offer Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD programmes incorporating significant research activities and collaboration with industry. After an introductory year, Chinese and other international students in Yantai will start a University of Groningen programme, and when they graduate they are awarded a degree certificate from the University of Groningen.

Legal status and funding for UGY
The UGY is a Chinese legal entity with the legal status of an Independent International Joint University. In Europe this is called a branch campus. Chinese legislation states that the government may not interfere with the content of programmes taught at foreign institutes. This guarantees unrestricted access to the internet and academic freedom, which were non-negotiable conditions for founding the UGY. No public funds from either the UG or Dutch taxpayers will go to China: the branch campus will be funded by the city of Yantai and the students who register for UGY education in China. The research will partly be funded by Dutch companies that wish to cooperate with the UG in China and partly by the city of Yantai. The Dutch and Chinese education ministries have both approved the underlying budget.
Facts & Figures

- Founded in 1614
- 11 Faculties
- 5,591 FTE staff
- 120+ Nationalities study or work at the UG
- 120,000 Alumni
- 28,756 Students
- 6,513 First registrations
- 5,990 International students
- 3,314 Academic staff
- 1/3 of the academic staff is international
- 404 professors of which 100 female
- 2,019 PhD students

Co-publications UG – China
The bar chart shows the total number of co-publications with Chinese partners per year.
The line chart shows the total number of contributing authors per year.

Co-publications in Top Journals
Percentile of UG-China co-publications in top journals (defined by SNIP).
- Publication in Top 10% of Top Journals
- Publication in Top 1% of Top Journals
UG and China: The mutual benefits of long-standing relationships

University of Groningen PhD Students Born in China

93 PhD graduates
295 PhD candidates

Chinese Master’s and Bachelor’s Degree Students at the UG

UG in International University Ranking Lists

80 Times Higher Education Ranking
72 Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Ranking)
113 QS World University Ranking
15 UI GreenMetric World University Ranking
24 Best Places to Work Ranking Academia

UG Academic Results 2011 – 2016

32,137 Publications
80 Times Higher Education Ranking
379,373 Citations
11.8 Citations per Publication
379,373 Citations
13.57
Authors
19.7% of Publications in Top 10 Citation Percentile
Regional Distribution of UG Collaborations
Between 2011 and 2016, the UG co-published 1018 papers in collaboration with 189 Chinese institutions.