

The University has returned to Friesland

The story of Campus Fryslân can be traced back to 1585, the year in which the University of Franeker was founded. For the first 30 years of its existence, it was the only university in the Netherlands apart from the University of Leiden. In 1811, however, Napoleon signed a document ordering the closure of the University of Franeker. Almost two centuries later, the foundation and closure of the institution were still engraved into the collective memory of the inhabitants of the province of Fryslân. So, in 2010, plans were laid to fuel this smouldering academic fire – by establishing University Campus Fryslân! In the period from 2011 to 2015, Campus Fryslân in Leeuwarden established a number of new Master’s degree programmes and a research school catering to 35 PhD students, in addition to staging various public events. We will take you on a journey into the young history of the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân.

University Campus Fryslân: teaching partnerships

The Province of Fryslân and the Municipality of Leeuwarden agreed to fund University Campus Fryslân (UCF) for 10 years (2010-2020). UCF cooperates with the University of Groningen (UG), Wetsus (the European centre of excellence for sustainable water technology), the University of Twente (UT) and Wageningen University (WU), and together they offer three Master’s degree programmes in Leeuwarden:

- Multilingualism (UG Faculty of Arts)
- Water Technology (UG Faculty of Science & Engineering, Wetsus, WU)
- Environmental Energy Management (UT)

From the outset, University Campus Fryslân has worked closely with regional authorities, knowledge institutions and the business community. As a network organization itself, UCF fully appreciates the power of cooperation and the value of the networks in which organizations are embedded. People are still very much aware of this, both emotionally and perceptually.

“Even now – in 2019 – scarcely a month goes by without the Leeuwarder Courant making some reference to the University of Franeker.”

Asing Walthaus, journalist

University Campus Fryslân becomes UG/Campus Fryslân

In 2016, the duties of the Stichting University Campus Fryslân (University Campus Fryslân Foundation) were transferred to the University of Groningen. The Campus became part of the University of Groningen, and was re-named the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân (UG/CF). In the ensuing years, the following Master’s degree programmes were launched, in cooperation with other UG faculties:

- Cultural Geography, with a Tourism & Planning track (2017, UG Faculty of Spatial Sciences)
- Governance and Law in the Digital Society (2018, UG Faculty of Law)

The number of students and PhD students continues to climb, and so contractors are hard at work renovating the new Faculty building ‘de Beurs’ (a former trade centre). This listed building, which dates from 1880, stands in the historic centre of Leeuwarden. On ‘Construction Day’, this iconic venue attracted around 1,700 visitors, each with their own special memories of the place. At moments like this, the increasingly robust links between UG/CF and the wider community become clearly visible.

Campus Fryslân opened for business as the eleventh faculty of the University of Groningen

Campus Fryslân has developed University College Fryslân, which offers a Bachelor’s degree programme in Global Responsibility & Leadership. From now on, the abbreviation UCF is used to refer to

“It’s great that the de Beurs building is being repurposed in this way. Really amazing that the University of Groningen will be moving in, and that the building will retain its public function. University teaching and research are so incredibly important for the region.”

A visitor

University College Fryslân. University Colleges are characterized by a mode of instruction that enables ambitious students to study a wide range of subjects in a small-scale setting, and to live in shared accommodation during their first year. These living arrangements help the students to form a close-knit community.

In 2018, Campus Fryslân launched its own Bachelor’s degree programme in Global Responsibility & Leadership, as well as a Master’s degree programme in Sustainable Entrepreneurship. This means that it is now officially entitled to refer to itself as the eleventh faculty of the University.

Professors now walk in procession through the streets of Leeuwarden, and the regional media proudly proclaim that ‘the University has returned to Friesland’. In addition to teaching, Campus Fryslân focuses on research in four flagship areas, with data science as the overarching theme:

- Governance
- Sustainable Economy
- Culture, Language & Technology
- Health & Food

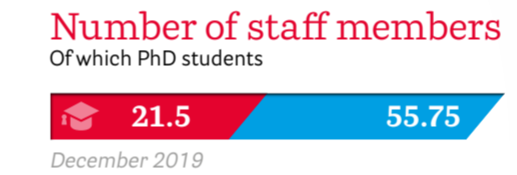
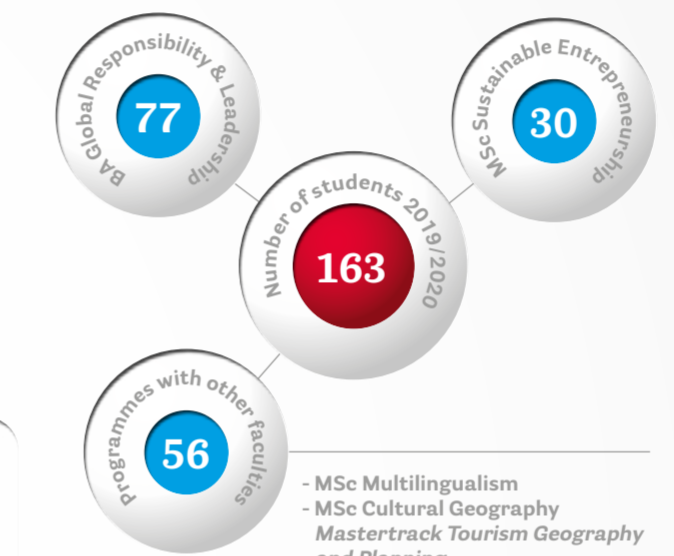
From September 2019, Law students will be able to complete their propaedeutic phase in the Campus Fryslân faculty building in Leeuwarden.

Highlights



UCF, Campus or College? What’s the difference?
UG/Campus Fryslân was previously called University Campus Fryslân (UCF). UCF is now the abbreviation used for University College Fryslân, which offers the Bachelor’s degree programme.

- ### Structure
- Graduate School (PhD level)
 - Master School (Master’s degree programme level)
 - University College (Bachelor’s degree programme level)



- MSc Multilingualism
- MSc Cultural Geography
- Mastertrack Tourism Geography and Planning
- MSc Governance and Law in Digital Society
- BA Rechtsgeleerdheid

The interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teaching and research within Campus Fryslân is divided into four themed topics, known as the Frisian Flagships:

- Governance
- Sustainable Economy
- Culture, Language & Technology
- Health & Food

These Frisian Flagships are inspired by the Frisian knowledge agenda.

Teaching & research

UG/Campus Fryslân focuses on the multidisciplinary study of academic issues linked to the social and economic themes identified as relevant for the Frisian region. Students, PhD students and researchers explore academic questions from multiple perspectives. As a Faculty, we are oriented towards Global Challenges, Local Solutions: we study global challenges and search for local solutions.

“Due to the small class sizes, lectures are highly interactive, which enhances the learning process and fosters cooperation among the students.”

Sustainable Entrepreneurship student Germán

Global challenges, local solutions

At Campus Fryslân, teaching and research are related to the Frisian knowledge agenda and tie in with the motto ‘Global challenges, local solutions’. The United Nations’ sustainability goals serve as a source of inspiration. Students and staff are encouraged to tackle issues from a range of perspectives, as befits an interdisciplinary faculty. Our multidisciplinary approach enables us to enrich the students’ knowledge and skills. This approach is reflected in our teaching and research activities. Here, the knowledge and skills that we have acquired over the years are routinely challenged with research questions from everyday practice. The goal is to reveal new insights which, in turn, can be used

“Within the bachelor Global Responsibility & Leadership I learned a lot about the different problems of the world, the relationships between them and how to solve them using local solutions. I am very happy that I am studying something that fits me perfectly and really motivates me to learn new things.”

UCF student Daria Elizarrarás, Mexico

to hone our theories further still. Clearly, ‘A different view’ is a point of departure that fits Campus Fryslân like a glove.

Regional, national and international embedding
UG/Campus Fryslân is firmly embedded in its home region. Yet at the same time, it has a strongly international flavour, attracting students, staff, scientists and partners from other provinces

“The Science Café in Leeuwarden is a great place to meet people from very diverse backgrounds. Here, you can introduce them to new developments in academia in informal, relaxed surroundings. If you are planning on going, be sure to expect a packed café with a critical and committed audience!”

Guest speaker, Dr Gaaitzen de Vries

and, indeed, distant countries. Located in Leeuwarden, Campus Fryslân is the eleventh faculty of the University of Groningen. This makes it a natural platform for the University’s ambition to be ‘the University of the North’. The Campus seeks to engage in broad-based joint ventures with government authorities, knowledge institutions and the business community, both within the province and elsewhere.

At the same time, however, it remains visible and accessible to the general public. For instance, Campus Fryslân endeavours to stimulate the academic climate in the province by staging public events to introduce people – both young and old – to the world of academia. In this context, it presents lectures on academic topics at schools, Studium Generale, the quarterly Museum University event, the Science Weekend and the renowned Science Cafés.

The story behind UG/Campus Fryslân

The story behind Campus Fryslân is one of discovery, ambition and curiosity. It is a chronicle of community building that involves caring for one another and for our environment, yet it is also a story of perseverance and of exploring new avenues. This history is imbued with a sense of pride because – after a long absence – the University has finally come back home.

