

FRYSLÂN HIGHER EDUCATION AGREEMENT

(Agreement on strengthening higher education in Fryslân)

**‘Towards an innovative and learning
region’**

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PREAMBLE

Vision and ambition

Education plays a crucial role in the knowledge economy. We need a learning economy to be able to guarantee future innovation and productivity growth and to take part in internationalization. A learning economy makes it possible to adjust to new circumstances. According to the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WWR), strengthening our ability to respond, absorb and innovate is crucial to ensuring the future earning capacity of the Netherlands - and therefore also of Fryslân.¹

Fryslân focuses on the transition to a sustainable knowledge and innovation-based economy. This transition is occurring in sectors that are particularly important to Fryslân, such as the agriculture & food industry and recreation & tourism. In addition, our region has its own unique priorities, including water technology, dairy, high-tech manufacturing and multilingualism. Healthcare development also plays an important role in this context. The Province of Fryslân has formulated its ambitions and tasks in a Fryslân Knowledge Agenda 2015-2025, which was included by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science in the assessment framework for new degree programmes in the region.²

Innovation is key in maintaining and improving Frisian competitiveness, thereby safeguarding employment opportunities. Knowledge and innovation are essential for the economic success of our corporate sector and form the basis of the valorization chain. Knowledge acquires social value when it is shared and applied in concrete social solutions and products. A strong connection between research institutes, companies and social parties is crucial to the circulation of knowledge.

Innovation and sustainable economic growth require investments in knowledge and highly educated people. In the absence of a highly educated population, innovation slows down. To create a thriving business climate in the region we must attract and retain a highly educated population, and provide enough regional expertise to satisfy the demand from the corporate sector. This means that we need to anchor innovative SMEs and larger R&D-oriented companies within our region. One of our core problems is the fact that the regional percentage of higher educated workers is lower than the Dutch average, and this is particularly true of the percentage of the Frisian working population with a university degree. Our ability to supply highly educated personnel is also important because the earning capacity of a working population is linked to its level of education.

Labour market shortages are expected in a number of sectors that play a key role for Fryslân, in particular within higher levels of education and in the field of technology. The demand for highly educated personnel is increasing, primarily due to technological developments that are making routine work superfluous. We must find ways to meet the future demand for labour, in particular from the innovative and exporting sectors of our region, in order to contribute to a thriving business climate. For this and other reasons, investing in human capital is one of the Province's top priorities.

¹ The ability to respond refers to the economy being able to skilfully interact with a changing world. The ability to absorb refers in this context to the high absorption capacity of companies and residents with respect to knowledge and technological innovation. Scientific Council for Government Policy (WWR), Towards a learning economy, Scientific Council for Government Policy (WWR), November 2013.

² Province of Fryslân, Fryslân Knowledge Agenda 2015-2025, and letter of Minister of Education, Culture and Science, May 2015.

Developments so far: quality of education and academic climate

Over the past fifteen years much has happened to strengthen Frisian education. Efforts have focused on improving the quality of education (primary and secondary education) and educational innovation (in particular in senior secondary vocational education, MBO). In addition, multilingual education in Fryslân has evolved rapidly.

This is also the case for Frisian universities of applied sciences. The NHL University of Applied Sciences and Stenden University of Applied Sciences are working more closely together. While the NHL University of Applied Sciences covers themes such as ‘vital regions’ and ‘smart sustainable industries’, Stenden University, with its strong international profile and network, specializes in ‘tourism, recreation and hospitality’, ‘education, health care & welfare’ and ‘biobased materials’. Van Hall Larenstein (VHL) University of Applied Sciences occupies a strong position in its own market sector with its three interlinked key areas: ‘water & land/nature’, ‘food/dairy’ and ‘animal/animal welfare’. The Minerva Academy for Pop Culture, part of the Hanze UAS Groningen, offers a unique Bachelor’s degree programme in Popular Culture in combination with a degree programme in Music and Design.

In terms of academic achievements, both the Master’s degree programme in Environmental & Energy Management (MEEM, offered in Leeuwarden by the University of Twente) and the Wetsus Academy (a Master’s degree in Water Technology offered jointly by the University of Twente, Wageningen University & Research centre and the University of Groningen) have recently achieved international positions with their growing student cohort. In research, we see a similar growth within the PhD programmes of the Fryske Akademy and Wetsus in particular. Fryslân’s new Dairy Campus is a unique institution in the field of agrofood. In collaboration with Wageningen University & Research centre, the Dairy Campus offers an Innovation Programme and an Education Programme (focused on professional and academic Master’s degree programmes). In addition, the Frisian universities of applied sciences have produced successful PhD tracks, publications and other important academic results. With the Medical Centre Leeuwarden, Fryslân boasts a top clinical training hospital with an acknowledged tradition in training combined with scientific research.

The launching of the University Campus Fryslân (UCF) in 2011 has further strengthened our academic development. In collaboration with the corporate sector, Fryslân has attracted more academic Master’s degree programmes and PhD³ tracks. This has made it possible to create continuous curricular strands with respect to a number of Frisian key areas. The report of an audit conducted at the UCF concludes as follows:

The creation of a university campus in Leeuwarden has potentially brought enormous added value to Frisian society in the field of academic teaching and research.⁴

Over the past years we have also strengthened the academic climate in Leeuwarden by developing student facilities and academic activities. In this context an important step was taken in 2014 with the signing of a strategic collaboration agreement between UCF, the municipality of Leeuwarden, Tresoar and the Leeuwarden Student City Association.

³ Doctor of Philosophy

⁴ Hoekstra Committee, External Audit UCF. University Campus Fryslân 2011-2014, Leeuwarden, July 2014.

Economic themes and regional knowledge infrastructure

Our regional knowledge infrastructure is organized around the region's economic themes and strategic axes and expressed in regional knowledge institutes and teaching and research programmes. A number of universities are linked to regional universities of applied sciences and companies via degree programmes and research projects.

- **Water technology:** Wetsus, Water Alliance, the Centre of Expertise Water Technology, the Centre for Innovative Craftsmanship Water and other parties (either individual or collaborating under the umbrella of the Leeuwarden WaterCampus); with respect to teaching and research: collaboration of more than 150 companies with MBO schools, universities of applied sciences (including the NHL University of Applied Sciences and Van Hall Larenstein with their research groups in water technology), the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG), Wageningen University & Research centre, the University of Groningen, the University of Twente and Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology, and fifteen other European universities and knowledge institutions. The impact and image of Leeuwarden/Fryslân as a city/region specialized in water technology has led to Leeuwarden being named an Innovating City in the field of water technology by the United Nations.
- **Agrofood:** The Dairy Campus Innovation Programme and the Dairy Campus Education Programme; collaboration between MBO schools, universities of applied sciences and Wageningen University & Research Centre; development of a Dairy Competence Centre within the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân closely linked to Dairy Chain and Dairy Campus.
- **High-tech manufacturing:** Drachten High-Tech Systems & Materials Innovation Cluster; collaboration between Philips Consumer Lifestyle and other related business ventures, the University of Groningen and the University of Twente. High-tech manufacturing is the focus of a number of NHL University of Applied Sciences research groups within the 'smart sustainable industries' strategic axis.
- **Tourism:** The Stenden/European Tourism Futures Institute (ETFI) and the University of Groningen; collaboration between universities of applied sciences and the University.
- **Multilingualism:** Bachelor's degree programme in Minorities & Multilingualism and Master's degree programme in Multilingualism; Multilingualism Research Group at the NHL University of Applied Sciences and Stenden; collaboration between University of Groningen, Fryske Akademy, Tresoar and Afûk.
- **Health & Life Sciences:** Medical Centre Leeuwarden, University of Groningen, NHL University of Applied Sciences Leeuwarden, Stenden, and many other healthcare organizations. Academic workplace GGD (Area Health Authority), Innovation of Health Professions Incubator Project. PhD/research programmes.
- **Sustainability/Quality of life:** e.g. the development of the MEEM programme; collaboration between the University of Twente, Wadden Academy, Medical Centre Leeuwarden (MCL) and universities of applied sciences; quality of life study (University of Groningen, Fryske Akademy); research groups on sustainability/quality of life at Stenden University; sustainability research group at the NHL University of Applied Sciences.
- **Law & Governance/Security:** Collaboration between the University of Groningen and Thorbecke Academy (division of the NHL University of Applied Sciences).

Eleventh faculty

On 17 February 2016, the University of Groningen, the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden signed an agreement on establishing an eleventh faculty (University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân) in Leeuwarden. This document includes agreements regarding the location and funding of this faculty, as well as any attendant conditions. The eleventh faculty encompasses the following:

- a residential English-language Bachelor's college (University College), focused on studying regional hotspots with international dimensions from a PPPE perspective (Philosophy, Politics, Psychology and Economics)
- a Master's College and an international graduate/PhD school building on many of UCF's activities
- an open platform for collaboration between universities, knowledge institutions, universities of applied sciences and companies

The Bachelor's college, the Master's College and the graduate school are established in collaboration with universities of applied sciences, knowledge institutions and other parties. Academic degree programmes must demonstrate their value in creating job opportunities for their graduates, and ensure that they attract profitable numbers of students. This is why in developing the curriculum we took into account the Knowledge Agenda and the future wishes of prospective employers and students.

The University of Groningen has its roots in the northern Netherlands and occupies a 'naturally' important position in the northern part of the country. The University of Groningen focuses on social themes such as 'healthy ageing', 'energy' and 'sustainable society' and it can make an important contribution to Fryslân. The University of Twente and Wageningen University & Research centre are linked to Fryslân via specific themes and expertise. For all universities involved, Fryslân is a logical location that complements the training they offer in a way that would be difficult to realize elsewhere. The eleventh faculty is in line with the national policy of anchoring and embedding universities within their regions.

Objective of the agreement

Fryslân aims to establish a coherent chain of training from primary education to university degree programmes. The Fryslân Higher Education Agreement is a strategic framework bringing together agreements on collaboration in higher education programmes. Firstly, this agreement aims to safeguard and reinforce the achievements of the past years and the resulting collaboration; the agreement 'heads' as it were the entire Frisian educational effort. Secondly, this agreement provides a framework for the region to effectively and flexibly respond to new economic and social developments. The agreement reinforces the future viability and adaptive capacity of the region.

Within the parameters of this agreement, all parties express their willingness to work together to create a wide range of degree programmes for Frisian higher education. Our joint objective is a strong, sustainable, high-quality higher education system in Fryslân that meets the demands of the corporate sector and national and international networks.

This agreement creates a framework in which collaboration can take place on the basis of the unique and independent position of each institution. It builds on earlier agreements between the parties, and between the parties and the regional government. These agreements will continue to exist and will not be replaced by the present agreement.

The core of this agreement consists of a set of integrated ambitions:

- I. The Frisian universities of applied sciences wish to further strengthen their position by providing Frisian higher education with a broad and comprehensive set of placements, unbroken curricular strands leading to associate degrees, pre-Master's degree programmes, professional Master's degree programmes and

academic Master's degree programmes, and by making sure that Frisian higher education is in line with economic objectives.

- II. The Frisian knowledge institutions⁵ (Wetsus, Fryske Akademy, Wadden Academy, the Dairy Campus and the Medical Centre Leeuwarden) wish to strengthen their position in their respective themes by means of a continuous high-quality selection of Master's degree programmes and/or PhD and other research projects, and by strengthening Leeuwarden's academic reputation.
- III. The University of Groningen, the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden have agreed that Leeuwarden will be home to an eleventh faculty (University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân) for University of Groningen activities that will include a residential Bachelor's College (University College), a Master's College and an international graduate/PhD school (beyond the field of water technology).
- IV. Within Campus Fryslân, the University of Groningen wishes to substantially expand its selection of Master's degree programmes, in addition to the current Master's degree programmes. This aim will be achieved on the basis of the open platform and in consultation with the relevant universities, Frisian universities of applied sciences and Frisian knowledge institutions and companies, and it will be included in the Knowledge Agenda.
- V. Wetsus is a *European centre of excellence for sustainable water technology* and forms an academic network for realizing a multidisciplinary programme of fundamental and applied research on water technology in collaboration with companies, universities and other knowledge institutions.⁶ Wetsus is also responsible for organizing and coordinating continuous curricular strands in the field of water technology.
- VI. Via the Centre of Expertise for Water Technology, the NHL University of Applied Sciences and Van Hall Larenstein will contribute to applied research and BSc⁷ teaching in the field of water technology and water-related topics.
- VII. The University of Twente will continue to offer its MEEM Master's degree programme and is developing further activities in close consultation with the other partners.
- VIII. In collaboration with Wageningen University & Research centre, the University of Groningen is investigating the possibility of creating a distinctive Master's track in Dairy within an existing Master's degree programme.
- IX. The eleventh faculty of the University of Groningen will be a faculty in the narrow sense, but it will also offer an open platform for collaborating with other research universities, knowledge institutions, universities of applied sciences and companies on an equal footing and from each institution's individual expertise and profile.
- X. Tresoar, the Leeuwarden Student City Association, the municipality of Leeuwarden and UCF wish to strengthen Leeuwarden's academic climate by

⁵ It goes without saying that research universities and universities of applied sciences are also included in the category 'knowledge institutions'. In the context of this agreement, educational and knowledge institutions are categorized for clarification purposes.

⁶ In 2015, the Wetsus research programme was home to approximately 65 PhD projects on water technology. Other Frisian PhD programmes are currently subsumed under the UCF Research School. This currently includes five ongoing Wetsus PhD projects, which are co-funded via UCF.

⁷ Bachelor of Science

offering a range of academic events and activities and a strong cultural and scientific programme, a student centre for students of the universities of applied sciences in Leeuwarden as well as research university Master's students and researchers, a joint introduction programme, and sports facilities⁸. The University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân is prepared to take over the tasks of UCF with respect to developing the Leeuwarden academic climate, such as the Studium Generale lecture series, the Gemma Frisius lecture and the Science Café. In view of the relatively large number of MScs⁹ and PhDs within Wetsus and the MEEM Master's degree programme, Wetsus and the University of Twente will be closely involved in specific curriculum components.

- XI. The province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden endorse the above-mentioned ambitions and wish to support any collaboration between parties that contributes to a strong higher education in Fryslân.

AGREEMENT

1. Scope

This agreement concerns collaboration between parties in creating Master's degree programmes and PhD research programmes. No legal obligations can be imposed within this agreement.

- 1.1 This agreement concerns cooperation agreements between the following parties:
- Research universities/Universities of applied sciences: University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân, University of Twente, Wageningen University & Research centre, NHL University of Applied Sciences, Stenden University of Applied Sciences, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, and the Minerva Academy for Pop Culture Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen
 - Frisian knowledge institutions (Wetsus, Fryske Akademy, Wadden Academy, Dairy Campus, Medical Centre Leeuwarden)
 - Providers of student facilities (Tresoar)
 - Regional government institutions (Province of Fryslân, municipality of Leeuwarden)
- 1.2 This collaboration agreement explicitly leaves room for other relevant parties within and outside Fryslân, such as other universities and corporate parties, to make separate agreements regarding potential Master's degree programmes and PhD research projects. Although these agreements are not included here, the present agreement does form the framework for the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden to reach such agreements to the extent that they touch on provincial and/or local policy. Parties are free to create Master's degree programmes and PhD research programmes in collaboration with other parties.

⁸ Cooperation agreement for strengthening Leeuwarden's academic climate, Tresoar / Leeuwarden Student City Association / UCF / Municipality of Leeuwarden, Leeuwarden, 2013.

⁹ Master of Science

2. Parameters

- 2.1 The ambitions of the present agreement can only be realized through collaboration between the relevant parties. All parties recognize the importance of mutual policy alignment between the knowledge institutions represented in this agreement.
- 2.2 This agreement builds on earlier agreements between the parties listed under 1.1, the parties listed under 1.1 and other parties, and the parties listed under 1.1 and the regional government. These agreements will continue to exist and will not be replaced by the present agreement (see Appendix for a list of the most relevant agreements).
- 2.3 The Master's degree programmes and PhD research programmes that fall under the present agreement must be of high quality and contribute to skills and knowledge that match the strong points and opportunities offered by the Frisian corporate sector and Fryslân's characteristic features. The degree programmes should occupy a 'natural' position in Fryslân, since this is where knowledge of specific themes can be found, both in knowledge institutions and in companies.
- 2.4 The universities agree that the new Master's degree programmes offered in Fryslân have to be distinctive with respect to the current selection of programmes, so as to avoid any undesirable dilution of the current Master's degree programmes. Prior to the development of the new Master's degree programmes, there should be coordination among the various parties.
- 2.5 The University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân forms the platform for the University of Groningen's activities and collaboration between the University of Groningen and other universities, knowledge institutions, universities of applied sciences and companies. These activities should complement the current range of teaching and research programmes available in Fryslân, and build on previously realized Master's degree programmes.
- 2.6 The parties agree that PhD research programmes financed (fully or partially) by the Province of Fryslân can be realized within the universities. Public thesis defences can take place in Fryslân and the universities will adjust their current PhD regulations accordingly.
- 2.7 Fundamental and applied research on water technology will continue to fall under the responsibility of Wetsus, which will also be responsible for organizing and coordinating continuous curricular strands in the field of water technology, including the Master's degree programmes. The graduate/PhD school of the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân is not intended for PhDs in the field of water technology.
- 2.8 All teaching and research related to MEEM will continue to fall under the responsibility of the University of Twente.
- 2.9 Agreements concerning Frisian degree programmes will safeguard the uniqueness and autonomy of the Frisian institutions. Degree programmes will be developed in consultation with relevant regional parties on the basis of equality and taking into account the unique character and profile of the Frisian institutions.

- 2.10 Collaboration with other parties than those mentioned under 1.1 should preferably take place within the open platform as described in the present agreement. This agreement leaves room for additional agreements between parties regarding specific degree programmes, which should align as closely as possible with other Frisian agreements.
- 2.11 This agreement forms the framework for specific agreements made per sector or sub-discipline by the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân and other parties involved in this sector/sub-discipline.
- 2.12 This agreement also promotes collaboration in the context of the ambitions and tasks listed in the Knowledge Agenda identified by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science as the assessment framework for the macro-effectiveness of new degree programmes in the region. This agenda was approved in May 2015 by the Ministries of Education, Culture and Science and Economic Affairs.

3. Targets

Collaboration

- 3.1 Parties express their willingness, within the parameters of this agreement and while retaining their own teaching and research programmes, to actively contribute to and mutually collaborate on realizing a strong and resilient range of higher education programmes in Fryslân. This range of programmes must be coordinated to the demand of the corporate sector and national and international networks. This also requires attention to future developments in order to be able to respond to general social and economic changes and the specific demand for degree programmes.
- 3.2 The University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân will include a Master's College and an international graduate/PhD school (outside the field of water technology). Our goal is to create about ten Master's degree programmes (including the existing Master's degree programmes in Water Technology, MEEM and Multilingualism, and the Honour Master's in HTSM) to complement the existing range of degree programmes offered in Fryslân, as closely as possible in line with the well-known themes in Frisian economy and society (the Fryske hotspots) listed in the Knowledge Agenda, and in line with economic and social developments. The structure, organization and position of the existing Master's degree programmes in Water Technology and MEEM will remain unchanged. The Master's degree programme in Multilingualism will be transferred to the Master's College while maintaining its current structure, organization and position. The University of Groningen, the University of Twente and the NHL University of Applied Sciences/Stenden are exploring collaboration options to further strengthen the pilot for a Master's degree programme in HTSM in collaboration with parties such as Philips Drachten. In collaboration with relevant parties, the universities of applied sciences will develop pre-Master's programmes to match the Master's degree programmes.
- 3.3 Building upon UCF, an open platform will be created for academic Master's degree programmes as part of the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân. This open platform will contribute to a culture of knowledge circulation and co-creation.

- 3.4 The University of Groningen, the Wageningen University & Research centre and the Dairy Campus will work as closely together as possible in developing a Dairy Chain Competence Centre (DCCC). The DCCC is intended as a virtual centre, i.e. a partnership between companies, institutions and educational institutions, aimed at realizing scientific research as globally as possible within the Dutch dairy sector.

Student climate

- 3.5 The student climate of Leeuwarden will be reinforced. To this end and in the context of its academic support function, Tresoar will be assigned the role of information and study centre ('faculty library'). The specific form of this extension and upgrading of Tresoar's academic support function will be elaborated in more detail. We will also explore the possibility of collaborating with MCL Academy, which already has a tradition of functioning as a university library. In addition, the Student City Association active in Leeuwarden and adjoining areas will be responsible for offering student facilities such as events, sports and culture, etc. These facilities will be open to students from universities of applied sciences and research universities.
- 3.6 Wetsus and the other Water Campus parties will work in close collaboration and alignment with the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân and the Frisian universities of applied sciences to jointly improve the image of Leeuwarden as a university city.

Role of regional government

- 3.7 With this agreement, the province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden wish to confirm that they support all the above-mentioned agreements, which contribute to stronger higher education in Fryslân. The regional government will remain structurally involved throughout the education chain and contribute to the implementation of the agreements.
- 3.8 Existing agreements between the regional government on the one hand and the research universities/universities of applied sciences, Frisian knowledge institutions and providers of student facilities on the other hand will be maintained and form the basis for the present agreement (see Appendix for a list of the most relevant agreements).
- 3.9 The Province of Fryslân will be responsible for managing the monitoring data of the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân over the period 2016-2030. The parties listed under 1.1 will actively provide the Province with information about their component(s) that fall under the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân.

4. Implementation, governance and time period

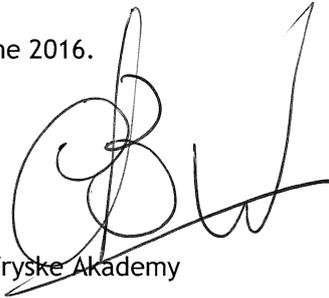
- 4.1 This agreement enters into force at the time of its signature and is concluded for a period of fifteen years (end date 2030).
- 4.2 A consultation between the parties regarding the implementation of activities in the context of this agreement will be held at least once a year on the initiative of the Province of Fryslân. This consultation will be prepared, under the responsibility of the Province of Fryslân, by an official coordination group representing the various parties.

- 4.3 On the basis of agreements between the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân, the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden, an Advisory Board will be established for the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân. The Advisory Board will offer solicited and unsolicited advice regarding the strategic policy of the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân. In addition, the Board will also monitor the collaboration agenda. The Advisory Board will have an independent chair and will meet at least once a year on the chair's initiative. The Board is responsible for formulating its own programme, regulations and procedure.
- 4.4 The parties listed under 1.1 will be represented in the Advisory Board. The regional governmental institutions will receive an open invitation to attend Board meetings.
- 4.5 The implementation of activities undertaken in the context of this agreement will be assessed in 2018, 2022, 2026 and 2029. This evaluation will in any case concern the agreement's objectives, parameters and targets. The evaluation will also address the extent to which the objectives, parameters and targets are still relevant and work in practice.
- 4.6 If one or more parties feel the need to modify this agreement partially or in its entirety, they will announce this in the course of the consultation referred to under 4.2. Further agreements to this end can be made during the consultation.
- 4.7 This agreement can be rescinded on condition that this is announced in writing to the other parties no later than a year before the intended rescission date. During the consultation referred to under 4.2, the parties will discuss the consequences of the new situation.
- 4.8 This agreement will be translated into Frisian and English. In case of differences in interpretation deriving from the translation, the Dutch version will prevail.
- 4.9 This agreement may be cited as Fryslân Higher Education Agreement.

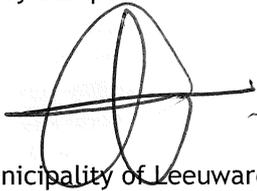
Thus agreed and signed in Leeuwarden on 24 June 2016.



Dairy Campus



Fryske Akademy



Municipality of Leeuwarden



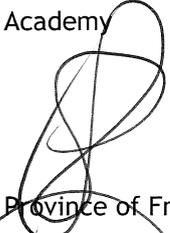
Hanze University of Applied Sciences
Groningen
Minerva Academy for Pop Culture



Medical Centre Leeuwarden (MCL)
Academy



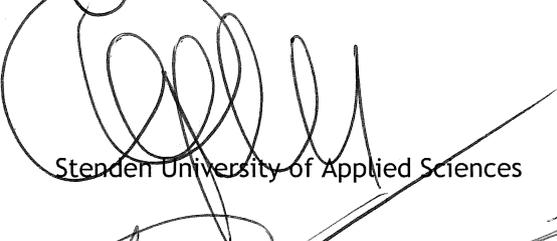
NHL University of Applied Sciences



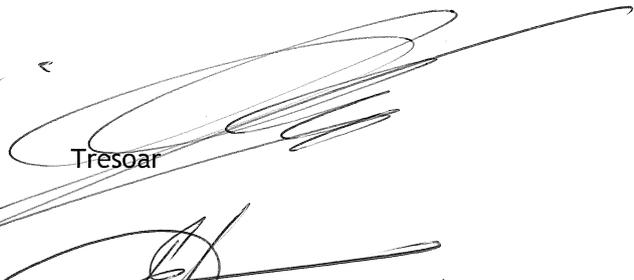
Province of Fryslân



University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân



Stenden University of Applied Sciences



Tresoar



University of Twente



Van Hall Larenstein
University of Applied Sciences



Wadden Academy



Wageningen University & Research
centre



Wetsus

APPENDIX

Existing cooperation agreements and short description of parties

Wetsus: European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology

Wetsus is the Technological Top Institute for Water Technology. As of 2015, it brings together 103 companies and 20 national and European academic knowledge institutions in a multidisciplinary collaboration that contributes substantially to resolving the global water issue. Wetsus is increasingly operating as European Centre of Excellence for water technology. As of 2015, the Wetsus research programme includes 65 PhD candidates and approximately 30 MSc students, and the Wetsus Academy (joint Master's degree programme between the University of Groningen, the University of Twente and Wageningen University & Research Centre) accommodates approximately 38 MSc students. On the basis of the REPP SNN Regulation (Spatial and Economic Programme of the North Netherlands Cooperation Agency), funds have been reserved for the Wetsus Continuity Programme for the period 2013-2020. This includes co-funding by the Province and the municipality of Leeuwarden.

The University of Groningen and Wetsus already have a history of long-term collaboration agreements in the field of research (Wetsus PhD programme) and teaching (Wetsus Academy, joint Master's degree programme of the University of Groningen, the University of Twente and Wageningen University & Research centre). In the field of research, Wetsus also has a long-term collaboration agreement with UMCG. In the context of the collaboration between Wetsus and the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân, the existing agreements with the University of Groningen and the UMCG prevail, unless the University of Groningen and/or the UMCG appoint the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân as their substitute in the collaboration with Wetsus, and Wetsus and the joint degree partners (University of Twente and Wageningen University & Research Centre) agree to this.

Fryske Akademy

The Fryske Akademy Association is an institution for research on Frisian language and culture, which is made possible thanks to support from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Province of Fryslân. The Fryske Akademy is allied to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and forms part of the institutes and research organization of the KNAW. The nature of the relationship between the Fryske Akademy and the KNAW is jointly determined by the two parties while preserving the autonomy and unity of the Fryske Akademy.

Chapter 5, Section 2 of the Administrative Agreement on Frisian Language and Culture 2013-2018 (BFTC), 'Cultural Activities', specifies the agreements between the Dutch national government, the Province of Fryslân and the Fryske Akademy.

Tresoar

Tresoar has arisen from a merger between the Frisian Literary Museum and Documentation Centre (FLMD), the Provincial and Buma Library (PBF) and the Frisian State Archive (RAF). Tresoar is the Frisian library that provides academic support; it is rooted in the former University of Franeker and is responsible for managing the bulk of the Frisian archival heritage.

The Dutch government and the Province participate in the joint 'De Letterhoeke' regulation. This joint regulation specifies the structural contribution of these two parties to the FMDL association. De Letterhoeke was established with the goal of jointly representing the interests of the Minister, the Province and the board of the Association in all matters concerning the collections and archival records of the Province of Fryslân, the Provincial Library in Leeuwarden and the FLMD in Leeuwarden. De Letterhoeke also aims to actively make and keep the collections and archives of the cultural heritage it represents accessible and bring them to the attention of the general public.

Chapter 5, Section 3 of the Administrative Agreement regarding the Frisian Language and Culture 2013-2018 (BFTC), 'Cultural Activities', specifies the agreements between the Dutch national government, the Province of Fryslân and the Fryske Akademy.

Wadden Academy

The Wadden Academy aims to provide an academic foundation for an economically and ecologically sustainable future for the Waddenzee world heritage. The Wadden Academy wishes to realize this ambition by implementing the three tasks assigned to it on the grounds of the fourth objective of the Wadden Fund, namely:

- Setting the agenda: Including in the administrative and scientific agenda research questions that are relevant for the economically and ecologically sustainable future for the Wadden area
- Formulating a programme: Stimulating adequate coordination between regional, national and international Wadden research
- Providing information: Bringing the results of Wadden research to the general public in an accessible and responsible manner

In addition, the Wadden Academy makes full use of any other means of realizing its ambition, including the scientific support of the Wadden Fund Office and the Wadden Fund in general. The Wadden Academy is primarily funded by the Wadden Fund.

Dairy Campus

The Dairy Campus is a national and international centre for research, innovation, education and training in the field of dairy farming. The Campus arose from a collaboration between Wageningen UR Livestock Research, Van Hall Larenstein, Nordwin College, Dairy Training Centre, LTO Nederland, FrieslandCampina, the municipality of Leeuwarden and the Province of Fryslân. Its PhD programme is linked to the Dairy Campus research programme. The Dairy Campus has two additional pillars, namely: knowledge propagation and practical learning. The Dairy Campus' objective is to realize innovative and future-proof solutions for a more sustainable dairy sector. Until 2020 the Dairy Campus is partially funded by SNN on the basis of European funding programmes. The Campus is also co-funded by the municipality of Leeuwarden and the Province of Fryslân.

Leeuwarden Student City Association

The Leeuwarden Student City Association (SLS) aims to shape student life and accommodation in the best and most varied way possible by organizing activities in the following areas: culture and sports, events, housing, health, learning, work and entrepreneurship, and student participation in city life. SLS currently plays an important role in coordinating student housing, city marketing and matching student demand and student introduction, as well as by acting as an important help desk for students. SLS performs this task at the request of the Frisian universities of applied sciences and the University of Groningen and based on a collaboration agreement with UCF (followed up by the University of Groningen), Tresoar and the municipality of Leeuwarden with an annual Academic Climate Programme.

Master's in Environmental and Energy Management

The Master's degree programme in Environmental and Energy Management (MEEM) has been offered in Leeuwarden by the University of Twente since 1999. This programme has so far been completed by a few hundred students from more than forty different countries. This makes this degree programme unique in its kind. Our graduates achieve top positions in international companies and governmental and non-governmental organizations as advisors or managers for environment, water and energy projects.

Medical Centre Leeuwarden (MCL)

The MCL is a Frisian top clinical training hospital with a strong ambition to be among the best in Dutch hospital care. Teaching, research and innovation play an important role in realizing this ambition. MCL Academy is the learning centre of the MCL, sharing its responsibility, expertise and ambition.

The MCL Academy supports and provides a wide range of initial and post-initial degree programmes, and training and promotion of expertise programmes to many staff member groups. Every year, more than 500 students from various degree programmes are offered the opportunity to gain experience in the hospital and learn on the job. In addition, the Academy offers ongoing training for both doctors and nurses. On a yearly basis, more than 150 medical interns acquire work experience in Leeuwarden; 85 of them are medical trainees within 23 medical specializations.

On average the MCL contributes to 150 clinical studies, involving about 5,000 patients. In terms of its national and international impact of scientific output on healthcare, the MCL is one of the fastest growing members of the association of Advanced Clinical Care Hospitals Foundation (STZ). The MCL has four full professors and closely collaborates on research methodology with other renowned research institutes. The MCL's ambition is to excel in teaching and research at a local level, take the lead at a regional level, innovate at a national level, and participate at an international level.

University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân

The University of Groningen officially launched its Leeuwarden branch on 1 January 2016. In the coming years, the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân will be offering approximately six new Master's degree programmes as well as a broad three-year English-language Bachelor's degree programme. This means that students will enjoy a broad exposure to various (related) disciplines, following which they will be invited to choose a specialization. Rather than focusing on one particular discipline, the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân focuses on the multidisciplinary study of academic issues linked to the social and economic themes identified as relevant for the Frisian region. In addition to offering Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân also includes a Graduate School with an interdisciplinary group of an expected 50 PhD candidates.

The core philosophy of the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân is to connect regional themes with interdisciplinary global issues. In other words, the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân teaches students to apply theoretical knowledge of global societal issues to regional cases.

Minerva Academy of Pop Culture, Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen

The Minerva Academy of Pop Culture trains professional artists within the framework of 'popular culture' in its unique Bachelor's degree programme in Popular Culture. The Academy is located in Leeuwarden. It is characterized by a grassroots and bottom-up mentality centring on a dialogue with society. The degree programme expressly seeks to connect to current social developments. The students work within learning communities, using their creativity, knowledge and network for disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects centring on formulating, realizing and sharing new concepts.

Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences

Van Hall Larenstein is the greenest university of applied sciences of the Netherlands, as is apparent from each of its degree programmes, the content of its research, and its operational management. Van Hall Larenstein trains professionals who contribute to a sustainable and better world. It does so by collaborating internally and with its network partners in a pleasant yet productive manner. With its research and knowledge valorization, it contributes to innovative and sustainable development in collaboration with partners from the work field. It has opted for a clear substantive profile focused

on the sustainable use of natural resources for food and nature that forms the basis for all its strategic decisions regarding teaching and practice-oriented research.

Van Hall Larenstein is a personal university of applied sciences that wishes to offer each individual student the room to develop his/her talents in an inspiring environment. In addition to regular degree programmes, Van Hall Larenstein also aims to meet the demand for training and education from the professional field. In this context, Van Hall Larenstein focuses on regional, national and international students.

NHL University of Applied Sciences

A personal and constructive relationship between the university and its students, an interdisciplinary approach, and entrepreneurship are the key focus areas of the NHL University of Applied Sciences. Our students, teachers and researchers conduct research and innovate in small groups, in interaction with the corporate sector. The NHL University of Applied Sciences focuses on the themes 'Smart, Sustainable Industries' and 'Vital Regions', thus stimulating productivity growth and sustainability, and improving wellbeing in regions such as the northern Netherlands.

Stenden University of Applied Sciences

Stenden University of Applied Sciences defines its profile with three 'pillars': problem-driven teaching, internationalization, and fundamental and applied research. Using these pillars, Stenden aims to contribute to the development of inquisitive individuals, in harmony with their life philosophy and learning style. Stenden has five branches in the northern Netherlands and four branches outside Europe, in Bali, Qatar, Thailand and South Africa. The University of Applied Sciences also has a strong international profile and specializes in 'tourism, leisure and hospitality', 'education, care, and wellbeing' and 'bio-based materials'.

NHL University of Applied Sciences and Stenden University have expressed their intention to merge as of 1 January 2018. In this joint venture they expect to accommodate about 22,500 students.

Wageningen University Research centre

Wageningen UR is an international research and knowledge centre whose mission is *to explore the potential of nature, to improve the quality of life*. Wageningen UR's goal is to become the foremost research institute in Europe and leading worldwide partner in the Healthy Food and Living Environment domain by 2020. Wageningen University must therefore maintain its ranking as one of the world's foremost research centres.

Wageningen University must also uphold its leading position in the National Student Benchmark Survey. The application-oriented research institutes of the DLO Research Foundation must, by 2020, have established themselves as the preferred partner of industry and government in helping to develop 'green knowledge' and translate this into sustainable innovations. Their excellent scientific foundation, their user-oriented approach and their strong position in the 'Golden Triangle' of government-business-knowledge institutes will enable them to accomplish this goal. Wageningen UR's domain of 'Healthy Food and Living Environment' consists of three related core areas: (1) Nutrition and Food Production, (2) Living environments en (3) Health, Lifestyle and Living Conditions.

