

Profile of the chair in Frisian (1.0 FTE, professor)

The profile committee for the Frisian chair, appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts, comprises the following members:

Prof. Thony Visser (chair)	- Dean of the Faculty of Arts
Prof. Wander Lowie	- Chair of the teaching cluster
Prof. Gertjan van Noord	- Director of the CLCG research institute
Dr Joana Duarte (UG/NHL Stenden)	- Representative of the relevant degree programme
Prof. Arjen Versloot (UvA)	- Professor at a sister faculty
Dr Nelleke IJssennagger-van der Pluijm	- Director-Manager of the Fryske Akademy
Ms Rixt Zeelenberg	- Director of the Institute of Education
Ms Marit van Mil	- Senior HR advisor

Description of the field

Frisian Studies comprises the academic study of the Frisian language and culture. Besides a linguistic study of the second national language of the Netherlands, Frisian Studies also includes the study of the Frisian language in other Frisian regions (Germany), Frisian as a multilingual laboratory, cultural history and literature, and Old and Early Modern Frisian. Linguistic sociological issues, lexicography, and opportunities for digital language infrastructures are also addressed.

Specialist knowledge of Frisian is at the heart of this field of study. Using this knowledge, research is positioned in an international and theoretical framework. The resulting interactions afford the field of Frisian Studies the opportunity to increasingly present itself as a multidisciplinary subject. As a result, Frisian Studies is able to offer a regional perspective on broader questions. In comparative linguistic sociological research, Frisian is placed alongside other minority languages, which are also recognized in the European Charter, which opens up new perspectives and is in line with a growing interest in regional narratives. In light of the status of Frisian as the second official language of Fryslân, the issue of Frisian literacy – covering literature to smartphone use – is a key area of interest.

Position of the chair within and outside the Faculty

At present, the field of Frisian Studies is studied at the universities of Amsterdam, Utrecht, and Groningen. In Amsterdam and Utrecht, the mandates of the respective chairs are more broadly defined (UvA: Germanic linguistics, in particular the German, Scandinavian, and Frisian languages; UU: Sociolinguistics, with a particular focus on the linguistic situation in Fryslân). Leiden University traditionally had a chair by special appointment that focused on history or older philology. However, since the retirement of the last holder, a new chair in this field has not (yet) been appointed.

The profile of the chair at the University of Groningen plays a pivotal role within this framework and has a unique mandate for Frisian language and culture.

Bearing in mind the complementary nature of the expertise and the strategic importance of cooperation in the field of Frisian Studies and related disciplines, it is preferable to establish the chair in close collaboration with the aforementioned universities, with the Fryske Akademy, and with NHL Stenden (on account of the multilingualism professorship).

There is an agreement between the Province of Fryslân and the University of Groningen for the funding of research and impact projects. The chair is expected to maintain good contacts with the Province of Fryslân/Dutch Government as major stakeholders.

The professor's tasks

Research

The chair's research will fall under the Center for Language and Cognition (CLCG) or the Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG) and will be conducted in cooperation with the Fryske Akademy. The new professor will be responsible for setting the department's research agenda and must have experience with a wide range of research methods in line with recent developments in the field.

Teaching

The professor will teach subjects related to the Frisian language and culture at various levels, in both the Bachelor's and Master's phases. For example, the professor may teach course units offered as part of the Bachelor's degree programme in Minorities and Multilingualism or as part of a potential new interdisciplinary Master's track in Frisian Studies. The new professor will play a prominent role in the positioning of Frisian in academic education (including education for professionals). The teaching cluster is committed to the broad employability of staff, whereby research plays a significant role in academic education. Education at all levels is characterized by effective and stimulating forms of teaching.

The professor will have teaching, research, and administrative tasks. Teaching and administrative tasks make up 60% of the appointment, and research and activities that raise the profile of research for the outside world make up 40%.

Leadership

The professor will head a department comprising seven or eight lecturers and researchers. They will be required to assist with research applications, supervise PhD students, and support career development. The professor must be willing to carry out administrative tasks at cluster, degree programme, and Faculty level. The professor is also expected to play a key proactive role in new developments, such as the new 'Schools' that are currently being set up by the University to stimulate interdisciplinary research and teaching [link], in particular the Jantina

Tammes School, which focuses on digital innovation, AI, and technological advancement, and the Agricola School for Sustainable Development.

Profile of the professor to be appointed (appointment requirements)

The chair in Frisian language and culture operates in a broad social context that is characterized by a complex linguistic and cultural ecosystem, in which rapid technological and sociolinguistic developments are influencing the Frisian language and culture more than ever. The professor is expected to be able to strike a balance between philological research in the field of Frisian language and culture, both diachronically and synchronically, and research that reveals how Frisian relates to growing social multilingualism. Besides philology, this topic also implies a focus on research into language use, language attitudes, language acquisition, literature, and other cultural expressions, as well as research focused on themes such as identity, participation, citizenship, and digitalization. The professor will combine disciplinary expertise in one of the many subfields of Frisian Studies with a global understanding of the entire spectrum of the discipline, both within and outside the University of Groningen.

We are looking for a candidate who:

- has a strong national and international profile, and holds a PhD in one of the subfields of Frisian Studies;
- has an excellent research reputation, as demonstrated by publications that are relevant to the profile of the chair;
- has experience in successfully applying for research funding from national and/or international funding bodies;
- has developed their own line of research within the spectrum of Frisian Studies as described above;
- has excellent teaching skills, an innovative vision on inter- and multidisciplinary teaching, and extensive experience with teaching and performing administrative tasks in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes;
- is highly experienced with successfully supervising PhD students;
- contributes to and leads the development of curricula in the field of Frisian Studies (including education for professionals) as well as other relevant degree programmes within the University of Groningen;
- is able to maintain good contacts with the Province of Fryslân/Dutch Government as major stakeholders;
- has a relevant strategic network, both internationally and nationally;
- has a sound vision on and proven experience with creating societal impact, and initiates and participates in activities aimed at cooperating with social partners and disseminating academic knowledge to a wider audience;
- has good communication skills and is a result-oriented team player;
- has proven excellent leadership and organizational skills;
- is capable and experienced with acting in a politically sensitive environment;
- is fluent in Frisian and Dutch or English (level C1 of the CEFR).