



Dutch Higher Education

Research
universities

(=University of Groningen)

Universities of
applied sciences

Research universities

- Theory oriented
- Extensive, detailed knowledge in mostly one scientific field
- Focus on academic writing and critical thinking, mostly individual work
- Planning your own time: 70 % self study, 30 % class hours
- Student is responsible for own study skills
- Preparation for careers in research as well as professional careers

Universities of applied sciences

- Practice oriented
- Less extensive knowledge in different fields
- Focus on problem solving, group work and smaller assignments
- More contact hours: study time more or less planned by institution
- Group guidance with acquiring specific study skills
- Preparation for a specific career, not for research

How does Groningen compare to partner universities? Some **examples** based on student experiences

University of Groningen

- * Teachers ask direct questions during lectures
- * Deadlines are strict
- * Students are tested in multiple ways in one course (exam + assignments + presentation etc.)
- * Students read different articles and books for one course
- * Mostly continuous testing throughout teaching period
- * Critical and individual thinking is expected and mostly encouraged
- * Students are expected to 'find their own way' in practical matters and to be pro-active
- * Counselling and study guidance is available; student is first responsible for reporting (personal) problems affecting study
- * Students don't have many class hours

- * Only the teacher speaks during lectures
- * Deadlines are negotiable
- * Students are only tested in one way (only written exams or only presentations)
- * Students use lecture notes or only one book
- * Only one exam at the end of teaching period
- * Critical thinking is not expected or sometimes discouraged
- * Students are intensively guided during their university career in practical matters
- * Counselling or study guidance is not available, students need to deal with (personal) issues themselves
- * Students have several hours of class every day

Partner university abroad