

Open horizons: Maastricht University's international update

News and events from the European university of the Netherlands

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Promoting staff mobility across Europe, offering fresh perspectives

To encourage support staff to broaden their horizon, develop themselves and experience innovative solutions to relevant problems from partners across Europe, Maastricht University is promoting a European staff mobility programme.

Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Coordinator Tamara Aroustamova explains how a couple of days at a partner university can change perspectives and motivate people – and why you should also give it a go.

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Concern over education minister's plans to limit international students

On 15 October 2024, the Dutch education minister outlined plans to reduce international student numbers, raising serious concerns for Maastricht University and the Limburg region.

Maastricht University (UM) warns that rigid policies could lead to a significant economic decline in Limburg and harm the region's educational system.

Together with regional partners, UM will advocate for tailored solutions that recognise the importance of international talent to the local economy and education.

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International research collaboration for a greener planet

As countries seek cleaner energy solutions, green hydrogen has emerged as a key factor in the transition to a sustainable future. Recognising the need for effective policies to support this shift, Maastricht University has taken a leading role in a collaborative research project funded by the Worldwide Universities Network.

The project, led by Dr Rasmus Lema from UNU-MERIT, brings together perspectives from four continents on policies that will guide the development towards the green hydrogen economy.

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YUFE's new Brussels office: a milestone for European collaboration

On 20 September, YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe) celebrated the opening of its Brussels office, marking a significant step in its mission to strengthen European collaboration in higher education. The event brought together YUFE's 10 partner universities, European Commission representatives and stakeholders to recognise this achievement and look ahead.

In their opening remarks, YUFE President Daniel Mouchard-Zay and Secretary General Maria-Valerie Schegk emphasised the alliance's role in fostering unity and innovation within Europe's higher education landscape. With this new office and renewed leadership, YUFE is set to expand its impact, working towards a truly integrated European university experience.

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Human Rights Due Diligence

In line with Maastricht University's new Global Engagement Policy, the UM Executive Board is developing a Human Rights Due Diligence Framework, in close collaboration with the UM community. This framework is designed to help make an informed assessment of whether, and if so, to what extent, current or potential partners are involved in human rights violations.

UM welcomes and encourages global engagement where it brings clear added value, and where our global engagement is based on academic freedom and integrity, and respect for human rights. The framework will be based on the principle of "Yes, we wish to collaborate, unless we have major concerns that a partner is involved in serious human rights violations".



UM Brightlands Talent Scholarship: Attracting global talent

This year, three international master's students have been awarded the UM Brightlands Talent Scholarship, reflecting growing interest in the programme.

The scholarship connects students to the Brightlands innovation campuses, where they conduct research in areas like Artificial Intelligence and Biomedical Sciences, contributing to sustainability, health and digitalisation.

UM aims to foster talent and retain skilled graduates in the region, supporting both academic and professional growth.

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UM opens Brussels Hub to strengthen ties with European policy

On 3 October 2024, Maastricht University celebrated the opening of its new Brussels representation, the Maastricht University Brussels Hub. The event brought together UM staff, alumni and EU officials to highlight the university's commitment to fostering collaboration between academia and policymakers, focusing on Europe's education, research and innovation priorities.

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