



ANNUAL REVIEW
2015

UVH | UNIVERSITY
OF HUMANISTIC
STUDIES

FOREWORD

Would you recommend our university to family, friends or acquaintances? In the National Student Survey of 2015, students of the University of Humanistic Studies answered this question with an unqualified 'yes, certainly!'. Scoring 4.48 on a 5-point scale, our university achieved the highest score of all universities in the Netherlands. I am hugely pleased with the results of the survey. It testifies to the strong commitment and effort of both our students and our teaching staff, and it confirms our conscious choice to offer the truly small-scale and personal education that so typifies our university.

In 2015, our staff, students and academic partners have again worked hard to accomplish our mission. The university has boosted its international profile, and we have largely fulfilled the performance agreement made with the minister of education. We again managed to strike the right balance between top quality education and research, while continuing a lively debate on the future of a denominational university that works from a humanist stance. I am proud of the result, and thank everyone for their effort.



Photo: Arnaud Mooij

Together we are the University of Humanistic Studies: a unique university in the Dutch and international academic landscape.

Professor Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders, rector of the University of Humanistic Studies

THE MEANING OF RITUALS IN MODERN SOCIETY

Although all kinds of traditional rituals are waning in modern society, we also see new ritual practices emerging. What is the purpose of these new rituals? How can these rituals be designed in the complex context of secularism and religious pluralism? In 2015, the study of rituals played an important role on two special occasions. In September it was the theme of the Opening of the Academic year, and in November an international symposium was held on new forms of rituals in secular society and in the new work field of celebrancy in existential care. The symposium was part of the development of the celebrant education programme at the University of Humanistic Studies, due to commence in September 2016.



Rituals counsellor Neanske Tuinman carried out a ritual with the rector and audience, to mark the Opening of the Academic Year.

Photo: Lilian van Rooij

STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Undergraduate student Laurine Blonk

The revelations by computer analyst Edward Snowden regarding US government surveillance of phone and internet communications sparked a fierce debate on privacy. Yet oddly enough, barely anyone bothered to ask what the concept of privacy actually means. What is it that we want to protect and why do we find it so important? In her Bachelor

thesis, undergraduate student Laurine Blonk examined these questions from a philosophical and sociological point of view. For the interesting new insights she has added to the otherwise mainly legal notions of privacy, she was selected to present her work at the annual Dutch Student Research Conference on 11 November.

EDUCATION

Photo: Lilian van Rooij



On 1 October 2015, 562 students were enrolled in the university's Bachelor programme of Humanistic Studies, the two Master programmes of Humanistic Studies and Care Ethics and Policy, and in pre-Master programmes.

All programmes offer a unique combination of scientific and practical training, devoted to the 'Bildung' of professionals who are equipped to address existential and ethical questions at an academic level. University graduates

find employment in a wide variety of practical fields, such as counselling, education, management and policy, and science and research.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

In the autumn of 2015, the university received its first international exchange students. They completed a minor consisting of four components of the Bachelor programme. The university is now included in the World Higher

Education Database of the International Association of Universities, and will be expanding its international exchange activities in the coming years.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME

Also in the autumn of 2015, the Bachelor of Humanistic Studies launched a supplementary programme for exceptionally talented and motivated students. In addition to the regular programme, these students follow two extra programme components on 'humanist leadership' and 'humanist entrepreneurship'.



EXCELLENT RESULTS IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

Consistent with the result of previous years, the 2015 National Student Survey again showed that, overall, students at the University of Humanistic Studies are very enthusiastic about the education programmes. For 14 out of 17 themes they awarded their study programme a higher score than the national average. Students at our university give their programme an overall score of 4.29 out of 5. The general ambiance at the institution is valued with a 4.60. Lecturers are rated highly, with students appreciating their expertise in the discipline (4.4), their dedication (4.2), and their ability to inspire (4.2). The extensive survey is held annually among students to measure how they assess the quality of education programmes at universities and other institutes of higher education. (See also www.uvh.nl/english/nse2015)

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Bachelor students participated in an international exchange programme held from 4 to 19 July 2015 at the University of the Free State (UFS) in South Africa. The primary aim of the Global Leadership Summit was to exchange ideas and international experiences in addressing salient issues around diversity, racism, racial integration, social justice and reconciliation in Higher Education.



Photo: Froukje Pijstra

GRADUATE SCHOOL



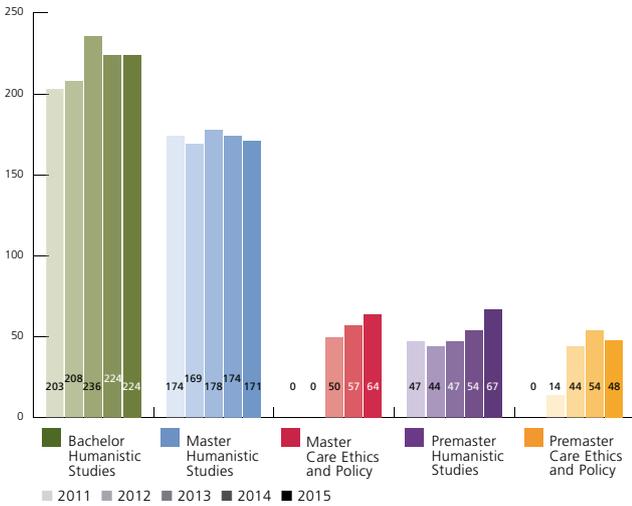
The Graduate School offers a PhD programme with a special focus on research to support professional practices. This year, 71 PhD's participated in the programme. After a joint first year in which they elaborate their research proposal, their education and supervision is subsequently clustered into groups

that each form a separate learning community. In 2015, 11 PhD students defended their thesis. For his dissertation on the history of the relationship between the humanist worldview and child-rearing and education, Vincent Stolk (photo) received his PhD degree with honours ('cum laude').

FACTS AND FIGURES

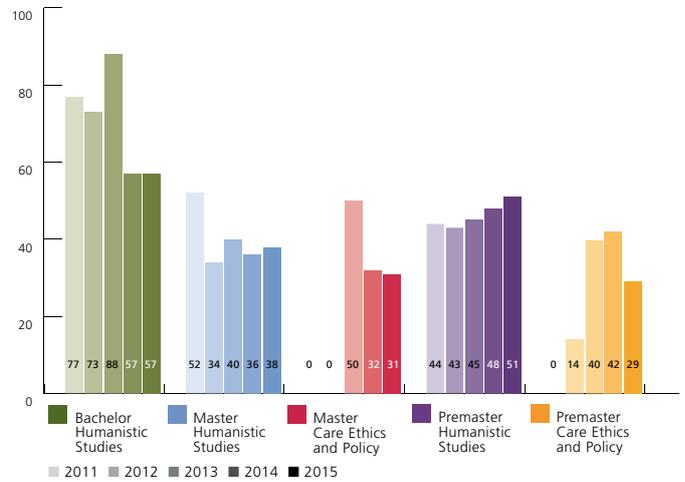
STUDENT ENROLLMENT (2011-2015)

Total number of students



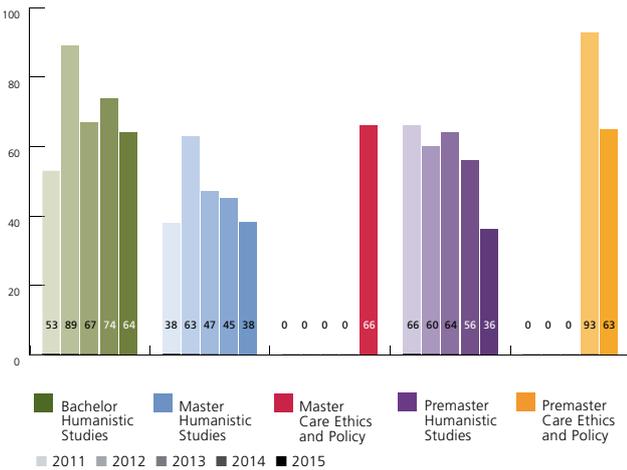
STUDENTS ENTERING THE UNIVERSITY (2011-2015)

Total number of first year students



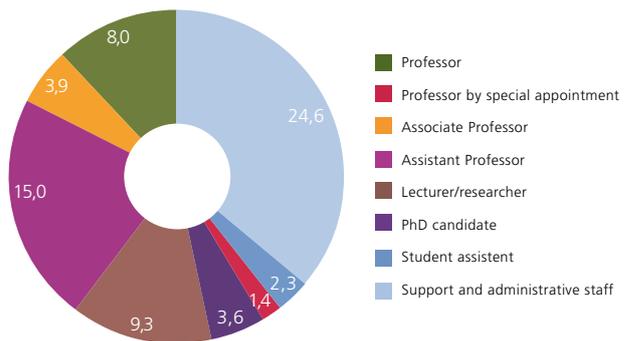
STUDY RESULTS PER COHORT

Percentage of degrees awarded (with less than one year delay)



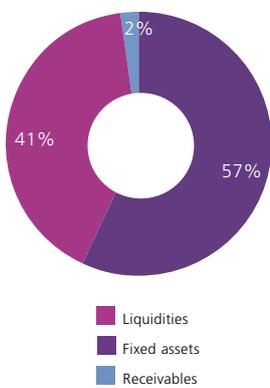
STAFF

Total 68 fte

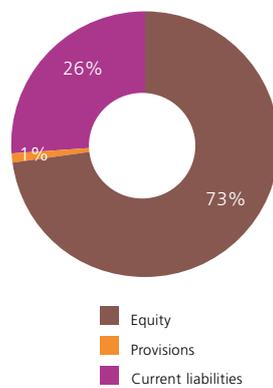


BALANCE SHEET 2015

7.469 k€
Assets

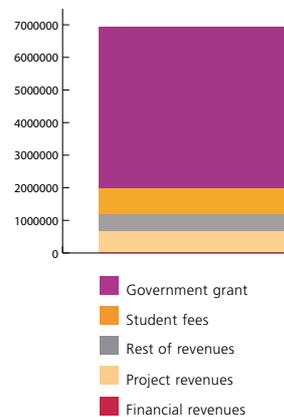


7.469 k€
Liabilities

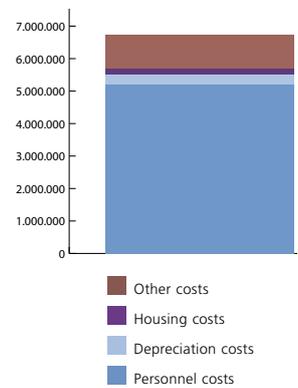


OPERATIONS 2015

6.923 k€
Revenues



6.748 k€
Costs



RESEARCH AND VALORISATION

Research at the university is concentrated on three main themes: the existential and ethical questions that people encounter in the course of their life (1), the structure of 21st-century society and what this demands of citizens and organisations (2), and humanism and the foundations of Humanistic Studies. The first two are in line with important themes set out in the EU Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020: *Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing* and *Inclusive, Innovative and Secure Societies*.

Research and valorisation is performed by six groups, each headed by a chair holder. There is a total of 17 FTE available for research. This year, a total of 60 scientific publications appeared, including 41 articles in international peer-reviewed journals. Research results were made available extensively, both for professionals and a wider audience.

(For a full list, see uvh.nl/English/research/publications).

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In 2015, the groups further expanded their domestic and international networks. For example, the chair group of Citizenship and humanisation of the public sector, headed by Evelien Tonkens, has begun to collaborate with the Research Centre on Inequality, Poverty, Social Exclusion and the City of the University of Antwerp. The chair group of Care Ethics, headed

by Carlo Leget, is working to establish an International Care Ethical Research Consortium, in collaboration with Professor Joan Tronto (photo) of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. Finally, the chair group of Humanism and Philosophy, headed by Joachim Duyndam, has begun to work with the Scripps Centre for Gerontology at Miami University in Oxford Ohio, and hence with the North American Network in Aging Studies.



Photo: Studio Aksesto

Professor Evelien Tonkens is regularly in demand as an expert on questions on the changing relationship between government and citizens in the public domain.

THE FUTURE OF OUR WELFARE STATE: WHO IS RENDERED RESPONSIBLE?

On 4 and 5 November 2015, the university organised a 2-day conference on responsibility and dependency in changing welfare states. In Western countries the structure of the welfare state is changing rapidly. Social and health care policy is consequently aimed at transformation: from a welfare state that takes care of its citizens to a state that encourages citizens to 'participate' and actively take care of each other. Citizens are expected to take responsibility for their own lives and to support each other, instead of 'passively' consume services. International scholars and PhD students explored the tensions, the pitfalls and promises of this so called responsabilisation, and the new dependencies created by government policies. Professor Helen Kohlen (Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Vallendar, Germany) and Dr Thomas Briebecher (Goethe Universität, Germany) delivered keynote lectures and shared their views.



Photo: Lilian van Rooij

Professor Joan Tronto

PRACTICE CENTRE MEANING & PROFESSION



Photo: Rik Suermondt

The Practice Centre Meaning & Profession contributes to processes of meaning and humanisation in professional practices and organisations. The Centre pursues its mission through training and teaching programmes, workshops, conferences and coaching. In 2015, the Centre launched the four-day masterclass Moral Leadership. Also, it was closely involved in developing the new celebrant education programme, due to commence in September 2016.

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

The term of the so-called performance agreement ended at the end of 2015. This agreement was established in 2012 by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science with each publicly funded university and college, setting out what the organisation aimed to achieve with regard to the quality of education, the educational success of students, the profile of the education package offered, the training focus in research, and its societal relevance. Overall, the university is pleased with the results that were achieved. The performance agreement reinforced the focus of various efforts in the field of research and education. Where relevant goals were not fully achieved, extra measures are taken to ensure that they will be achieved in the near future.

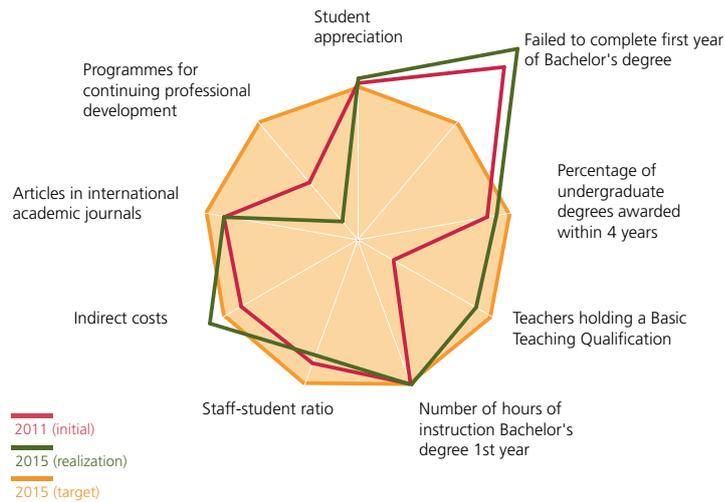


Photo: Willem Nies

MISSION

The University of Humanistic Studies is devoted to high-quality scientific research and education on the basis of its humanist inspiration and thereby contributes to a humane and sustainable society in which all people can lead a meaningful life.

PERSONNEL NEWS

Professor Wiel Veugelers (photo) received the Kuhmerker Career Award from the Association for Moral Education for his work on citizenship education and moral development. Veugelers's research and teaching cover a broad range of subjects, such as citizenship education, moral development, teachers' pedagogical professionalism, educational change, youth studies and youth subcultures.



Photo: Fred van Diem

Carlo Leget (photo), Professor of Care Ethics, was appointed as member of the permanent Committee on Ethics and Law of the Health Council of the Netherlands. The Health Council is an independent scientific advisory body for government and parliament.



Photo: JK Images



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Production University of Humanistic Studies
Translation Beter Engels Vertaalbureau
Design Carta Lian Oosterhoff
Printing Libertas Pascal
Cover photo Lilian van Rooij

The complete Annual Report of 2015 can be found on our website (in Dutch): www.uvh.nl/annualreport2015