



Hanze University Groningen
University of Applied Sciences

Shine at Hanze University Groningen!

Founded in 1798, Hanze University Groningen is the oldest university of applied sciences in the Netherlands. Moreover, with over 25,000 students and approximately 2,700 staff members, Hanze University Groningen is the largest university of applied sciences in the north of the Netherlands. It is widely respected on an international level and has a broad network of international partnerships with both businesses and educational institutions. Students and lecturers come from over 90 different countries.

Room for excellence: our ambition

Hanze University Groningen aims to develop an ambitious academic culture, achieved by our excellence programs and by offering elite study programs in the schools. This allows us to create room for excellence in our existing study and research programs. For us, recognizing, acknowledging and encouraging excellence is an essential part of our role: to educate outstanding professionals. We give all of our students, including the most talented, the room they need to fully develop within the University's knowledge community.

Room for excellence at Hanze University Groningen means:

- Talented students becoming excellent professionals;
- Creating an ambitious academic culture;
- Excellence programs are designed for the hand-picked "top 5% to 10%" of students;
- Excellence is viewed from the perspective of "lifelong learning", ambition geared to the job market and further study and development;

- A differentiated approach is needed for excellent students; there is no standard approach for all students and all study programs;
- Preparing and implementing programs for excellent students with appropriate teaching methods provided by excellent tutors.

Room for excellence in 7 programs

All of the 19 Hanze University Groningen schools organize their room for excellence strategies in different ways by offering one or more specific excellence programs. Some programs are already underway, for example in the School of Sports Studies, Applied Psychology and International Communication, but most will commence in September 2010.

1. Honors program, in at least 15 schools: a learning route for excellent students, usually spread over consecutive academic years, in which students carry out challenging assignments specifically designed for them. The honors program is worth at least 30 additional credits (maximum of 36), spread over



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at least 10 blocks. The support consists of individual coaching, additional theory, workshops, guest lectures, supervision by professionals from the field in question, peer supervision and knowledge sharing within the community of excellent students.

2. Encouraging elite sport and excellence: Hanze University Groningen offers an elite sport scheme which enables elite athletes to adapt their pace of study, timetable and examinations to fit around their intensive training sessions and competitions. It is even possible to obtain a grant. Expertise is brought in from various Hanze schools, on issues such as nutrition, physiotherapy, technology, etc., in order to optimize the support provided to these athletes. An elite sport coordinator carefully aligns the various elements.

3. Selective university-wide minor: four schools are developing selective university-wide minors, i.e. interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary programs for selected groups of ambitious students to broaden their regular programs. Students from different programs will carry out highly complex interdisciplinary assignments.

4. Selective specialization, offered in 10 Bachelor's programs: a more in-depth program for a selected group of elite students. This is a professional specialization that forms part of the Bachelor's program.

5. Individual routes at ten schools will consist of top-level traineeships with challenging assignments at leading companies or institutions, student assistantships, and apprenticeship routes in the final project phase.

6. Hanze Institute of Technology selection: the Hanze Institute of Technology (HIT) offers talented students a three-year Bachelor's program (240 ECTS) in "Advanced Sensor Applications (ASA)". This program brings excellence to the fore with its combination of technology, professional skills, applied research and challenging traineeships in international environments.

7. Scouting and pre-university education are crucial for attracting talent. Through several special projects, we are scouting for talented students who are heading towards suitable Bachelor's programs.

University-wide Room for Excellence

Professor Marca Wolfensberger has been appointed to the Excellence Program and will be guiding and supporting the schools. Together with tutor-researchers, she will be conducting research to effectively shape excellence programs and create a culture of ambitious academic excellence. We will of course share this knowledge and insight with the national and international higher education sector.

In addition, the program team is giving the schools support and guidance in shaping excellence in communications and behavior – for example by celebrating successes and creating prizes for students and tutors... but also by infusing the structure and culture of the schools with excellence.

In our strategy for the next few years, Hanze University Groningen is explicitly linking excellence and quality. The monitoring of progress and results through surveys and discussions with participants, as well as plans for improvement, are obvious components of our Room for Excellence initiative.

The Sirius Program: Excellence in Higher Education

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) has created the Sirius Program to allow higher education institutions to experiment with a range of excellence programs between 2008 and 2013, involving their most talented and motivated students. By allowing research universities and universities of applied sciences to challenge their best students, the Ministry aims to gain an understanding of how excellence can best be achieved, and of the obstacles that currently exist. The largest portion of the budget has been earmarked for the Bachelor's program that was launched in 2008 (€ 48.8 million), for which 16 applications have been approved. Excellence is being promoted across the entire breadth of these university institutions, involving at least 5% of all students in each case. There is a lot of diversity, both in the chosen definitions of 'excellence' and 'excellent students' and in the activities being developed. Work is carried out based on performance agreements (high trust). Sirius organizes a learning program in which institutions learn from themselves and each other, and in which knowledge is also made available to the entire sector and the government. The Master's program, with a budget of € 12.2 million, will start in 2010.

