

Report LUS Theme meeting 1: Career Perspectives

January 25th from 15:00 – 17:00 at the Faculty Club in Leiden

Present:

- Hester Bijl (Vice Rector Magnificus)
- Marcel Vooijs
- LUS members: Ghislaine Voogd (LUS chair), Enrico Priora and Tobias Sandoval Garcia (FGGA), Naomi Nota (FGW), Iris van der Hoeven (LUMC)
- Nieke Campagne (Projectmanager on Employability) and colleague
- 11 students from the different faculties

There was a total of (approximately) 20 attendants.

Introduction

The theme meeting started with a presentation from Nieke Campagne about the project on employability of the University. (should there be more info about the content of the presentation?) After this presentation, we focused on two topics.

1. INFORMATION

The first part of the discussion was about the information about career perspectives provided by the Leiden University. Three main questions were discussed:

- Have you heard of the Career service? Have you ever attended a career day/ workshop of the university?
- Do you think there is enough information available regarding career perspectives?
- How would you like to receive more information? In what form/ way?

2. PRACTICAL

The second part of the discussion was about the practical services of the University to prepare the students for the labour market. The central questions were:

- How were you prepared for the labour market during your studies?
- Is there something you miss and would like to have implemented?

1. Information

Several conclusions can be made based on the discussion with the attendants. First of all, most of the students were not aware of the career services offered by the University. This has to be communicated in a more efficient way to the students. Different ideas to do this came up:

- Involve student associations to reach the students
- The use of BlackBoard and uSis and even lecture schedules

- The use of social media

However, it is important to not overburden students with information concerning their career perspectives. This can create a feeling of antipathy towards the search of their career perspectives. The University has to emphasize the responsibility the students have to search for career perspectives.

Secondly, the students appreciate the Alumni network that can help orientate their future. At the same time, they don't always feel confident in approaching former alumni, as well as professionals in their sector (e.g., via LinkedIn), because they don't know what to say. Here is why they would like to have the University organize more informal meetings about job perspectives instead of career days (useful to meet companies but not for discover what you would like to do).

2. Practical

In general, students rate the theoretical education provided by Leiden University highly. However, there is a widespread feeling that more practical skills should be taught to complement the theory. A suggestion is to put less pressure on students to complete their course of study on time in order to allow them to have a part time job during their study.

Another idea was to create a course about career perspectives for bachelor students. During this course students will learn how to make a correct CV, motivation letter and learn about the possibilities they have on the labor market. This course can take place during the whole Bachelor programme but preferably during the second or third year because this is the time students have to make important choices about the continuation of their study (which Master am I going to do, do I get an internship or do I want to study abroad?) Similar courses are already present for some programmes but not for all.

Multiple students have a mentor. The student mentor has an important role to motivate students to go to events about their career perspectives. The mentor also has to have the knowledge concerning career perspective activities for students. This mentor role could be further explored.

A final big issue was the gap of job orientation and job opportunities not provided to international students: most of career days involve companies that only hire Dutch students. This seems like a waste for Leiden University, since it invests in the education of internationals, who are "forced" to leave the country right after the Master because of the lack of jobs.