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Case study: inclusive internationalisation

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International Relations Office

Antwerp: a major economic hub & true student city


- Antwerp is a major economic hub thanks to

  - the city's sea-connected port (Europe's 2nd-busiest)
  - chemical cluster (the world 2nd-largest)
  - diamond trade
  - various other
    internationally oriented business activities

- In recent years the student population has increased considerably, together with the city

  - 500,000 inhabitants (Flanders largest city)
  - 170 different nationalities
  - 50,000 students
  - Majority-minority city

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University of Antwerp in numbers - Students and alumni
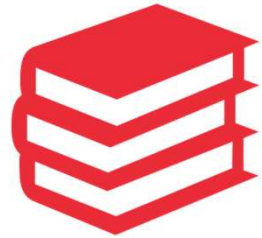
23 202 students

80 000+ alumni

10 517   bachelor students

4809   master students

1642   bridging and preparatory students

917   advanced master students

2339   PhD students

972 postgraduate and micro-credential students
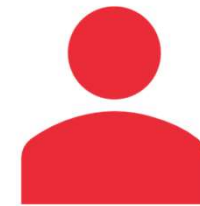
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University of Antwerp in numbers - 9 faculties

Business and Economics

Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences

Medicine and Health Sciences

Arts

Design Sciences

Law

Social Sciences

Applied Engineering

Science

University of Antwerp in numbers - Study programmes

154 study programmes, of which

- **32** bachelor programmes
- **80** master programmes
- **18** advanced master programmes
- **24** postgraduate programmes

29 English-language programmes, of which

- **1** bachelor programme (Social-Economic Sciences)
- **20** master programmes
- **5** advanced master programmes
- **3** postgraduate programmes

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Vision Statement on Internationalisation

*'An essential part of the pursuit of quality and relevance of education, research and service in a globalised society. Our university **stimulates the international orientation** of its students, lecturers and researchers. It offers maximum **opportunities for international experiences** and is fully committed to international cooperation.'*

*'To improve its functioning within a globalising society, the University of Antwerp would like to help its students **acquire international and intercultural competences through student mobility** – both short-term and long-term – **and through Internationalisation@Home**.'*
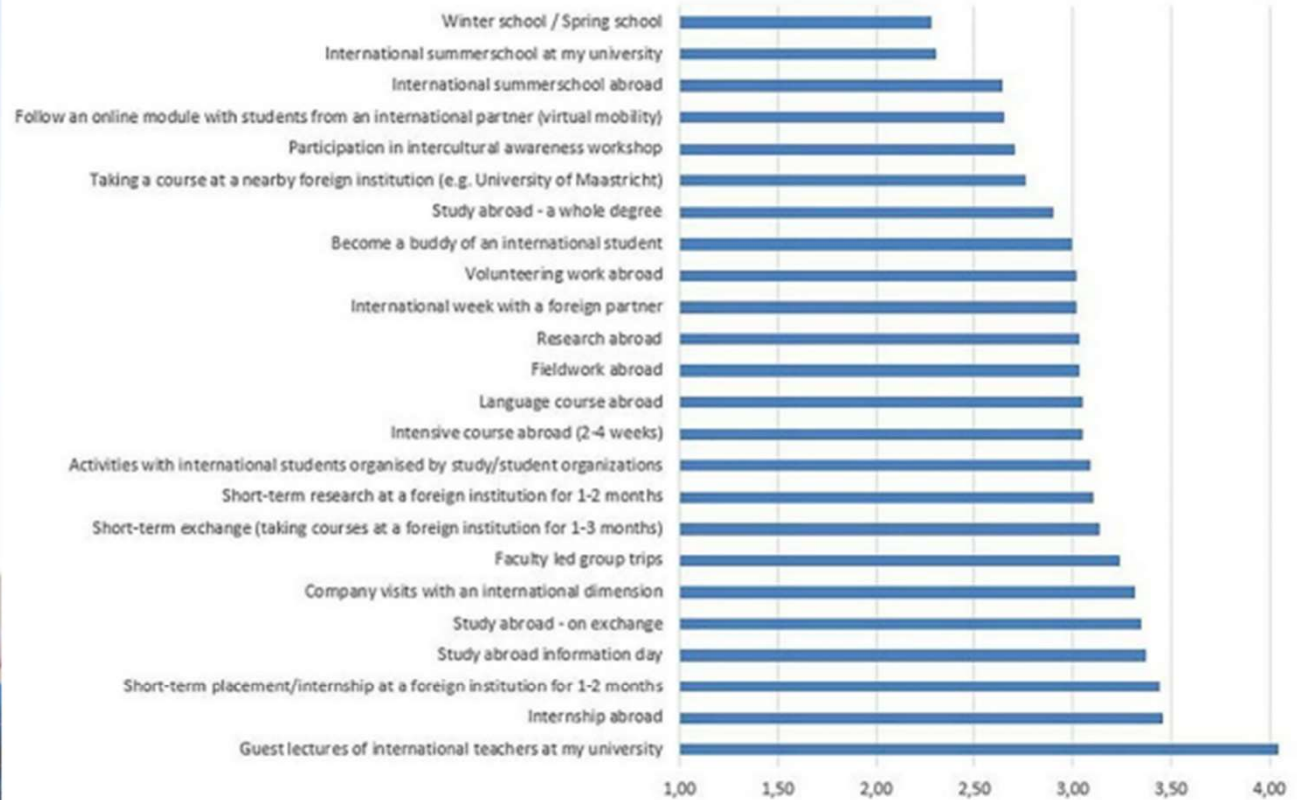
International dimension of the curriculum

Theoretical background / empirical evidence

- Social selectivity in mobility participation and outcomes (SES, migration background)

Results I: descriptive analysis

Theoretical background / empirical evidence

- **Deeper analysis (multivariate models)**
  - Students with lower SES less likely to participate in all internationalisation activities
  - Migration background: more likely to participate in most internationalisation activities
  - Intersectionality: students with a migration background and low socio-economic status less likely to participate in most internationalisation activities – except for studying a degree abroad
  - Conclusions
    - Internationalisation activities – both at home and abroad – are characterised by social selectivity
    - Students from lower SES less likely to participate in any internationalisation activity
    - Students with a migration background more likely to participate, but mind the intersection!
    - Internationalisation of the curriculum as a way forward

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International dimension of the curriculum

- **Tour of faculties - academic year 2023-2024**

- **Aim**
  - Discuss opportunities, challenges and needs related to the international dimension of the curriculum, with the aim of increasing the exposure to international dimensions in the curriculum.
  - Data-driven, evidence based

- **Source**
  - Data for outgoing mobility (2018-2023)
  - International dimension of course information sheets (2022-2023)
  - Programme evaluation among students (2022)

- **Participants**
  - Representatives central departements (Education and International Relations Office)
  - Policy officers for Quality Assurance, Internationalisation, Faculty directors and chairs of Educational Commissions

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Data on outgoing student mobility (1)

- **Aim:** give all students the chance to have a mobility experience (long or short)
- **Therefore**: completely and correctly register all outgoing mobility in Student information system (SisA) as external courses
- **Reasons**:
  - Correct registration as basis for datadriven internationalisation policy and comparison over time > integration in Power BI
  - Data in SisA flow to the Flemish Database for Higher Education
  - Mobility experience is mentioned on the diploma supplement of the student
  - Outgoing student mobility is a a parameter for several rankings (f.e. Times Higher Education)
  - Registration in SisA allows measuring participation of different groups (migration background, scholarship students, disabled students, working students, etc).

Registration of outgoing student mobility (2)

Method

Systematically display the number of externally acquired courses by students over the course of their bachelor or master programme, expressed in absolute and relative numbers.

% mobile degree: number of degrees obtained in academic year X in which credits abroad have been acquired, compared to the total number of degrees obtained.

Academiejaar CAT externe sp Faculteit	Academiejaar 2022-2023 0 # Stud	% Ext SP	01-09 # Stud	% Ext SP	10-33 # Stud	% Ext SP	34-60 # Stud	% Ext SP	Totaal # Stud	% Ext SP
Rechten	300		2		40				342	12.3%
Bachelor (academisch)	161								161	0.0%
Ba recht...	161								161	0.0%
Master	140		2		40				182	23.1%
Ma ...	6		1		11				18	66.7%
Ma recht...	134		1		29				164	18.3%

Disclaimer: these numbers don't neceserally reflect the reality as the excersice of correctly registering mobilities as external courses has not been completed. The tables and graphs are displayed to give an impression of the content and approach.

Academiejaar CAT externe sp UAntwerpen	Academiejaar 2022-2023 0 # Stud	01-09 # Stud	% Ext SP	10-33 # Stud	% Ext SP	34-60 # Stud	% Ext SP	60 # Stud	% Ext SP	Totaal # Stud	% Ext SP
Bachelor (academisch)	1,715	10		117		6		1		1,848	7.3%
Master	2,193	93		262		21		40		2,609	15.9%
Totaal	3,881	103		377		27		41		4,419	12.4%

Registration of outgoing student mobility (3)
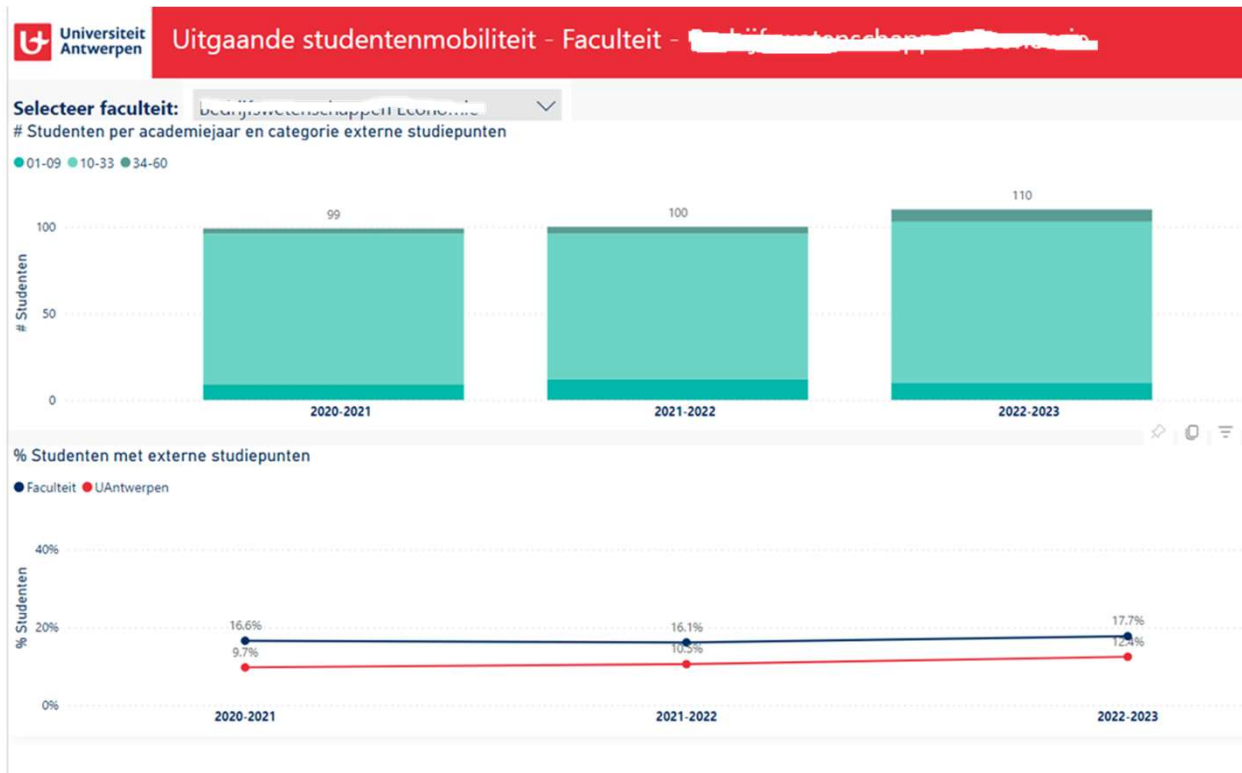
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Data on outgoing student mobility – background characteristics

Disclaimer: these numbers don't neceserally reflect the reality as the excersice of correctly registering mobilities as external courses has not been completed. The tables and graphs are displayed to give an impression of the content and approach.

Academiejaar	Academiejaar 2020-2021						Academiejaar 2021-2022						Academiejaar 2022-2023					
	0	01-09	10-33	34-60	60	Totaal / % Ext SP	0	01-09	10-33	34-60	60	Totaal / % Ext SP	0	01-09	10-33	34-60	60	Totaal / % Ext SP
Migration background non-EU1	398	2	23	0	0	423	394	10	32	3	0	439	440	7	34	0	1	482
% Migration background non-EU1						5.9 %						10.3 %						8.7 %
Scholarship	728	4	60	6	0	798	656	15	50	6	0	727	679	12	57	2	2	752
% Scholarship						8.8 %						9.8 %						9.7 %
Migration background and scholarship	196	0	12	0	0	208	210	5	14	1	0	230	215	1	16	0	1	233
% Migration background and scholarship						5.8 %						8.7 %						7.7 %
Migration background, no scholarship	202	2	11	0	0	215	184	5	18	2	0	209	225	6	18	0	0	249
% Migration background, no scholarship						6.0 %						12.0 %						9.6 %
Disability	292	0	20	2	0	314	325	11	19	4	0	359	335	4	34	2	1	376
% Disability						7.0 %						9.5 %						10.9 %
Working student	155	1	2	0	0	158	178	1	1	0	0	180	234	1	6	0	0	241
% Working student						1.9 %						1.1 %						2.9 %
Pioneer	824	2	36	4	5	871	713	10	33	3	5	764	673	13	40	3	3	732
% Pioneer						5.4 %						6.7 %						8.1 %
None of the above	2,780	24	250	25	29	3,108	2,681	58	227	21	26	3,013	2,566	82	269	23	39	2,979
% None of the above						10.6 %						11.0 %						13.9 %
Total UAntwerp	3,934	30	336	33	29	4,362	3,804	84	307	33	26	4,254	3,799	100	371	26	41	4,337
% Total UAntwerp						9.8 %						10.6 %						12.4 %

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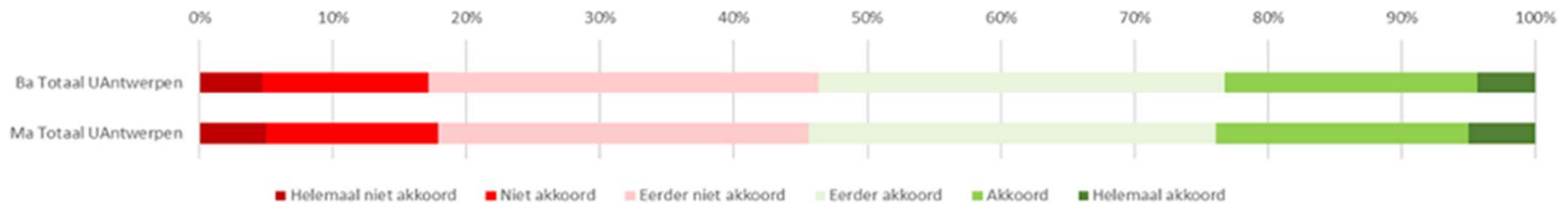# International dimension of Course Information Sheets

- **Section in Course information sheets: International dimension - checklist**

- Students use **course materials in a foreign language.**
- The lecturer invites international **guest lecturers**.
- Students **give presentations** in a foreign language.
- Students **write papers** in a foreign language.
- Students **compare the course contents** in an international context.
- Students **reflect on** their own **cultural frame of reference in relation to other perspectives**.
- Students take a **study trip abroad.**
- **Students work together** (online) with international students.
- The lecturer **collaborates with an international partner** (fe. joint course materials, joint case studies)
- Other: …

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International dimension of Course Information Sheets

Programme	# unique courses with at least 1 international dimension	% unique courses with at least 1 international dimension	# unique courses with at least 3 international dimensions	% unique courses with at least 3 international dimensions	TOTAAL # unieke courses
Bachelor	847	64%	257	19%	1.318
Master	963	61%	466	29%	1.586
Bridging programme	393	72%	158	29%	548

PROGRAMMA-EVALUATIE 2022:
The study program offered enough possibilities to acquire international competences without actually going abroad.

Legend: Helemaal niet akkoord, Niet akkoord, Eerder niet akkoord, Eerder akkoord, Akkoord, Helemaal akkoord

Inclusive Mobility

Project group Inclusive Mobility - background

Internal networking event and platform for all staff members of faculties, institutes and central departments working on or with an interest in internationalisation.

- October 2022: setting the scene, several info sessions

- January 2023: focus on Inclusive Internationalisation

    - Lecture: Inclusive internationalisation: do different (social) groups of students need different internationalisation activities? – Christof Van Mol, Tilburg University

    - Workshop: Inclusive Mobility – Valérie Van Hees (SIHO)

- June 2023: focus on Wellbeing among international students

Inclusive Mobility – launch project group

- Evaluation of and feedback after 'All Aboard' > need for further exploration and concrete actions

- Timeline

  - April/May: launch project group, open call for participants

  - Duration: academic year 2023-2024

  - September: kick-off project group, first brainstorm - topics

  - November-December: agreeing on targets, division of work and time-line

  - January – June: eleboration of actions

Project group Inclusive Mobility - framework

- Use of framework and areas developed by SIHO / inclusivemobility.eu

  - **Inclusion in mobility strategies; Awareness and cooperation; Information provision and promotion; Applications, grants and funding; Support services**

  - "Means **creating and ensuring adequate conditions** to learn, work or volunteer abroad for **people with fewer opportunities**, by addressing their diverse support needs. It is a **needs-based approach** to what the individual beneficiary needs to ensure a safe and exciting mobility period abroad. It is important to not generalise needs, needs are specific and the individualised aspect in it is highly important. "

  - "From an inclusive mobility perspective, underrepresentation and disadvantage must be **addressed as widely and as comprehensively as possible when designing inlcusive mobility strategies**."

Project group Inclusive Mobility - composition

- Central departments

  - Mobility coordinator, IRO

  - Communication officer, IRO

  - Policy officer Diversity and Inclusion

  - Functional impairment coach, expert

- Active participation required

- Focus: concrete actions and realisations (SMART)

- Outreach / bigger picture

- Faculties

  - Exchange coordinator (*2)

  - Policy officer internationlisation

  - Policy officer diversity and inclusion

  - Policy officer international degree students

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Project group Inclusive Mobility

- Inclusion in mobility strategies;

    - Offer and recognise diverse range of internationalisation activities

    - Stimulate data-driven policy

    - Include student voice in policymaking

    - Mention topic in communication with partners

- Awareness and cooperation;

    - Set up thematic working groups

    - Put topic on agenda of relevant meeting bodies

    - Organise internal networking event with all stakeholders involved

    - Organise/encourage staff trainings

    - Share resources, good practices, conference reports within the institution

    - Develop and share good practices

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Project group Inclusive Mobility

- Information provision and promotion;

  - Correct communication about outcomes/added value/myths of ISM

  - Explore optimal information channels to reach underrepresented and disadvantaged students

  - Focus on providing relevant testimonials and role models

- Applications, grants and funding

  - Outreach on scholarship opportunities

  - Simplify (communication about) application procedure

  - Targeted (or inclusive) communication to different target group on extra opportunities

  - Clarify (communication about) payment procedures

  - Map and communicate expenses related to mobility in a better way

  - Gain insights in effectiveness of scholarships as incentive for ISM

- Support services

  - Mapping and eliminating pains related to support services (infrastructure, housing, catering, student life, etc)

  - Focus on physical and online meeting places/international lounge/etc

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Preliminary conclusion and challenges

- Defined trajectory (in time), but very relevant and perhaps invisible actions by several actors before, during and after the activities of the project group.

- The whole is more than the sum of its parts

- Time is scarce

- Include the student voice

- What's next?

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