#### Highlights of 2019

**AUC celebrates 10 years**

– In September, Amsterdam University College marked its 10th anniversary with a series of events to celebrate with all parts of the AUC community, including the Dies Natalis, a party for current students and a dinner for alumni.

**Green added to AUC building**

– In April, various plants and a living picture were installed all around the academic building as part of the Healthy Building Initiative with Quality Agreement Funding. Sourcing and maintenance of the plants are done through UvA partners.

**Book contributions from AUC lecturers**

– In 2019, Marco de Waard published a book chapter about theme-based learning and interdisciplinary teaching and Dr. Pedram Dibazar co-edited a book on street visuals in an interdisciplinary context.

**Lecturer discovers Einstein letters**

– AUC lecturer Dr. Margriet van der Heijden discovered three previously unknown letters written by Albert Einstein to his friend, physicist and mathematician Tatiana Afanassjewa.

**Students present Culture Lab photos**

– In June, AUC students Chiara Loriaux (Class of 2019) and Madita Strähle (Class of 2019) presented an exhibition titled “Dear Stranger” at the UvA creative space VOX-POP based on fieldwork they completed for their lab course in Malta in 2018.

**Students at Oxford Seminar**

– In January, five AUC students participated in an interdisciplinary seminar in Oxford on the nature of humanity in the context of lecturer Dr. Sebastian De Haro’s Educational Development Initiative.

**Former Senior Tutor retires**

– Dr. Diederik van Werven, who was also a lecturer in the Social Sciences, retired at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. Part of the AUC community since 2012, he gave a farewell speech during the graduation ceremony.

**AUC student part of Nexus symposium**

– In September, AUC student and poet Wojtek Wieczorek (Class of 2021) was a featured speaker at the Nexus Institut symposium entitled “The Magic Mountain Revisited: Cultivating the Human Spirit in Dispirited Times”.

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**Spotlight: Lustrum celebrations**

On 27 September 2019, Amsterdam University College held its celebratory Lustrum Dies Natalis marking 10 years since doors first opened to students. The event was held in the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), which was the same location as AUC’s grand opening ceremony. Speakers and performers at the event included alumni, staff and invited guests who reflected on a decade of excellence and diversity. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Teun Dekker of University College Maastricht.

**Awards and recognitions**

Members of the AUC community were recognized for their astounding achievements in 2019:

- Lisa van Holsteijn (Class of 2018) was awarded the AUV Alumni Awards 2019 and alumnus Erik van Halewijn (Class of 2018) was named Folia’s UvA’er of the Year 2019.
- Lecturer Dr. Forrest Bradbury was one of the recipients of a Comenius Teaching Fellowship in 2019 for his project ‘Flipping the physical science lab course and making critical researchers’.
- Three AUC alumni, Khaled Tamimy (Class of 2018), Erik van Halewijn (Class of 2018) and Fatiya Munkaila (Class of 2017), as the co-founders of the Diversity Talks Foundation, were part of a successful application for a 200,000 EUR subsidy for the UvA FNWI.
- Student initiative Right2Education, which offers Dutch and English language classes to individuals with a refugee status in the Netherlands, was announced as the second runner-up of Aurora Universities Network’s Diversity and Equality Award.
A total of 907 students were enrolled at AUC for the 2018-2019 academic year. The tables below demonstrate what “excellence and diversity” mean in terms of the composition and performance of the AUC student body.

**EXCELLENCE (STUDY SUCCESS)**

| Retention | 94% |
| Student performance: | |
| GPA ≥ 3.9 (summa cum laude) | 11% |
| GPA ≥ 3.5 (cum laude) | 48% |
| GPA ≥ 3.0 (honours degree) | 28% |
| GPA < 3.0 | 13% |
| Study progress: | |
| Average number of credits earned per year (incl. dropouts) | 57 |
| Time to degree, Class of 2019: | |
| Within 3 years | 86% |
| After 4 years | 14% |

**DIVERSITY**

| Male | 28% |
| Female | 72% |
| Dutch students | 77% |
| International students | 23% |
| Number of different nationalities | 51 |

**Graduation, Class of 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA</th>
<th>BS</th>
<th>Double major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUC offers a broad variety of courses covering a diverse range of academic disciplines. These courses range from 'Quantum Physics' to 'Chinese Studies' and from 'Logic' to 'Advanced Macro-Economics'. New courses offered in the 2018-2019 academic year include 'Cultural Studies of Affect and Emotion' and 'Geodesign Lab'.

In the Academic Standards and Procedures 2018-2019, updated degree requirements indicate all students must take a minimum of 10 courses in their major in addition to two associated methods courses. Students are able to take up to seven off-campus courses, including those taken as part of an exchange programme.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS 2018-2019**

| Number of courses* | 295 |
| Teacher quality | 8.2/10 |
| Course quality | 7.8/10 |
| Response rate | 51% |

* Including parallel groups

**Alumni**

In May 2019, Amsterdam University College added an Alumni and External Relations Officer (AERO) to the professional staff team. Ms. Gerylaine Campos was hired to fill the role.

According to LinkedIn data, 78 percent of those who list having attended AUC between 2009 and 2019 have their location set in the Netherlands. The next most popular locations are the United States and the United Kingdom, with 8 percent each, followed by Germany and Sweden. The top listed employers are the UvA, VU Amsterdam, AMC, VUmc and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**ACCREDITATION**

Amsterdam University College went through its accreditation renewal process in 2018, along with other university colleges in the Netherlands as part of the assessment of Liberal Arts and Sciences programmes. In September 2018, an assessment panel comprised of academics and students visited AUC to hear presentations and evaluations on the academic programme from staff, students and alumni.

The panel was chaired by Prof. Dr. Theo Engelen, professor in Historical Demography and former Rector Magnificus of Radboud University. Two members of the panel, the chair and Prof. Dr. Marcel Brus, professor in Public International Law at the University of Groningen, were trained by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) and appointed to head the assessment of Distinctive Feature Small-scale and Intensive Education, of which Liberal Arts and Sciences is a part.

As result of the assessment, AUC was determined to meet the standards for accreditation. The panel report was published in March 2019. Comments from the panel included that “AUC brings the research strengths of the two parent institutions together by realising a distinctive residential teaching-learning environment that addresses real world challenges through a flexible approach to learning and development” and that “students at AUC benefit from a carefully aligned curriculum, which has evidently been an area of much consideration and development”.

| Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes | Satisfactory |
| Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment | Good |
| Standard 3: Student assessment | Satisfactory |
| Standard 4: Achieved learning outcomes | Good |
| General outcome | Good |
Study abroad

AUC students who meet the requirements for exchange are encouraged to study abroad during their fourth or fifth semester. They can choose from 19 AUC partner institutions and may also apply for the non-European partner universities of the University of Amsterdam, as well as the European partner universities of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The map shows AUC’s partner universities’ locations.

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE

Roughly one-third of AUC students take the opportunity to study abroad. In 2019, 105 AUC students spent their semester at 53 different universities. Of the 105 students, 23 opted for an Erasmus exchange (within Europe), while the other 82 studied at non-European partner universities. The most popular destination countries and universities can be viewed in the following tables.

Most popular destinations

- Australia (19)
- United States (16)
- Canada (13)
- United Kingdom (9)
- China (5)

Most popular universities

- University of Melbourne (13)
- Boston College (6)
- University of Queensland (5)
- McGill University (4)
- National University of Singapore (4)
- University of Toronto (4)

Study abroad results outgoing students (Spring 2019 semester only)

- Average GPA outgoing students: 3.5
- Course passing rate: 100%
- Average number of credits earned*: 30

*Not including credits awarded for community projects, internships or AUC 4-week courses.

INBOUND EXCHANGE

In 2019, AUC hosted 104 incoming exchange students with 29 different nationalities, coming from 42 different partner universities. The tables below list the most represented countries of origin and top sending institutions.

Country of origin

- United States: 29
- Singapore: 9
- Turkey: 9
- Australia: 7
- Canada: 7

Top sending universities

- National University of Singapore: 8
- Quest University: 6
- Boğaziçi University: 5
- Boston College: 5
- University of Dublin: 5
- University of Maryland: 5

Financial numbers

EXPENDITURE (EUR X 1000)

- Faculty & support staff: 8,879.0
- Academic housing & services: 2,649.0
- Development projects & grants: 634.0
- Student housing: 167.0
- Material costs: 91.0
- Total: 12,420.0

REVENUE (EUR X 1000)

- Tuition fees & government funding: 11,724.0
- Grants & subsidies: 0.0
- Other: 191.0
- Total: 11,915.0

Faculty & support staff

"Lecturers are properly trained and qualified to deliver small-scale, intensive teaching and the available expertise is well-tuned to the various academic demands of the programme. The programme has shown good progress regarding career opportunities for staff... There is sufficient staff available to provide small-scale and intensive education and to ensure and develop individual contact between teachers and students." QANU report, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018–2019</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Fte</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUC core teaching faculty</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which also tutors</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching faculty from UvA</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching faculty from VU</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other external faculty</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VU-AUC secondment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outreach and civic engagement

At AUC, excellence is not only reflected in the academic work of its students, but also in their commitment to being active members of society. The philosophy of AUC maintains that education and personal development takes place both in and outside of the classroom. This idea is demonstrated through the many outreach activities students undertake, including research-based internships, gaining work experience in their desired field, engaging with their neighbourhood through community projects, volunteering for a variety of foundations and causes, organising events for fellow students and much more.

ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL
AUC hosts the Engagement Council, a central platform for organisations with goals related to outreach and community engagement. Both external and internal parties involved with AUC are able to share information about what their organisations are doing and discuss opportunities for collaboration and support through meetings and a circulated newsletter.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS
Community-based learning and leadership are important components of the AUC curriculum. All students complete an internship and/or a community project through participating in local, national or international projects or organisations. These partners are provided by AUC or sought out by students themselves. AUC strives to show a commitment to giving back to the community and providing opportunities for collaboration and support through meetings and events.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
In November, the second Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) was hosted at AUC as an initiative of motivated students who took the lead on planning, organising and leading the conference sessions and workshops. LCOY is an event sanctioned by YOUNGO, the official youth-constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These conferences aim to educate people on climate issues and prepare youth to participate in global conferences and actions, through learning about UN processes and having the opportunity to share their own voices. At AUC, the first LCOY in 2018 had a local focus, while in 2019 the aim was to connect more internationally. The conference programme featured sessions hosted by local climate and sustainability-focused organisations, as well as students and student initiatives, with topics such as reducing food waste, energy localisation, fighting environmental destruction and learning how to organise small-scale actions.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

LUSTRUM STUDENT PARTY AND ALUMNI DINNER
In honour of AUC’s ten-year Lustrum celebration, AUC and the AUC Alumni Association (AUCAA) hosted a special dinner at SkateCafe in Amsterdam Noord for AUC alumni. After dinner, current AUC students joined the festivities as well for a mixed celebration. There were live performances by past and current AUC students.

FIVE YEARS OF ‘VOICES OF AUC’
Voices of AUC is an annual dialogue and discussion platform for AUC students, staff and alumni. At the conference, all participants engage with one another on equal footing to explore their ideas about AUC. The overarching theme for the fifth edition of Voices of AUC, held in May 2019, was “LAS: Beyond the Classroom,” subdivided into three topics of focus: (1) social responsibility of AUC, (2) experiential learning, and (3) wellbeing of the AUC community.

AUC GARDEN PROJECT AT ANNA’S TUIN
At the end of 2018, Anna’s Tuin en Ruigte, the foundation that runs the communal garden in Amsterdam Science Park, dedicated its entrance area to AUC students to give them a chance to bring their own gardening and art projects to life. Students took on the project to build the AUC garden in March 2019 and it was completed and opened to the public in May. The AUC garden features plant beds, palette furniture, a bare foot path and a playground.

WELL-BEING TEAM HOSTS DE-STRESS EVENT
For the second year, the AUC Student Life Officer and AUC Peer Support, in collaboration with committees from the Student Association, hosted an event aimed at giving students a chance to step away from their academic stresses for an evening and enjoy some relaxing activities. The theme for 2019 was De-Stress Fest, combining both fun and informative stress-relief activities to highlight different ways of coping with stress. The November event brought students and staff together for an evening of relaxation and “gezelligheid” during the busy and dark time at the end of the year. Free activities during the evening included meditation, art therapy, and light sports.

AUC WAS THE PROUD VENUE FOR:
- TEDxAUCollege Pitch Night in January 2019
- LGBTQ+ History Month in February 2019
- AUC Health Week in May 2019
- Black History Month in October 2019
- AUC Student Association Winter Formal in December 2019
- The Who’s in Town series, which held 19 lectures in 2019

PHOTOGRAPHY: Maarten de Haaf, Valérie Heinz, Chiara Loriaux, Muzi Ndiweni, Madita Strähle, Jakub Polansky, Marco de Waard, Marieke Wijnjties, AUC, AUCSA, The Herring, LCOY, Nexus Insituut