Highlights of 2021

**AUC Next process begins** – In the spring, AUC started work on a new strategic vision and plan to implement over the coming five years. As a continuation of AUC21, it focuses on periodic review of the curriculum and a re-examining of AUC’s strengths and goals.

**Updates to application procedure rolled out** – For the September 2022 intake cycle, changes were implemented, including batch processing applications and using a uniform timeline for communicating decisions, as well as removing mandatory Admissions Days.

**New HoS Humanities appointed** – In April, Dr. Erinc Salor was appointed as Head of Studies Humanities. He had been teaching at AUC since 2013 and took over from Dr. Mariette Willemsen, who continued as a lecturer in the Humanities.

**First University Maker Camp held** – In August, 19 high school students learned about various STEAM topics from a group of AUC students and lecturers. The aim of the programme was to introduce future first-generation students to what interdisciplinary education can offer.

**Student fundraiser for India COVID-19 relief** – In May, third-year student Preksha Bapna launched a funding campaign to assist in providing financial support and medical equipment to those in India impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and resulting hospitalisations.

**AUC Peace Lab goes digital for first time** – In January, the AUC course Peace Lab held its first online edition focusing on Rwanda. In lieu of in-person fieldwork, students were able to meet with groups such as the UN, NGO’s and youth peace-builders virtually.

**Awards and Recognitions**

Members of the AUC community were recognised for their astounding achievements in 2021:

- AUC students Céline Paré (first-prize) and Ananya Jain (second-prize) were awarded Hans Adriaansens Student Awards
- AUC partner faculty member Fatjon Kaya was named Lecturer of the Year 2021 at the UvA Faculty of Law
- AUC lecturer and VU assistant professor Angela Bartholomew defended her dissertation "Disruptive Attitudes: Artists Counter the Art of Exhibiting in the Low Countries (1985-1991)"
- Lecturer Dora Achourioti was announced as a recipient of a Comenius Teaching Fellowship for her project “Building a Learning Path using Minecraft”
- Lecturers Dora Achourioti and Angelika Port were awarded a UvA Grassroots subsidy for their project “Rethinking Digital Testing for Science”

**Spotlight: AUC21 project concludes**

In 2016, AUC embarked on strategic conversations aimed at bringing together colleagues and students, the college and the universities. Strategic priorities were outlined for the following five-year period in the AUC21 document, which inspired action planning over the course of 2016-2021. The AUC21 plan aimed at a curriculum refreshment, resulting in simpler and more uniform degree requirements as well as redesigned Big Question courses, among other adjustments.
The total number of students enrolled at AUC in the academic year 2020–2021 was 858. The tables below show study success and diversity in terms of composition and performance of the AUC student body.

**STUDY SUCCESS**

| Retention | 93.3% |
| GPA ≥ 3.9 (summa cum laude) | 16.8% |
| GPA ≥ 3.5 (cum laude) | 55% |
| GPA ≥ 3.0 (Honours degree) | 23.5% |
| Student performance (overall): | |
| GPA ≥ 3.5 (summa cum laude) | 55% |
| Students receiving diploma in 2021: | |
| Within 3 years (all) | 78% |
| Within 3 years [re-enrolment after year 1] | 88% |

**DIVERSITY**

- Male students: 26%
- Female students: 72%
- Gender diverse students*: 2%
- Dutch students: 39%
- International students: 61%
  - EEA nationality students: 45%
  - Non-EEA nationality students: 16%
- Number of different nationalities: 62

* As best known by AUC Administration.

The 2021 graduation celebration was held as a series of six small-scale ceremonies over the course of 6, 7 and 8 July in the Common Room of the Academic Building. Prof. Michael Puett of Harvard University delivered the Commencement Address remotely and Benjamin Wagenvoort spoke as the Valedictorian. In total, 238 students graduated in 2021.

**AUC courses and quality assurance**

AUC offers a broad variety of courses covering many academic disciplines. These courses range from ‘Electricity and Magnetism’ to ‘Cultural Studies of Affect and Emotion’ and from ‘Academic Writing Skills’ to ‘Market Failures, Institutions and Economic Policy’. New Big Questions courses, which are part of the Academic Core, were developed over the past years and many were offered for the first time in 2021. These include courses such as ‘Big Questions in Artificial Intelligence’ and ‘Big Questions in Interconnectivity.’

**COURSE EVALUATIONS 2020–2021**

- Number of courses*: 280
- Number of teachers: 137
- Teacher quality**: 8.2**
- Course quality**: 7.9**
- Response rate: 45%

* Including parallel groups; **Teacher quality and Course quality were measured on a 10-point scale which was adopted in the 2020-2021 academic year.

**Alumni and AUCAA**

**HOMECOMING EVENT FOR (RECENT) GRADUATES**

In August, a Homecoming Event was hosted by AUC and the AUC Alumni Association with a special focus on the Class of 2020 who missed having an in-person graduation celebration due to the COVID-19 regulations. Speakers included the Dean and members of AUCAA board.

**MASTER’S DATABASE LAUNCHED**

The AUC Master’s Database is an interactive tool that current students, staff members, alumni, prospective students and visitors can use to see at which universities and in which programmes AUC graduates have gone on to continue their studies. It went live in Spring 2021.

**AUC Scholarship Fund**

The aim of the AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF) is to further diversity and excellence in AUC’s student body. The ASF is sponsored by VU Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam, the City of Amsterdam, the AUC Student Association (AUCSA) and the AUC Alumni Association (AUCAA).

The AUC Scholarship Fund is an independent foundation under Dutch law and is overseen by the ASF Board. Members of the ASF Board during the 2021 calendar year included:
- Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam (Rector Magnificus, VU)
- Drs. Jan Linsten (Member of the Executive Board, UvA)
- Dr. Nina Tellegen (Executive Director, Amsterdam Economic Board)
- Ms. Maryam Alaoui (AUC graduate member)

Drs. Jan Linsten joined the ASF Board in 2021, filling the role of UvA Executive Board representative. Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam left his position as Rector Magnificus of the VU in September 2021 and therefore also left his position as a member of the ASF Board.

**IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON TEACHING**

The COVID-19 pandemic led to considerable challenges in higher education with lockdowns forcing many courses to go online. At AUC, the majority of the second semester of 2020-2021 was held online, with classes during the 4-week June period taking place on campus in a limited capacity. The start of the 2021-2022 academic year was held fully on campus and in person. However, a lockdown announced in December meant the 4-week January period in 2022 took place online once again.

**2020-2021**

- Students with an ASF scholarship: 55
- Average ASF scholarship amount (EUR): 9,504
- Total amount of ASF scholarships awarded (EUR): 560,715
- Number of different nationalities: 34
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 Erasmus partner universities of VU Amsterdam. The map displays AUC’s partner universities (red) and AUC’s quota partner institutions (black).

**EXCHANGE IN SPRING 2021**
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all outbound as well as inbound exchanges were cancelled in Spring 2021.

**EXCHANGE IN AUTUMN 2021**
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the UvA initially decided to cancel all exchanges in the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year. In May 2021, the UvA revised its position and decided to facilitate physical exchanges in the Autumn semester provided that government travel advice for the exchange destination was positive. Despite the revised decision, only a small group of students was able to go on exchange. Most exchanges could not go ahead because of cancellations by the host university or negative travel advice. In many cases, students decided to withdraw from the exchange programme themselves because of the uncertainty about whether their exchange would go ahead.

### Financial numbers

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>(EUR X 1000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty and support staff</td>
<td>10,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic housing &amp; services</td>
<td>2,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development projects &amp; grants</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student housing</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material costs</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>(EUR X 1000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition fees &amp; government funding</td>
<td>13,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; subsidies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14,162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Faculty and staff

**2020–2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Fte</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUC core teaching faculty</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching faculty from UvA</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>8.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching faculty from VU</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>9.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other external faculty</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>10.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VU-AUC secondment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEW STAFF MEMBERS AND POSITIONS AT AUC**

Along with the new Dean, new Head of Studies Humanities and the announcement of the succession of the role of Diversity Coordinator, AUC welcomed several new colleagues as part of the professional staff. These include colleagues moving into new roles and newly created positions as part of overall staff expansion.

- Jack Rockett joined as Administrative Assistant
- Kasia Malarek joined as Admissions Officer
- Lisa van Berkel joined as new Associate Student Life Officer
- Laura van Leijen joined as new online Marketeer and Content Marketing Manager
- Iwona Rajczyk joined as new Administrative Assistant
- Victoria Smit joined as Quality Officer Institutional Research
Embedding the values of diversity, equity and inclusivity in practice, policies, words and actions at AUC is a collective responsibility. The Diversity Leadership Group, in place since 2020, along with AUC’s Framework and Action Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, works continuously to ensure the commitment to these values is upheld and actively exercised in all areas of the AUC community.

NEW DIVERSITY COORDINATOR ANNOUNCED
Outgoing Diversity Coordinator Sehida Begovic announced in December that she would be leaving her position at AUC. Rowena van Asselt, who also holds the position of Secretary for the Board of Studies at AUC, will be her successor and take over in February 2022.

DISABILITY HANDBOOK CREATED BY AUC STUDENT
Third-year student Lisa Dondainas published her project the ‘Disability Handbook’ online in December. Its aim is to give students, lecturers and tutors a more detailed overview of what health conditions or disabilities entail while studying in higher education, as well as offer suggestions and practical recommendations.

OUTREACH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Outreach and civic engagement continued

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & 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 students to develop both their professional and interpersonal skills. In the academic year 2020–2021, a total of 262 community projects and internships were completed.

2020–2021
Community projects (total) 79
Community projects, abroad 1
Internships (total) 183
Internships, work-based 117
Internships, research-based 66
Internships, double 2
Internships, abroad in-person 31
Internships, abroad remote 7

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS AND EVENTS

SUPPORTING STUDENTS DURING LOCKDOWN
The majority of classes in Spring 2021 were held online and the AUC Well-Being Team developed events and support initiatives to help students through this difficult period of distanced learning. These included ‘Real Time Study Sessions’, co-hosted by AUC Student Council, where students could focus and study in a virtual social space, and ‘Tea and Talk with the SLO’ as a chance for students to chat about anything on their minds in an open and comfortable (online) space with the Student Life Officers.

EVENTS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED BY AUC

• ‘The Emotional Turn in Contemporary Public and Academic Debates’ lecture series with Lyle Muns, chairperson of the national student union (LSVb) and Jim Forest, a theologian and activist in March and April
• Who’s in Town (9) and Logic lectures (2) throughout the year
• David Foster Wallace conference in October

PUBLICATIONS BY AUC LECTURERS

• “Urban and Visual Culture in Contemporary Iran,” a book published by Dr. Pedram Dibazar in February
• “The Pandemic That Has Forced Teachers to Go Online. Zooming in on Tips for Online Teaching,” a journal article in Frontiers in Education by Teun de Vries, published in April
• “The Dutch Cholera Epidemic of 1832 as seen through 19th Century Medical Publications,” a book by Tonja van der Kuyl, published in November

OUTREACH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The philosophy of AUC maintains that education and personal development take place both in and outside of the classroom with students and staff committed to being active members of society. 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.

INCLUSIVE TEACHING WORKSHOPS WITH BEYOND EQUALITY
In the Autumn semester, AUC collaborated with Beyond Equality to organise a series of five Inclusive Teaching workshops as a means of further professionalisation for core and partner faculty. The workshops addressed allyship with the aim of improving the safety and inclusivity of classrooms, campus spaces and university culture. Topics focused on ideas such as privilege, oppression and cultural biases.

FOCUS GROUP WITH (FUTURE) FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS
Ydwine Zanstra, AUC’s Outreach Coordinator, and Sehida Begovic, the outgoing Diversity Coordinator, collaborated with the student-initiative Family of Academic Minds (FAM) to discover insights about perceptions of AUC by first-generation high school students. Through a focus group event, high school students from the Amsterdam area discussed their impressions of AUC, as well as perceived obstacles to attending AUC. These insights will be used in developing potential strategies for AUC to further expand diversity and inclusion in the student body by reaching and attracting new student populations.

PUBLICATIONS BY AUC LECTURERS

• “The Dutch Cholera Epidemic of 1832 as seen through 19th Century Medical Publications,” a book by Tonja van der Kuyl, published in November

PHOTOGRAPHY
AUC, ASF, AUCSA, Bram Belloni, Ray Edgar, Martin van Hees, Muzi Ndweni, Erinç Salor, UvA, Marijke Wijntes, Zeeburgia