

Annual Review 2025

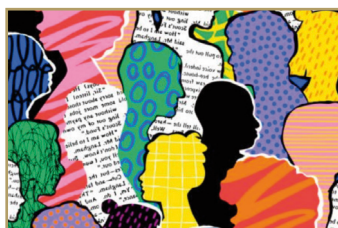


Highlights of 2025



AUC concludes 2025 with positive result of €653k

After some years of financial reform and stable student numbers, AUC closed the year with a €653k surplus, adding to its reserves.



New Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework

The Diversity Leadership Group released an updated Framework and Action Plan, setting priorities for inclusive policy and community development for the coming years.



Students rate AUC highly in National Student Survey

With an overall score of 3.9 out of 5 in the National Student Survey (NSE), AUC scored above average in course content, teaching, atmosphere and facilities.



Peace Lab course visits Rwanda

In January, fifteen students joined a 10-day field trip to explore post-conflict state reconstruction and study peacebuilding firsthand.



AUC contributes to Aurora International Peace Conference

Students, alumni and lecturer Dr. Anne de Graaf presented in Innsbruck, highlighting youth-led peacebuilding and educational innovation.



AUC and PPLE alumni discuss the power of interdisciplinarity

During the UvA Alumni Week, AUC and PPLE alumni co-hosted an event examining how interdisciplinarity can help reimagine the future.



UvA Trends 2025 conference on AI literacy hosted at AUC

AUC staff contributed to discussions with UvA colleagues on AI literacy in education and the need for future-proof, AI-integrated curricula.



REMAP Expert Meeting contributes to "Companion to Meaningful Reading"

Scholars and educators from AUC and across Europe gathered at VU Amsterdam to discuss meaningful reading across disciplines.

Prof. Dr. Bruce Mutsvairo appointed interim dean of AUC

On 1 October 2025, Prof. Dr. Bruce Mutsvairo joined Amsterdam University College (AUC) as interim dean for a two-year term. He succeeds Prof. Dr. Martin van Hees, who stepped down in March 2025, and Dr. Marianne Riphagen, who served as acting dean. The recruitment was led jointly by the deans of the VU and UvA Faculties of Science, with close involvement from AUC students and staff.

Mutsvairo is a professor of Media, Politics and the Global South in the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University, a role he will now combine with his position as interim dean. He will work towards developing a vision for the coming years that builds on AUC's existing strengths and ensures a future-proof position within the evolving educational landscape.



"Having studied and taught within the University College framework, I understand the unique value that liberal arts and sciences bring to fostering critical thinking, interdisciplinarity, and global citizenship. I look forward to collaborating with staff, students, and partners to shape AUC's future." – Prof. Dr. Bruce Mutsvairo

Enrolment

STUDY SUCCESS (ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025)

Total number of enrolled students (2024-2025)	874
Student performance (graduate):	
GPA ≥ 8.75 to 10.00 (summa cum laude)	6.9%
GPA ≥ 8.00 - 8.74 (cum laude)	53.8%
GPA ≥ 7.00 - 7.99 (honours degree)	39.3%
Student progress after year one:	
Positive BSA (Binding Study Advice) decisions	98.6%
Students graduating and receiving a diploma in 2025	247

DIVERSITY

Male students	26%
Female students	74%
Gender diverse students	<1%
Dutch students	19%
EEA nationality students	61%
Non-EEA nationality students	20%
Nationalities	62

Graduation, Class of 2025



The Graduation Ceremony for the AUC Class of 2025 was held on 8 July in the Aula of VU Amsterdam. The ceremony featured a welcome address by Acting Dean and Director of Education Dr. Marianne Riphagen, musical performances by graduating students, the valedictorian speech by Sharwari Khare, and the academic address by Prof. Dr. Christa Boer, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences at the University of Amsterdam. The event concluded with a welcome to the AUC Alumni Association and a festive reception.

Humanities graduates	20%
Sciences graduates	43%
Social Sciences graduates	37%

Alumni and AUCAA

AUC ALUMNI STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS AND SHARE EXPERIENCES

Alumni engagement at AUC remained strong through events and initiatives that connected graduates, students and staff, fostering professional development and community building. Highlights included Failing Forward, a Career Orientation Week session on lessons from setbacks; the 750 Years of Amsterdam Walking Tour, celebrating the city's countercultural history; a joint AUC-PPLE UvA Alumni Week event on interdisciplinary innovation; and AUC Screens, an alumni-led industry discussion with Academic Core lecturers.

Alumni also took part in panels during Career Orientation Week, offered one-on-one advice during Master's Preparation Days, participated in interviews, and contributed to the quarterly newsletter and AUCAA social media channels.

AUC curriculum and collaborations

In 2025, AUC advanced its strategic vision, AUC NEXT, through several curriculum developments. The new approach to teaching languages, Language and Culture: local & global, was launched with updated course titles, a stronger focus on cultural perspectives, and renewed offerings in Dutch, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese. AUC also introduced new foundational courses, *Programming in Digital Societies* and *Methods in Life and Earth Sciences*, giving students more options to meet their degree requirements. Within the Social Sciences, entry requirements and cross-listed courses were revised to improve student access and create more coherent fields of study. In addition, the Humanities and Social Sciences initiated new collaborations with partner departments at UvA and VU, including multi-year teaching agreements that stabilise staffing and support future curriculum development.

COURSE EVALUATIONS 2024-2025

During 2024-2025, AUC moved from Evasys to Evalytics for course evaluations. In the second semester, a shorter questionnaire, easier course-specific questions and QR codes for in-class completion were piloted to boost response rates. These changes received positive feedback from students and lecturers.

Student satisfaction with courses remained high, with an overall rate of 78%. In the table below, AUC uses the UvAdata marker "I have learned a lot from this course" (on a 1 to 5 scale) to indicate course quality.

Number of courses (including parallel sections)	249
"I have learned a lot from this course" (on a scale from 1-5)	
Semester 1 (Autumn)	4.3
Semester 2 (Spring)	4.1
Average response rate	44%

Expertise in Generative AI



In 2025, AUC further developed its policies on generative AI in education. Faculty redesigned assessments and learning objectives to make courses more AI-robust, supported by AI-Ready meetups organised with the UvA Teaching and Learning Centre. Staff researched AI literacy and integrated related skills into selected foundational courses, and the Capstone programme moved from a mainly product-focused model to a more process-driven approach. The Director of Education, Heads of Studies and the Taskforce on AI in Education aligned policy and practice by introducing mandatory AI-robustness statements for every course, clarifying how assessment works and what role AI may play. AUC core faculty also shared their AI-related innovations across faculties and contributed to several university-wide pilots.

Study abroad and exchange



Map showing the destinations where AUC students went on exchange in 2025

AUC students who meet the requirements can choose from 11 AUC partner institutions and may also apply to partner universities with which the University of Amsterdam has a university-wide exchange agreement and European partner universities of VU Amsterdam.

	SPRING 2025	AUTUMN 2025
Outbound	18	43
Inbound	29	24

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE

In 2025, 61 AUC students spent their semester at 27 different universities. Of the 61 students, 14 opted for an exchange within Europe, while the other 47 studied at non-European partner universities.

Placed students and students who went on exchange

Number of placed students (total 2025)	77
Number of students not placed	7
Number of students who went on exchange	61
Students who declined offer from exchange destination	6
Students who decided to withdraw from the exchange	8
Students without permission to go on exchange (due to a credit deficiency)	2

Most popular destinations

United States (10), Hong Kong (9), Australia (5), United Kingdom (5), Ireland (4), Singapore (4)

Most popular universities

University of Melbourne (5), Chinese University of Hong Kong (5), Reed College (5), University College London (5), National University of Singapore (4), City University of Hong Kong (4), University College Dublin (4), Boston College (3), Boğaziçi University (3)

STUDY ABROAD RESULTS OUTGOING STUDENTS (SPRING 2025 SEMESTER ONLY)

Course passing rate	98.9%
Average number of credits earned*	31.2



Study abroad and exchange, continued

INBOUND EXCHANGE

Inbound student numbers increased by approximately 26% in 2025 in comparison to the previous year. In 2025, AUC hosted 53 incoming exchange students with 17 different nationalities, coming from 20 different partner universities. The tables below list the most represented countries of origin and top sending institutions.

Countries of origin

United States (13), Singapore (8), Ireland (5), Türkiye (5)

Top sending universities

National University of Singapore (6), University College Dublin (5), Boğaziçi University (5), Nanyang Technological University (4)

Financial numbers

EXPENDITURE	(EUR X 1000)
Faculty & support staff	-11,075
Other costs	-4,949
Total expenditure	-16,024

REVENUE	(EUR X 1000)
Internal income	14,457
External income	2,220
Total revenue	16,677

FINANCIAL RESULT (EUR X 1000) **653**

Faculty and staff

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024–2025	Number	Fte
AUC core teaching faculty	57	46.1
Teaching faculty from UvA	159	10.4
Teaching faculty from VU	177	12.11
Support staff	26	20.2
VU–AUC secondment	4	



Awards & recognitions in 2025

- Alumna and ASF Board Member Thao Lam (Class of 2016) defended her doctoral thesis at VU Amsterdam in April. Her interdisciplinary research on the obesogenic environment in the Netherlands was nominated for the Best Thesis Prize by the European Association for the Study of Obesity's Early Career Network.
- AUC alumna and ASF recipient Shruti Dubey (Class of 2025) was nominated for the ECHO Award, a national award recognising outstanding students with a non-Western background for leadership, initiative and social impact.
- For the third consecutive year, AUC's student-run news platform *The Herring* was recognised by the Society of Professional Journalists, earning finalist status for Best Independent Online Student Publication during their Mark of Excellence Awards.

Diversity, equity and inclusivity

At AUC, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are a shared institutional responsibility. Since establishing the Diversity Leadership Group (DLG) in 2020, AUC has followed a dedicated DEI framework. In 2025, these commitments continued to be embedded across the university through targeted initiatives and integration into everyday academic and community practices.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE OF THE DLG

The DLG is chaired by Prof. Dr. Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach, AUC’s Diversity Advisor since 2024. The group includes three students, the Senior Tutor, the Career and Alumni Relations Officer, two academic staff and graduate assistants. Through monthly meetings, the DLG provides a structured space to address DEI concerns, exchange perspectives and develop strategies to embed DEI principles within AUC’s structures.

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES IN 2025

The DLG supported projects on accessibility, representation and critical engagement with social contexts. Graduate assistant Marcello Benedetti developed an accessibility map of the academic building, improving transparency around physical access. The group contributed to educational events, including First Generation Voices with Dr. Lorenzo Galeotti, Dr. Hilla Dayan and Dr. Luis Suarez. Humanities lecturer Wim Manuhutu led a walking tour on Amsterdam’s colonial histories, while a visit to the Hortus Botanicus explored scientific and colonial legacies with Dr. Saurabh Arora and Dr. Misha Velthuis.

COLLABORATION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

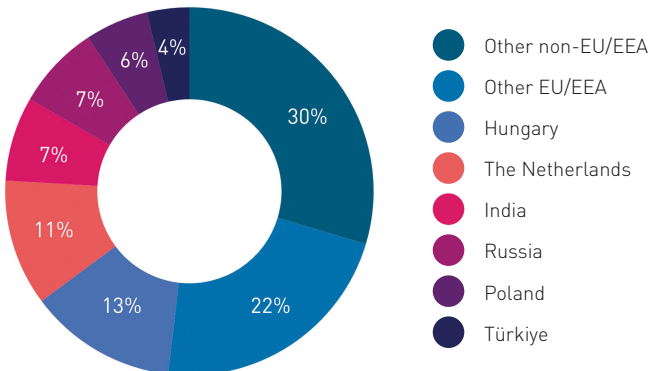
In December 2025, the DLG co-organised a university-wide event on belonging with the UvA’s Faculty of Science. Looking ahead, the DLG is developing accessibility resources and working with the University of Amsterdam on a study accommodations project to provide equitable support for students with additional needs.

AUC Scholarship Fund

The AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF) is an independent foundation and is overseen by the ASF Board. It aims to further promote excellence and diversity in the AUC student body by removing financial barriers for talented students. In 2025, the ASF sponsored 54 students representing 25 nationalities.

AUC SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN NUMBERS

Students with an ASF Scholarship	54
Average ASF Scholarship amount (EUR)	10,716
Total amount of ASF Scholarships awarded (EUR)	578,675
Number of different nationalities	25



Outreach and civic engagement

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS (CPI)

Community projects and internships form an integral part of the AUC curriculum and provide students with structured opportunities to contribute meaningfully to local, national and international communities. Through the CPI programme, students engage in experiential learning that combines hands-on practice with guided reflection, allowing them to translate academic knowledge into socially and professionally relevant contexts. AUC supports placements through its institution networks but also encourages students to find their own opportunities.

A defining characteristic of the CPI programme is its emphasis on student ownership of the learning process. Students formulate their own learning objectives, design individualised pathways and evaluate their progress in dialogue with academic supervisors. This approach fosters autonomy, responsibility and reflective capacity, while ensuring that community engagement and internships remain closely connected to the fields of studies of students.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, a total of 293 CPI projects were graded and registered. Of these, 206 projects were completed in the Netherlands, primarily in the Amsterdam region, and 80 were community projects. Students also completed two 30 EC internships, 24 second internships and three double internships, demonstrating the flexibility of the programme in accommodating diverse learning trajectories.

Other notable events and publications in 2025

A SELECTION OF EVENTS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED BY AUC

- ‘Who’s in Town’ lectures (2) with Magdalena Góralaska and Prof. Daniel Aarão Reis
- ‘UvA Trends 2025: AI Literacy and Future-Proof Curricula’ in February
- ‘AUC Model United Nations (AUCMUN) Conference 2025’ in April
- ‘Failing Forward’ in April
- ‘How to Make a Personal Impact with a LAS Background?’ in April
- ‘AUC Screens’ in May
- ‘International Fair 2025’ in May
- ‘Capstone Forum’ in June
- ‘First-Gen Voices: Conversations with AUC Faculty’ in November
- ‘Final Stretch Week’ in December
- ‘Belonging at Your University’ in December

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLISHED WORK

- In September, InPrint, AUC’s academic journal, announced the release of the Open Issue Volume 24 of the *AUC Undergraduate Journal of Liberal Arts and Sciences*.
- AUC alumnus Mees Brenninkmeijer co-authored “*Transnational Legal Clinic Collaboration: A Force in Global Climate Litigation*” in *Transnational Environmental Law*, examining how transnational legal clinics strengthen global climate action.
- AUC alumnus Sebastian Leahy’s Capstone project with Eduardo Dias was published in *Land*, exploring participatory mapping and urban greening in local planning.
- Emma Cohen de Lara co-edited *Rethinking Resilience in Character Education: Insights from Literature and Philosophy*, contributing a chapter on Christine de Pizan, and AUC lecturer Maxim Kupovykh contributed a chapter on Max Weber.