

Students drive foundation pile new building Amsterdam University College

Students from Amsterdam University College (AUC), a joint initiative of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and VU University Amsterdam (VU), will drive the symbolic foundation pile for the new building of AUC at Science Park Amsterdam. The act reflects the international nature of AUC. Before driving the first pile, there will be short speeches by: Dr Carolien Gehrels (Alderswoman for Economic Affairs, Arts and Culture, Amsterdam city council), Mr Paul Doop (vice-president of the UvA Executive Board), Prof. Lex Bouter (VU Rector Magnificus and Chairman AUC Board) and Jesse Hetteema (president AUC Student Council).

The 6,000 square metre building was designed by the architectural firm Mecanoo. The building symbolises a 'home for students', but also fits in with the businesslike architecture of other buildings at Science Park. It is a sustainable building. This is reflected in the use of heat/cold storage and concrete core activation, and a sedum/moss roof that provides insulation and water storage. The building was commissioned by the UvA and the main contractor is construction company M.J De Nijs & Zonen BV.

The building will officially open in 2012. AUC is currently housed in a building in the Plantage district of Amsterdam.

Time and location

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Thursday, 10 February, from 17:30 to 18:30. The reception (from 17:00) will be in café-restaurant Polder, 205 Science Park, Amsterdam. The foundation pile will be driven on the AUC building site. All speeches will be in English.

About AUC

Amsterdam University College (AUC) was established in 2009 as a joint excellence initiative of the University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam. AUC's motto is *Excellence and Diversity in a Global City*. It offers an international liberal arts and sciences programme that crosses the boundaries of languages, cultures and academic disciplines. As a selective and residential honours colleges, it attracts students from all over the world. They engage on a daily basis in intensive and small-scale seminars with high caliber international staff. Discussions start from 'Big Questions in Science and Society' and lead to in-depth study in a wide range of disciplines.

About Science Park Amsterdam

Science Park Amsterdam, an area of approximately 70 hectares, is an international science knowledge centre developed by the UvA, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and Amsterdam city council. The Faculty of Science of the University of Amsterdam, NIKHEF, AMOLF and CWI research institutes, and SARA Computing and Networking are all housed at the Science Park. In addition, approximately one hundred companies in the fields of life sciences, ICT and business services are located there.

Note to editors

For more information please contact UvA Press Office, telephone: 020-525 2695 or email:

persvoorlichting@uva.nl. Journalists who wish to attend the groundbreaking ceremony are requested to register in advance through the UvA Press Office.