

Highlights of 2023



AUC joins UvA pilot “A smarter academic year” –

As a participant in the national project “A smarter academic year”, AUC is aiming to improve its academic calendar starting in 2024–2025. Options for more class-free weeks were explored.



Peace Lab students visited Rwanda

– In January, the course *Peace Lab* took place on-site in Rwanda for the first time. Organised by Dr. Anne de Graaf, students explored post-conflict reconstruction through visits with peacebuilding organisations.



Marianne Riphagen named Director of Education

– Dr. Marianne Riphagen was appointed as AUC’s Director of Education in February after holding the position of Head of Studies Academic Core from September 2019 to January 2023.



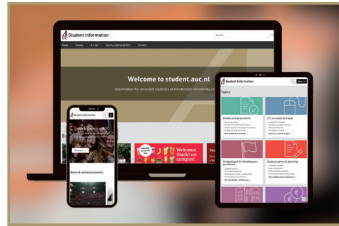
InPrint celebrated tenth anniversary

– InPrint, AUC’s academic journal published by students, celebrated its tenth anniversary with the release of Open Issue Vol. 20 of the “AUC Undergraduate Journal of Liberal Arts and Sciences” in June 2023.



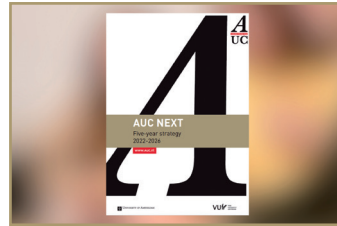
First AUC Incentive Fellowship awarded

– Dr. Tamara Dobler was the recipient of the first AUC Incentive Fellowship. The fellowship enabled her to start a new role as assistant professor at the VU Faculty of Humanities, while still teaching at AUC.



Launch of student.auc.nl

– In August 2023, AUC launched student.auc.nl, a new website offering comprehensive and easy-to-access information for enrolled students. The website replaced the Student Handbook and Student Information Canvas site.



First curriculum changes from AUC NEXT

– AUC’s curriculum updates brought significant changes as the implementation of the five-year strategy AUC NEXT began in September 2023, including an increase in freedom of course selection.



New HoS Academic Core: Dora Achourioti

– Dora Achourioti became AUC’s Head of Studies Academic Core in September 2023. She continues as leader of the AUC Taskforce on GenAI in Education and as Logic course coordinator and teacher.

Spotlight: AUC hosts first AI Week

From 7 to 13 September 2023, AUC hosted a joint educational development week focusing on artificial intelligence. This extra class-free week offered lecturers dedicated time and resources to redesign their courses in response to advancements in Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI). Students were invited to join the complementary programme of guest lectures hosted throughout the week on various topics in the field of GenAI.

During AI Week, staff members joined a variety of daily workshops, lectures, design sessions and conversations. Daily sessions provided lecturers with access to knowledge about how GenAI tools work and their impact on education. The sessions covered tips and tricks about future-proofing assessments, and insights about how to teach with and about GenAI. The week also facilitated opportunities for discussion and exchange between colleagues. Discussions focused on future policy-making, AUC’s intended learning outcomes, the role of skills teaching,



and the ethics of using GenAI within education. Finally, AI Week gave lecturers time and space to collaboratively adapt assessments and course materials. The event was a successful professional development and team building activity that helped in preparing education at AUC for the future.

Enrolment

STUDY SUCCESS (ACADEMIC YEAR 2022–2023)

Retention	92.1%
Student performance (graduate):	
GPA ≥ 3.9 (summa cum laude)	16.9%
GPA ≥ 3.5 (cum laude)	51.8%
GPA ≥ 3.0 (honours degree)	23.8%
Student progress (first-years):	
Positive BSA (Binding Study Advice) decisions:	93.4%
Students receiving diploma in 2023:	
Within 3 years (all)	69%
Within 3 years (re-enrolment after year 1)	88.5%

DIVERSITY

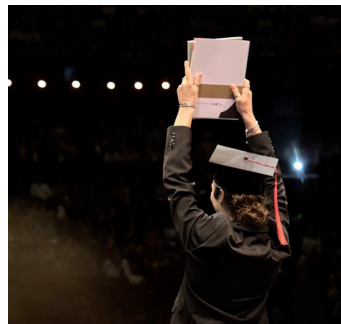
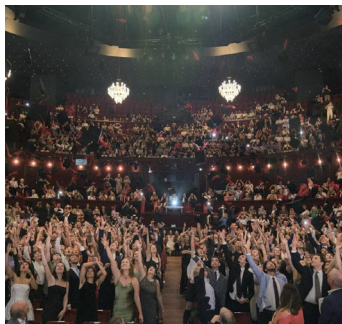
Students identifying as male	21%
Students identifying as female	78%
Gender diverse students*	1%
Dutch students	18%
International students	82%
EEA nationality students	70%
Non-EEA nationality students	12%
Number of different nationalities	71

*As best known by AUC administration

Graduation, Class of 2023

Humanities graduates	22%
Sciences graduates	32%
Social Sciences graduates	46%

The 2023 graduation ceremony was held on 13 July and took place in Koninklijk Theater Carré in Amsterdam. Prof. Dr. Mirjam van Praag, then President of the Executive Board at VU Amsterdam, delivered the Commencement Address and AUC graduate Ingrid Sommer spoke as the Valedictorian. In total, 240 students received their diploma in 2023.



Alumni and AUCAA

AUC ALUMNI DESTIGMATISE FAILURE

In 2022–2023 AUC alumni participated in many career-related events, with alumni serving as speakers, mentors and guest lecturers. One such event took place in November 2023, aiming to destigmatise failure and address perfectionism through storytelling and community building. The event was attended by current students, staff and alumni. After the event, attendees had the opportunity to network and reflect on the lessons learned.

LARGE-SCALE SURVEYS GIVE INSIGHT INTO ALUMNI CAREERS

From August 2022 to August 2023, an extensive study was conducted on postgraduate programmes and careers by analysing the public LinkedIn profiles of 1,930 AUC alumni. A separate, broader survey looked at the careers of graduates from multiple University Colleges, providing insight into the diverse professional journeys of LAS graduates.

AUC courses and quality assurance

As part of the implementation of AUC NEXT, several new courses were launched in 2023. Highlights include the Social Sciences course *Artificial Cognition: Pattern Recognition*, which combines knowledge from cognitive and computer sciences, and the Sciences courses *Intermediate Programming: Principles and Practices* and *Health, Resilience, and Human Flourishing*. The Academic Core and Humanities departments continued their revision of research methods courses. *Methods in the Humanities I* introduces foundational Humanities research methods, while *Statistical Methods for Social Sciences Research* helps students expand their quantitative methods skills.

COURSE EVALUATIONS 2022–2023

Following a request from students for shorter course evaluations and a review of the questions, the Board of Studies approved the removal of 14 questions from the questionnaire. While the feedback received was useful for lecturers, the shorter form did not increase response rates. AUC will focus on increasing response rates in the academic year 2023–2024 through campaigns and incentives. 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 in the 2022–2023 academic year.

Number of courses (including parallel sections)	275
Number of lecturers	185
“I have learned a lot from this course”	
Semester 1 (Autumn)	4.20
Semester 2 (Spring)	4.04
Average response rate	47.2%

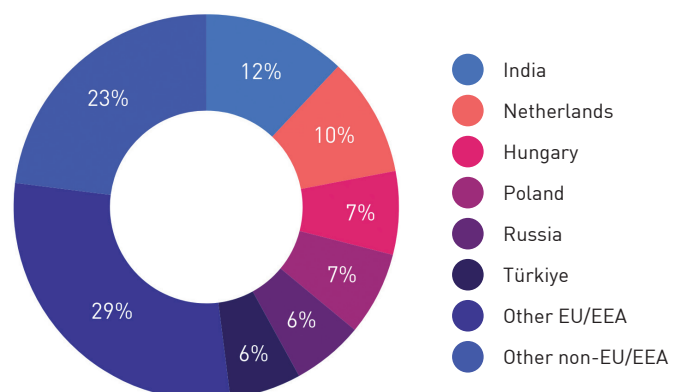


AUC Scholarship Fund

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 2023, the ASF sponsored 68 students representing 35 nationalities. In the past year, the ASF has been working on expanding its sponsor network, welcoming donations from individuals as well as organisations.

AUC SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN NUMBERS

Students with an ASF scholarship	68
Average ASF scholarship amount (EUR)	10,778
Total amount of ASF scholarships awarded (EUR)	732,874
Number of different nationalities	35



Study abroad and exchange



Map showing the destinations where AUC students went on exchange in 2023

AUC students who meet the requirements for exchange are encouraged to study abroad during their fourth or fifth semester. They can choose from 12 AUC partner institutions. In addition, they may apply to partner universities of the University of Amsterdam or European partner universities of VU Amsterdam.

	SPRING 2023	AUTUMN 2023
Outbound	8	45
Inbound	47	20

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, roughly one-third of AUC students studied abroad. The current level of interest has not yet reached the pre-pandemic levels, but in 2023, 54 AUC students spent a semester at 24 different universities. Of the 54 students, 18 opted for an exchange within Europe, while the other 36 chose to study at non-European partner universities. The following tables list information about the number of students who applied for an exchange versus the number of students who went on exchange, as well as the most popular destination countries and universities.

Number of students placed (including withdrawals)	59
Number of students that went on exchange	53
Number of students not placed	9

Most popular destinations

United States (7), Australia (6), Singapore (6), Canada (5), Germany (5), Ireland (5), United Kingdom (5)

Most popular universities

National University of Singapore (6), University College Dublin (5), Bard College Berlin (4), Boston College (4), University of Melbourne (4)

STUDY ABROAD RESULTS OUTGOING STUDENTS (SPRING 2023 SEMESTER ONLY)

Course passing rate	100%
Average number of credits earned*	30.4

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



Study abroad and exchange, continued

INBOUND EXCHANGE

In 2023, AUC hosted 67 incoming exchange students with 18 different nationalities, coming from 31 different partner universities. The tables below list the most represented countries of origin and top sending institutions.

Country of origin

United States (23), United Kingdom (9), Australia (6), Singapore (5), Türkiye (5)

Top sending universities

Boğaziçi University (5), National University of Singapore (5), University of Birmingham (5), Boston College (4), University College Dublin (4), University of Maryland (4)

Financial numbers

EXPENDITURE	(EUR X 1000)
Faculty & support staff	10,816
Other costs	4,806
Total expenditure	15,622

REVENUE	(EUR X 1000)
Internal income (statutory tuition fees & government funding)	13,226
External income (mainly non-statutory tuition fees)	1,146
Total revenue	14,412

FINANCIAL RESULT (EUR X 1000)	-1,230
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Faculty and staff

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022–2023	Number	Fte
AUC core teaching faculty	78	58.3
<i>of which also tutors</i>	36	9.8
Teaching faculty from UvA	121	8.69
Teaching faculty from VU (including UMC)	134	10.47
Support staff	28	21.9
Secondment	4	0.91



Awards and recognitions in 2023

- In June, AUC alumnus Milo Cornelissen won the UvA thesis award for his thesis titled "Incorporation of Directional and Quinone-Functionalized Macrocycles in Covalently Synthesized Rotaxanes".
- AUC student Defne Çelik was awarded the *Over Hoop Prijs* together with Het Amsterdams Lyceum in June.
- In October, AUC Alumna Fatiya Munkaila received the Public Amsterdamse Universiteits-Vereniging Alumni Award on behalf of Diversity Talks. The organisation is a student-run non-profit that aims to promote equal opportunities in higher education.
- In December, AUC was again awarded a 'Top Rated Programme' quality seal in the Keuzegids Universiteiten 2024.

Diversity, equity and inclusivity

At AUC, embedding the values of diversity, equity and inclusivity in both policies and practice is regarded as a collective responsibility. Through the Diversity Leadership Group (DLG) established in 2020 and AUC's Framework and Action Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (FAPDEI), AUC continues to work towards ensuring the commitment to these values is upheld and actively exercised throughout the AUC community.



FIRST RECIPIENT OF TALENT FELLOWSHIP AT AUC STARTED THEIR STUDIES

In 2023, the AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF) launched the Talent Fellowship at AUC (TFA), introducing a three-year talent development programme for Dutch students from communities underrepresented in higher education. The TFA supports recipients by providing financial support through the ASF Scholarship Fund and a personal development programme. In the autumn of 2023, ASF's first Talent Fellow started their studies at AUC. A bespoke three-year programme has been designed to support their academic and professional development. Their journey kicked off with an Alumni Round Table event to build networking skills and receive mentoring.

NEW DLG ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ROLE

In October 2023, Morgan Diakite was hired as Diversity Leadership Group (DLG) Administrative Assistant. The DLG Administrative Assistant is a new role that will help create, expand and promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity policies and activities at AUC. These activities range from supporting progress on AUC's Framework and Action Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (FAPDEI) to helping organise (student-led) community events and feedback efforts.

PROJECT LAUNCHED TO EXAMINE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Collaborating with the Diversity Leadership Group, AUC lecturer and tutor Dr. Maxim Kupovykh began researching best practices for integrating concepts and perspectives related to diversity, equity and inclusivity (DEI) when discussing prominent texts used in the Social Sciences. The goal is to eventually create a hub for DEI resources accessible to lecturers at AUC and at other Liberal Arts and Sciences programmes. The project is called *(De)Canonizing in a New Key: Rethinking Canons and Classics in Liberal Arts and Sciences Education (with an emphasis on Sociology and adjacent disciplines)*.

FIRST DRAFT OF FAPDEI 2.0 WIDENS SCOPE

The first draft of the Framework and Action Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (FAPDEI) 2.0 widens the scope to cover more marginalised groups, with a special focus on accessibility. It highlights the fact that disabled students should have the same access and advocacy as non-disabled students. Among other necessities, it addresses the need to ensure that the Academic Building and dorms are equally accessible to all students, and the importance of appropriate accommodations for disabled students in the classroom.

Outreach and civic engagement

At AUC, 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 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 various foundations and causes, organising events for fellow students and much more.

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 by participating in local, national or international projects or organisations. These partners are arranged 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 2022-2023, a total of 287 community projects and internships were completed.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Community projects (total)	74
Community projects, abroad	6
Internships (total)	213
Internships, double	6
Internships, abroad	53

Other notable events and publications in 2023

EVENTS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED BY AUC

- 'Master's and Careers Week' in March and April
- 'Bystander Intervention training' in April
- 'Welcome Days for Applicants with an Offer' in April and May
- 'Capstone Forum' in June
- 'Artificial Intelligence Week' in September
- 'Consent and Boundaries workshop' in September
- 'Master's Preparation Week' in November
- 'Who's in Town' (9) lectures and 'Open Conversations' (2)

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLISHED WORK

- The Cambridge University Press journal *Transnational Environmental Law* (TEL), of which AUC lecturer Thijs Ety is founding Editor-in-Chief, was again recognised as the #1 environmental law journal worldwide.
- AUC's student-run academic journal *InPrint* has celebrated its tenth anniversary in June. The milestone was commemorated with the release of "AUC Undergraduate Journal of Liberal Arts and Sciences" Volume 20.

