



KATHOLIEKE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
LEUVEN

## **K.U.Leuven's vision of teaching and learning**

Translation of "Visie op onderwijs en leren"  
approved by the Academic Council d.d. 16/11/2009

## **K.U.Leuven's vision of teaching and learning**

*The University community as a whole is involved in education.*

K.U.Leuven is a research community in which students are fully involved. The University community as a whole is committed to the delivery of educational programmes underpinned by and aimed at reflection and research. Teaching draws on research findings but also critically appraises these; in this dynamic interplay, teaching is informed by research, and research is informed by teaching.

*A stimulating educational culture ensures the quality of education.*

Inspired by its identity and tradition, K.U.Leuven seeks to fulfill its educational mission in interaction with society and with attention to future needs. The University is committed to high quality of education. It aims to establish a culture of open dialogue on the quality of education and values the contributions of all members of the University community. In this way, it fosters the creation of a stimulating teaching and learning environment.

*Academically trained students can play a responsible role in society.*

By undertaking higher education, students acquire profound knowledge and skills in a particular discipline, learn to adopt an interdisciplinary perspective, develop a critical research attitude and thus acquire academic competences. They integrate these competences in a broad ethical, cultural and social framework, central to which are the reflection on values, participation in society and openness to the world. Students learn to make well-founded choices that will help shape their outlook on life. They can consider matters from a well-informed viewpoint and act professionally, constructively and critically in their chosen field. This enables them to assume their social responsibility as committed citizens.

*The programmes on offer are defined by research and social relevance*

K.U.Leuven seeks to achieve the aims outlined above by offering a range of high-quality and well-considered programmes, aligned with, based on and contributing to research and community engagement.

A Bachelor's degree is a broad-based initial programme offering basic training in a discipline, embedded in a broader, multidisciplinary context. Graduates develop a reflective attitude, a critical understanding of scientific knowledge and the way in which this is constructed, a research attitude aimed at the integration of new insights and the ability to identify, formulate and address well-defined problems within a scientific paradigm.

A Master's programme provides more advanced training with a clear focus. Graduates are able to construct knowledge based on their participation in research and to design solutions for new problems, either within their research field or in the professional world. These competences prepare them to assume a professional role in society.

The doctoral programme aims to prepare young researchers for the participation in groundbreaking research and the development of new knowledge. PhD graduates should be able to work as professional researchers and to deploy the competences they have acquired within and outside the university.

These educational programmes are integrated in Flemish, European and worldwide networks for lifelong and society-wide learning. Thus, K.U.Leuven shares its strengths and traditions, is open to the contributions of others and collaborates with its partners to foster quality and solidarity.

*Students, lecturers and teaching support staff are partners in education.*

Students, lecturers and teaching support staff are engaged in an ongoing dialogue, each taking responsibility and contributing to the process of teaching and learning.

Students take on the responsibility for their own learning process with a view to understanding phenomena, exploring the cultural tradition and participating in society. They construct knowledge, gain insights, learn to identify and address issues, develop skills and attitudes and integrate these into competences that they put to the test in their everyday world.

Drawing on their participation in groundbreaking research, their educational expertise and their contributions to society, lecturers and educational support staff are the architects of the learning environment. They provide disciplinary, methodological and ethical building blocks, they introduce students to research and innovative applications and encourage them to participate in these, and they provide guidance to students as they acquire an understanding of the complexity of the world and develop the competences needed to act in it.

On the basis of their specific expertise, teaching support staff members offer effective administrative, educational and technical support to teaching and learning. In this way, they contribute to the creation of a stimulating learning environment and support the teaching and learning process within an adequate infrastructure.

The University has put in place an effective organizational structure that ensures the achievement of its goals and that fosters the dialogue between all members of the University community. Within this structure, an educational framework has been developed that encourages innovation and dynamism, while acknowledging the specificity and individual profile of each programme.

*The University community fosters openness and solidarity.*

K.U.Leuven seeks to accomplish its educational mission and to achieve its quality objectives with the support of lecturers and educational support staff from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, without compromising the standards of the programmes on offer, it aims to widen access to university education, regardless of students' origin, background or nationality.

Special attention is devoted to student advising and to the needs of specific target groups, in an approach aimed at inclusion and emancipation. Together with its partners in the K.U.Leuven Association and as part of its commitment to lifelong learning, the University seeks to ensure that each student embarks on an appropriate learning route. Thus, K.U.Leuven is a university community in and for the world.