

Factsheet Tilburg University

Profile

Tilburg University is a research university with an exclusive focus on the social sciences and the humanities. Its main disciplines include economics, business, law, social and behavioural sciences, humanities and theology.

Tilburg University has the ambition to have a strong impact on society. It tries to achieve this by educating young people for leading positions in society, by means of lifelong learning and post-experience education and through dissemination of the results of research. Tilburg University is in constant interaction and exchange with partners in academia and society, at the regional, the national as well as the international level.

Tilburg University has its roots in the Christian and humanist traditions of European Culture. With an open attitude towards other cultures and traditions, Tilburg University offers scope and opportunity for engaging in science, reflection and philosophy. It ranks among the best in Europe in diverse areas of expertise and seeks to expand these positions wherever possible.

History

Tilburg University was founded in 1927 as a private School of Economics. Through the 60's, 70's and 80's its scope was expanded to law, social and behavioural sciences, humanities and theology. In 1986 Tilburg was fully accredited as research university by the government of the Netherlands.

Location

With a population of 200.000 inhabitants, the city of Tilburg is the Netherlands' sixth largest city. Tilburg is situated in the south of the Netherlands and holds a strategic position between major European cities like Amsterdam, Brussels and Frankfurt. Tilburg is rightly proud of its reputation as an educational centre with a student population of more than 25.000 (of which almost 12.000 are registered at Tilburg University).

Tilburg is situated in the Province of Noord-Brabant, the fastest growing economic region in the South-East of the Netherlands, where many large multinationals such as Philips, Fuji, Sony, Ericsson and ASML are located. Tilburg is partner in Brainport, a network of large business firms, educational institutions and other societal organizations, which aims to strengthen the economic potential of the South-East region of the Netherlands.

Research policy

The world faces several major challenges. Dealing with these challenges calls for an in-depth understanding of social and cultural phenomena. As a university specializing in the humanities and social and behavioural sciences, Tilburg University sees a primary mission in promoting this understanding. This commitment is expressed in its motto understanding society. But our ambitions are not confined to the development of knowledge and understanding. We see a further mission in making a meaningful contribution, wherever possible, to the development of society at large: science must matter in the real world. Tilburg University sees no conflict in principle between the scientific and social relevance of

its education and research. This, incidentally, is not to imply that scientific education and research will always have, or can have, direct relevance in resolving topical social issues and problems. More distant objectives and challenges also form an integral part of academic education.

Research at Tilburg University is organized in four disciplinary research institutes with associated Graduate Schools and seventeen research centers.

Disciplinary Research Institutes (including Graduate Schools) (in alphabetical order)

- CentER for Economic and Business Research.
- Humanities Research Institute.
- Oldendorff Research Institute (Social and Behavioural Sciences).
- Tilburg Institute for Legal Research.

Research centers (in alphabetical order)

- BABYLON: Tilburg Centre of Studies on the Multicultural Society.
- Centerdata: Institute for Datacollection and Research.
- CIR: Tilburg Centre of Innovation Research.
- CoRPS: Tilburg Center of Research on Psychology in Somatic Diseases.
- EBC: European Banking Centre.
- EVS: European Value Studies.
- Institute for Liturgical and Ritual Studies.
- NETSPAR: Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement.
- INTERVICT: International Victimology Institute Tilburg.
- REFLECT: Research Centre of Flexicurity, Labour Market Dynamics and Social Cohesion Tilburg.
- SES: Tilburg Centre of Sustainable Enterprise and Society.
- Thomas Institute (Research into the thought of Thomas Aquinas).
- TIBER: Tilburg Institute of Behavioral Economics Research.
- TICC: Tilburg Centre of Creative Computing.
- TICOM: Tilburg Institute of Comparative and Transnational Law.
- TILEC: Tilburg Law and Economics Centre.
- TiLPS: Tilburg Centre of Logic and Philosophy of Science.
- TILT: Tilburg Institute of Law, Technology and Society.
- TRANZO: Tilburg Research Centre of the Transformation in Care and Welfare.

Educational policy

Graduates from Tilburg University:

- show intellectual independence.
- have strong integrative skills.
- have a high sense of scientific and social responsibility.
- have a curiosity-driven and critical attitude.
- show ambition and excellence.
- have good reading and writing skills, knowledge of ICT, clear presentation and debating techniques, a good command of Dutch and English and preferably one more foreign language.
- were engaged as student in extracurricular activities.

Position in international rankings

- #1 in Europe in Economics Research, according to the Journal of the European Economic Association, 2003.
- #53 worldwide in Business Research, according to University of Texas, Dallas Top 100 World Wide Rankings of Business Schools, 2009.
- #3 in Europe, #24 worldwide in Economics Research, according to the Econphd net ranking, 2004.
- AACSB International accreditation for business programmes since 2002.
- #1 in the Netherlands in Law in 2003, 2004 and 2008, according to rankings in Elsevier's Higher Education Review.
- #1 in Law in Europe according to the Social Science Research Network, 2007.
- #1 in the Benelux and #36 worldwide for the Company Specific Programmes at TiasNimbas Business School, according to the Financial Times 2006.

Other characteristics

- Compact campus: all buildings located together in a green environment.
- Philosophy as a compulsory subject for all students.
- Honours Programme: a supplementary programme for the top 5% sophomores to qualify for the Tilburg University Honours Certificate as addendum to the Bachelor's degree.
- Participation in the Venice International University, a consortium of five European and five non-European universities, offering full semester programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences on San Servolo island in the Venice lagoon.
- Liberal Arts Programme: a three-year multi-disciplinary undergraduate programme taught in English, for students with broad interests who want to be challenged at utmost.
- Coordinator and partner of several European educational projects, as part of the ERASMUS MUNDUS and ATLANTIS programmes.
- Main sponsor of the NEXUS institute: a centre for intellectual reflection on international issues and European cultural debate. Nexus lectures have been delivered by: Sonia Gandhi, Michael Grant Ignatieff, George Steiner and Jürgen Habermas.

Education

Faculties (numbers of undergraduate, Master, Pre-master and PhD students, October 2008)

	Bachelor	Master	Pre-master	Total	PhD
Faculty of Economics & Business Administration	3.005	2.033	370	5.408	98
Faculty of Law	1.513	1.000	268	2.781	58
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences	1.552	732	183	2.467	83
Faculty of Humanities	532	383	142	1.063	42
Faculty of Catholic Theology	89	38	22	181	4

Key figures

Education (2008)

Number of PhD students: 268

Number of Master's students: 4.186

Number of pre-Master students: 985

Number of Bachelor's students: 6.691

Number of foreign enrolled students: 821 (6,9% of student body)

Number of foreign exchange students: 355

Number of Bachelor's programmes: 24 of which 4 in English

Number of Master's programmes: 52 of which 34 in English

Research (2008)

Number of academic staff: 794 fte

Number of Full Professors: 232

Number of PhD's granted: 85

Number of publications: 1.940

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