

Scholarships for top talent

Attracting top talent is crucial to TU Delft. Outstanding international students often apply to multiple universities around the world. In an effort to attract them to Delft, the university offers various Excellence scholarships.

Attracting highly talented students is vital for maintaining consistently high standards in the lecture rooms, but also with a view to progression to academic careers with the university. Excellence scholarships are full scholarships covering both the student's tuition fees and living expenses. The faculties also offer a number of smaller scholarships. This year seven students were awarded the Justus & Louise van Effen Scholarship. What makes this scholarship special is the fact that the money comes from a legacy. Up to the day he died, in 2007, TU Delft alumnus Justus van Effen firmly believed in the importance of technological developments to solving global problems. He and his wife left a legacy for academically excellent students from abroad who are unable to finance their own Master's degree programmes. Next year, each faculty will be able to nominate two students for a scholarship from this legacy. The rest of the money has been invested to ensure TU Delft can continue to attract top talent in the coming years.

Delft Research Initiatives

A different kind of scholarship is directly related to the DRIs, the Delft Research Initiatives. These are the key research fields in which TU Delft aims to excel: Energy, Health, the Environment and Infrastructures & Mobility. These scholarships are funded by the university itself. Sixteen DRI scholarships were made available this year, with professors playing an active role in allocating the scholarships while also personally committing themselves to supervising the students concerned. Once again, these scholarships are only available to the very best international students. One such student is Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan, from India, who obtained his Bachelor of Technology in Chemical Engineering in his native country and first became acquainted with Europe in the summer of 2010. "I was offered the opportunity to work at the Institute of Material Physics of the University of Münster, in Germany, where I was awarded the Daad Wise Scholarship. I became interested in European culture and enrolled for a Master's programme in Chemical Engineering with TU Delft, specialising in



Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan: "I want to focus on the use of nanomaterials in the medical sector."

Molecular Engineering." He chose TU Delft because the university has a good reputation and because of the high quality of research into nanotechnology. "I want to learn to understand the molecular phenomena in physical processes, focusing on the use of nanomaterials in the medical sector. Ultimately I hope to discover a medicine for cancer."

Hugely enriching

Chinese civil engineer Sien Liu also received a DRI scholarship. "During my holiday I spent three weeks at the Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute to see how they do things there. This a large institute, housing one of China's most important national water laboratories. I think that this wonderful experience worked in my favour when I applied to TU Delft." Without the DRI Scholarship, Rebekah Wagoner, from the United States, would not have been taking a Master's degree in Architecture in Delft. She studied architecture for five years in the US and already obtained a Master's degree there. "The approach to my field is so different here compared to in America – it's hugely enriching." Another eight special scholarships will be introduced in 2012 for the new research themes: Transport, Climate, Robotics and Process Management. With this range of 40 interesting scholarships, TU Delft clearly demonstrates that it really does invest in talent.

Top-level sports and science

As a rower with Olympic A-status, Arnoud Greinadus has been performing at the highest level for years. His dream is to win gold at the London Olympics. When the 'Netherlands Four' lost in the semi-finals of the Olympic Games in Beijing, Greinadus took it as his inspiration for his PhD research at TU Delft. The probable cause was a fragment of algae that got stuck to the boat. This prompted Greinadus to search for another material or coating that would minimise the risk of things getting stuck to it. In particular the rowers in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro will be able to reap the fruits of his research, but so too will the shipping and aviation sectors. During the alumni symposium, Greinadus was awarded the title 'Alumnus of the Year' for the unique way in which he combines top-level sports and research. He received a sculpture of Prometheus, the symbol of TU Delft, and 2,500 euros. He may also spend three times that amount on a Delft research project of his choice. Greinadus decided it should go to 'Research and Innovation in Water Sports.'



Arnoud Greinadus is awarded the title 'alumnus of the year'.

Architects in the background

Zamora Getrouw is the winner of the twentieth 'Marina van Damme Scholarship. She attracted the attention of the jury for her "well thought-out plan, her enthusiastic commitment to the field of architecture, and the way she envisages her future". Currently, in most cases, architects are only ever involved in the design stages of a project. In Getrouw's opinion, the consequence is that architects are becoming less essential, as they increasingly fade into the background. To prevent this, she feels architects should also be able to supervise the execution of their designs. This would lead to creative solutions and lower costs for the commissioning party. Getrouw plans to spend the 9,000 euros in prize money on a KOB study programme for graduates of management and enterprise in the building sector. During this programme she will learn to lead a construction company and build projects responsibly in terms of management and business economics.



Zamora Getrouw won the Marina van Damme Scholarship.

'More than just the top sectors'

On 7 October around 500 alumni gathered in TU Delft's Aula for an alumni symposium. Big names from the worlds of politics, business and science came together to debate the government's innovation policy and its effects on science in the Netherlands.

Robert Dijkgraaf, president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), expressed his concern about the government's innovation policy. "In recent years we have created a healthy and competitive scientific climate in the Netherlands. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) has played a key role in this for all fields of science. The decision to fund the 'top-sector policy' with exclusively existing means is going to cause problems. Before you know it, the entire NWO budget will be used to finance the top-sector policy. That would be a disaster for science policy in the Netherlands." Dijkgraaf believes there is more to science than top sectors alone. "There is also a degree of biodiversity in science. We have many disciplines. If you look at where the fundamental breakthroughs were made in the long term, some occurred in unexpected areas. That is why we need to protect that biodiversity. Key questions, such as how the world works, ultimately lead to answers with enormous implications. We must protect this culture of science."

Dangerous

Frans Heemskerck, former State Secretary of Economic Affairs and member of the Executive Board of Royal Haskoning, shares Dijkgraaf's concerns and regards the NWO cutbacks as dangerous. Rein Willems, the chair of the top team for the Chemistry sector and former Member of the Senate for the CDA party, stated that less money will indeed be available for innovation, but the plan does not mean less funding will go to science and research. "We will fight to maintain the high standard of fundamental, curiosity-driven research at the NWO." However, he does feel that it should focus more on the top sectors. "This means that we will no longer do everything in the Netherlands. Ultimately, however, the balance between fundamental and applied research should not change. In addition to this debate, there were also presentations by Delft scientists, lectures and a Coach Café. Reactions to the alumni

symposium were largely positive. Most respondents found the plenary component particularly interesting. The use of Twitter combined with propositions that were advanced led to an interactive meeting. The alumni felt they would have liked the panel discussion to have gone on for longer.



Robert Dijkgraaf, Frans Heemskerck and Rein Willems debating at the alumnisymposium.