

Career Service Platform

Increasingly, the University of Twente is receiving reports from companies that there is no central information point through which they can reach talent at the UT. When companies wish to obtain information or advice regarding advertisements for vacancies or internships, conducting workshops or funding scholarships and study grants for individual students, for example, it is unclear who they should approach or how this can be achieved. This is due to the fragmented course and information provision on campus.

The situation also applies to students and PhD candidates. There is no central point where they can obtain an overview of the professional and career support which is available. While these services are provided, they are often not widely known or clearly visible. In addition, it is not always clear to international students where or how they can access this valuable support while they are studying.

The Executive Board values the professional, study and career support on offer and considers it the university's responsibility to ensure students and graduates gain insight into their employment perspectives and opportunities. In our Vision 2020, "Navigating with Precision" this is explicitly stated.

In June 2014, the Executive Board approved the start of a pilot project within CES, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders within the organization, to restructure a Career Center. The pilot started in September 2014 and will end in September 2016. At the completion of the pilot, a thorough evaluation will be conducted and decisions made regarding how the Career Centre will proceed further.

Approach

The proposal is to bring as many of the current study and career support activities as possible within the Career Service Platform. The reason for this is not to create a new career organization, but rather to ensure that the Career Service Platform makes the current activities visible for external organizations as well as for our current and potential students. In this way internal and external stakeholders will only have to deal with one central information agency. Where possible, synergy between the different activities and course provision will be achieved.

The approach includes discussion and consultation with all parties involved, and only then will a plan be framed and drawn up. An inventory of current practice will be created and, in consultation with the Student Union, a clear overview of which activities and through which student association will be made.

The Career Service Platform will also provide support activities to Dutch as well as to international students when they register for corporate sponsorships or make grant applications.

It is anticipated that this will include the following activities:

1. Map the needs/requirements of companies as well as those of students and PhDs.
2. Build and extend relationships with other interested parties including study associations and study organizations.
3. Make an inventory of all student support activities within CES and other UT entities, with a view to working together to initiate and consolidate these.
4. Investigate if, and how much cooperation and service delivery with other educational providers, Saxion in particular, is possible within the region.
5. Look at how other higher education organizations have modelled their Career Services and identify their best practices. If these are relevant they can be adapted.
6. Present a sustainable business model for services to be developed and provided (including a long term budget)

The platform will thus be based on three core points:

- Student support activities
 - Support for students when applying for sponsorships and grants
 - Courses, workshops, coaching etc.
- Connecting students to companies
 - in collaboration with Strategic Business Development and the Alumni Office among others.
- Communicating Career Services to students and external stakeholders and other interested parties

Our starting position is that we can rely on the strength of our current support activities. The Career Service Platform merely supports cooperation and communication, addresses the synergy and guarantees a long term approach.

Time Frame

To January 2015
Discussions with those involved in student support (Platform study advice, CES departments etc. Entrepreneurs (IKT, WTC, etc.) Student representatives (SU, Associations etc. to aid the inventory of possibilities (or not). These discussions are underway and meetings with various parties planned. As well as these discussions we are looking for best practices.
From January 2015 – September 2015
Structuring of platform with partners and where possible identifying support required.
From September 2015
Career Service Platform officially launched