

Stellenbosch University & University of Groningen

Our Partnership Story

Stellenbosch University and the University of Groningen are institutional partners: Stellenbosch University is a member of the Strategic Partnership Framework of the University of Groningen, while the University of Groningen is a member of Stellenbosch University's Comprehensive Partnership Portfolio (CPP). In the context of SU's Comprehensive Partnership Portfolio, a comprehensive partnership is all-inclusive (open to all faculties) and wide-ranging in terms of features and activities. It aspires to be consequential in terms of impact and transformation at both partners.

In terms of formal agreements, currently a memorandum of understanding, a student exchange agreement and an agreement to govern the joint supervision and awarding of joint doctoral degrees (PhD) is in place between the two institutions.

Key Figures:



> **20**
Joint Degree
Candidates



> **300**
People
Involved in
Partnership
Interactions



251
Co- authored
Publications
(2019-2025)

Our Location



Our Focus

The key focus areas the two institutions are working towards are: joint doctoral degrees, postdoctoral mobility, non-degree mobility, joint application for external (co-)funding for joint research programmes and educational innovation.

The following joint statement was released by the two institutions after a delegation visit in 2024 was concluded, which further built out areas of collaboration:

www.rug.nl/aboutug/profile/internationalization/networks/strategicpartnershipframework/news-and-events/0425-joint-statement-stellenbosch



Our Partnership Game Changers



Educational Innovation:

Developed various co-presented summer schools:

- Equipping Summer School for teachers: inclusion & diversity in teaching and learning
- Polarisation: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Societal Polarisation
- Discourses of Sustainability Transitions
- Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Growth

Co-teaching courses, for example: Religion, Violence, and Conflict Transformation



Africa-Europe Clusters of Research Excellence (CoRE): Collaboration within the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities Clusters of Excellence and other consortia. For example the following clusters:

- Genomics for Health in Africa
- Renewable Energy
- Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Theoretical and Computational
- Thinking
- Creative Economies - Cultures, Innovation and Sustainability



Moonshots Initiatives: This partnership has given rise to three ambitious "moonshot projects" in the fields of energy transition, digital transformation, and biomechanical engineering. In doing so, promoting transdisciplinary by means of public-private academic partnerships here.



Research Chair in Computational Astronomy: The chair will be co-led by Prof. Yin-Zhe Ma, an astrophysicist in SU's Department of Physics, and Prof. Léon Koopmans, Scientific Director of the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute at UG. A unique feature of this partnership is the offering of a joint PhD degree in Astrophysics, with already eight fully funded PhD students on board.

Faculties Engaged in the Partnership

At Stellenbosch University:

- Faculty of AgriSciences
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Theology

At University of Groningen:

- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Medical Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Spatial Sciences
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Science and Engineering
- University College Groningen
- Campus Fryslân