



## **U21 Undergraduate Research Conference University of Amsterdam, 8-12 July 2013**

The leading global network  
of research universities  
for the 21st century

The U21 Undergraduate Research Conference is the annual gathering of students from the 24 partner universities of Universitas 21, the leading global network of research universities for the 21st century ([www.universitas21.com](http://www.universitas21.com)).

The conference, now in its ninth year, aims to provide an environment in which excellent students can focus on themes crucial to their education and cultural development. The students are stimulated to develop strong networks among themselves, and the conference offers them a platform where they can discuss challenging topics that are shaping our present and future.

The University of Amsterdam is delighted to host the 9th edition of the U21 Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), which will be held from 8 to 12 July 2013. The conference will provide the opportunity for three outstanding undergraduate or honours students from your institution to showcase their research to an international audience of fellow students and staff.

The UvA invites all U21 partner universities to nominate three of its best undergraduate students and one staff member to attend the conference. We ask that each institution nominate:

- one student for an oral presentation
- one student to design and submit a poster
- one student to give either an oral presentation or design and submit a poster.

**Guidelines** for oral and poster presentations are located at [www.URC2013.uva.nl](http://www.URC2013.uva.nl) (available as from 17 December 2012).

In addition, all U21 partners are invited to send a member of their faculty or teaching staff to accompany the students and take part in the conference and the social and cultural activities.

## **THEME 'URBAN CHALLENGES: BUILDING HEALTHY, SMART & CREATIVE CITIES FOR THE FUTURE'**

More than half of the world's population now lives in large urban areas and this number will increase in the years to come. The growth of the urban population and the dynamic nature of cities around the world give rise to an abundance of interesting research questions and challenges that are of particular interest for the future generation of researchers. Key issues for modern cities range from public health, logistics, safety, governance, migration, diversity and cultural dynamics to design and creativity.

The Amsterdam metropolitan region offers an inspiring environment for bringing together a select group of bright young students to share their ideas, knowledge and perspectives on this wide range of challenging issues. Moreover, 2013 will be a special year for Amsterdam as several extraordinary celebrations are foreseen, including the opening of the renovated Rijksmuseum and the 400th anniversary of the Canal Ring. The UvA will look for ways of combining the URC 2013 with one or more festive occasions taking place in Amsterdam at the same time.

## **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: RC43 CONFERENCE AND SUMMER SCHOOL**

The URC coincides with the RC43 Conference 2013 'At Home in the Housing Market', which will also be hosted by the UvA. Accompanying faculty and staff will therefore have the opportunity to participate in parts of the RC43 Conference. For further information, please see: [www.rc43-conference.uva.nl](http://www.rc43-conference.uva.nl).

In addition, two weeks after the URC 2013, the UvA is organising a summer course called, 'Urban Studies Summer School: Housing, People and City Spaces', which is open for attendance for URC 2013 participants. This may be a good opportunity for participants not only to extend their stay in Amsterdam, but also to develop further knowledge on this subject. Please note that URC participants must register separately for the summer course. For further details, please see: [www.uva.nl/summer-urban-studies](http://www.uva.nl/summer-urban-studies).

## **NOMINATIONS**

Attendees of this event must be nominated by their institution. Each U21 member university may nominate up to three students and one staff member (faculty or teaching staff). Each university must agree to cover travel and accommodation costs for all nominees and accompanying staff.

The UvA will provide the meeting venues, refreshments, a welcome reception, lunches & dinners including a gala dinner, excursions such as a canal tour by boat, social and cultural activities in the old inner city of Amsterdam and a real Amsterdam cycling experience.

The deadline for nominations is 15 March 2013. After this date the nominated students and staff member(s) will be invited by the UvA to register via the website.

## **PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME**

A preliminary programme for the week has been developed. The nominated students and accompanying staff member(s) will be expected to have arrived and registered by Monday afternoon, 8 July 2013. The programme includes a number of social activities for the students and staff members on Monday and Tuesday, including an Official Welcome and a reception, social and cultural activities in the old inner city of Amsterdam, a canal tour by boat, a museum visit and a real Amsterdam cycling experience. Oral and poster presentations are scheduled to take place from the 10-12 July 2013. The Conference will close with a gala dinner.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

All participants will stay in the same hotel (rooms will be reserved by the UvA).

## **CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

Further information will be provided on the website (available as of 17 December 2012): [www.URC2013.uva.nl](http://www.URC2013.uva.nl).

For questions, please feel free to contact the Organising Committee at [URC2013@uva.nl](mailto:URC2013@uva.nl).