

Senioren Academie Groningen-Friesland-Drenthe



History

In 1986 the Senioren Academie was founded at the Rijksuniversiteit (University) Groningen with the aim to provide academical education for older people. The education is aimed at people above 50 who are interested in a study. The initiative in Groningen was soon followed up elsewhere in The Netherlands. Nowadays higher education for older people is offered at most of the Dutch universities.

Education on offer

For the first course in 1986, an introduction into psychology, a special course model for education for elderly people was developed. The experience since then has proven that the model fits its purpose very well. It still forms the basis for the education at the Senioren Academie in Groningen, and elsewhere in The Netherlands.

There is no formal requirement for a specific pre-qualification. The course participants are however expected to be able to think on the level of a starting university student.

The basic structure consists of short courses of five to ten lectures, once a week. The lectures are given by one or several (former) university teachers.

The most popular subjects are history, art, music, literature, philosophy and psychology. Natural sciences are less popular, probably because the students feel that they don't have enough basic knowledge in this field or because they have worked all their life in this field and after retirement prefer to develop their knowledge in other sciences.

The programme also includes a number of single lectures.

Since 2001 the senior students have the possibility to take part in scientific research projects at the university. These are either regular projects of various faculties or projects that are specifically set up for the senior students.

There is also a possibility to do research individually on a subject of one's own choice, with expert advice from an (emerited) university professor.

Presently there are 3.700 course registrations per year.

In the winter of 2015 the students could choose from:

in Groningen: 33 courses and 1 lecture

in Drenthe: 4 courses and 1 lecture

in Friesland: 8 courses and 1 lecture



Organisation

The Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Hanzehogeschool Groningen and the Stenden Hogeschool are parent institutions. They advise the Senioren Academie with respect to content and level of the courses and they provide some rooms free of charge. However, the Senioren Academie doesn't receive any financial contributions from them. The only sources of income are the course fees, voluntary contributions of senior students for a support fund and some sponsoring from commercial firms.

Senioren Academie Groningen-Friesland-Drenthe

Postbus 72, 9700 AB Groningen, Netherlands

www.hovoseniorenacademie.nl

Email: hovo@rug.nl

Tel: +31-503636597