



university of  
 groningen



Appointment of

# Chair in American Studies

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AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EMEA

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# University of Groningen

The University of Groningen is a research-intensive university with a global outlook and deeply rooted in Groningen, the ‘City of Talent’. For four hundred years, quality has been a top priority, and with great success: the university is currently in the top 100 on several influential ranking lists, including 64<sup>th</sup> in the 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The university is truly global and has strong collaborations with several renowned foreign universities, including Uppsala, Göttingen, and Ghent. The University of Groningen attracts a large number of staff and students from the Netherlands and internationally, and currently has approximately 34,000 students and 5,250 staff members. The University of Groningen has a rich academic tradition dating back to 1614. Out of this tradition arose the first female student and the first female lecturer in the Netherlands, the first Dutch astronaut, and the first president of the European Central Bank.

Geographically, the university is rooted in the north of the Netherlands, a region very close to its heart. Talent is nurtured, enabling the university to bridge the gap between science and society.

The university is committed to actively collaborating with social partners, while a special focus on the research themes Healthy Ageing, Energy and Sustainable Society.

For more information, visit: <https://www.rug.nl/>

## An International Institution

At the University of Groningen, research and teaching are internationally oriented. Students from every continent can prepare themselves at Groningen for their global careers. Internationalisation is one of the main focus points on the strategic policy agenda and an important instrument in the improvement of quality, innovation, and diversity. The university has a strong international reputation and steadily climbs the international rankings. Currently, the University of Groningen has 8,250 international students of over 120 different nationalities. 39 per cent of research staff and 51 per cent of all PhD students are international.

## About the University



### Structure and Governance

The University of Groningen consists of 11 faculties:

- Faculty of Arts;
- Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences;
- Faculty of Economics and Business;
- Faculty of Law;
- Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences;
- Faculty of Medical Sciences;
- Faculty of Philosophy;
- Faculty of Spatial Sciences;
- Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies;
- University College Groningen;
- University Campus Fryslân.

The university is managed by the Executive Board of the university, which is accountable to the Supervisory Board. The Committee of Deans, consisting of the Chairs of all Faculty Boards, has an advisory function across a variety of fields.

### Teaching and Research

With research and education closely linked, the university provides high-quality research and teaching in a broad and varied range of fields of study.

The University of Groningen facilitates cooperative relationships based on openness and equality. In these relationships, the university is socially responsible, purposeful, and creative. The University of Groningen strives to stimulate current debate on scientific, social, and cultural issues and is able to participate clearly and convincingly in such debates.

In the area of academic research, the University of Groningen is among the top European universities. Its success is based on the ability to apply fundamental academic research in an innovative way when dealing with challenging social and scientific problems. Those engaged in teaching at the university actively involve their students in their research so that both parties are stimulated to continue to push boundaries.

Developments in academia often emerge at the interfaces of different subjects, which is why many research groups at the University of Groningen are multidisciplinary. In addition, the university participates in national and international research programmes and many Groningen-based researchers collaborate with colleagues from all over the world.

For more information on research at the University of Groningen, please visit: <http://www.rug.nl/research/>

For more information on education at the University of Groningen, please visit: <https://www.rug.nl/education/>



# Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts is a large, dynamic faculty in the heart of the city of Groningen. It has more than 5,000 students and 700 staff members, who are working at the frontiers of knowledge every day. The faculty offers a multidisciplinary environment with a wide range of degree programmes. Its research, which is internationally acclaimed, covers the fields of Archaeology, Cultural and Media Studies, History, International Relations, Journalism, Language and Literary Studies, and Linguistics.

## Organisation

Research and teaching responsibilities are organised separately at the Faculty of Arts; the staff is organised into three research institutes and five clusters of educational programmes.

The Faculty of Arts is guided by the Faculty Board, comprising the Dean, the Vice-Dean, and the Managing Director.

The Board is accountable for the development and implementation of faculty policy, in consultation with the Programme Clusters and Research Institutes, support services and consultative bodies. The Faculty Board is also joined by a student advisor (student assessor), who is appointed annually.

## Research

Research conducted at the Faculty of Arts is diverse and multidisciplinary. Research fields range from archaeology to theoretical linguistics, from journalism to international relations, and whenever possible corresponds with the university's three research priorities: Energy, Healthy Ageing, and Sustainable Society. The Faculty has recently established Chairs in Digital Humanities and Health & Humanities, related to the domains of two of new schools within the University of Groningen, namely the Agricola School for Sustainable Development and the Aletta Jacobs School for Healthy Ageing for a Healthy Society.

## Faculty of Arts



The Faculty will also contribute substantively to the Jantina Tammes School for Energy Transition, Climate Adaptation and Agriculture for a Sustainable Planet, and the Wubbo Ockels School for Digital Innovation and Technological Progress for a Knowledge Society. More information about the strategic plan can be found [here](#).

Research is organised in three research institutes:

- GIA: Groningen Institute of Archaeology;
- CLCG: Centre for Language and Cognition Groningen;
- ICOG: Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture.

Each institute comprises multiple smaller research groups. Also, the faculty has various Centres of Expertise, within which specific (interdisciplinary) research is accommodated. The Graduate School for the Humanities (GSH) houses all the activities relating to PhD research, including guiding and training PhD students.

More information on research at the Faculty of Arts can be found [here](#).

### Education

Within 16 bachelor programmes and more than 40 master tracks, the Faculty specialises in languages,

culture, media, international relations, and history of especially Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, North America, and East-Asia. Besides, the faculty pays specific attention to local and national languages, culture, and history. In addition, the faculty offers several interdisciplinary programmes.

The large range of bachelor's and master's programmes are organised into five programme clusters. Each cluster has its own cluster board and is supported by the faculty's Institute of Education. Cross-cluster and interdisciplinary teaching collaborations are encouraged and ideally promoted and supported by the chairholders.

### Societal and Public Engagement

The Faculty of Arts encourages societal engagement by seeking cooperation with citizens, societal organisations and companies. The faculty contributes to the university's research agenda of four new Schools for the development of interdisciplinary research and teaching in the fields of Healthy Ageing and Public Health, Energy Transition and Climate Adaptation, Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence, and Sustainable Development. All chairholders are expected to contribute to these objectives as a regular part of their duties.

### Language Policy

The Faculty of Arts has a bilingual language policy; both Dutch and English are used in daily contacts and teaching. This policy is based on the assumption that non-Dutch speakers are willing to learn the language within two years of appointment (to at least C1 level of the CEFR – for receptive reading and listening). More information on education at the Faculty of Arts can be found [here](#).

# Appointment of the Chair in American Studies

**The Faculty of Arts is seeking to appoint a Chair in American Studies with a clear vision on the future of American Studies and an established reputation for excellence in research, teaching, and impact. This role is particularly suitable for an enthusiastic academic leader who shows a willingness and ability to lead the American Studies group and to strengthen its research profile and promote the academic talent and career development of the team.**

The successful candidate will be an internationally recognised expert who is familiar with the relevant theories and methodologies of American Studies and who is able to demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach in their research and teaching. Although the American Studies programmes at the University of Groningen focus on the study of the United States as a historical, cultural, political, social and economic entity, this study is conducted within a comparative, interAmerican context. Increasingly, hemispheric and global approaches to the study of American culture facilitate the exploration of that culture's complex inter-relation with histories of colonialism, imperialism, and militarism, as well as diverse forms of resistance to those phenomena, both across the Americas and globally.

The new Chair is able to create and strengthen collaborations within the Faculty of Arts and University of Groningen and with the broader research field and society.

The Chair has a strong societal network and demonstrable experience with knowledge valorisation, being capable of translating re-search and teaching to societal partners and a general audience.

## Job Description

### Context

The position consists of three major task components: research, teaching, and management.

### Research

Research in American Studies is embedded in the Centre for the Study of Democratic Cultures and Politics (DemCP) and conducted under the auspices of the Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG). The professor has a leading role in the DemCP and will actively collaborate with other ICOG research centres: the Centre for Historical Studies, the Centre Arts in Society, Centre for International Relations and Centre for Media and Journalism Studies. The successful candidate will bring evidence of a track record of research publications in internationally recognised, English-language American Studies journals. Emphasis is placed on the capture of both individual and collaborative grants from external sources, and the new professor must be able to demonstrate both a strong record of achievement in this area and concrete plans for future grant capture.

# Appointment of Chair in American Studies (*continuation*)

## Education

The BA programme in American Studies at the University of Groningen is the only fully autonomous BA programme in this field in the Netherlands. Besides, we offer an interdisciplinary MA degree in North American Studies, with a focus on critical and political theory. The new Chair will teach in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in American Studies and, if desirable, in other programmes. Teaching responsibilities constitute 60% of the appointment (including time for service and administrative duties). The Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in American Studies are taught completely in English and the successful candidate should therefore have an excellent command of both spoken and written English. Given the programme's comparative, inter-American approach, Spanish language skills may also be desirable. The new Chair should also have demonstrable leadership qualities appropriate to working in well-established, award-winning BA and MA programmes with a talented group of experienced interdisciplinary researchers and lecturers in an international classroom setting and foster and support diverse and inclusive classrooms. The Faculty will assist the successful candidate in obtaining the requested qualifications for teaching and the Dutch language during the first two years of the appointment.

## Management

The new Professor will chair the American Studies groups comprised of seven permanent staff members, and will provide leadership to develop and expand the chair group's research agenda and educational programmes. The Chair leads the chair group and is expected to share managerial roles at the level of the cluster board and research institute, at the level of the Faculty of Arts or outside the Faculty. The Chair supports and supervises the chair group members in their career development and conducts annual performance and development interviews. The Chair will participate in relevant networks at national and international levels.

# Appointment of Chair in American Studies (*continuation*)

## Person Specification

The successful appointee will evidence:

- a PhD degree in American Studies or a closely related discipline;
- proven excellence in academic research by publications in leading international journals and books published by high-ranking publishers;
- successfully obtained funding for research projects/submitted excellent grant applications;
- a relevant, strategic international network, demonstrated by, for example, participation in internationally relevant conferences and leading roles on editorial boards;
- extensive experience in and a passion for education, as well as an innovative view on teaching, including active learning and interdisciplinary teaching;
- excellent leadership skills and organisational competences including proven experience in supervising PhD students mentoring junior and more senior academic staff members;
- the willingness to collaborate in teaching and research;
- a strong societal network and demonstrable experience with societal impact;
- fluency in English and Dutch or a willingness to learn the Dutch language or which support is available.

## Conditions of Employment

The position is offered on a full-time basis and candidate will reside near Groningen. Remuneration depends on previous qualifications and experience and ranges between €6,099 and €8,881 per month (scale H2 Collective Labour Agreement Dutch Universities). Salaries are supplemented with a holiday bonus of 8 % of annual salary and a year-end bonus of 8.3 % of annual salary per year.

The University of Groningen provides career services for partners of new faculty members moving to Groningen

<http://www.rug.nl/about-us/work-with-us/that-is-why/dual-career-support/>.

The University of Groningen has adopted an active policy to increase the number of female scientists across all disciplines of the university. Therefore, female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

For more information on the terms of employment, please visit:

<https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/work-with-us/new-staf/>





# Appointment Process and How to Apply

An executive search exercise is being undertaken by Perrett Laver to support the university in identifying the widest possible field of qualified candidates and assisting in the assessment of candidates against the requirements for the role. Queries can be directed to Norbert Liefertink via [Norbert.Liefertink@perrettlaver.com](mailto:Norbert.Liefertink@perrettlaver.com) or +31 (0)20 2404 378.

Applications should consist of a cover letter stating motivation and a complete curriculum vitae including a publication list. These can be uploaded at <https://candidates.perrettlaver.com/vacancies> quoting reference **6232**.

***The closing date for applications is 9am  
CET on Friday 13th January 2023.***

Applications will be considered by the selection committee in January and shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview in end of January beginning of February. Selection of and negotiations with the preferred candidate and final campus visits will take place thereafter.

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# Groningen: Small City, Full of Life

**As the economic and cultural capital of the region, the city of Groningen enjoys a bustling atmosphere while retaining a safe community character.**

Groningen, a lively university city with a population of around 200,000, has the youngest average population in the Netherlands. It has a long and dynamic history, which becomes evident from the historic warehouses, courts, and buildings. Groningen is also a city with character, with numerous examples of innovative architecture.

The university has a visible presence: the historic buildings in the inner city tell the tale of a rich academic tradition, while the University Medical Center Groningen is an example of the city's contemporary architecture.

In 2007, the European Commission carried out research among the residents of 75 larger and medium-sized cities, one of which was Groningen. The result was striking: the residents of Groningen are Europe's most contented citizens. Since then, an entirely new stream of visitors has come to the city to discover the 'Groningen Secret'.

## Taxation in the Netherlands

Certain categories of international staf (e.g. researchers) can receive tax exemption on approximately 30 per cent of their gross salary for a period of five years. This is to compensate for the extra costs they incur in living abroad, such as having to rent temporary accommodation, etc. In principle, the 30 per cent rule applies to staf who have been expressly recruited from another country and who have a formal contract of employment in the Netherlands.



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