

Universiteitsfonds

Annual report 2021



Inhoudsopgave

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Foreword

In the 2020 annual report, I concluded my foreword with the hope for a 2021 full of wonderful opportunities to meet and inspire each other. Opportunities for you to get to know all the enterprising researchers and talented scholarship students and to hear at first hand how, thanks in part to your donations, they have been able to change their lives and ensure our university has an impact on the world around us.

Unfortunately, 2021 turned out differently due to coronavirus and we were unable to offer you these opportunities at a major event. It was nevertheless possible to arrange some excellent gatherings in 2021. A number of donors took part in online discussions with scholarship students, for example. One of our committed donors even took some Liberian scholarship students out on the road to enable them to get to know the Netherlands. You can watch the amazing story of the friendship between this donor and the scholarship student George Y. Sharpe from Liberia in [the video](#) in this online annual report. It is marvelous not only to hear about the progress of research, but also to see directly the impact that research can have. In April we organized an online game in cooperation with the Zero Hunger Lab in which the participants could discover how to organize food aid as efficiently as possible with the aid of data analysis.

This summer we reached the impressive landmark of 80,000 alumni. 80,000 people who, just like me, will hopefully have many happy memories of their student days in Tilburg. One of those new alumni graduated in the summer: Whinell Bunchee Togar. Thanks to donations such as yours, she can fulfil her dreams in Liberia using the knowledge she has gained in Tilburg.

Not so long ago the University Fund decided to co-finance the research by Elisabeth Huis in 't Veld into needle phobia. That proved to be a very topical theme in 2021! In the fall, this research came second in the contest for the Klokhuis science prize.

During the phone campaign a group of enthusiastic students once again called alumni from home this year. They exchanged stories about their student days and asked the alumni to support the University Fund. And not without success: donations totaling €148,368 were pledged during those calls.

The ceremony for the signing of the Women & Theology Fund finally took place in 2021 in the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology in Utrecht. The Women of Bethany and Tilburg University jointly established this fund with an endowed chair. The signing was attended by a delegation of the Women of Bethany and the Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam, Mgr. Dr. J.W.M. Hendriks, among others. A donation of €1,050,000 was made to the Tilburg University Fund Foundation, the largest received by the University Fund to date.

We ended the year with a heartwarming campaign on campus. On behalf of all donors, we hung ribbons with dreams for the future in the Christmas tree on campus. The whole university community had an opportunity to share their wish in the tree in exchange for a small donation to the Zero Hunger Lab. That raised an additional €800 for the Zero Hunger Lab. One of the wishes in the tree was for "a vibrant campus without coronavirus". I would like to echo that wish. And I hope that next year, when Tilburg University celebrates its 95th anniversary, we will be able to meet on a vibrant campus and that we ourselves will be able to hang our wishes in the tree.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as chairperson of the University Fund Foundation since 2017. In 2022 I will pass the baton to Mariëtte Turkenburg. I will nevertheless remain involved as a member of the Board.

Bert Groenewegen

Chairperson of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation



Board

Board members



From left to right in photograph

- ◆ Wim van de Donk (Member)
- ◆ Cindy van Oorschot (Treasurer)
- ◆ Marc Cootjans (Member)
- ◆ Bert Groenewegen (Chairperson)
- ◆ Mariëtte Turkenburg (Secretary)

Three board meetings were held in 2021. The board members do not receive remuneration for their work. In addition, they have neither applied for nor received financial support from the University Fund, nor have they made any expenditures.

Development & Alumni Relations Office

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation is supported by the staff of the Development & Alumni Relations Office of Tilburg University.

Managing Director

Piet van Ierland (far right of the photograph) is Managing Director of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation and also Director of the Marketing & Communication Division of Tilburg University. The Development & Alumni Relations Office is one of the offices within Marketing & Communication.

The year 2021 in figures



**Alumni
(1927-2021): 82,826**



**International
alumni: 9,021
138 nationalities**



Degrees in 2021

- ◆ PhD degrees: 112
- ◆ Master's degrees 3,751
- ◆ Bachelor's degrees 2,168
- ◆ Post-Master's degrees 51



Donors

**Number of donors in 2021:
1,423**

Total number of donors since the establishment of the University Fund in 2008: 5,898



Donations in 2021:

- ◆ < €500: 1,352
- ◆ €500 - €2,000: 55
- ◆ >€2,000: 16
- ◆ Largest donation: €100,000



**Total donations in
2021: €441,227**

- ◆ Phone campaigns: €151,092
- ◆ Have a Seat: €16,289
- ◆ Christmas fundraiser: €801
- ◆ Other: €273,045



**More than 2,600 hours
spent by 305
volunteers**

- ◆ Members of boards and committees: 115
- ◆ Mentors: 260
- ◆ Number of Coaches/Career Café coaches: 46

Data according to alumni database on April 1, 2022

Despite the coronavirus crisis, many of our alumni volunteered their services for the University in 2021, and some of them did so in more ways than one. For example, alumni contribute as coaches or mentors, members of the Alumni Panel take part in our research by replying to surveys, and alumni give us feedback and volunteer to give guest lectures for our students. Many alumni also work in alumni associations and student recruitment, among other things.

Tilburg University

By deepening our understanding of the inner workings of society, Tilburg University strives to contribute to social progress. Using our connections with partners in society at large, we conduct high-quality research that focuses on a number of challenging strategic themes, including Empowering a Resilient Society, Enhancing Health and Wellbeing, and Creating Value from Data. These three themes are reflected in our overarching theme: the Digital Society. We innovate by conducting research, by learning, and by understanding. Understanding Society. Tilburg University was founded in 1927 and has contributed to monodisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary research and education in the humanities and social sciences. Our students develop the knowledge, skills and character needed to face the challenges of the 21st century. We educate them to become responsible and enterprising thinkers who are prepared for leadership roles in the society of the future. We accomplish this by providing high-quality academic education on an international green campus.

Taking on tomorrow's challenges

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation wants to contribute, in its own unique way, to the quality of society today and in the years ahead. A real challenge! For that reason, we are fundraising to increase the impact of Tilburg University on society both at home and abroad.

Through its teaching and research, Tilburg University is making a lasting contribution to a better world. The University Fund aims to increase Tilburg University's impact on society through its continuing contributions. Both close to home and far away. Now and in the future. Our fundraising allows us to provide additional financial resources for research, education, and scholarships. In this way, we also increase the impact of our donors. Precisely because our focus is on fundraising, we can channel our energy into the most efficient and effective way of executing our plans. Everyone who *makes a donation is important to us*.

Objective

The objectives of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation are as follows:

1. The objective of the University Fund is to promote education and research at Tilburg University, as well as the University's impact, and all matters associated with this objective in the broadest sense.
2. The University Fund endeavors to achieve this objective by: a. fundraising; b. independent, careful management and allocation of funds acquired; c. making financial resources available to Tilburg University and its staff, students, and alumni; d. engaging in any other activities that relate to or benefit the foregoing in the broadest sense. In practice, this comes down to carrying out fundraising programs to promote giving, such as phone campaigns, the Middle and Major Donor Program, named funds, and acquiring bequests. The funds are used to finance scholarship programs (including scholarships for students from all over the world), research projects (such as the Zero Hunger Lab), and educational projects (such as the Pre-Bachelor's Program for refugees).

In its fundraising activities, the Development & Alumni Relations Office (DARO) assumes the role of initiator and facilitator for the Tilburg University Fund Foundation. It oversees the active demand for funds, but is also supply-driven. The Board is assisted by an investment committee, which provides advice on the use of the funds raised. The Audit Committee supports the Board in forming an opinion on the financial statements and interim financial reports.

Our core values



Equality

Every person has the same value. Everyone should receive the same opportunities. Equality in our view exists at an individual and collective level. The value that we provide contributes to social equality. We are convinced that together we can create a better world. We are making a contribution. With complete conviction. By partnering with the University, we have an opportunity to play a role in creating a more equal world.



Commitment

Because we are passionately committed to our work, we are able to achieve a great deal. When you do something you believe in, you ensure that everything glows with energy. Our work is not commonplace. The bond we have with our donors is no ordinary one. It is founded on the heritage of the University and our boundless commitment. When we tell people what we do — but more importantly why we do it — it makes a tremendous impression. Because we explain the impact our activities have. What they mean to people. The progress that they achieve. Close to home and far away.



Distant goal

We are determined and single-minded about the way ahead. Our activities, our programs, our objectives all lead to the distant goal: the world of tomorrow. That is not a vision, but a realistic view of the future. By constantly setting clear targets and meeting them, we are working our way towards this goal. Committed, energetic, with courage and enthusiasm. This is our contribution to the University's tradition of learning and sharing knowledge.



Difference

We have a sense of urgency. That is why we want to make a difference. What we do is essential and we share that awareness with all those involved. We are happy to take up the challenge of achieving our goals. It demands intense commitment and care. We support our activities unconditionally and make clear why they are so crucial.

Results achieved

In the past year, Tilburg University's alumni network continued to grow to more than 80,000 alumni. More than 5,900 degrees were conferred. Due to coronavirus restrictions, it was again necessary to award these degrees in walk-through graduations or delayed ceremonies.

Activities

Not only the graduation ceremonies but alumni activities as a whole were again put to the test by coronavirus. Many were postponed, some even to 2022, and others were cancelled. Fortunately we were able to bring our community together in real life in the fall. During Coach Café, Psychology Café, and Entrepreneur Café, we brought nearly 300 alumni from different generations into contact with pre-alumni (students) in person. Unfortunately it was again necessary to hold the International Career Café online. It perfectly complemented the other online events that took place in 2021, such as contact events, held jointly with the Friends of Cobbenhagen, the job market for young people in collaboration with Studium Generale, and an event with Nuffic aimed at alumni of Dutch universities in southern Africa. A notable feature was the "serious game" of the Zero Hunger Lab for donors to the University Fund, which not only gave us a chance to meet each other but also provided an excellent opportunity to get to know the Zero Hunger Lab.

Unfortunately the Thank You event for loyal donors could not take place. In October, however, we were able to celebrate the Women of Bethany congregation's donation of €1,050,000 (donated at the end of 2020) at the formal launch held at the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology in Utrecht.

Mailings

Ties with alumni were also maintained through email and social media. With three donor newsletters, six alumni newsletters, and two editions of Tilburg University Magazine – on the themes of New Common and Entrepreneurial Thinking – we reached more than 50,000 alumni.

Volunteers

The volunteer program continued to grow as part of 'online 2021' and once again managed to bring together knowledge and generations. More than before, the program offered students and recent graduates a chance to boost their professional careers without physical contact, and we managed to get many alumni involved as volunteers within the educational system. Alumni become involved as mentors, visiting lecturers, members of the alumni panel, and coaches at various events.

Phone campaign

The annual phone campaign was conducted from home again this year. Students called alumni from their dorm rooms, asked about their experiences after graduation, and offered them the opportunity to be actively involved with the University as volunteers and/or donors. In addition to the phone campaign with the student team in October and November, a student assistant made calls to alumni throughout the year asking them to renew their donations to the University Fund. With this new component, the phone campaign raised a total of €151,092. In addition to many small donations, we also received a number of large donations this year, including €100,000 for interdisciplinary research on religion and sociology.

Christmas fundraiser

We ended the year with a special Christmas fundraiser. We hung ribbons on the campus Christmas tree for all donors and volunteers as a show of gratitude for their contributions. Our scholarship students wrote their wishes on the ribbons. In addition, staff, students, and alumni could also have ribbons bearing their wishes hung on the tree for a small donation. Despite the lockdown we thus created a little Christmas cheer on campus and raised over €800. The donations benefit the Zero Hunger Lab, helping to fulfill their wish to relieve hunger in the world.

Results achieved

With all the activities of the University Fund, including Have a Seat, programs for medium and large donors, the phone campaign and smaller promotions and contributions, a total of €441,227 was donated this year.

The future

By coordinating the phone campaigns and active donor relations (the “Middle and Major Donor Program”), we aim to acquire more new donors across all three donors segments (regular, middle and major) in the year ahead. We also aim to achieve more growth within these groups. In 2022, we will continue to focus on donor relations with a view to acquiring substantial donations from private individuals. In addition, we will focus attention on parties such as capital funds, corporate funds, religious orders, and congregations which have a similar mission and identity to Tilburg University and with which cooperation should be easy to achieve.

We are participating in a nationwide campaign by University Funds to raise awareness of support for research at universities. Greater emphasis will be placed on the design and implementation of a program for medium-sized donors. We also hope to be able to focus more on the foundations of our fundraising structure (also known as the bottom of the giving pyramid) by developing propositions for students and small donations, in order to secure growth for the future. Tilburg University's new strategy for the University's centenary also offers prospects for alumni involvement and fundraising.

The year 2021 in pictures

Student Max Warmerdam earns the title of Grandmaster

January 7, 2021

Thanks to a top sports scholarship from Have a Seat donors, Max was able to participate in a chess tournament in Bassano del Grappa.

"Since chess tournaments can be quite lengthy and regularly take place abroad, they are often quite expensive. The Have a Seat initiative makes it much easier for me to pay for them. As I have now reached the highest level of mastery in chess, I need to think about other ambitions. One ambition I certainly have is of becoming a Dutch champion." The scholarship enables Max to focus on his studies in combination with top-flight sport and he has no need to take a job on the side to develop his talent.

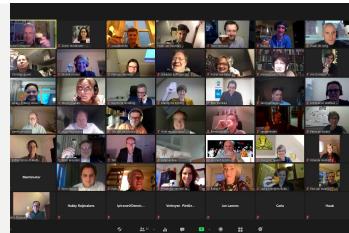
Max Warmerdam (22), Netherlands – Bachelor of Economics



Friends of Cobbenhagen online New Year party

January 14, 2021

Coronavirus restrictions unfortunately ruled out a physical meeting, but 50 Friends were able to meet online at this special New Year party.



Toast on the West Coast

January 26, 2021

During the coronavirus crisis, Dutch universities joined forces to hold online networking sessions for alumni living on the West Coast of America. This highly successful joint endeavor featured an introduction by the ambassadors Dirk Janssen and Onno Faber, among others.



Webinar: A new lost generation? Youth Employment in Corona Times
February 9, 2021

What effect is the coronavirus crisis having on the labor market? Are young people having a particularly difficult time or does the crisis also create opportunities? Dr. Sonja Bekker, Prof. Ton Wilthagen and alumna Nina Meeuwes shared their vision and experiences with alumni and students in this webinar, which was organized in collaboration with Studium Generale.



Collaboration between Zero Hunger Lab and Dutch Food Banks
March 2021

The Dutch food banks organization asked the Zero Hunger Lab to develop technical solutions to identify people eligible for food bank support.



Friends of Cobbenhagen Virtual Boardroom meeting
March 3, 2021

On Wednesday, March 3, 2021 more than 30 Friends of Cobbenhagen met online for a Boardroom meeting complete with a delicious packed lunch. The Boardroom meeting was kindly arranged by alumnus and Friend Hans Minnaar, the founder and director of Florijnz Corporate Finance.



Toast on the East Coast
March 4, 2021

During the coronavirus crisis, the Dutch universities joined forces to hold online networking sessions for alumni living on the East Coast of America. The ambassador André Haspels opened this highly successful joint session and Robbert Dijkgraaf gave an inspiring lecture.



500th donation agreement
April 2021

The University Fund concluded its 500th donation agreement with a donor this month.



International online alumni event for Hong Kong

April 8, 2021

During the coronavirus crisis, Dutch universities joined forces to hold online networking sessions for alumni in Hong Kong. Correspondent Sjoerd den Daas was on hand to provide an inspiring lecture.



Zero Hunger Lab wins prestigious Franz Edelman award

April 14, 2021

The United Nations World Food Programme won the international Franz Edelman Award with input from Tilburg University's Zero Hunger Lab. This is the world's most prestigious award for the use of analytics, looking not only at innovation but especially at its impact.



International online party for southern Africa

June 17, 2021

During the coronavirus crisis, the Dutch universities joined forces to hold online networking sessions for alumni in southern Africa. The event was opened by Ambassador Sebastiaan Messerschmidt jointly with Huba Boshoff of Nuffic.



Zero Hunger Lab serious game for alumni

April 20, 2021

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation organized a serious game jointly with the Zero Hunger Lab. The Zero Hunger Lab developed an algorithm for the World Food Programme to help it reach as many people in need as possible. In the serious game "Roads to End Hunger", the participants were able to experience the organization of food aid logistics at first hand.



Inaugural Lecture by Evelien Brouwers

May 28, 2021

On May 28, Prof. Evelien Brouwers delivered her inaugural lecture entitled “Psychische gezondheid en duurzame inzetbaarheid in arbeid: je gaat het pas zien als je het door hebt” (Mental health and sustainable employability: you don’t see it until you understand it”) at Tilburg University. In the lecture Evelien argues that there is enormous potential for improvement in this area, but that to unlock that potential we need to take a different view of health, sickness, and sustainable employability. With the support of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation, Evelien has already been able to conduct research into openness in work on mental problems.



80,000 alumni

July 2021

In July we reached the threshold of 80,000 alumni.



Alumnus and donor Franc Beekmans was proclaimed ‘Alumni volunteer of the year’

June 2021

Alumnus and donor Franc Beekmans last year developed a close association with the scholarship student George from Liberia by acting as a mentor.



Making contact in unusual times: the podcast

July 2021

During the online event “Impossibility or unlimited possibilities?” on June 8, 2021, Prof. Marjolijn Antheunis talked to alumnus Tim Kamphorst about the impact of the pandemic on our social contacts and the way we communicate. The event was held jointly with the Friends of Cobbenhagen.



Opening of the Academic Year

August 30, 2021

The academic ceremony in the auditorium included the presentation of the impact award. The winner was Spacebuzz by Prof. Max Louwerse, in which children learn about the vulnerability of the earth through a virtual reality experience in an almost real-life space shuttle. Some of our donors were also able to share this experience in 2019.



Coach café

September 16, 2021

68 people took part in this edition. The Coach Café is all about meeting, inspiring, and sharing knowledge. At the Coach Café alumni who are further advanced in their careers share their experiences from a variety of perspectives with younger alumni. It was wonderful to be able to meet each other “live” again.



Lunch for scholarship students

October 12, 2021

In October, the University Fund invited the current scholarship students to a lunch on campus. This was an opportunity for them to get to know each other and the University Fund.



Signing ceremony for the Women of Bethany Fund

October 20, 2021

The Congregation of the Women of Bethany and Tilburg University jointly established the Women & Theology Fund with an endowed chair. A donation of €1,050,000 was made to the Tilburg University Fund Foundation, the largest received by the University Fund to date. On October 20, the formal start of work under this Women of Bethany Fund was marked with a festive signing ceremony at the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology in Utrecht. The event was attended by a delegation of the Women of Bethany and the Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam Mgr. Dr. J.W.M. Hendriks, among others.



Psychology café

November 4, 2021

The impact of the psychology profession in society. This theme was central to this special edition of Coach café to mark the 50th anniversary of the Psychology degree program. The 136 participants, comprising students and alumni, were guided through the history and future of the Psychology course. An evening full of introductions, meetings, and reunions with, as a bonus, tips and advice from the alumni volunteers who shared their experience as coaches.



Entrepreneurship café

November 9, 2021

During Entrepreneurship Café, 20 students and recent graduates owning a startup or working as freelancers were able to get in touch with experienced alumni entrepreneurs (mentors). The networking event offered these young talents an opportunity to gain practical knowledge through sounding board sessions and to kickstart their network.



Announcement of the winner of the Klokhuis Science Prize 2021

November 10, 2021

Our nominee Dr. Elisabeth Huis in 't Veld (TSHD) narrowly missed out on the prize, as her research into needle phobia came second. She was able to develop her app with a grant from the University Fund.



International Career café online

November 25, 2021

A networking event for international students and recent graduates planning to settle in the Netherlands or continue their career in the Netherlands after their studies at Tilburg University. The 68 participants were able to meet and get tips from alumni who shared their experiences.



Christmas fundraiser

December 2021

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation raised donations from November to Christmas with a special Christmas fundraiser. On behalf of all donors, the University Fund hung ribbons with dreams for the future in the Christmas tree on campus. Alumni, employees, and students were also able to 'donate' a ribbon. Over €800 was raised. The donations helped fulfill the dream of the Zero Hunger Lab: a world without hunger.



Research

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation is committed to small and large research projects addressing societal issues. We provide financial support to fund research into improvements in the resilience, care, and wellbeing of individuals and society, the responsible use of data, and smart solutions in the digital age.

Sustainable Development Goals

A number of these projects contribute substantially to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The specific SDGs are listed for each project.

Donations and grants

We have been able to contribute to the funding for the following projects thanks to one-off, regular, and large donations to the University Fund. For each project, we indicate how much was donated to the project, or when the grant was provided through donations from the phone campaign. We also state how much grant has been paid out.



Donations received



Grants awarded



Named fund

Zero Hunger Lab



€3,171



€2,500

An end to hunger in the world – one of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Tilburg University is contributing to this objective through the Zero Hunger Lab. The Lab's researchers use data science in pursuit of global food security: Bytes for Bites. They do this by helping aid and development organizations, businesses, governments, and knowledge institutions working for a world without hunger to make smart use of mathematics and algorithms. The donations have made it possible to provide data science training for East African agronomists in South Sudan and Somalia.

This training is provided as part of the NUFFIC Horn of Africa Food System Resilience project: Making Horticulture Work for Healthier Diets and Income Generation in Protracted Crises. In this project, the Zero Hunger Lab is working with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation to strengthen communities in the Horn of Africa and prevent famines. A tailor-made video course was produced for the participants enabling them to better interpret and analyze data.

Digitization of Liberian Society



Annual fund



€4,000

Digitization is having a far-reaching impact on the way in which people in Sub-Saharan Africa organize their work, social relations, and leisure time. And yet very little research has been carried out on this fast-growing region. That is a shame, because the impact of digitization is huge. Moreover, this impact is often at odds with local traditions. Euriah Togar, a Tilburg University alumnus, is studying the implications of digitization for the citizens of Liberia. With the grant from the University Fund, Euriah is able to fund his research and travel so that he can carry out his work under the guidance of his supervisors, Dr. Mariek Vanden Abeele and Professor Marjolijn Antheunis.

Do flex work contracts lead to financial instability?



Annual fund



€4,000

Flex work contracts, such as zero-hours contracts, have become much more common in the Netherlands over the last ten years. By 2019, 1.9 million people were employed on what could be considered flex work contracts. What is the relationship between growing flexibility in working hours and individual decisions about spending and saving? Does it lead to financial instability? And what effect does flex work have on households? With the aid of a large data set from Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Dr. Burak Uras is working with other researchers to map out the effects of such contracts. The researchers hope to be able to make important policy recommendations based on this study. Part of the empirical study uses three exogenous events: the 2007/2008 financial crisis, the eurozone debt crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the researchers focused on how flex workers deal with debts and assets. Initial results show among other things that flex workers save relatively more than permanent employees.

Data science for humanitarian resources



“

I would like to raise awareness of the traumas they encounter

Prof. Conny Rijken



€2,500



€0

Professor Conny Rijken is conducting the first research funded entirely by donors. The “Data science for humanitarian innovation” study provides a better understanding of victimmigration, the traumas experienced by refugees during their journeys. This study makes it possible to take greater account of victimmigration in refugee policy.

Better treatment outcomes for young cancer patients with app



“

Treatments can have very serious and debilitating side-effects. Our insights help us to make informed choices

Dr. Floortje Mols



Annual fund



€5,000

Adolescents and young adults experience cancer during an important stage of development in their lives: completing a degree program, finding their first job, buying a house, starting a family. The treatment and long-term effects of cancer can disrupt the achievement of these milestones. This project focuses on relieving symptoms of the disease and improving quality of life for these adolescents and young adults. Studies have shown that online symptom monitoring can have an immensely positive effect on quality of life. Among other things, it can reduce the severity of the symptoms, shorten their duration and cut hospitalizations. This project is creating a symptom monitoring app to be made available to every cancer patient who wants to use it. Some delays were encountered in the building of the app in 2021. This is due to a shortage of IT staff in the firm building the app and the fact that the app will be built in a new system. Another cause of delay is the fact that a number of academic centers also wish to participate in the research.

Frightened of needles? Now there's an app for that





“

Our app helps healthcare personnel to identify needle phobia in good time

Dr. Elisabeth Huis in 't Veld



Annual fund



€7,500

Vaccination against COVID-19 got under way in the Netherlands in 2021. Many people have also had a booster. The vaccination came as a relief to many, but an estimated 35% of the population suffers from needle phobia. Dr. Elisabeth Huis in 't Veld drew on her research to develop a game app using thermal imaging of the face to predict whether someone will faint. The idea is that people will download the game and play it in the waiting room just before the injection to relieve their stress. During the game the algorithm checks for any signs of anxiety or faintness. The application uses the selfie camera to monitor changes in a person's face, such as turning pale. Playing this game before being vaccinated makes people calmer during the injection. The app is the basis for the AINAR start-up that is also receiving support from Sanquin and Iqonic, the "entrepreneurs hub" at Tilburg University. In 2021, this research came second in the voting for the Klokhuis Science Prize. This prize is awarded for scientific research that is relevant and interesting to primary school children. The winning study, by Utrecht researchers Dr. Marion Sommers-Spijkerman and Dr. Anita Beelen, focused on how to cope if one of your parents has ALS.

Virtual poetry experience in the classroom



Annual fund



€5,974

What will teaching and learning look like in the future? How should we use digital technologies, such as virtual reality, to improve education? This project provides some answers to these questions. High school students and reading – still a challenge for many. Perhaps technology can help to change that. For example, virtual reality enables a reader to become part of a story or poem. Smartphone apps can make a story interactive by inviting the reader to take decisions about the narrative. This study gives us an understanding of the extent to which using digital literature in high school language and literature classes captures students' attention better and positively influences their reading skills. A research assistant was hired with a grant from the University Fund. She has now developed a series of lessons and will be conducting the research at a number of high schools in the Tilburg area.

Social start-ups



€9,000



€5,000

Entrepreneurship is an important theme of Tilburg University. Under the IQONIC label, Tilburg University represents and supports all aspects of entrepreneurship. This project helps our students, alumni, academics, and staff to further develop their entrepreneurial mindset so that they can make a difference in society.

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation aims to help these socially responsible entrepreneurs to launch their idea or business successfully. These are start-ups that deserve to be successful in our community because they have an impact on society. Funding was provided in 2021 for a project run by students developing a prototype help chatbot.



Annual Fund



€13,875

The public importance of religion



“

I'm going to investigate why many spiritual people are prone to conspiracy theories. Who are they? And what is the basis of their beliefs?

Dr. Suzanne Klein Schaarsberg



€100,000



€0

In 2021 the Tilburg University Fund Foundation received a large donation of €100,000 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. This donation is intended for research into how spirituality becomes an expression of anti-institutional politics. Suzanne Klein Schaarsberg will begin the research in September 2022. She will investigate why many spiritual people are prone to conspiracy theories. It will be a combination of sociological and theological research. Who are these people? And what is the basis of their beliefs? Is it, for example, a fusion with Christianity, colonialism or Eastern philosophies?

Education

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation supports various educational projects of Tilburg University that fall outside the regular funding.

Sustainable Development Goals

A number of these projects contribute substantially to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The specific SDGs are listed for each project.

Donations and grants

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Donations received



Grants awarded



Named fund

Pre-Bachelor's program for refugees



€17,850



€10,000

Ambitious, young refugees do not always have the opportunity to develop their talents and pursue their dreams in the integration courses offered in the Netherlands. This is frustrating and demoralizing for them, but it is also a wasted opportunity for society, because we miss out on their talent. Therefore, in 2017 Tilburg University introduced a pre-Bachelor's program for refugee students enabling talented young people to simultaneously complete their integration courses and prepare for higher education. Graduates of the program have already been accepted into various schools at Tilburg University, but also to other universities across the Netherlands. The success of such programs has also been recognized by the Dutch government. New integration legislation will include a study pathway incorporating a pre-Bachelor's program as a standard component. This will help even more refugees to

pursue their dreams of university education and make progress in their lives. Tilburg University is collaborating in this area with Fontys University of Applied Sciences. Agreements have already been made with various municipalities throughout Brabant to offer the study pathway under this new law. And more will follow. In the meantime, our own program continues, with the fifth cohort of 18 students starting in September 2021.

Outreaching Program



“

I wanted to give myself a challenge and contribute to society jointly with others. I not only wanted to do something different, but I also really wanted to make a difference!_

Flavia Leonhardt, student on Outreaching program



€11,170



€101,381

Excellence in citizenship is the central focus of the Outreaching Honors Program. Students are challenged to apply scientific knowledge in ways that address the themes and problems facing society. In addition, they gain international experience and are prepared to pursue top-flight, socially engaged careers. The program comprises various modules on themes such as leadership, partnership, and socially responsible entrepreneurship. The year 2021 was again marked by coronavirus and the consequences of the pandemic. This prompted the Outreaching program to admit more students than normal (around 80 participants in 20/21 and 100 in 21/22) and to offer as much flexibility as possible for individual choices and particularly online opportunities. There was also a greater focus on student welfare, because we noticed that students were suffering greatly from the limited social contact. To a greater extent than in previous years, the opportunities we offered were in the field of self-help.

Marienburg Campus Fund



“

Thanks to the scholarship I have the tools to fulfill my dream. The financial support enables me to learn about the latest technological trends in relation to data analysis and transparent value creation.

**Diane Aliaga Aliaga (29), Peru,
Master's in Data Science &
Entrepreneurship**



Named fund



€24,000

The Marienburg Campus Fund was established in 2019 as a named fund within the University Fund. This fund supports international students who have the talent but lack the means to study at JADS. It continues the tradition of transmitting learning and knowledge that the Sisters of the Society of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph began in 1825. In 2021 two students from Iran and Peru received a scholarship, and a student from Mexico also received a scholarship for her second academic year. A fourth student, originally from Eritrea, had also been awarded a scholarship, but has not yet been able to start the program due to coronavirus restrictions.

Scholarships for Students

Through its social engagement, the Tilburg University Fund Foundation makes education at Tilburg University accessible for talented international students who lack financial resources. Studying in the EU is very expensive for young people from outside the EU, because they are not eligible for the discounts that EU students receive on their tuition fees. Moreover, the cost of living is often much higher in the Netherlands than in their home countries. The University Fund also offers scholarships to outstanding students and students who combine their studies with top-level athletics. In 2021, no fewer than 30 scholarships were awarded: 8 athletics scholarships, 3 JADS scholarships, 1 Bachelor's scholarship, 16 research Master's scholarships, and 2 Liberia scholarships. These scholarships were mainly funded through donations from the phone campaign and the "Have a Seat" fund.

Get to know some of our scholarship students



“

I've always been motivated to do my best, so that those looking up to me are inspired to do the same.

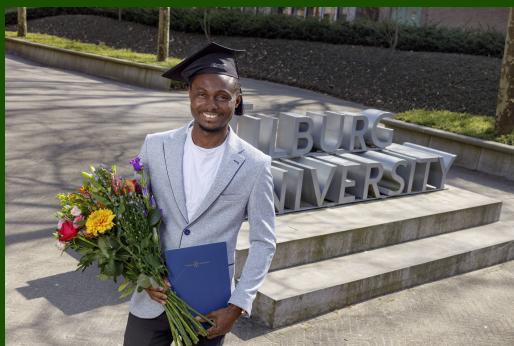
*Whinell Bunchee Togar, 28,
Liberia, Master's in
Communication and
Information Sciences*



“

A tree is uprooted and replanted somewhere else. Initially the leaves fall. The tree appears to be dead. But it needs time to grow again. That is how it is with all refugees who want to achieve something in a new country.

Bassam, 31, pre-Bachelor's alumnaus



“

I'll always be grateful for the opportunity I was given. It has helped me to grow and develop, but it also helps to create opportunities for my family and friends in Liberia so that they can develop too.

George Y. Sharpe, 35, Liberia, Communication and Information Management



“

The University Fund has had a major impact not only on my life, but also on the lives of others in Liberia, because I will be passing on my knowledge. I'm very grateful to the donors and hope that one day I too will be in a position to donate money for scholarship students.

***Keith Nyankun, 35, Liberia,
Master's in Accountancy***



“

The Have a Seat scholarship supports me and gives me an opportunity to experience international competitions in a sport I love. In retrospect I'm satisfied with my results and performance.

***Di Ke Wu, 23, Bachelor's in
Business Administration***

Received a top sports scholarship to participate in the World Junior Powerlifting Championships in Sweden

Phone campaign

We have been contacting our alumni personally in phone campaigns since 2009. We do this with a group of enthusiastic students from the University. Over the year many wonderful conversations took place, ranging from “Does Professor X still give such fascinating lectures?” to “Why don’t you come and do your internship with me?” Students also update the alumni about developments at the University, the facilities we offer alumni and how they can support talent as a volunteer. During the phone campaign we also ask alumni to make a contribution to the annual fund. The donations are used for education and research projects and scholarships for students. In this way, the network of engaged alumni supplies vital lifeblood to the University Fund. Donations large and small have an enormous impact. Giving together makes the difference!



“

Inspiring conversations about how the time at the University helped the alumni get where they are today. What motivates me to call is enthusiasm about the University, the University Fund and the sense of connection.

Jelle Klip

Calls in 2021

In 2021 our students called 1,342 alumni. And for the first time not only during phone campaigns with a group of students in a specific period. Student Jelle Knip made calls to alumni throughout the year. Many valued the contact and the call. A total of 508 alumni decided to donate, 142 of whom donated to the University Fund for the first time. We are extremely grateful for the warm response to our appeal. By making a donation, alumni contribute personally to important research, support educational innovation, and give students the opportunity to study. A total of €148,368 was pledged. This enabled us to disburse €101,285.00 from the annual fund to a number of projects and scholarship students in 2021.

Have a Seat

The Have a Seat scholarship program is a wonderful initiative that connects our donors with the Tilburg University campus. Donors adopt a seat in CUBE, the largest lecture hall on campus, and literally provide support for talented students. When you adopt a seat, we attach a plaque with your name. There is even room to add a quote. Seats are adopted for a minimum of five years for a fixed amount of €50 per year.

In 2021 we began to revamp the Have a Seat website, further enhancing the visibility of the Have a Seat scholarship program. The website www.tilburguniversity.edu/haveaseat even enables students to get in touch with the donors whose seat they have been occupying while attending lectures. The proceeds of the Have a Seat scholarship program are used to support students in developing their talents:

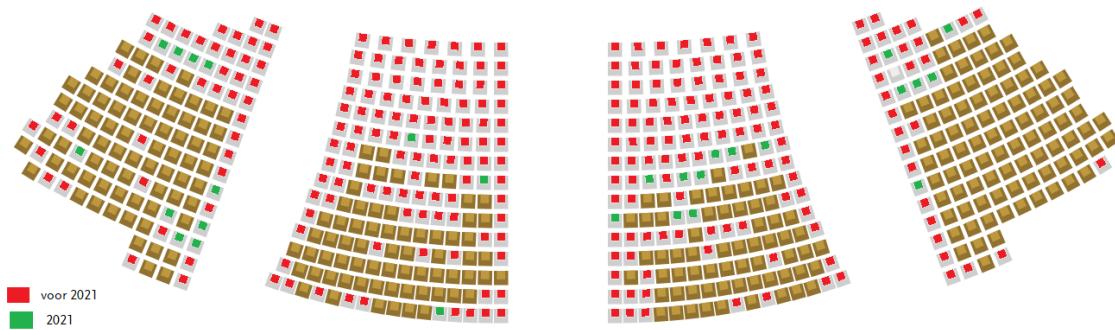
- ◆ Students who encounter difficulties as a result of extreme external circumstances and need a small financial contribution to complete their studies (Emergency Fund).
- ◆ Talented top-level student athletes who need financial support to attend an event or program abroad.
- ◆ International students who would like to take a Master's program in Tilburg, but could not afford it without help.

Number of adoptions:

- ◆ 29 seats adopted in 2021
- ◆ 292 seats adopted in total

Scholarships in 2021:

- ◆ 8 top-level sports scholarships: €4,000
- ◆ 1 Master's scholarship





“

*As an alumna it's good to
give something back to your
university*

*Claire Brentjens-van Gorp &
Marion Rutgers-Doggen*

Financial statements

Multi-annual key figures	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Donations received	441,227	1,343,641	810,538	348,407	400,119
Grants disbursed	278,259	359,989	286,404	424,383	251,969

Balance sheet as at December 31, 2021 (after appropriation of results, all amounts in €)

Assets	44561	31
Cash and cash equivalents	1,570,968	1,962,638
Securities	544,526	-
Total assets	2,115,494	1,962,638
Liabilities	31	31
General reserve	301,217	1,962,638
Special-purpose reserve	1,814,277	-
Total liabilities	2,115,494	1,962,638

Operating account 2021 (all amounts in €)

	2021	2020
Income		
Donations received	441,227	1,343,641
Return on securities	753	-
Total income	441,980	1,343,641
Expenses		
Grants disbursed	278,259	359,989
Bank charges	1,478	1,416
Interest expenses	6,060	-
Audit fees	3,328	-
Total expenses	289,124	361,405
Operating result	152,856	982,236

Donations in 2021

Name of Fund	2021	
	Donations	Disbursements
Annual Fund	151,092	101,285
Have a Seat	16,289	16,000
Mariënburg Campus named fund	0	24,000
Women of Bethany named fund	0	0
Major Giving Non-Earmarked	107,000	0
Major Giving Student Scholarships	47,500	13,268
Major Giving Bachelor's Program for Refugees	17,850	10,000
Major Giving Data Science	2,500	0
Major Giving Zero Hunger Lab	3,171	2,500
Major Giving Social Start-ups	9,000	5,000
Major Giving Outreaching Honors Program	11,170	101,381
Professor Cobbenhagen Foundation Fund	73,310	0
Professors for Development	225	0
Tilburg Africa Exchange Program	0	0
Other projects	2,120	4,825
Total	441,227	278,259

Notes to the financial statements

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation is included in the 2021 consolidated financial statements of Tilburg University. Tilburg University provides financial resources so that the University Fund can carry out its work. The University Fund is facilitated by the Development & Alumni Relations Office (DARO). Its employee and other expenses are therefore recognized in the financial statements of Tilburg University.

Donations received (income)

The income of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation amounted to €441,227 in 2021. The donations to the University Fund consist of:

- ◆ bequests and endowments
- ◆ other donations, gifts, and contributions
- ◆ grants
- ◆ sponsorship funding
- ◆ other lawfully acquired financial resources

Investments

In 2021, the Tilburg University Fund, together with a major donor, instructed an external party to begin investing part of its assets. As long as donations remain unappropriated, this external party will invest on behalf of the donor in accordance with a selected risk profile. This specifically concerns the assets belonging to the Women of Bethany named fund. An amount of €624,000 has been invested through an asset manager (ABN AMRO). Of this, €544,526 has been invested in equities and bonds. The remainder is still being held as liquid assets in a capital account. The investments began on November 8, 2021. As a result, negative interest was also paid on a large part of the donation up to that date. A return of €753 was received on the investments for 2021.

Grants awarded (expenses)

In 2021, a total of €278,259 was disbursed to or for Tilburg University, staff, students, and alumni.

Grants were made in accordance with criteria set by the Board of the Tilburg University Fund

Foundation and in line with any wishes expressed by donors.

Other expenses

The other expenses of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation in 2021 amounted to €10,865. These comprised bank and transaction charges, interest expenses, and the charge for a review opinion issued by the auditor in respect of the 2020 financial statements.

Accounting policies

Liquid assets are carried at nominal value. The investment portfolio consists of securities valued at their current value (fair value). The income and expenditures have been included in accordance with the cash accounting method.

Operating results

The cash flow of the Tilburg University Fund is divided over a number of funds. Donations received and disbursed are allocated to these funds. Detailed notes can be found elsewhere in this annual report.

Many donations are pledged over a period of several years. Disbursements to projects can also be spread over several years. More was received than disbursed in 2021. This led to a positive operating result. This was mainly due to two large donations for which costs will not be incurred until 2022. The positive operating result for 2021 will be added to Tilburg University Fund's reserves, where it will be earmarked for each fund. From 2021 a distinction is being made between the general reserve and the special-purpose reserve. The general reserve is freely available to the Fund (within clear parameters). The special-purpose reserve is linked to specific objectives set by donors.

Many donations are pledged over a period of several years. Disbursements to projects can also be spread over several years. More was received than disbursed in 2021. This led to a positive operating result. This was mainly due to two large donations for which costs will not be incurred until 2022. The positive operating result for 2021 will be added to the reserves of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation, where it will be earmarked for each fund. From 2021 a distinction is being made between the general reserve and the special-purpose reserve. The general reserve is freely available to the University Fund (within clear parameters). The special-purpose reserve is linked to specific objectives set by donors.

Notes to the financial statements

Notes on funds

Within the University Fund Foundation, the financial resources received and disbursed are managed through a number of separate funds. The finances for each individual fund in 2021 are set out briefly below. Most of the financial resources have been earmarked in a special-purpose reserve for each fund. The remainder is part of the general reserve.

Full details of the objectives and impact of the individual funds can be found elsewhere in this annual report.

Tilburg University Annual Fund

Donations amounting to €151,092 were collected in this fund in 2021 by means of phone campaigns and ongoing telephone fundraising. This includes the portion of multi-year donations from previous phone campaigns received in 2021. An amount of €101,285 was disbursed to projects and scholarship students in 2021. Not all incoming donations have therefore been disbursed. This is because no project application round took place in 2021. An application round will take place again in 2022.

Have a Seat

Donations totaling €16,289 were received in 2021. €16,000 was disbursed in the form of top-level sports scholarships and one regular alumni scholarship for Tilburg University students.

Mariënburg Campus named fund

A total of €24,000 was disbursed from this named fund in the form of three scholarships in 2021. Due to Covid-19, fewer scholarship students came to the Netherlands, which led to an underspend. Spending is expected to pick up again in 2022.

Women of Bethany named fund

No distributions had yet been made from this named fund in 2021. The activities financed from this fund can start once the endowed chair has been filled, which will happen in 2022.

Major Giving Non-Earmarked

In 2021, a total of €107,000 was donated to Major Giving projects but not earmarked. These donations and non-earmarked donations from previous years were used during the year to finance a number of Major Giving projects. These projects are listed below.

Major Giving Student Scholarships

Donations totaling €47,500 were received for scholarship students in 2021. Of this amount, €13,268 was disbursed on one student scholarship in 2021.

Major Giving Pre-Bachelor's Program for Refugees

Donations totaling €17,850 were received in 2021. A total of €10,000 was disbursed to support the Pre-Bachelor's Program.

Major Giving Data Science

Donations totaling €2,500 were received in 2021. No disbursements were made from this fund in 2021.

Major Giving Zero Hunger Lab

Donations totaling €3,171 were received for the Zero Hunger Lab in 2021. A total of €2,500 was disbursed to support the Zero Hunger Lab in 2021.

Major Giving Social Start-ups

The Social Start-up Fund was established to support new entrepreneurs (students and employees). This project began in 2021.

Donations amounting to €9,000 were received for the Social Start-up Fund in 2021. This money was used to provide €5,000 of support from this fund for the first project.

Major Giving Outreaching Honors Program

This program received €11,170 in donations in 2021. A total of €101,381 was disbursed to support the program in 2021. The reserve accrued in the University Fund will be used to fund the program in 2021 and subsequent years.

Professor Cobbenhagen Foundation Fund

The Tilburg University Fund Foundation received a donation of €73,310 from the Professor Cobbenhagen Foundation in 2021. This fund is used to finance wide-ranging alumni activities by Tilburg University's Development & Alumni Relations. No disbursements were made in 2021 because the Cobbenhagen Lecture did not take place due to Covid restrictions.

The reserve accrued in this Fund will be disbursed in the years ahead.

Professors for Development

Donations amounting to €225 were received in 2021. No disbursements were made in 2021. Here too, Covid-19 is currently making it difficult to spend resources.

Tilburg Africa Student & Knowledge Exchange Program

No donations were received and no disbursements were made in 2021. Here too, Covid-19 is currently making it difficult to spend resources.

Other projects

In 2016, a number of residual items were combined into a fund for miscellaneous projects. This fund has since been used for donations not linked to a specific program or project. These funds are used for short-term and ad hoc projects.

A number of small donations were received totaling €2,120 in 2021.

Four small projects were financed from this fund in 2021. These were a Hackathon, a Moot Court, and a contribution to the costs of the United Nations conference in which students participate. €3,000 was also disbursed to develop an app helping businesses to understand the coronavirus measures.

Credits

This is a publication of the Tilburg University Fund Foundation.

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Editing and design: Development & Alumni Relations, Tilburg University

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