

# Applied Research at Windesheim

2023



University of  
Applied Sciences

**Windesheim**



# Welcome to Windesheim

Windesheim is a dynamic community that brings people together to exchange knowledge, skills and expertise. Our research groups, together with our students, conduct practice-oriented research, often in collaboration with partners in the work field.

Our university's mission is to contribute actively to an inclusive and sustainable society, a society in which each individual has equal rights and opportunities to participate. A society based on values such as equality, solidarity, human dignity and embracing diversity. Those values play an important role in our education and set the course for our research.

A sustainable society is about making balanced and sustainable use of our planet, its natural resources and inhabitants. This is another theme that plays an important role in how we design our education and direct our research.

In order to achieve our mission, we endeavour to educate valuable and principled professionals and conduct practice-oriented research. In addition, we collaborate with partners: companies and organizations in our region and all over the world. We develop and exchange knowledge and expertise, and work together to broaden our students' horizons so they can reach their full potential, and to expand their social as well as their mental world. For this reason, we are always open to exploring new international collaborations, both with universities and with organisations.

The research at our university focuses on the development of applicable knowledge, and the practical application of science. This should contribute to a more inclusive society, access to technology for society,

future-oriented and sustainable entrepreneurship and to vitality, well-being and health. Our research focusses on the major social and economic issues, that call for an interdisciplinary approach in which students, researchers, teaching staff and the professional field collaborate in projects.

We believe in the power of collaboration, and therefore we strive to excel in such a working approach. We aim to contribute to inclusive and sustainable transitions in our society. In addition, we opt for a greater emphasis on technology in general and information technology, taking into account the rapid technological developments in all fields and the demand from the regional area. In the coming years, we will focus on the following points:

- A more intensive connection between research and education. Professors and researchers are actively involved in education;
- Research collaboration within communities (field labs, living labs, Centres of Expertise, knowledge workshops) in which students, lecturers, professors, researchers and professional field representatives participate and work on issues from practice;
- Research that aims to take the development of personalized learning in education to the next level and to achieve excellence therein.

This brochure includes an overview of our research areas and professorships. We hope it inspires you to contact us whenever you see an option for collaboration.

We look forward to meeting you!

Inge Grimm,  
Executive Board President

# About Windesheim

## Top-rated

Windesheim is one of the Netherlands' top universities of applied sciences, with modern campuses in the cities of Zwolle and Almere. With well over 27,000 students, Windesheim is one of the largest universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands. Windesheim is highly regarded by students, experts and the work field. The two main independent annual studies about the Dutch higher education sector, 'Elsevier' and the 'Higher Education Selection Guide', have ranked us in their top three for many years in a row.

## Internationalization at Windesheim

Windesheim offers internationalization to its students and staff throughout the curriculum. Collaboration with international partners is a cornerstone of this internationalization. Together with them can realize short-term and long-term mobility, engage in innovative research projects, deliver high-quality education to our students as well as internationally and interculturality competent graduates to the globalized labour market. Windesheim also holds the European Charter for Higher Educations (ECHE) which allows us to participate in European projects.

## Research projects

Windesheim is an important (regional) research centre for applied research. The applied research at our university of applied sciences is a key link between fundamental research and our society. We have several thriving research centres focusing on a variety of themes. We specialize in hands-on, practice-oriented research, organized in close consultation with the professional field and our partners abroad. Besides our institutional partner universities, our partners include health care organizations, transport companies, governments, family businesses, SMEs, ICT companies as well as technical businesses. Results find their way to the work field of professionals and to future professionals through our educational programmes.

## Facts about Windesheim



**27,000** full-time bachelor students



**2,700** staff and faculty

## Campuses in Zwolle and Almere:



**Zwolle:**  
125,000 inhabitants, beautiful medieval city centre close to campus



**Almere:**  
215,000 inhabitants, campus in the centre of the ultra-modern and green city

**300 partners** in almost **50 countries**

**23**

Professorships



**50**

4-year Bachelor's programmes (2 of which are English-taught)

**± 25**

English-taught 30-ECTS exchange

## High-quality education:



**2nd** in Higher Education Selection Guide



**2nd** in Elsevier ranking



## Our Research Goals are to contribute to:

- An Inclusive Society
- Technology for Society
- Future-oriented and Sustainable Entrepreneurship
- Vitality, Well-being and Health

## Our Research Disciplines:

- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Health Care and Social Work
- Human Movement
- ICT and Technology
- Media

### Living Labs

A living lab is a (research) concept used by Windesheim, also in collaboration with international partners. This concept is a user-centred, open-innovation ecosystem, often operating in a territorial context, integrating concurrent research and innovation processes within a public-private-people partnership. Windesheim currently has a living lab in collaboration with South Korea on the topic of Smart Ageing and we are exploring options in other fields.

### Study programmes

As a university of applied sciences, we focus on a wide range of four-year bachelor's programmes. Besides more than 50 Dutch programmes, Windesheim offers two English-taught BBA programmes:

- **Global Project and Change Management** is a selective programme focusing on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and personal leadership development.
- **International Business** is a programme that prepares students for a career in international trade and management.

In addition to our bachelor's programmes, we also have approximately 50 exchange programmes, short-term exchanges, collaborative online international learning options and blended learning activities.





# Applied Research

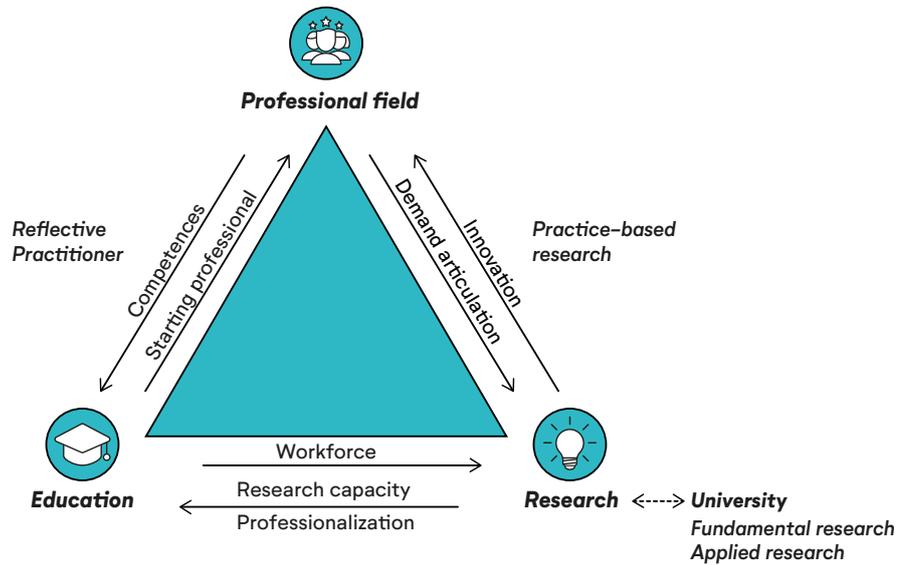
## Applied Research in the Netherlands

The educational system in the Netherlands is based upon a distinction between professional higher education institutions (Universities of Applied Sciences) and scientific education (Research Universities). Universities of Applied Sciences are primarily practical and higher profession-orientated whereas research universities are mainly academically orientated. This distinction is also recognizable in the way both institutions conduct their research.

Due to their more practical and profession-orientated nature, Universities of Applied Sciences are well equipped to tackle all kind of societal challenges with their approach to research and innovation. This approach is problem-oriented, often in a triple or quadruple helix model with society, small and medium-sized enterprises and other partners.



**Practic-based research at Windesheim is a collaboration in the triangle of research, education, and the professional field.**



*Collaboration in the triangle of research – education – professional field*

These kind of cooperations increase the results and societal impact of research projects. Applied research tackles global challenges by addressing them in a practice-oriented regional context, which can be transferred to national, European or global levels.

Particularly, practice-oriented research addresses research questions prompted by professional practice and produces knowledge that contributes directly to such practices. It differs from more theory-oriented (or fundamental) research at research universities. Thus practice-oriented research aims to make a direct contribution to the major societal challenges we face, such as the energy transition or increasing pressure on public health care spending. This is because these issues demand new knowledge and insights which can be directly applied.

As such, practice-oriented research can be viewed as bridging fundamental research and our society. It works as a catalyst with which we convert knowledge into new products and solutions. Practice-oriented research helps companies and organizations to innovate and ensures that current knowledge and insights end up directly in education and professional practice.

## Applied Research at Windesheim

With 23 Windesheim professorships, which cover specific topics within the four overarching research themes, our practice-oriented research is research at the core of society. Our research activities strive to contribute to the following overarching research themes:

- Inclusive Society
- Technology for Society
- Future-oriented and Sustainable Entrepreneurship
- Vitality, Well-being and Health

The question underlying all this research (within disciplines such as education, entrepreneurship, health care and social work, human movement, ICT and technology, and media) comes from the daily practice of businesses and organizations. The research is ideally carried out together with partners from the professional field and the study programmes. As our professors are directly fed by and in consistent interaction with our professional partners, there is abundant evidence of demonstrable effect on their professional practice.

Apart from the direct results gained through professional practice, we also obtain indirect results through the education of future professionals and the integration of the state-of-the-art knowledge in our bachelor's study programmes, minors and masters. We also provide ample opportunities for our students to learn and work in living labs, field labs, innovation workshops and Centres of Expertise. All forms of triple helix cooperations in which universities, businesses, organizations, governments, and often other knowledge institutions participate.



When it comes to innovation, it's also the combination of practice-oriented research and higher education that makes Windesheim a natural partner for small and medium-sized businesses and organizations. This is essential so that courses at Universities of Applied Sciences continue to fit well into the regional labour market. The regional aspect is important, because about 85% of our graduates who study in the city of Zwolle pursue their careers in the Zwolle regional area. Furthermore, we want to contribute to a strong, sustainable labour market in the province of Flevoland, the 12th and youngest province of the Netherlands, where we have a second campus in the 'new town' of Almere.

At Windesheim we have numerous professors whose resourceful approaches and broad networks show that they are a crucial link between regional knowledge and innovative ecosystems. For example, the Netherlands is experiencing a huge labour shortage in the ICT sector, while regional companies should accelerate digitalization to keep their businesses future-proof. Our Professorship of Social Innovation started a project to find out why women in the ICT sector are underrepresented. As an outcome of the project, a toolbox for companies was devised to address this matter. This is one of the many examples of our research that helps to solve the existing labour shortage and, simultaneously, contributes to a more inclusive labour market.





# Overview of Windesheim professorships



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## Professorship of Client Perspectives in (Health) Care and Welfare

In the research group of Client Perspectives in (Health) Care and Welfare, our researchers map out all the stories and views of clients, both in words and in images. We translate these perspectives into customized care and support. Care that is created through the combined efforts of organizations, professionals, technology and citizens themselves. Our research group has seven research themes, which include research into resilient families, greater inclusion and care logistics. The professorship focuses its research on the Flevoland area.

Some of our projects are:

- Studying with brain injury
- Inclusive work: room for customer motivation
- Intensive ambulatory systemic treatment at home

Professor: Dr Kitty Jurrius,  
[\*\*k.jurrius@windesheim.nl\*\*](mailto:k.jurrius@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Constructive Journalism

The professorship of Constructive Journalism conducts research on how journalism can contribute to important social issues in a changing society: stimulating inclusion, tolerance and understanding, depolarization, facilitating involvement and trust among citizens. Constructive journalism uses a solution-oriented, action-oriented and future-oriented approach to news that is relevant to individuals and society. Research focuses on challenges for the profession, features of and framing in the news product, and the impact news has on the public and society.

Some of our projects are:

- Inclusiveness in informative television programmes during elections
- Effects of a constructive approach on the way millennials experience the news
- Influence of inspiring and hopeful perspectives in news on people's information processing and problem awareness

Professor: Dr Liesbeth Hermans,  
[\*\*eahm.hermans@windesheim.nl\*\*](mailto:eahm.hermans@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Digital Business & Society (including research line for Industrial Automation and Robotics)

The Industrial Automation & Robotics (IA&R) chair was established over two years ago. But in a world where we are connected 24/7, developments in this field do not stand still. In fact, they are moving fast and are interrelated. After all, how future-proof are you if you use a robot to optimize production processes without really thinking about digital data management? That's why we have decided to broaden our focus. The possibilities for a new professorship of Digital Business & Society are being explored, in which IA&R will be included as a research line. This new professorship wants to strengthen the connection between research, education and the regional area and focuses on Industrial Automation & Robotics, Digitalization in SMEs and Digital Society.

Some of our projects are:

- Development of automated flexible Quick Response Manufacturing (QRM) demonstrator facility
- Integral robotization
- Prototyping, Researching and Innovating vision technology for Smart Manufacturing Applications

Pioneering professor: Dr ir Erik Fledderus, [e.fledderus@windesheim.nl](mailto:e.fledderus@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Educational Innovation and ICT

This professorship focuses on educational innovations that lead to sustainable and meaningful development and learning processes. In doing so, it is crucial to (re)design educational innovation in such a way as to optimize the opportunities of all pupils and students, with a special emphasis on situations where opportunities are at risk, such as low self-control, low levels of education of the parents, poverty, low prior knowledge and disabilities and impairments. Our research is divided into four lines of research: educational innovation for sustainable learning, E-didactics, digital (professional) agency and literacy and collaboration between schools and teacher education.

Some of our projects are:

- Teaching for digital literacy in primary education
- Computational thinking skills of young children working on programming tasks
- Design guidelines for part-time (online) bachelor curricula

Professor: Dr Anneke Smits, [ae.h.smits@windesheim.nl](mailto:ae.h.smits@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Energy Transition

We must limit climate change to keep the earth liveable for ourselves and for future generations. To this end, the emission of greenhouse gases must be reduced by several dozen percent in the coming years. With the professorship of Energy Transition we want to accelerate the energy transition and contribute to the transformation to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral living environment. We do this through practice-oriented research in cooperation with companies, organizations, governments, education and society. Our research is aimed at using measurably less energy within five years. It also examines what students need to learn and be able to do to play a role in the energy transition.

Some of our projects are:

- Twomes – Digital Twins for Heat Transition
- Energy-transition-aware and -capable engineer
- Effective insulation value on flat roofs

Professor: Dr Jeike Wallinga,  
[j.wallinga@windesheim.nl](mailto:j.wallinga@windesheim.nl)



## Dutch Centre of Expertise in Family Business

Making family businesses stronger through knowledge and insight. Our research group conducts practice-oriented research into family businesses and gives back to them the insights and knowledge they have gained. In this way we empower family businesses, so that they become stronger entrepreneurs. At least 68% of all companies in the Netherlands are family businesses. This makes them absolutely vital to a healthy economy. Moreover, family businesses are different, because there are family interests as well as business interests at stake. Our research focuses on this special relationship and helps entrepreneurs to find the right balance. Our professor Judith van Helvert investigates the influence of the family system on the operations of family businesses.

Some of our projects are:

- Corporate reputation management by family businesses
- The role of family businesses in civic wealth creation
- Conflict management tactics for entrepreneurial families

Professor: Dr Judith van Helvert-Beugels,  
[jmc.van.helvert@windesheim.nl](mailto:jmc.van.helvert@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Human Movement, Health and Well-being

Movement and a positive relation with one's own body are of great importance to our well-being. In the last few decades, psychomotor therapists have developed an important and wide range of movement- and body-oriented interventions. They are widely used when well-being and quality of life are under pressure due to psychosocial or psychiatric problems. The research within our professorship of Movement, Health and Well-being focuses on the effectiveness and working mechanisms of these different movement- and body-oriented interventions and the diagnostic and research instruments needed to accurately support indication and evaluation of therapy.

Some of our projects are:

- Sexual trauma in persons with mild intellectual disability: Psychomotor diagnostics and intervention
- Psychomotor therapy for patients with chronic pain
- The power of water: The contribution of water specific therapy to improve balance, aquatic skills and interaction in children with autism spectrum disorders

Professor: Dr Joeske van Busschbach,  
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## Professorship of Human Movement, School and Sport

The professorship of Human Movement, School and Sport conducts and supervises research into people's exercise and sports behaviour, particularly within the context of the school and sports associations. Our research is practice-oriented. This means that physical education teachers can directly apply the knowledge gained from research in their work. Examples of questions to be addressed are: How do children learn to move, and how do we improve motor learning with the use of new technologies? What is the social role and significance of sport? What are possible connections between sports and physical education? What are the social effects of a certain sports policy?

Some of our projects are:

- Engaging socially vulnerable adults through sports: A study to understand and increase the societal impact of sport
- The master's eye: a study of how to increase the perceptual competence of physical education teachers
- Swimming lessons of the future

Professor: Dr Ivo van Hilvoorde,  
[im.van.hilvoorde@windesheim.nl](mailto:im.van.hilvoorde@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of IT Innovations in Health Care

Although eHealth has been a promising development for a few decades, only few IT innovations are structurally embedded in healthcare practice. In projects and pilots with digital care solutions, healthcare professionals become enthusiastic about the opportunities offered by technologies like VR, serious games, data science, robotics, etc. However, these projects and pilots are temporarily funded and sustainable financing and embedding in care practice is not yet settled. Hence, our research group focuses on sustainable embedding of promising IT innovations in care practice by conducting multidisciplinary research from the perspective of care, technology and business. This results in applicable knowledge, for example useful tools that support healthcare providers in the use of eHealth or instruments for entrepreneurs in healthcare.

Some of our projects are:

- Methods and design principles for evaluating serious games for health
- Virtual Reality for rehabilitation
- Access to music for people with dementia

Professor: Dr ir Marike Hettinga,  
[m.hettinga@windesheim.nl](mailto:m.hettinga@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Lifelong Learning

The research group of Lifelong Learning focuses on the question how professionals in organizations can be stimulated to keep up their personal development. Due to shifts on the labour market and societal transitions (e.g. digitalization, energy transition) the demands placed on employees and organisations are changing ever more rapidly. What do these changes require from employees and managers in terms of knowledge and skills? What is the importance of lifelong professional development and how do we promote a (more) active learning culture within organizations? Practical research in and with (SME) companies, sector organizations and educational institutions aims to answer these questions.

Some of our projects are:

- Building blocks of self-directed professional development
- Towards a proactive learning culture in SMEs
- Hybrid Professional: Connecting the business community and technical vocational education

Professor: Dr Menno Vos,  
[mw.vos@windesheim.nl](mailto:mw.vos@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship Living well with Dementia

The number of people living with dementia in the Netherlands is increasing rapidly. Many people with dementia live in their own homes, and we therefore have more and more contact with people with dementia in our direct environments. Not only the (future) care professionals, but also within the family, circle of friends, in the neighbourhood, at an association or in shops. Our research group Living Well with Dementia mainly focuses on people's abilities, rather than on the limitations and challenges posed by the disease. Important themes in the work of our research group are therefore: preserving autonomy, inclusion, participation, dignity, well-being and meaning(fulness). In our research projects, often in the form of participatory action research, the researchers work closely with various dementia care stakeholders including people with dementia and their informal carers, health and social care professionals, entrepreneurs, teachers, students, and policy officers. In this way, we aim to address their questions in the best possible way and arrive at solutions and products that can be easily implemented in practice and education.

Some of our projects are:

- ENABLE-DEM: Multi-stakeholder learning communities enabling the health and social care workforce to establish living environments that enable living well with dementia
- Access to care for migrants with dementia: required competences for nurses
- VRepresentation: Portrayals of Living well with Dementia through Virtual Reality

Professor: Dr ir Simone de Bruin,  
[sr.de.bruin@windesheim.nl](mailto:sr.de.bruin@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Media & Civil Society

The Professorship of Media & Civil Society is engaged in practice-oriented research on how journalistic practice can contribute (even) better to the quality of (co-)existence in a democracy. How, for instance, do you involve citizens in the news, so that it really comes to life for them? The key question is how news media can play a decisive role in increasing the social involvement of people – from all layers and subcultures of society – and in tackling social issues.

Some of our projects are:

- Reliability of regional news
- Young people and news
- Roles, values and qualifications

Professor: Dr Nico Drok,  
[n.drok@windesheim.nl](mailto:n.drok@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Mental Health Care and Society

The professorship of Mental Health Care and Society has both feet firmly planted in the middle and is actively involved in practice. This chair investigates how to prevent the neglect of vulnerable people with, for example, mental or addiction problems. Such neglect should be spotted in time, so that counselling or treatment can be initiated. This requires a stronger connection and cooperation of professionals, citizens and organizations. Experiential knowledge is the basis for good care and services. Our researchers mainly focus on the connection between psychiatric and structural social problems.

Some of our projects are:

- Experience-wise
- Protected living in motion
- Deployment of experience experts in projects for persons with disturbed behaviour

Professor: Dr Alie Weerman,  
[a.weerman@windesheim.nl](mailto:a.weerman@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Networks in a Circular Economy

More and more companies recognize that the current linear method of production and consumption is not sustainable in the long term. In a circular economy, systems and products are designed to recover and reuse all materials and to create multiple values that are good for business, people and the environment. The goal of our professorship is to help companies and other relevant organizations to make the transition to the circular economy. Our research focuses on chain and network collaboration, resilient organizations, consumer behaviour and on circular business models.

Some of our projects are:

- Circular purchasing and procurement
- Towards circular design teams in the construction sector
- Born Circular; ecosystems of circular start-ups

Professor: Dr Liesbeth Rijdsdijk,  
[e.rijdsdijk@windesheim.nl](mailto:e.rijdsdijk@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Polymer Engineering

The professorship of Polymer Engineering was founded in 2008 in cooperation with the Plastics federation NRK to bridge the knowledge gap between industry and education through research. The team focuses on sustainable use of raw materials and sustainable production processes. Recycling, environmental impact and energy saving are important areas of research. With our focus on Industrial Additive Manufacturing and Smart Industry 4.0, our professorship contributes to keeping the national manufacturing industry competitive. Our research group won prestigious awards like the Delta Award for their entire portfolio, and the RAAK Award and the JEC Innovation Award for their innovative method to create new construction material from end-of-life composite materials, such as wind turbine blades.

Our programme lines:

- Sustainable Production, comprising simulations, fluid and thermo-dynamics within the plastics processing industry
- Hybrid design with composites, plastics and rubbers for civil engineering purposes
- Industrial Additive Manufacturing focusing on both plastics printing and metal printing techniques
- Circular Economy, e.g. tyre devulcanization and structural reuse of end-of-life composites

Professor: Dr Margie Topp,  
[m.topp@windesheim.nl](mailto:m.topp@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Positive Climate for Youth Sports

Sports pedagogy focuses on research, education and activities that will ensure that young people can practice sports safely and enjoyable in the future with supervision by qualified people. Aim of the professorship is a focus on unsportsmanlike behavior, such as aggression on the sports field, and creating awareness among physical education teachers of behavioral risks such as sexual harassment and bullying. Through our research we make a contribution to provide a sustainable and responsible youth sports climate, in both top level and recreational sports, and education.

Some of our projects are:

- Sexual harassment in sports in the Netherlands
- iCoachsKids (competent coaching of young athletes)
- Youth Sports Compass and pedagogical sport climate

Professor:

Prof. Dr Nicolette Schipper-van Veldhoven,  
[n.schippervanveldhoven@windesheim.nl](mailto:n.schippervanveldhoven@windesheim.nl)





## Professorship of Social Innovation

Research shows that differences between people, for example in competences, experience and views, within organizations and teams, lead to better performance and more innovation. But this is only successful if the focus is on making the most of those differences and creating an inclusive culture in which people can develop and feel valued. Our research group of Social Innovation, together with all our partners in the field, is investigating how this can best be achieved in practice. The goal is to achieve better performance, greater job satisfaction and optimal and sustainable use of all available human capital.

Some of our projects are:

- Gender include IT: keeping women in ICT
- Working on jobs for residence permit holders: 5 approaches to employment guidance
- Transition of young people with mental or psychiatric problems to work

Professor: Sjiera de Vries,  
[sjiera.de.vries@windesheim.nl](mailto:sjiera.de.vries@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Supply Chain Finance

In a continuously changing world, with growing uncertainties due to climate change, geopolitics and health crises, it is a challenge for private and public organizations to operate in global production and supply chains. In this light, this professorship is increasingly focusing on issues around sustainability (e.g. circular economy and material passports), inclusion (e.g. access to financing or favourable contracts with large buyers), and digitalization (e.g. data interoperability and block chain applications). Our researchers support organizations in how to respond proactively to logistical and financial challenges that come their way.

Some of our projects are:

- Supply Chain Risk Management during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Order-to-cash (O2C) optimization for SMEs
- Blockchain Living Lab

Professor: Dr Michiel Steeman,  
[ma.steeman@windesheim.nl](mailto:ma.steeman@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Teachers and Teacher Educators in Inclusive Learning Environments

This professorship focuses on creating and realising inclusive learning environments that offer good education to all pupils and students. Inclusive learning environments are embedded in educational settings, in which all learners have the opportunity to learn and develop – doing justice to all goals of education, with a positive attitude towards learners' ambitions and respect for differences between learners. Our hallmark is to do this via purposefully designing inclusive teaching and learning activities and by researching the implementation of these via practice-based action research with all stakeholders involved, be it administrators, teachers, educational and care professionals, parents, and students.

Some of our projects are:

- Multi-tiered Systems of Support using School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support as a vehicle towards inclusion
- Teacher professional development focusing on inclusive teaching using Lesson Study
- Inclusive teaching in higher education institutes

Professor: Dr Sui Lin Goei,  
[sl.goei@windesheim.nl](mailto:sl.goei@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Urban Care & Education

Currently the former Professorship of Leadership in Education and Development, with a focus on primary and secondary education, is undergoing a revision of its research agenda. With a new name, the Professorship of Urban Care & Education strives to broaden its horizon to also include child and youth care within its current research programme. The research topics of the past eight years (talent development with science and technology, pre-elementary education, reinforcement of language teaching, and leadership practices and school development) will be the starting point for a new research agenda which corresponds better with the current issues within the regional educational context. The professorship focuses mainly on the Flevoland area and the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area.

Current issues within the regional educational context that we might focus on include:

- Solutions to teacher shortages to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education
- Improvement of the cooperation between (tailored) education and child and youth care
- Improving the quality of basic skills, including language skills
- Involving neighbourhoods in the unhindered talent development of all learners, young and old

Professor: Dr Chiel van der Veen,  
[m.van.der.veen@windesheim.nl](mailto:m.van.der.veen@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Urban Innovation

The professorship of Urban Innovation focuses on inclusive and sustainable urban development. Its goal is to strengthen the economic, social and ecological connections between all those involved in urban environments (such as residents, administrators, entrepreneurs and civil society organizations). After all, the city and the urban area are where the great challenges of the future lie. There are economic and social issues at stake, and at the same time cities face major challenges in the fields of construction, sustainability and energy transition.

Researchers and students work in field labs together with companies, regional organizations and residents. A field lab is also called a 'real-life testing ground'; innovative applications are tested directly in practice.

Some of our projects are:

- Positive health in neighborhoods
- Mobility, Accessibility and Connectivity
- Circular transition through Collaboration

Professor: Dr Evert-Jan Velzing,  
[e.j.velzing@windesheim.nl](mailto:e.j.velzing@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Youth

The Professorship of Youth stands for healthy and inclusive upbringing of all children in a complex society. The research links up with the important social (parenting) questions from the fields of education, youth health care and youth aid. Children and young people are entitled to develop in a way that suits them, without being immediately placed outside the normal framework for special help and/or guidance. Our researchers work on the pedagogical context and pedagogical relationship around youth and family from the perspective of normalization and de-medicalization.

Some of our projects are:

- Inclusive education: research into anxiety and depression among pupils
- Families with complex problems: knowledge transfer through a Serious Game
- Doing justice to children: children's rights in youth protection measures

Professor: Dr Dorien Graas,  
[tam.graas@windesheim.nl](mailto:tam.graas@windesheim.nl)



## Professorship of Youth & Media

The living environment of children has changed rapidly in recent years due to all kinds of new media and technologies. As a result, many parents and professional co-educators have all kinds of concerns. When is media good or bad, and how can you best monitor this as an educator? And what is the best way for a professional to support children or parents with questions about media? Our Youth & Media research group, together with practitioners, searches for possible answers to such topical questions. As such, we want to contribute to a healthy, safe and conscious use of media by children and youth. Our research group mainly aims at vulnerable situations like youth with intellectual disabilities or families with special needs.

Our projects focus on media literacy in:

- Youth care (Improving media use among clients with mild intellectual disability)
- Special Needs Education (Improving media use among pupils at schools and child care)
- Home settings (Empowering digital skills of parents with young children)

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