

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	David Ehrhardt
Title of clinic:	Mainstreaming sustainability in university education: advising Leiden University's Executive Board
Number of students:	Max 4
Major (if applicable and approved by the Major Convener):	GED
(Pre)requisites (if applicable):	Some team members should have creative interests/skills, including film making; but other interests/skills are also valuable (including data analysis and interviewing, for example).

Research context

Sustainability may well be the defining issue of our time. But is Leiden University doing enough to address it? How can the University more effectively raise awareness of sustainability issues in its educational programmes? Should it mainstream and actively promote the integration of sustainability throughout all curricula, or is it sufficient to support existing efforts? Together with colleagues from other parts of the University, the Executive Board has asked me to advise on the best policy response to these questions.

This clinic aims to collect and present an overview of sustainability activities within Leiden University (and perhaps other Universities, for comparison), answering questions such as: what are Leiden professors and students doing? What are inspiring initiatives, and what are pitfalls to avoid? And how can University administration help most effectively? The information and presentation materials made by the students (e.g. video) will then be used to formulate the policy advice to the University's Executive Board.

Students' tasks and activities

Students will be asked to collect and compile all (education-related) sustainability initiatives within Leiden University and devise creative ways to document, visualize, and present them. Most likely, this will involve written output as well as audio/video material, some of which may be presented online. I envision a documentary-style output; but we can discuss with the students what they think will be most appropriate and effective for the purposes of the project. If the quality of the output is sufficiently high, it will also be used in our advice to the Executive Board and perhaps published more widely.

