

Cutting the future

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The proposed [*Wet internationalisering in Balans*](#) is also **cutting the future** of Dutch academia. It would entail such an investment of time and resources that **everyone**, both Dutch and non-Dutch colleagues, **students and society**, will be **negatively affected**.

As APnet, we foresee that turning the majority of bachelor education to Dutch will **increase the workload** of both non-Dutch **and Dutch**-teaching faculty members.

Dutch-teaching colleagues will have to teach **more courses in the bachelors**. The required re-adjustments between teaching Bachelors and Masters, and the fact that most course material is in English, will entail a major time waste. In turn, this will damage the quality of education for **all students**. All of us will have less time to invest in **research**, in **doing** research, and in applying for **funding**, in a context where co-funding from the private sector will also diminish. A loss for research is a loss of its social impact, therefore a loss for society as a whole.

This situation will likely cause a **brain-drain**, with many competitive young academics, both Dutch and non-Dutch, leaving for global institutions.

As always, those who are disadvantaged for any reason will be penalized further, again limiting the diversity and accessibility of academia.

For global talent, the time required to learn Dutch at the level needed to teach University courses is grossly underestimated. The linguistic competence that teaching most subjects requires is far higher, more complex, more abstract than the level required for a casual conversation or a language test. Whether we like it or not, the reality is that the academic and business world have adopted English as their main language. Until now, Dutch academia has been globally competitive **thanks to embracing** English as its research language.

If someone were to propose to **limit English use** in **business**, we would find it **absurd**. Why is this different for academia?

Most countries are investing in **internationalizing** their academic sector. Why should the Netherlands relinquish the competitive advantage it already benefits from?

It is paradoxical that in times of budgetary cuts, the proposed policy is a **wasteful** one. Not only **expensive today**, but even more **costly tomorrow**.

We urge decision-makers to **abandon** the two-bladed sword with which they are **cutting to pieces** the **future** of Dutch Academia.

We strongly encourage the government to **reconsider** both the WIB and the budget cuts for Dutch Academia to fully realize its potential of being flourishing, diverse, accessible, competitive, and excellent.