

Dear Ghent University partner,

I hope you are all doing well at your university despite the turbulent times. In general, but also for all of us involved in higher education.

Like many universities worldwide, we worked hard to prepare for the next academic year at Ghent University over the past few weeks. After consultation between many parties involved we have today informed our staff and students of the outlines of next year. You can find these outlines on [the website about education in 2020-21](#) at Ghent University.

Also next academic year, Ghent University is fully committed to keep on providing activating education with a well-considered and well-coordinated mix of on-campus and online education. From the start of the academic year in September 2020, we want educational activities to take place as much as possible back on campus, supplemented with online education. Of course, this goes hand in hand with guaranteeing everyone's safety and realizing quality education.

The outlines we have defined, include a specific chapter on internationalisation. This remains an important strategic educational objective next academic year. Whenever mobility is possible, we want to facilitate this for Ghent University students and teachers as well as for foreign students and teachers that want to come to us. Reinforcing interaction with and between students are also cornerstones of the blueprint for next academic year and international students are considered a priority group for this. Your students wanting to know more about life at Ghent University during 2020-21 can find more information in our [FAQ for students](#) section. The International Relations Office and the colleagues from the faculties will also be in direct contact with your students with a view to providing the best possible preparation for their stay at Ghent University. However, it is already clear that not all physical student and teacher mobility will be possible and that we need to further explore alternatives. We are hence interested in setting up online collaboration with you and or other partners. If opening/sharing each other's course offerings or setting up joint online educational activities is also high on your agenda, do not hesitate to get in contact with our International Relations Office or your colleagues at the faculties.

The further preparation and elaboration of the next academic year will require efforts from many. But we have shown that we can handle it at Ghent University and I trust it, the same is true at your end. We will continue to learn, also from each other, since we value our cooperation.

In this way, Ghent University will succeed in offering high-quality and safe education in the academic year 2020-21 and can hopefully continue to this in close collaboration with you.

Kind regards,

Rik Van de Walle
Rector