

To *teach*
is to
touch
a *heart*



Driestar
Christian University
for Teacher Education

Teacher education:
*courses, trainings
and products*

If we **look** at the world **God made**, we see that we are created **equally** yet **uniquely**. Diversity **enriches** society. **Globalisation** makes our world increasingly **interconnected**. Diversity and globalisation offer their own **opportunities** and **challenges**. They are part of the **future** that lies before **our children**. Christ holds that **future**.

For our children, **education** is the **passport** to the **future**. We **believe** that education that is driven by **Christian values** is the **only** way for children to **truly discover** the **talents** they have been given. It **equips** them to become **responsible** citizens of **God's world**.

So it is the **responsibility** of our **generation** to inspire, shape, and support **teachers** and schools around the **world** in their **Christian teaching**. As part of the current generation of **teacher trainers**, we feel it is **our calling** to take that **responsibility seriously**.

At Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education, we **stand** for education that serves the **family**, the **Church**, and our **globalised world**. This is why we offer and provide masters courses, international classes and exchange programmes to **increase** the **quality** of education **worldwide**.

In addition, we offer **advice**, practical **help**, standardised **programmes** and customised **solutions** to assist **students, teachers, principals**, and **leaders**. This makes students and leaders alike feel **fully equipped** to **guide** children towards a **fruitful future**.

For our generation, **Christian education** in a globalising world is an **exciting challenge**; to our **children**, it **means** the **world**.



Contributing to the *global improvement* of *education*

In 1944, Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education (DCU) started as a small institute serving young Christian teachers. Today we inspire and support teachers and schools, improving Christian teaching in the Netherlands and around the world. To do this, we develop targeted curricula, programmes, and methods. From the outset, we saw it as our mission to support Christians schools that serve families, churches, and the world around them. Over the last few decades, society has changed in many ways. The process of globalisation has radically transformed the world around us, touching every aspect of our lives.

At the same time, globalisation has opened new doors of opportunity for Christian education. Teachers from diverse cultures and contexts are now more connected to each other than ever. Working and learning together has become a habit, rather than an exception. In this context, DCU aims to fulfil its calling to serve Christian education and to contribute to its development. We make relevant parts of our programmes available for students and teachers across the globe via distance learning, while still offering services all over the world to improve education in a context-specific and practice-based approach. We participate in networks that foster relationships with other Christian universities and schools.

Encountering people from many different cultures is also a rich source of inspiration for our staff and students. We realise that the citizens of tomorrow need to be educated by Christian teachers who can prepare them for a globalised world.

The ultimate calling for Christian education is to serve the Kingdom of God. This calling forms a firm foundation for collaboration and mutual service between Christian schools and teachers worldwide. DCU is proud and grateful to be a part of that process and to contribute to the global improvement of education.



Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education
Jan Kloosterman and Robert Zoutendijk, executive board

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You **cannot teach something**
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International Class

You **cannot teach something** you aren't **living**

"In the International Class of Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education, I gained new insights. I used to think that the faults I saw in my students were a sign that they had to change. Now I understand that it is the teacher who is responsible for creating a healthy and safe atmosphere, where students can develop Christian values. It is the teacher who should work on him- or herself, because you cannot teach something you aren't living."

— **Julia**, teacher at a Christian primary school in Ukraine



What does it mean to be a Christian teacher?



Julia



Nanda



Jiyoung



Beatrice

In our International Class, Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education welcomes undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world. Together with our local students, you will learn about Christian education from an international perspective. Class discussions will help you clarify your own ideas on education and broaden your perspective. You will also get the opportunity to do an individual project or piece of research on an educational challenge in your specific context, guided by the expertise of our institute. After three months, you will return home with new knowledge and skills and a deeper insight into your own teaching practice. This experience will help you serve the cause of Christian education in your home school.

Children in Dutch classes were so patient

During the programme, participants study on campus for two days a week and visit schools for one day each week. Julia, a student and a teacher at a Christian primary school in Ukraine remarked, "What I heard during the theory classes, I saw at work in real schools. It was like a 'visual aid' for me. I was really surprised that children in Dutch classes were so patient and could sit and listen for more than an hour. For Ukrainian children that doesn't work." As a subject teacher, Julia teaches for a maximum of one hour a day, "so the question was how to integrate Christian values into my teaching, even in such a short time. During the school visits, I saw how the Dutch teachers tried to do just that."

A teacher taught openly about the four gospels

Nanda works at a teacher training organisation for pre-school and primary teachers in Nepal. "In Nepal, we don't have teacher training in the same way as in the Netherlands. Anybody can be a teacher in Nepal. They come to our organisation to gain a basic understanding of how to teach young children. We are trying to professionalise our teaching, training, and education. I think we are going in the right direction, but we did not have enough good examples. Now in the Netherlands I could see all sorts of programmes on subjects such as planning, evaluating the level of each child, and asset management. It was so good to see. It gave me a conviction that improvement in Nepal is possible."

For Nanda, experiencing Bible teaching was especially powerful. "I went to a school in Dordrecht. There was a teacher there who taught openly about the four gospels. In Nepal, we have some Christian schools but we still have to be careful with sharing Christian values. The government is getting more and more hostile. If you talk about Jesus in school, you could be sent to jail."

I learned to be dedicated to my responsibilities

"Driestar has had a real impact on my life," recounts Beatrice Ami Tetteh from Ghana. "It was a blessing to be there for those three months. Meeting people from around the world and learning from them added so much value to my life. The students from other countries were also very tolerant."

"On a personal level, I learned to be dedicated to my responsibilities and duties and to be patient in everyday life. I also learned to be tolerant to everyone around me because God created us all equally, in His own image. Even though I was a Christian, I never knew I could use that in my class teaching. Driestar showed me the way. Ever since then, my life is so meaningful. I integrate the education I received into my lessons in my home school, so that it has an effect in the lives of my students."

I will never forget visiting my buddies' house and their church

Jiyoung studies Linguistics, Global Korean studies and Performing Arts at Handong Global University in Korea. During her study, she became more and more interested in education. That's why she joined the International Class at Driestar Christian University. Jiyoung says, "it was my first time living abroad when I spent around three months away. Before the exchange, I worried about what it would be like. However, I watched as I enjoyed the whole experience. Even my buddies told me that I am adaptable."

"Learning the different cultures of the students in the class helped me to understand others and broadened my horizons. Visiting my buddies' house and their church was the best thing and I will never forget it. I also met precious friends there. With the relationships I built up and the help of my fellow students, I was able to discover who I am and what my values are, in a way I had never managed before. I got positive energy for my life back in Korea."

Information

- **Topic:** Christian education
- **Level:** undergraduate/graduate (Teacher Education)
- **Language of instruction:** English
- **Duration:** 3 months
- **Academic requirement:** 3rd or 4th year student/qualified teacher
- **Attendance:** full-time
- **Credits:** 15/20 (1 ECTS = 28 hours of study)
- **Location:** Gouda, the Netherlands
- **Age < 35**



Master Learning and Innovation - Christian Education

Become a **teacher-leader**

Our world needs teachers with an understanding of education that exceeds the norm. We need teachers who are good at their jobs, able to make well-considered educational choices and ready to connect their worldview to their work. Such teachers think about education and seek to improve it, involving and supporting their colleagues in this mission. Our Master Learning and Innovation - Christian Education equips you to become that kind of teacher-leader!

The Master in Christian Education is a formally recognised course that awards you with the international degree of Master of Education. You will have the unique opportunity to be equipped with conceptual knowledge and practical experience in what Christian education means and how it can be articulated in different contexts. The programme will prepare you to fulfil a vital role in your school in planning and implementing educational innovation. Intercultural learning is an integral part of your training, with real benefits for your capabilities as a teacher-leader.

Filled with inspiration

"I'm Ezra, from Indonesia. I have been a teacher since 2006. I believe that, by educating students, we are taking part in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations". In the classes at Driestar, I feel filled with inspiration, acceptance and joy. I think that, in the Netherlands, they have high standards in everything, including education. If I can finish this programme well, it could boost my career in my country and allow me to build a more effective Christian education ministry. The blended learning system is very useful for people like me who don't live in The Netherlands. It is like having a professional and loving family. Coming to the campus for only two weeks every semester is very helpful. My loveliest experience was the field trip to the J.A. Comenius site in Naarden. We made the moment of learning even more wonderful by singing a song in our language."

We are not just fed

"My name is Viviane and I come from France. I've been in Christian education for 30 years. I was encouraged by the leaders at my school to follow the masters at DCU. It provides a good foundation for the Christian worldview. I have grown to know mine better by formulating it. I had a very good experience on campus. Studying online does require a lot of discipline. The peer coaches are essential, since direct contact with the teachers is rare. But it's a good alternative and pushes us to be more proactive in improving our knowledge: we are not just fed. I'm now more involved with the staff and students in my home school, because I try to help them understand my process. Besides, I need their help in many ways (such as questionnaires, interviews, and experiments). I think they like it. It definitely brings a feeling of motion. Now the challenge is to get this motion going in the right direction and do it in synergy with the school I work in."

I like the campus

"I am Jessica, a 36 year old elementary teacher, from Bogor, Indonesia. I really like the Driestar campus. Their facilities are excellent. They prepare every little thing that we might need. It means a lot to me. Coming from the other side of the world, everything is new for me. All these services make me feel comfortable, safe, and they mean I worry less about my daily needs.

My friends in class are very nice and friendly. We support each other and remind each other of the due dates for our assignments.

The teachers are open and kind and want to help us to succeed in our studies. All the modules are very comprehensive. It feels like a united whole. I learn a lot from everything that is provided in the online learning environment. I also share what I have learned with my colleagues, such as the idea of distributive leadership. Overall, I am so blessed by what this programme is doing in my life."

Solid knowledge

"My name is Boaz and I come from Burkina Faso in West Africa. I am serving as the Advocacy & Communication Officer within the National Network of Christian schools (AESEB). When I discovered the Masters in Christian Education, I knew it would fulfil all my needs. As it's an international programme, I am learning about different education systems and different approaches to Christian education. I can compare the system I know in my country to others and reflect on my own system. This gives me ideas for future improvements. The modules give you a solid knowledge of general and especially Christian education. We are also learning to support other teachers to develop good practices in Christian education. This is important for my work, as I am training teachers and school leaders for our organisation. I have to say that the modules I am teaching now have really been improved by my new theoretical insights in Christian education.



Boaz



Professor John Choi
Handong Global University (South-Korea)

For the Kingdom of God

"I teach module 4, entitled 'Transforming society: education for justice and shalom'. This module will help the students to apply a Kingdom perspective to their concrete Christian Education situations. Since they are from different parts of the world, we will share diverse experiences and visions of the future together. This allows us to learn from one another and encourages the development of holistic Christian education, integrating our faith, learning, and life so that we can change the world for the Kingdom of God."

Your professors

- Professor Trevor Cooling (United Kingdom)
- Professor John Choi (South Korea)
- Professor Pavel Hanes (Slovakia)
- Professor Dana Hanesová (Slovakia)
- Professor Bram de Muijnck (The Netherlands)
- Professor Piet Murre (The Netherlands)
- And several excellent lecturers of DCU

Information

- **Topic:** Christian education
- **Special track** on the Masters in Learning and Innovation
- **Degree:** Master of Education
- **Language of instruction:** English
- **Length:** 2 years
- **Course type:** blended learning
- **Credits:** 60 ECTS
- **Target group:** experienced teachers, principals, school leaders and people in educational aid organisations



Short course

A *practical* approach

Christians should be working to the highest standards

"I am passionate about supporting Christian teachers. As Christians in mission we should be able to explain clearly why we do what we do. We should also be working to the highest academic standards. The short course from DCU is a really exciting initiative which equips Christian teachers to do that in their very different contexts."

This short course is a module forming part of the Master Learning and Innovation - Christian Education, which can be followed separately. Within an international community of students and expert guest lecturers you will extend your theoretical and practical understanding of Christian education. You will reflect on which views on educational practices are effective and how they can be evaluated from a Christian perspective. Starting from observations of the practice of Christian Education in the Netherlands, you will be introduced to a variety of practices worldwide. The course has three strands: content, personal and professional development, and

innovation/research. During the campus seminars you will have the opportunity to visit and gain teaching practice in schools in the Netherlands.

Great experience

Prof. Cooling: 'Every time I teach this module, it is another great experience. I have loved working with people from very different situations. My perception is that students find the module challenging, but also very stimulating and helpful!'

Prof. Trevor Cooling
Canterbury Christ University (United Kingdom)



Information

- **Theme:** Christian education: a practical approach
- **Language of instruction:** English
- **Length:** 10 weeks
- **Course type: blended learning:** 10 weeks of study, 2 weeks on campus in the Netherlands.
- **Credits:** 15 ECTS
- **Target group:** experienced teachers, principals, school leaders and those working in educational aid organisations

Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education

To *teach* is to *touch* a *heart*...

Providing excellent education for children and young adults has always been our ambition. We support education permeated with a Biblical identity: education that really touches children and gives them something of lasting value, for children and students in the Netherlands, and around the world.

School in the midst of family, church and society

Piet Kuijt, who founded our teacher training school in 1944, called his school 'De Driestar'.

The first logo showed a three-pointed star

that makes clear what

he meant by this name:

the school in the midst

of family, church and

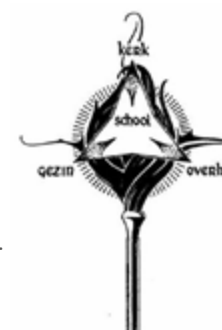
society. We have

developed this in many

areas in recent decades.

Today, it is still at the

core of who we are.



Piet Kuijt

Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education is a knowledge centre on Christian education. We offer teacher training and educational advice and carry out research on Christian teaching. We firmly believe that Christian teaching is of the utmost importance for the growth and expansion of God's Kingdom. Together with our partners in the Netherlands and abroad, it is our desire to contribute to this teaching.

Teacher training

We specialise in teacher training for both primary and secondary education. Our programmes have all been ranked in the top five on the national rating list for teacher education programmes. Relevant parts of our programmes are open to students and teachers from abroad.

Educational advice

Our educational advice centre supports primary, secondary, and special needs schools in areas such as student tracking, subject content, learning environments, ICT, and parental involvement. The centre also has a wealth of experience in management and leadership. We offer our services all over the world to improve Christian education using a context-specific and practice-based approach.

Research

Our research centre on Christian Teaching focusses on the following questions: What are the characteristics of a good, Christian teacher? How can children and young people be truly educated? Our researchers have good contacts with colleagues worldwide.

Figures

- **Founded:** 1944
- **Students:** 1200-1500
- **Employees:** > 250

Mission statement:

Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education *inspires, develops* and *supports* teachers and schools to **Christian teaching** in the Netherlands and abroad.

Product

Wonderfully Made



Many schools and parents are looking for ways to strengthen the relationships and sexual health of the children and young people in their care. *Wonderfully Made* is a curriculum for sexual and relationship education developed from a Christian perspective. There is a growing interest in the curriculum from partners all over the world. Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education (DCU) highly values the contextualisation of the programme in new cultural settings. For us, co-creation is a key part of making *Wonderfully Made* effective for young people, who are made in God's image.

A precious gift from God

Nowadays, developing a stable self-image, building strong relationships, and growing in healthy sexuality and protective behaviours can be difficult. That's why DCU developed the *Wonderfully Made* curriculum. As Elly van der Gouwe, sexual education advisor explains, "we want to encourage children and young people to know and acknowledge their own sexuality as a precious gift from God, their Creator."

Supported by practical lessons

Wonderfully Made aims to equip children and young people to build relationships of love and faithfulness with friends, family and perhaps, in the future, with a life partner. It also recognises

the brokenness in God's creation concerning sexuality and relationships. Many children and young people face the consequences of sexual abuse and exploitation, broken families, and distorted views on sexuality in society and the media. Developing protective behaviours is therefore one of the core themes of the programme.

In the Netherlands, more than four hundred Christian schools are working with the *Wonderfully Made* curriculum. Teachers feel supported by the practical lessons. Children's knowledge increases and they grow in protective behaviours. In other contexts around the world, there is also a need for materials and training from a Christian perspective. We are thankful that this beautiful content has been adapted to so many contexts and target groups.

Children began to open up

In the after-school projects run by Corporación Misión San Lucas (CMSL) in Ecuador, more than sixty percent of the children have been confronted with sexual abuse. CMSL hoped *Wonderfully Made* could be helpful for them. The lessons on protective behaviours were translated and adapted to their local context. Arlene Jonkman, mission worker at CMSL said "We started off with workshops for our team members. The team needed to learn that

sexual education is more than only anatomy, as it is taught in many schools. We also focus on setting limits, forming your own identity and where to go if something is wrong. Children here are at high risk of abuse and are extremely vulnerable, so it's a topic we need to work on continually. When we started to use the materials, children began to open up. We came across many more cases of abuse that we were not aware of. That was really hard and sad, but it also opened a door to start the healing process for the children."



The key seems to lie with children and young people

"Developing a healthy self-image and being able to set your own boundaries: those are the elements from *Wonderfully Made* that appealed to me", says Wijnanda van Burg-Verhage. Wijnanda works as an education consultant for Lentera in Papua, Indonesia, a foundation that trains young people to be Christian leaders.

"In Papua there is a crisis concerning sexuality. This is reflected in the HIV epidemic, which is still growing. Much has already been done in educating people, but the key seems to lie with children and young people. Together with a local team, I have started working on an Indonesian Papuan version of *Wonderfully Made*, for use in primary education. We contextualise the stories and adapt the

wording. We hope the curriculum will help prevent forced sexual contact at a young age and will contribute to a healthier lifestyle later in life.'

Own way in the field of sexual education

In Germany the Verband Evangelischer Bekenntnisschulen (VEBS) decided to contextualise the *Wonderfully Made* method and implement it, first in the Georg Müller Schule (GMS) [Georg Muller School] in Bielefeld and Steinhagen, before considering rolling it out in more schools in the region and finally in most VEBS schools.

Michael Pieper, CEO of GMS said "It is becoming more important for us as an individual school and for the community of VEBS to find our own way in the field of sexual education when secular programmes are overwhelming."

Henryk Hommel, principal at GMS in Steinhagen added, "Our students mostly come from Christian backgrounds and the teachers feel a responsibility to teach them Biblical truth to the highest pedagogical standards. They do not want to teach a special topic with Biblical values just added as an afterthought. The special view that students are created by God requires us and them to think in new ways and use excellent materials. *Wonderfully Made* materials match these challenges as they are Biblically based and reflective, ready-to-use (after contextualisation), include a train-the-trainer-programme, and cover ages from kindergarten to the first two academic years of secondary school in Germany.

Sexuality and relationships education

- **Ages 4 - 12**
- **Biblical values**
- **Attitude, knowledge and skills**
- **Parental involvement**
- **Teacher training**
- **Guiding themes:**
 - Self-image and self-esteem
 - Social norms
 - Protective behaviours
 - Sustainable and lasting relationships
- **Use: in families, schools and churches**

Training

- **Target group:** schools and organisations with teachers who want to implement the *Wonderfully Made* programme
- **Location:** Gouda, the Netherlands or a location in your country
- **Length:** 2 days, can be shortened or extended
- **Contextualisation to your national setting**
- **Eligible for Erasmus+ funding**



Product

The **Essence** of **Christian** **Teaching**

*What are the characteristics of a Christian teacher? This question is the subject of the book, **The Essence of Christian Teaching**. Based on the Bible, it provides guidelines for everyday educational practice. **The Essence of Christian Teaching** is a joint publication by Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education and ACSI Europe (Association of Christian Schools International). Both organisations aim to inspire and equip people working in the field of education. International partners have commented on the applicability of the book in global contexts.*


How can you be a good guide?

For us, Christian teaching focuses on the student's encounter with God and His world. As a teacher, you are their guide. Teachers must be source-oriented, because you are living out the Bible. Good teachers focus on their students and are committed and reliable. They make pedagogical-didactical choices to make sure that there is something to discover about God and His world in their lectures. Through everything, they long for their disciples to encounter Jesus. How can His love and grace be made visible in the classroom?

Authors: The Essence of Christian Teaching (Prof Dr De Muynck, Dr Bram Kunz and drs Henk Vermeulen).

Guidelines for everyday educational practice

ACSI uses the book in its online and on-site teacher training for Christian schools in Europe and beyond. Laci Demeter, Europe Regional Director ACSI Europe explained "The Essence of Christian Teaching is an excellent choice for teachers and school leaders who wish to improve their knowledge and understanding of how the Biblical approach to education is different from any good educational approach. The book is easy to read and is well illustrated with real-life stories, which will help teachers in applying their new understanding."



“The **Essence** of **Christian Teaching** will be a **valuable guide** as you **transform** your practice into what the authors call ‘**a hopeful enterprise**.’”

-David K. Wilcox PhD
Assistant Vice President ACSI Global

Why are we different and why must we be different?

For the Hungarian Christian Reformed institutional education, The Essence of Christian Teaching is a guide for their strategic development process. The Hungarian translation includes two additional essays with Hungarian contextualisation.

Tibor Ábrám, Vice Lay President of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary told us, "our education has deep roots. Even before World War II, two-thirds of Hungarian schools belonged to churches. Since the changes in the 1990s, a new Christian school system has been developed following our former Bible-based heritage, but built on a new structural, social and institutional foundation."

"Our community of about five hundred school locations in the Carpathian Basin is going through a process to discover the mission of the whole community and of each individual school. We are also developing a Bible-based vision of Christian education, and exploring why we are different and we must be different from those schools without a Biblical foundation. As part of this process, The Essence of Christian Education is a concise and quintessential guide for school leaders, pastors, school owner communities, teachers and parents."

Training The Essential Teacher

We also offer a training course that combines the theory of The Essence of Christian Teaching with effective practical workshops

intended to equip classroom practitioners. The workshops cover: the purpose of education, the teacher, the child, the classroom, and why worldview is so crucial. Materials have been developed by a small team of experienced teachers led by Phill Moon, headteacher of Bradford Christian School and a leader in the Christian Schools Trust.

As Phill Moon explains, "all activities have been developed out of classroom practice and help colleagues in ways that inform discipleship and genuine Christian education. The authors have been encouraged by the results of sharing these workshops in diverse cultural settings from the UK to Nepal and from the Netherlands to America."

Book

- **Title:** The Essence of Christian Teaching: A Concise School Pedagogy
- **Authors:** Abraham de Muynck, Henk Vermeulen, Abraham Jacob Kunz
- **Published:** 2018
- **ISBN:** 9071287920, 9789071287923

Training

- **Target group:** schools and organisations with teachers who want to shape a collegial and Christian approach to their teaching
- **Location:** Gouda, The Netherlands / a location in your country
- **Length:** 2 days, can be shortened or extended
- Contextualisation to your national setting
- Eligible for Erasmus+ funding

Education *worldwide*

Education for all is a priority for the international community. In September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration. One of the "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs) to be reached by 2015 was to achieve universal primary education: ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, would have access to, and be able to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality.

Evaluation of the MDGs in 2015 showed¹ that the enrolment percentage had grown from 84% to 91% over the preceding fifteen years. This is equivalent to 48 million more children attending primary education. At the same time, the report mentioned that 58 million children were still out of school. Regarding quality education, which was also one of the goals, the report concluded that there is still much to be done, "while many countries have made impressive gains in access to education

(...) improvement in quality has not always kept pace." The report said that a discernible shift in emphasis towards quality learning is needed and that investment in teachers is part of this shift. In the Sustainable Development Goals, quality education is again one of the priorities, with the aim of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education (DCU) is aware of the relevance of quality education for the future of millions of children. We aim to contribute to quality education by developing effective programmes and improving the quality of teacher education. Freedom of education is also an important theme for our institute. In the annual report of OIDEL² the following conclusions on freedom of education were presented:

- Freedom of education has increased in all regions of the world since 2002,
- Freedom of education does not lead to an increase in public expenditure on education,

- Freedom of education has a significant positive correlation with quality of education,
- Freedom of education does not encompass a negative effect over social cohesion,
- 74% of the countries in the world grant some sort of funding to non-governmental schools.

DCU underlines the relevance of Christian education. We inspire and support teachers and schools in Christian teaching, in the Netherlands and in many countries around the world.

¹ EDUCATION FOR ALL 2000-2015: achievements and challenges, UNESCO 2015.

² ANNUAL REPORT 2018, OIDEL 2018 (OIDEL is a non-governmental organisation, with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO and the Council of Europe)





Training Courses

In addition to academic courses and programmes, Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education offers specific training courses designed to improve the quality of education in particular contexts. Unlike our academic programmes, these are tailor-made to the needs of those working within such contexts.

Training Courses

Our work always starts with an assessment of what exactly is needed in the context in which training is requested. Then, together with our partners, we choose the very best content for each programme. Based on a needs assessment, we develop the training programme in close collaboration with our partners. The programme may take place within the local context led by trainers from DCU. However, since we are committed to sustainable education innovation, we prefer to organise follow-up through a train-the-trainer programme where local trainers are selected and trained to lead the courses developed.

The themes we address in our programmes include but are not limited to:

- educational leadership
- parental involvement
- dealing with special educational needs in the classroom
- pedagogical and didactic knowledge and skills in the light of Scripture
- local resource mobilisation

Edu4Change programme

This programme was developed together with Woord en Daad (a Dutch NGO) and local partners. The programme was run in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia from 2009 to 2017. We organised 52 weeks of courses and hosted 650 participants. Using a participatory approach, courses were developed and conducted together with our partner organisations. These courses covered 4 themes:

1. Educational Leadership
2. Parents as Partners
3. How to Understand and Support Children in Need of Help
4. The Art of Teaching

Consultancy training

This training formed part of the personal development of consultants, enabling them to deliver better consultancy. It was carried out over the past few years for consultants from Nepal and Burkina Faso in the light of the creation of the International Network for Christian Education.

Value Driven Leadership

The Value Driven Leadership project is the result of collaboration between DCU and Református Pedagógiai Intézet (RPI) in Hungary. It started in 2014 and has become a valuable course for all leaders of Christian schools. The goals of this project are to improve Christian education and to provide the leaders and principals of Christian educational institutions with useful practical training. In 2020, the synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church decided to make this course obligatory for all principals of reformed schools.

Based on the requirements of specific contexts, Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education is always open to new initiatives to co-create and develop programmes in a sustainable way.

Programmes under development

- **Pedagogical and didactic module content**
We are exploring how existing modules, especially related to Christian teaching, can be applied in contexts where teachers are educated in secular environments or where teachers would like to deepen their knowledge and skills in Christian teaching. On the basis of an assessment among our partners and interviews we have conducted, we see the following themes as the core of a programme in Christian teaching that we wish to develop: interpersonal skills, pedagogy and didactics. The programme will be co-developed with our partners and will be offered at Bachelor level.
- **Local Resource Mobilisation training**
Following a request from the Christelijk Platform Oost-Europa (CPOE), DCU now contributes to the development of training for Local Resource Mobilisation (LRM) in eastern Europe. This programme aims to encourage initiative and responsibility in aid and development situations. The training will be run using a train-the-trainer approach.

Welcome to Holland!

The Netherlands, or Holland, is a popular destination for students. They come from all over the world to enjoy our culture and education. Our university is located in Gouda, a typically Dutch town between Rotterdam and Utrecht with about 73,000 inhabitants.

Funny facts about the Netherlands

1. More than 25% of the Netherlands is below sea level.
2. Dutch people are the tallest in the world.
3. The Netherlands is the most densely populated nation in Europe.
4. Our country is as flat as a pancake.
5. Dutch people drink 140 litres of coffee a year!

This taste of Gouda is not to be missed
Gouda Cheese is one of the best-known cheeses in the world. When people say cheese, they mean Gouda!



Finger licking good!

Gouda is also known for its syrup waffles (stroopwafels). This biscuit consists of two crispy baked waffles filled with a layer of syrup. It is a lovely treat and worth sampling!



Gouda is worth visiting

The historic centre of Gouda has many famous buildings such as the 15th century Stadhuis (City Hall) and the Sint Janskerk (St. John's Church). This church has colourful stained-glass windows dating from the 16th century. It measures 123 meters in length, making it the longest church in the Netherlands.



Overview of international partnerships

International partnerships support the mission of Driestar Christian University (DCU) to improve Christian education worldwide. These partnerships facilitate the exchange of students and staff and support collaboration to enhance the quality of Christian education around the globe.



University for teacher education Accredited courses

- Minor International Class
- Master Innovation & Learning - Track Christian education.

International Office

DCU has an International Office to support international exchange of students and staff for incoming and outgoing mobility/programmes.

Educational advice department Trainings and products

- Practical approach
- Leadership modules
- Trainings for teachers and consultants
- Wonderfully Made
- The Essence of Christian Teaching



We are part of the Erasmus+ programme and currently have the following partners in Europe:

- Canterbury Christ Church University**
Canterbury (United Kingdom);
- Károli Gáspár University**
Budapest /Nagykőrös (Hungary);
- Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule**
Wien/Krems (Austria);
- Liverpool Hope University**
Liverpool (United Kingdom);
- Matej Bel University**
Banská Bystrica (Slovakia);
- NLA University College**
Bergen (Norway);
- Odisee**
Brussel (Belgium);
- University of Leeds**
Leeds (United Kingdom);
- Pädagogische Hochschule**
Heidelberg (Germany);
- Partium Christian University**
Oradea (Romania).

Partner universities outside Europe

- Chongshin University**
Seoul (South Korea);
- Handong Global University**
Handong (South Korea);
- Komenda College of Education**
Komenda (Ghana);
- North-West University,**
Potchefstroom (South Africa).



INCHE is a global organisation of individuals and institutions on 6 continents, connected with the shared goal of serving Jesus as Lord by fostering the development of Christian higher education worldwide.



24.000 schools in 108 countries



DCU brings together three important focus areas: Quality Programmes, Biblical Foundations, and International Reach. ACSI and DCU often work in partnership in these focus areas.



László Demeter

Director ACSI Europe



ECEC's main vision is to improve the education and care of young children. DCU has already created a system that is working in the Netherlands. At the same time, they are willing to help, not just in terms of what they want to support, but in terms of what we need here. I feel that provides a good contribution from DCU to support our mission.



Pitambar Neupane

ECEC Nepal



We recognise DCU's outstanding course work and training literature as essential to the development of Christian schooling in the countries in which they work. We look forward to even more collaboration in this area of need in the countries in which we serve together for many years to come.



Mike Epp

Senior Vice President ACSI Global



'The special view that students are created by God requires us and them to think in new ways, use excellent materials, and transition to the next step for our school. Wonderfully Made materials match these challenges as they are Biblically based, reflective and ready-to-use.'

Henryk Hommel

Principal at Georg Müllerschule, Steinhagen, Germany

'The Essence of Christian Teaching is a beautiful and insightful resource for Christian teachers around the world. Each chapter will be an excellent tool for personal reflection and group discussion. No matter what might be one's Christian faith tradition, this resource will challenge the reader to evaluate how he or she can improve their ministry of teaching.'

David Wilcox

Assistant Vice President, ACSI Global

'Developing a healthy self-image and being able to set your own boundaries: those are the elements from Wonderfully Made that appealed to me.'

Wijnanda van Burg-Verhage

Education Consultant for Lentera in Papua, Indonesia





Meet Lydia Bor
International office

The International Office is the university's information and service centre for international relations. You will benefit from the variety of services our International Office has to offer. We can give practical advice on visas, residence permits, insurance and grants, and keep you up to date on the latest subsidies.

If you would like to talk to someone when you face a problem, there is always someone here for you. We will make you feel at home!

You can reach the International Office by sending an email to:

internationaloffice@driestar-christian-university.com

