

Summer school “Advocacy for academic freedom and human rights: internationalization in a fragmented world”

Utrecht Network and Utrecht University

Schedule

18-22 August, 2025

Draft 02/05/2025 Note: the programme is subject to marginal change.

Day 1: Monday, 18 August

Concepts, threats to and status quo of academic freedom in global perspective

09:00-09:30: Welcome, introduction and getting to know each other

09:30-10:00: Q&A on online work and MOOC

10.15-11.45: Academic Freedom as a Fundamental Academic Value: Meaning, Scope, Frames of Reference (Prof. Liviu Matei, King's College London and Magna Charta Observatory)

12.00-13:00: Academic Freedom as human right (*tbc*)

14:00-15:30: Threats to and Status of Academic Freedom and the Human Rights of Students and Scholars Around the World (Prof. Adam Braver, Scholars at Risk)

15:45-17:00: What it means to be „at-risk“: insights and experiences from institutions and scholars at risk (Ruhr U Bochum, University Utrecht)

Day 2: Tuesday, 19 August 2025

Protecting and promoting academic freedom in a fragmented world: insights from global, regional, national and institutional level initiatives

09:00-09:30: Reflection on first day

09.30-11:30: The (geo-)politics of academic freedom and institutional autonomy: universities, democracies and the authoritarian challenge (Prof. Marijk van der Wende, Utrecht University | Jurgen Rienks, Neth-ER)

11.45-13:00: Protecting scholars at risk in a fragmented world: what role for universities and the university community? (Iris Vernekohl, Ruhr U Bochum | Bart van de Laar, University Utrecht)

14:00-15:30: Global, regional and national level advocacy for academic freedom and scholars at risk (Prof. Adam Braver, SAR, New University in Exile Consortium | Africa Coalition for Academic Freedom | UK Working Group Academic Freedom and Internationalisation)

15:45-17:00: Introduction to academic and scholars at risk cases advocacy cases

18:00: Pizza picnic in the park (*tbc*)

Day 3: Wednesday, 20 August 2025

Introduction to human rights/public policy advocacy campaigns for academic freedom and scholars at risk

09:00-09:30: Reflection on second day

09:30-10:30: Towards a theory of change: introduction to human rights and public policy advocacy

10:45-13:00: Group building (participants chose advocacy cases to work on) and development of theory of change (*group work*)

14:00-17:00: Project work on scholars at risk and academic freedom advocacy (*group work*)

Day 4: Thursday, 21 August 2025

09:00-09:30: Reflection on third day

09:30-17:00: Project work on scholars at risk and academic freedom advocacy campaigns (*group work*)

Day 5: Friday, 22 August 2025

09:00-09:30: Reflection on fourth day

09:30-13:00: Project work on scholars at risk and academic freedom advocacy campaigns (*group work*)

14:00-16:00: Presentation, reflection and discussion of SAR/AF advocacy work (*group presentations and panel*)

To be confirmed: interviews with the board of Utrecht Network
