

Insight into developments regarding TU Delft | Campus Rotterdam

October 2024



As you probably know, TU Delft launched a reorientation towards Rotterdam in 2023, for the purpose of establishing a fully-fledged education, research, and innovation campus: Campus Rotterdam. Read more about the developments regarding the new campus below. Because although not everyone at TU Delft is directly involved, your expertise, ideas, and participation in the process are invaluable. Campus Rotterdam is about much more than buildings and programmes - it is also about creating a new way of working, learning, and innovating. We are working on the future of TU Delft, and it is something we are doing together.



Why a campus in Rotterdam?

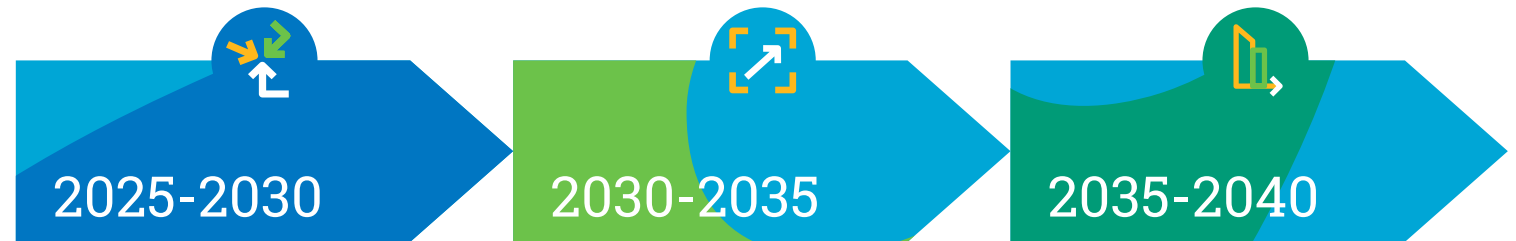
The Netherlands is facing a number of transition-related challenges that are of great importance to the future of the country. Engineers and technicians have a crucial role to play in tackling major transitions in energy, health, climate adaptation, and other fields. And the demand for engineers and technical talent at every level is set to strongly increase in the years to come.

TU Delft feels it has a responsibility in contributing towards the issues facing society in the next few decades. For that, more technical talent is needed, as is extra teaching and training of existing experts - the transition experts of the future. We provide that teaching and training in Delft, and soon in Rotterdam. However, Delft will continue to be our 'home port'. With the City of Rotterdam and other local partners, we are also creating an innovative hub that brings together education, research, and industry in the city, where many of the challenges related to the major transitions of the forthcoming decades converge.



Step by step towards 2040

The road to a fully-fledged campus in 2040 involves a phased approach to reaching our objectives. Our ambitions remain undiminished, but because of the current political changes and spending cuts, we will have to take a flexible attitude, amending our choices where necessary, plotting them differently, or adjusting our priorities. The plan is to evolve towards a fully-fledged campus in Rotterdam in three phases. We have now divided the concept development plan into three phases, with phase 1 consisting of different themes and steps for each theme. We are also working on both an overarching proposition for Campus Rotterdam and partial propositions for each theme, and for each partial proposition we are working on a financing plan. External funding in 2025 is a prerequisite for achieving the updated start date per theme.



Phase 1

The emphasis in this phase is on the foundations - not just literally, but also in terms of partnerships, funding, and launching the first research projects. To minimise risks, we will mostly be renting existing buildings or spaces from partners during the initial phase. At the same time, we will be exploring the options for our own locations. The first degree programmes will start in 2027.

Funding GO/NO GO

2025

Insight into locations

Approval of new courses

2026

Information VWO

Setting up site(s)

2027

Expected start of new courses

Phase 2

Our activities will continue to expand, both with regard to student numbers and research capacity. This phase will place the accent on expanding core activities and the related infrastructure and facilities.

Phase 3

This phase is intended to strengthen existing infrastructure and to safeguard the sustainable and stable development of the campus; TU Delft to own property at one or more locations. This is because having a campus spread over multiple locations remains an option. The initial guideline on capacity is that we will have 10,000 students. This figure is an estimate and will depend in part on political decision-making, as is the case in relation to the intake of international students.

Strategic key areas

We are initially focusing on three themes
As mentioned in Contouren 2030, these
themes are essential if the Netherlands is
to lead the field when it comes to societal
transitions



Health & Tech

Innovations and degree programmes that focus on the integration of technology into healthcare to bring about a flywheel effect in productivity and thereby help deliver better healthcare and greater prosperity. Thanks to close collaboration with the Erasmus MC, the Health & Technology pillar of Campus Rotterdam is uniquely placed to bring together doctors, nurses, IT specialists, clinical technologists, and researchers and to innovate, close to healthcare professionals and patients.



Climate & Energy Systems Engineering

Research and teaching aimed at sustainable energy solutions, which are essential for the energy transition and for strengthening energy independence and ensuring its supply, close to the Port of Rotterdam, home to much industry and where the engine of the Dutch economy is running at full speed.



Resilient Living Environment

Degree programmes and innovations aimed at creating resilient and sustainable living environments, adapted to the challenges of climate change and urbanisation, in order to strengthen the Netherlands' unique position as a country of water expertise and to keep its citizens safe.

Collaboration is the key to success

Campus Rotterdam can only succeed if we collaborate with the many stakeholders active in and around the city - from the local government to businesses and other knowledge institutes. We are pleased that a significant proportion of them have warmly welcomed our orientation towards Rotterdam and wish to help us achieve our ambition to grow. We are also emphatically committed to making the various parties in Rotterdam part of the process. This will all help us to work jointly on the further development of the process, a shared proposition, lobby, and impact strategy.

On 8 July 2024, the City of Rotterdam and TU Delft signed a letter of intent. This was an important step towards the official pooling of our resources for the further development and implementation of the plans for Campus Rotterdam.

As well as with the City of Rotterdam, we are also collaborating in relation to the campus in Rotterdam with, among others, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Albeda College, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Scheepvaart en Transport College, Zadkine, Erasmus University Medical Center, Port of Rotterdam, Rotterdam Partners, Nationaal Programma Rotterdam Zuid, the Delft city council, private companies like Deltalinqs, and the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO/NCW).



Share and contribute ideas and suggestions

We are jointly building TU Delft | Campus Rotterdam and would like to involve everyone in our community with the plans. That is why we are giving you this document, an insight into the development of the new campus, and why this autumn we are organising consultation sessions, for example, in order to fine tune the curriculum. The draft development plan is currently being assessed with the staff and student representative bodies; as soon as this has been completed, the plan will also be available on our intranet page. And of course our invitation to share your ideas, suggestions, and questions at campusrotterdam@tudelft.nl still stands. Your input is very much welcome and highly valued!



Campus Rotterdam

