



Utrecht Region

A key role in the Netherlands' pharma/
biotech industries



Why locate your pharma/ biotech company in the Utrecht Region?

The pharmaceutical and biotech sectors in the region's life sciences industry focuses on several main areas: regenerative medicine and the biology of stem cells; immunology and infectious disease oncology (including personalized cancer care); image-guided therapies and healthcare innovation.

In particular, the One Health initiative is a cross-discipline initiative involving Utrecht's universities, research institutes and private industry that aims to develop an integrated approach to finding long-term solutions for human and animal infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance.



Why the Netherlands?

The Netherlands' central position in Western Europe, its excellent transport and internet infrastructure, and highly-skilled workforce, make it the ideal location for the 2,900 life sciences, medical technology and research organisations based here.

The decision to relocate the European Medicines Agency to the Netherlands is a further boost to the fast-developing life sciences and health industry.

The World Economic Forum ranks the Netherlands fourth in its Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018 mainly because of its stable business climate. And according to the Global Innovation Index 2017, the Netherlands ranks highly for its regulatory environment, infrastructure and creativity and has a top 10 ranking in many other innovation scoreboards.

Making the most of regional advantages

The Utrecht Region is smart, central and offers you a great quality of life.

Utrecht Region is a center of knowledge

Utrecht's world class scientific institutions include the Utrecht University, home to the only Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the Netherlands and the UMC Utrecht as well as the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. Research institutes in the region include the Princess Máxima Center for pediatric oncology, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), and the KNAW Hubrecht Institute for developmental biology and stem cell research.

Utrecht Region is centrally located

Conveniently located in the heart of the Netherlands, Utrecht has excellent public transport and road links to the rest of the

Netherlands and Europe and is just 30 minutes from Schiphol airport. Utrecht is also within very easy reach of Amsterdam (25 minutes) – home of the European Medicines Agency from 2019.

Utrecht Region has a great quality of life

The region offers a combination of vibrant cities and villages with a wide range of recreational opportunities. Utrecht is developing the concept of Healthy Urban Living, using smart technology to improve wellbeing and health. The Utrecht Region offers special facilities for expats, including one-stop permit and immigration services and a choice of international schools.

And what is more, the Utrecht Region has been ranked the most competitive place on the European mainland by the European Commission since 2010.

Utrecht has an excellent ecosystem for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

The combination of top-ranked academic institutions, a wide range of locations and great support networks will help you put your company on the map.

Skills

The range of academic disciplines concentrated at the Utrecht Science Park is unprecedented in Europe. Its life sciences and health community includes 1,700 researchers, 1,750 PhD candidates, more than 2,000 master and bachelor students and 3,500 international summer school students.

Corporate facilities

Utrecht offers a wide variety of corporate locations, ranging from corporate office facilities at the city center to state-of-the-art laboratory facilities at the Utrecht Science Park for innovative life sciences and health companies. Utrecht Science Park is the biggest of its kind in the Netherlands, a 322 hectare research, education and business campus offering top-level facilities for companies wishing to set up or expand in the region. The science park is also home to a focused Life Sciences Incubator for startups and a new accelerator complex is currently under construction. A number of life sciences firms are also located in Science Park Bilthoven.

Support initiatives and sector organisations

By locating in Utrecht Region, your biotechnology or pharmaceuticals company will benefit from the wide range of alliances and joint initiatives involving scientific institutions, local government and companies.



- **Utrecht Life Sciences (ULS)** is an innovation network that facilitates strategic partnerships in education, research and entrepreneurship between academia, public institutions and private organisations. The aim of the network is to drive innovations in human and veterinary healthcare by providing state of the art shared infrastructures, scouting and educating talented people, creating access to scarce expertise and databases, and increasing access to external grants and funds.
- **Immuno Valley** is a national network of 30 companies and knowledge institutions working together in the field of human and animal health. It aims to jointly develop techniques to diagnose, prevent and treat infectious diseases.
- **Pontes Medical** is a public private alliance focused on the development of new medical instruments, bridging the gap between specialists, researchers, health care providers, businesses and investors to develop and test new products and bring them to market.
- There are also several province-wide initiatives to help fledgling entrepreneurs. **UtrechtInc** is an incubator and support organisation for innovative entrepreneurs and has supported over 150 startups since 2009, some through private pre-seed funding. Moreover, the UMC Utrecht is founding partner of the Dutch-Flemish MBI LS&H programme and the global Eureka Institute for Translational Medicine.
- The **Invest Utrecht** organisation offers free-of-charge practical assistance and information services to foreign biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies venturing into the Utrecht region.

Regional financing initiatives

Companies can benefit from the various regional co-financing initiatives which are available for the life sciences and health industry within the region. For example, Economic Board Utrecht has launched a scheme to support R&D projects which involve an alliance with local scientific institutes or companies. To qualify, a company must be established in the Utrecht region and contribute at least 30% of total project costs.

Companies based in the Utrecht Region can also apply for assistance from additional national EU funding initiatives.

Companies can benefit from regional co-financing initiatives

Several national and EU funding options are available

Inspiring companies and partners for collaboration

The Utrecht Region is home to dozens of innovative private companies creating strategic partnering options and facility sharing. The presence of so many top-rated institutes and life sciences companies has stimulated the development of a strong network of private and public sector enterprises.

Genmab, the largest biotechnology company in Europe, specializes in the creation and development of differentiated antibody therapeutics for the treatment of cancer through immunotherapy. Meanwhile **Merus** is a clinical-stage immuno-oncology company developing innovative bispecific antibody therapeutics

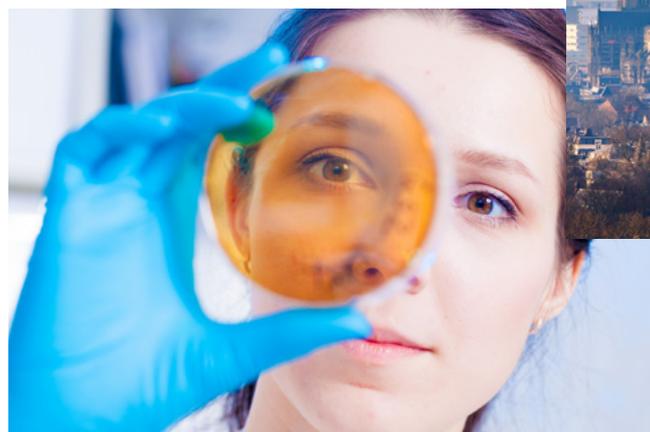
Micreos Human Health develops targeted antibacterial products for human health while **Bilthoven Biologicals** is part of the Serum Institute of India, the biggest vaccine manufacturer in the world. **Intravacc** is a not-for-profit R&D group focusing on improving vaccines, vaccine processes and vaccine technologies.

AM-Pharma is a biopharmaceutical company developing proprietary therapeutics to treat chronic or life-threatening inflammatory diseases in which Pfizer Inc has a minority equity interest.

Other biotechnology firms in the region include **CrossBeta Biosciences** which is working in the field of misfolded proteins and age-related disease, **Bioceros** which is involved in the pre-clinical development of monoclonal antibodies and **InterRNA**, specialised in the development of RNA therapeutics for the treatment of cancer.

If you are involved in organoid-based research, the **HUB Foundation for Organoid Technology** is a not-for-profit organisation with a 'Living Biobank', a collection of well-characterised organoids derived from patient tissues which can be used to help more accurately predict the efficacy of drugs and the responsiveness of patients.

These are just some of the many international and domestic biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies which have made the Utrecht Region their home.

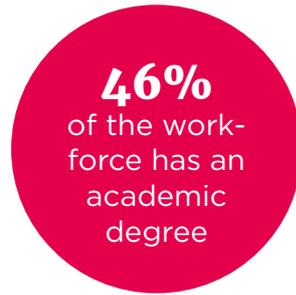


Education, talent and knowledge

The Utrecht pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industry benefits from the region's well-educated, multilingual working population. Some 46% of the workforce has an academic degree and there are 8 million skilled employees within an hour's travel of Utrecht. Utrecht University is consistently ranked as one of the best in the Netherlands and is home to one of the world's top-rated faculties of veterinary medicine.

Much of the region's pharmaceutical and biotech innovation centers on the UMC Utrecht university and research hospital. For example, Utrecht Science Park hosts the Center for Regenerative Medicine which is working on regenerative therapies while the Center for Personalised Cancer Treatment aims to identify common genetic changes in individual tumour's dna to serve as a guideline for treatment.

Also part of the university, is the Utrecht Biofabrication facility, which develops biofabrication technologies in areas of regenerative medicine, 3D in-vitro cell culture models and therapeutic treatments. The Netherlands Proteomics Center is an alliance between seven universities, four teaching hospitals and several biotechnology firms working in the field of proteomics.



Utrecht Science Park is home to the Princess Máxima Center for pediatric oncology which has a particular focus on preventing the development of negative side effects of treatment in young patients. Also affiliated to the UMC Utrecht is The Hubrecht Institute, part of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, which carries out groundbreaking research into developmental biology and stem cells.

The Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, also part of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, holds the largest collection of living fungi in the world and works on the taxonomy and evolution of fungi as well as on functional aspects of fungal biology and ecology.

In terms of support staff, the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht offers degree courses in life sciences laboratory research and pharmacology and a joint executive MBI course for ambitious life sciences entrepreneurs.

For more information, please contact:



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Testimonials: companies who were here before you



Karl Rothweiler - co-founder at Aglaia BioMedical Ventures

“Utrecht is the home base for a unique selection of top-notch research institutes together with a growing number of successful life science companies. Add to this the central location and great environment for working and relaxing and you’ll see why Utrecht offers truly fertile ground for starting and expanding your life science business.”

Jan Koedam - director Early Development at Celgene B.V

“At Celgene, we seek to deliver truly innovative and life-changing drugs for our patients. The city’s central location in the Netherlands was pivotal in our decision to establish the Dutch branch of Celgene in Utrecht. We have business activities throughout the country and it is easy to reach them all. We are also close to many relevant institutions, such as University Medical Center Utrecht.”



Edwin Ket - director at Bristol-Myers Squibb

“Four years ago, BMS decided to move to the city of Utrecht because of its central location within the Netherlands. Here, we are within easy travelling distance of our clients. Perhaps even more important is the fact that Utrecht is home to many healthcare-related bodies, such as patient organisations, the Dutch Healthcare Authority and the umbrella groups representing hospitals, healthcare insurers and medical professionals. The number and the quality of life science organisations, businesses and scientific institutions already located in Utrecht is a positive surprise. We very much support Utrecht’s ambition to develop a life sciences ecosystem.”

Remco Brandt - managing director at Bioceros

“Bioceros is one of Europe’s premier providers of GMP-ready protein producing cell lines. The funding provided by the Utrecht Region to startups bringing innovative services or products to the market was a key reason for our decision to locate here. Despite some problems with accessibility and parking, we have stayed in Utrecht because additional laboratory space came available. We also appreciate being close to Utrecht University and Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. The labour market is tight and having the universities on our doorstep enables us to expand our workforce easily. We started out with six employees but are now hiring employees 32 and 33.”



Jan van de Winkel - CEO at Genmab

“Utrecht is an excellent location for biotech companies to establish their businesses. The area provides an exceptional innovation ecosystem thanks to the combination of a highly educated workforce, a world-class university, outstanding hospitals and renowned life sciences research institutes. Utrecht is centrally located in the Netherlands and provides an inspirational environment to work, live and relax in.”