

**Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae,  
Limited to Honors & Assessment Evaluation Activities.**

**Personal details**

Name Marca Valérie Christien Wolfensberger

Address The Netherlands

Phone number (+31) (0) 30 253 13 96

Place of birth Geneva, Switzerland

Nationality Dutch

**Work experience related to honors**

- *Professor Talent development in Higher Education and Society* at the Hanzehogeschool Utrecht (2009 – present). Wolfensberger set up a research group on the theme. Eleven tenured researchers are working in her institute. Besides research, they give advice, work on faculty development and create & teach courses. On her wish list are (inter)national conferences on honours, more publishing and sharing on honours education.

- *Member of the Advisory and Assessment Committee Sirius*, a national board to assess and advice higher institutional projects aiming at evoking excellence (2008-present)

- *Designer, director and lecturer honors program* at the Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University (1997 – present). Wolfensberger set up the honors program in 1997. Since then, almost 200 students have participated in the program, and it has been structurally implemented by the Faculty of Geosciences. In 2000 Wolfensberger received a national award for educational innovation ('ISO-prize') from the Dutch Secretary of Education. Wolfensberger is one of the main educators of the honors program.

The content and character of the honorsprogram are such that besides academic knowledge, active learning, developingresponsibility (leadership, initiative, ethical reflection), and communication andpresentation skills are encouraged. An international academic experience can be part of the honors program, amongst others through conducting research in a foreign country.

John Zubizaretta site visited the program in 2005. Together with an honors team, Wolfensberger wrote one of the winning national faculty proposals of Ruim Baan voor Talent and got half a million dollars (2005). She helped the faculty and Utrecht University with the second round called Sirius. This Sirius project will start end of 2008. Utrecht University was again one of the winning proposals and will get 5 million dollars from the government; 5 million will be matching money. On her wish list for the Geographical honors program are more activities executed by honors alumni and a stronger relation with secondary schools and master programs.

- *Senior advisor education honors programs* at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam (2003 – 2005). Wolfensberger's mission was to develop honors programs throughout the University of Amsterdam. Within one year, seven Faculties started disciplinary honors programs. In addition the University of Amsterdam decided to also create a university-wide interdisciplinary honors program. Wolfensberger was also involved in faculty development, for more example on the development of interdisciplinary courses. She developed (and gives) a leadership course to relate ethical and personal questions to education.

- *Research on the field of honors and excellence* within Higher Education in the Netherlands began end nineties. Wolfensberger began publishing on this theme in 2003. Wolfensberger's research activities entail an international comparative research on honors programs. Together with the Plusnetwerk she wrote a national research proposal which was honoured (218,000 dollars) and was involved in this multi-institutional research project on honors during 2004-2008.

Her work has been published in (inter)national professional magazines and specialist journals. She wants more research time and more (inter)national collaboration on the field.

- *Site-visiting experiences* go back to 2001 when a group of 4 including Wolfensberger established the Dutch Plusnetwerk (little sister from NCHC). Since then Wolfensberger is asked on a regular basis for informal site-visits and advice. She was connected with the national Ruim Baan voor Talent program. Now, She is one of the five members of the National Assessment Committee for Sirius. This Committee assessed 37 institutional proposals how to evoke excellence in Higher Education and prepared the advice for the minister of Education. She visited around 15 honors programs around the United States and 1 in Canada in order to get an international view on honors. Also she has connections with the Danish and German (Bayern's) initiatives on honors. Doing more official (inter)national site-visiting is on her wish list.

- *Relation with secondary and gifted education.* Wolfensberger was a geography teacher and class tutor at the 'Christelijk Gymnasium', Utrecht (secondary school) (1991 – 1999). Next to the normal curriculum Wolfensberger developed projects amongst others about the United Nations and social equality, excursions (e.g. Paris), interdisciplinary and extracurricular activities and special projects for the gifted. Several of her pupils won prizes in het National Geographic Olympiad. She gave a workshop at the World Council on Gifted and Talented children, Warwick, 2007.

- *Other activities concerning honors:* She had been involved in and co-responsible for the contents and execution of in-depth consultations, expert meetings, institutes, study days and conferences in the field of talent development. She initiated a national inventory of honors programs at universities the Netherlands, including policy advice with respect to talent development and education consultations (2001 – present). There is a carefully beginning of setting up training modules for university lecturers in the field of talent development: teaching strategies for talented students. Also an expertise Centrum for Research on Excellence in Higher Education is on the wish list.

### **Board memberships and voluntary work (both limited to honors)**

- Core member and co-founder (2000) of the "+Network", the national academic platform for honors programs (2000 – present). Its aim is to cooperate and to promote the circulation of knowledge on honors programs.

- Member of the board of directors of the "Nationale Aardrijkskunde Olympiade", the Dutch Geographical Olympiad for secondary school students (1996-2006). The board organises this test every year. 2100 students from 150 secondary schools participate in this test.

- Member of the Research Committee of NCHC (small task).

- Advisory and Assessment Committee Sirius, a national board to assess and advice institutional.

### **Languages**

Dutch: native

English: passive: good active: good

German: passive: average active: average

French: passive: good active: good

### **Hobbies**

Story telling and travelling to volcanic islands.