

## **The Academic Teacher Education Program: Striving for Excellence and Ambition**

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Abstract:

More teachers are needed in secondary education, particularly more teachers with an academic background. A big issue is how to attract more students to teacher education programs. The joint Dutch academic teacher education institutes have initiated a program in which this issue is studied from different perspectives to come to resolve the issue. Researchers from the Eindhoven School of Education (ESoE) together with Radboud Docentenacademie (RDA) are focusing on both attracting and challenging ambitious students. ESoE is developing two projects and RDA is developing a third (an honors program). The two projects ESoE is involved in are:

### 1) Double degree program

In this project, the double master's degree program of a TU/e technical Master and the educational Master is described, evaluated and discussed with all other academic teacher education institutes as a possibility to attract the ambitious student to a teacher education program.

### 2) Specialization

This part project has three constituent elements:

- A specialization trajectory was designed in which preservice teachers learn about innovation in education.
- Existing specialization programs in teacher education programs at other academic teacher institutes are investigated.
- Students who are indicated to be innovative are interviewed regarding their needs in terms of specialization opportunities within their teacher education programs.