



Factory of the Future focuses on sustainability

usually very specialised. They can also help with the language barrier and with comprehending Dutch culture. International students have wider knowledge and have a different way of thinking. It makes it more creative. The combination makes a great learning environment, I think."

Each six months 24 new students start the Honours Programme. They will team up in groups of four and tackle one problem for one company. Like how to make sustainable diapers, or tiles. Other problems can be about how to get sustainable products from third parties, so the process will be environmentally friendly. Because when the tile is made the right way, the glue has to be, too. Cradle-to-cradle, is what it's called when you try to make every step in your process sustainable.

A new project, started in February, is called 'Food of the Future' and revolves around food development in third world countries. Shortly, another project will start in Ukraine, which does not only involve people from Saxion, but also Dutch companies and local universities. Finally, 'Government of the Future' is a different project that Popovych and co-workers will work on in the Netherlands.

So there's a lot of work to be done. "The students are very motivated, but only have one day per week, in their private time, to help. Thankfully the Factory of the Future will also be a minor soon, hopefully in September. Students who choose this subject have more time and will receive credits." (MvD)

How can you be a manufacturer and not produce any waste? Or even better, is it possible for a company to make your production cycle a positive one? Oksana Popovych, coordinator of the project 'Factory of the Future' is trying to find this out.

Popovych does not have to do the research alone. There are several Saxion co-workers involved in the project, as well as 24 students from the Honours Programme. Saxion also works with Utrecht University and several companies from the process and manufacturing industries.

A year ago, Utrecht University and Saxion started 'Factory of the Future'. Most of the students lending a helping hand were Dutch, as are the companies. Along the way, more international students got involved. Right now, less than half of the students are Dutch, which is quite a shift in balance. "You need some Dutch students in your team. Dutch students are