Through the close cooperation with The Chain Company, the Dual Career Service of the University of Twente provided me with an excellent contact to be able to find a job around Enschede, where my girlfriend lives. As a person who was not familiar with the industrial environment in the Enschede region, The Chain Company offered me ideal conditions to gain an overview of local companies and interesting jobs that matched my personal strengths and preferences. In addition, The Chain Company and its experienced staff provided me with very helpful support throughout the entire application process in the Dutch labour market.

- Lennart Gaus
DUAL CAREER SERVICE

Talented prospective staff often have partners who will accompany them to the Netherlands and may also wish to advance their careers. The UT dual career services assists partners in building up a new professional and social network and seeking employment, and offers support while they adjust to daily life in a new environment.

“I found the Dual Career Service quite helpful to me. The Chain Company helped me improve my LinkedIn profile to attract more potential employers, and they actively pushed me to apply to more companies and speed up my application processes. Furthermore, they introduced the direct manner of Dutch work culture, which was new to me. It changed my ways of discussing with employers during interviews.”

- Danny Le

WHAT DOES THE DUAL CAREER SERVICES ENTAIL?

The UT has a collaboration with The Chain Company (TCC), who accompanies partners in this process. We distinguish the following online services and activities for Dual Career participants:

1. **Online intake interview:**
   - Personal Introduction: Preferably at our office, otherwise online. Personal acquaintance & explanation of the DCS working method
   - Introduction to TCC: Background information on DCS, history, and success
   - DCS Objectives: Emphasis on professional integration and self-empowerment
   - Overview of DCS Structure: Outlining possible subsequent meetings
   - Expectation Management: Clear explanation of effort, communication, and proactivity
   - Understanding the Candidate: Background, aspirations, preferences, and future plans
   - Professional Advice: LinkedIn profile, CV review, and guidance
   - Dutch Job Market Opportunities: Analysis of opportunities and obstacles
   - Language Support: Importance of learning Dutch and potential courses via the University of Twente (UT)

After the initial meeting, TCC provides a decision, and if positive:

- Vacancy Selection: Candidate specifies preferences for vacancies.
- Support: Email with links to relevant vacancies and companies.
- Candidate Feedback: Feedback for the second appointment.
- Preparation: Updated CV and LinkedIn based on TCC’s advice.
2. **Personal branding and networking**
   - CV and LinkedIn Updates: If necessary
   - Feedback and Follow-up: TCC assesses opportunities within their network
   - Network Analysis: Identifying opportunities within their own network
   - Advice: Utilizing social media, networking in the Netherlands, and introduction to TCC’s network
   - Job Market Introduction: Access to TCC’s client network for targeted job interviews
   - LinkedIn Post: Personal recognition of the candidate
   - Action Plan: Concrete strategy for approaching companies and vacancies
   - Group Activities: DCS events at UT to foster a sense of community

3. **Regional Job Market Exploration and Dutch Work Culture**
   - Company Visits: Introduction to the regional job market
   - Job Search Strategies: Discussing locations, organisations, tactics, approaches and methods
   - Exploration of Dutch Work Culture: Understanding Dutch work culture, do’s and don’t
   - Online Job Search: Initiating the online job search

4. **Tips for Application and Motivation Letter**
   - LinkedIn Usage: Effective job application techniques
   - Support: Professional writing of motivation letters

5. **Individual Support and WYSIWYG (videorecruiter system)**
   - Preparation: Preparing interviews through mock interviews
   - Evaluation: Coaching after job interviews

We aim to guide each DCS candidate on their unique path to professional success. Following the introduction meeting, a clear trajectory is established, where TCC is committed to a personalized approach and continuous support. Therefore a personalized approach can differ from abovementioned information.

> Moving to a new country and finding a job that matches your expertise can be challenging. The first and most significant hurdle is to understand the local labour market and employment context. To overcome this, it is crucial to be part of the local network and expose yourself to relevant employers. My experience working with The Chain Company has been incredibly helpful in building my confidence, shortening the job search period, and preparing me for the local employment culture. I would like to give a special shout-out to Charlotte Stegeman for her dedicated support in all aspects to help me adapt in no time.

- Janet Hui Xue
WHO’S ELIGIBLE?

You are eligible for the Dual Career Programme if (1) your partner is a UT staff member who holds a salaried position, and (2) you are considering relocating to UT or have done so recently, and are looking for work in the eastern Netherlands.

REGISTER

Please reach out to your HR department who will inform you and your partner about the registration process at The Chain Company during your application.

"I had the pleasure of working with The Chain Company during my job search when I arrived in the Netherlands in 2022, and I am truly impressed with the level of professionalism and commitment they demonstrated. What sets The Chain Company apart is their dedication to their clients. They went above and beyond in helping me prepare for interviews, providing insights into local job market trends, and offering advice on optimizing my CV and LinkedIn profile. Their personalized approach made me feel supported every step of the way. Furthermore, their transparency and clear communication were greatly appreciated. I always felt well-informed about the status of my applications and received timely updates on potential opportunities. If you are seeking a dedicated and results-driven partner for your job search or talent acquisition needs, I wholeheartedly recommend their services."

- Goran Kristófer
WHAT IS THE DUAL CAREER SERVICE?

Branding & Networking
- CV and LinkedIn guidance
- Networking tips
- Discuss branches, organisations and possible job opportunities

Introduction
- Brief background DCS
- Career and life path
- Ambition, expectations and commitment

Preparation & Evaluation
- Interview preparation
- Record a WYSIWYG video
- Progress and updates

Application & Motivation
- How to apply?
- LinkedIn for jobs
- Writing a professional motivation/cover letter

Dutch Work Culture
- Stress on importance to learn the Dutch language and culture
- Job search strategies in Dutch and regional labour market
- Do's and don'ts
I immigrated to the Netherlands about ten months ago after my wife was admitted to the University of Twente. At first, I was very hesitant about immigrating because I had a good job in my home country, but I decided to immigrate to the Netherlands for a better future for my daughter. When I arrived, I did not know how to find a job, but with the help of some job search companies and The Chain Company, I found out how to correctly use LinkedIn and how to find a job. Currently, I am working as an engineer in a construction company, and I am learning Dutch and some software-related skills.

- Mehdi Pourseddigh Roody