



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

International Student Affairs



Global Exchange Programme 2022-2023

Pre- & After arrival information

www.uva.nl/globalexchange

We are 



Pre-arrival

The following information helps you prepare and take the necessary steps before coming to Amsterdam. Read this information carefully.

Email

The Office of International Student Affairs (BIS) and other departments of the University of Amsterdam will use email as a primary means of communication, so please make sure to add '@uva.nl' to your email safe list. Check your email regularly (even your spam box!).

Facebook

We have created a Facebook page for students participating in the Global Exchange Programme. On this page you will also find a list of destination specific Facebook groups. It is a great platform to meet other students from your home university who will go on or have had an exchange at the University of Amsterdam. It is also a way to meet Dutch students who have gone, still are, or are going on exchange at your home institution. You will be invited to his group after nomination.

Finalise your registration at UvA

UvA Student Services will help you finalise your registration at the UvA. After acceptance, you will receive an email from the Central Student Service Desk It will instruct you how to complete your registration at the UvA. During the online registration, you will be guided through visa procedures (if applicable) and you can register for the International Student Network (ISN) introduction activities. After completing the registration, UvA Student Services will send you an invitation to schedule a start appointment upon arrival.

Visa & Residence permit

Most nationalities require a specific immigration procedure to study in the Netherlands. Based up on the country of which you are a citizen, you will need to apply for an entry visa (to travel into the Netherlands) and/or residence permit (to study in the Netherlands). UvA Student Services will assist you with the immigration procedure. www.uva.nl/visa

Students with the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian nationality can also apply for the Working Holiday Scheme permit (WHS permit) instead of the regular residence permit. When you finalise your registration at the UvA, the online application automatically guided you through the necessary immigration procedure (visa, residence permit, WHS permit). www.uva.nl/visa

Please note that students with a Chinese passport also need to apply for the NUFFIC certificate (former NESO certificate) as it is part of the Dutch visa application.

Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory by Dutch law. For non-EEA/EU students requesting a residence permit through the University of Amsterdam, liability insurance is mandatory. If students have plans to travel outside of the Netherlands, they should make sure that their insurance policy covers those regions as well.

Students carry responsibility for the type of coverage (health and/or liability) and checking whether their insurance will cover the complete period of their stay abroad.

www.uva.nl/insurance



Housing

The housing market in Amsterdam is very tight and it can be quite hard to find accommodation on your own. Therefore, the office of International Students Affairs (BIS) offers guaranteed housing. If you apply for accommodation after the housing deadline, we cannot guarantee housing anymore.

The UvA works with an online application system to process all applications for student accommodation. You will receive an invitation email to start your online application around 25th of May for studies starting in September, and 10th of November for studies starting in February. You can indicate your housing preferences during the online application. Make sure to carefully consider the price category.

All students renting accommodation through the UvA housing Office will be charged a non-refundable fee. This Early bird fee (190 Euro for one semester and 375 Euro for a full year, with reservation) is required to cover the UvA costs in providing the housing service to international students. You can submit the online housing application after you have paid the UvA fee. For more information about the housing application procedure, budget categories or fees www.uva.nl/housing

Fixed period

Bear in mind that if you rent a room the lease agreement will last until the end of the semester. It is not possible to shorten the lease agreement. Check the end date of your preferred room.

Finding your own accommodation

Please inform us as soon as possible if you prefer to find your own accommodation and do not wish to arrange housing through the UvA. www.uva.nl/housing

Amsterdam University College - campus

Students admitted at Amsterdam University College (AUC) are not able to use the UvA housing services. They will be placed in accommodation on the AUC campus instead. AUC will contact the students directly.



Course registration

The course registration takes place after receiving the acceptance letter indicating your academic adviser. The accepting faculty will send you information about course registration and other academic matters. Most departments will announce the definitive course registration just before the start of the semester. A full year contains 60 ECTS, a semester 30 ECTS.

Never contact lecturers or professors directly yourself. Please contact the academic adviser instead. Also be aware that each department has its own rules, registration dates and deadlines. Refer to your acceptance letter for the contact details of your academic adviser.

Early leave

If students finish a fulltime course load before the end of the semester (e.g. in the first two blocks of the semester), they are allowed to return home earlier. Although the lease contracts cannot be shortened and cover (almost) the entire semester.

Disability

If you are studying with a (minor) disability, and you would like this to be taken into account while studying at the UvA, please contact the office of International Student Affairs as soon as possible. If you already experience a chronic illness or learning disability, you should bring proof from your doctor or home university.

www.uva.nl/disability

Dutch language courses

The Institute for Dutch Language Education (INTT) offers courses at various levels, starting six times a year. The costs for the semi-intensive course (recommended) is €310 and need to be paid in advance. All Global Exchange students may apply for a reimbursement of €310 upon successful completion of the course. However, Intensive Dutch summer and winter courses are not eligible for this scholarship and has to be financed by the student. Applications go through the Office of International Student Affairs. The application form can be found on the INTT www.intt.uva.nl

Dutch culture and society

The following Dutch Culture and Society courses* are open for students without a humanities background.

1. Dutch Culture and Society in European Context (6 ECTS)
2. The Dutch Golden Age (6 ECTS)
3. The Netherlands in the world (6 ECTS)
4. All-Time Bestsellers from Amsterdam (6 ECTS)
5. Vermeer's Delft (6 ECTS)
6. Reading the city: Amsterdam literary classics (6 ECTS)**

(* This is a preliminary list, based on the courses offered last year and subject to change.) (**This course is not to be taken by students who have already taken the course All-Time Bestsellers from Amsterdam.)



Arrival

Public transport

For other ways to get to Amsterdam and information on public transport please check: www.uva.nl/globalexchange > Practical matters > Transportation

ESN introduction days

Before the start of each semester, International Student Network Amsterdam (ISN) offers an introduction programme for all newly arrived international students (costs 65 Euro, with reservation). This is a great way to meet other international and Dutch students and to find out much of what you need to know about the UvA, the city of Amsterdam and Dutch culture. So do not miss it! For more information about the programme:

<https://esn-amsterdam.nl/> As soon as you finalize your registration at the UvA, you can register for the introduction activities. Make sure not to wait for the last moment to complete the registration. Available spots tend to fill up quickly!

Faculty information sessions (mandatory)

All faculties/academic departments will organise an information session. During these sessions, important information will be given about studying at the UvA, course registration and academic environment will be given. The meetings are mandatory. If you cannot attend the meeting, make sure to contact your academic adviser. Please refer to your acceptance letter for contact details.

Upon arrival

The University of Amsterdam offers help after arrival with matters such as registering with the municipality, opening a bank account, etc. This may be by means of an optional online Personal Arrival appointment (set-up is subject to change), or by checking the extensive Upon Arrival page for a step-by-step guide, to attend a webinar, read the Start Newsletter, and the latest updates. www.uva.nl/uponarrival



Civil registration / registration at the municipality

All residents of the Netherlands must register with their local authority. Student Services can help arrange an appointment to do this. Once you have registered, you will receive your Dutch tax and social security number (Burger Service Nummer, BSN). You will need this if you want to work in the Netherlands.

Deadlines, Arrival Advice & Important Dates for the academic year

Make sure to download the 'Important Dates' sheet. It will give an indication of the deadlines (for visa, housing application et cetera) recommended date of arrival and other important dates. www.uva.nl/globalexchange > After application > Important dates

Useful websites

Global exchange website: www.uva.nl/globalexchange

Visa: www.uva.nl/visa

Working in the Netherlands: www.uva.nl/work

Housing: www.uva.nl/housing

Disability: www.uva.nl/disability

Erasmus Student Network Amsterdam (ESN): <https://esn-amsterdam.nl/>

Contact

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University of Amsterdam

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