



# UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

## Global Exchange Programme

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Fact sheet 2020-2021

### Postal address

**Mail Address** University of Amsterdam  
Student Services  
International Student Affairs  
Valckenierstraat 59  
1018 XE AMSTERDAM  
The Netherlands

**Visiting Address** Valckenierstraat 65-67  
1018 XE Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

### Information

**Website** [www.uva.nl/globalexchange](http://www.uva.nl/globalexchange)

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**Telephone** +31 20 525 1401



## About the UvA

**World-class education** Founded on a tradition of highly integrated academics, the University of Amsterdam enjoys a global reputation for cutting-edge research, high-quality teaching and a broad range of degree programmes. Our open, tolerant and international academic tradition dates back to 1632, and continues to be strong today, thanks to our thriving community of independent thinkers. Now, with more than 31.000 students, we are considered one of the best research universities in the world. We strive for excellence in teaching and research, and are proud to offer you one of the largest selections of English-taught programmes in continental Europe.

**Studying in Amsterdam** Amsterdam provides an ideal environment for academic studies. As the capital city, with a population over 850.000 inhabitants, Amsterdam is the financial, creative and cultural heart of the Netherlands. It is also home to numerous (international) companies, institutions and museums. The city boasts beautiful architecture and more than 150 canals, lending Amsterdam its unique and charming historical ambience. The people of Amsterdam are easy-going and welcoming to foreigners and English is the city's second language. Getting around is easy using the extensive public transportation system. Alternatively, you can explore the city by bike, discovering places where cars, buses, or trams cannot take you.

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**Exchange** The Global Exchange Programme is an extensive network of 90 non-European partner universities facilitating student exchanges. Ambitious students from our partner universities are encouraged to participate in a challenging and inspiring academic exchange programme at the UvA.

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**Academic tradition** [Academic climate](#)

# Application and programme information

## Application

**Application procedure** Application instructions will be sent directly to the student's email address during the application period.

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**Required documents (Soft copy / digital scans)**

- Completed Global Exchange application form
- Certified copies of academic transcripts of *all* universities attended, including a list of pending courses
- Copy of CV/Resume
- Certified copy of English language test results (*for non-native speakers of English*)

## Entry requirements

**Entry Requirements**

- Students must have completed at least 120 ECTS (or the equivalent in local credits) at the time of departure for study abroad. Students should have a grade point **average of 3.0** (US system) and a relevant academic background in the proposed field of study.
- Requirement for students wishing to take courses on master level: completed Bachelor's degree in the proposed field of study (except for the Amsterdam Law School, see programme information).
- Each host faculty might have additional requirements. Please review additional requirements per faculty to see if further conditions apply. Requirements are explained in the document for courses and faculty criteria. For more information see: [Entry requirements](#).

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**Language requirements** Non-native speakers of English should provide proof of proficiency in the English language by means of a *TOEFL*, an *IELTS* or a *CAE* test report. For specific English language scorecard requirements see: [Course & Faculty requirements](#)

## Programme information

**Language of instruction** English

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**Level** Most courses are on bachelor (undergraduate) level. The availability of master (graduate) courses differs per department. Admission for exchange on master-level is done on a case-by-case basis.

An exception is the Amsterdam Law School (ALS). Exchange students can only take master courses at the Amsterdam Law School and do not need a completed bachelor's degree to attend. However, students do need to have at least two full years of academic background in law.

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**Departments open to exchange students**

- Amsterdam University College - Liberal Arts & Sciences
  - Child Development and Education
  - Communication Science
  - Economics and Business
  - Humanities
  - Amsterdam Law School
  - Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics (PPLE College)
  - Psychology
  - Science
  - Interdisciplinary Studies
  - Social Science
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**Course information** [Courses](#)

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**Course placement** All incoming students are advised to be as flexible as possible with their course selection. We aim to register students for preferred courses but we cannot guarantee course placement. Placement is generally not confirmed until right before the start of the semester.

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**Course selection** Students are advised to select courses from one academic department at the UvA. In some cases it is possible to take one or two courses in another department. This can only be arranged on a case-by-case basis by the international officer of your accepting faculty and is dependent on availability of courses.

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**Limited enrolment** Due to high demand and space constraints, Amsterdam University College (Liberal Arts & Sciences) and PPLE College has limited access and therefore reserves the right to review applications on motivation, background, study progress and GPA.

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**Not open** Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate School of Social Science, MSc. Business Studies.

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## Credits, grading & transcripts

**Full time course load** A full-time workload for UvA students is 30 EC (European Credits) per semester. Exchange students generally take between 24 EC and 30 EC. If students wish to take less than 24 EC, permission is needed from the home university and their UvA academic advisor.

**Course requirements** According to Dutch immigration guidelines, students need to be enrolled in at least 18 EC per semester in order to be eligible for a student residence permit.

**Early leave** If students finish a full-time 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. However, the housing contract cannot be shortened and covers (almost) the entire semester. Consequently, you will have to pay rent up until the last day stipulated in your contract. In addition, leaving early could also affect your possibilities to attend a resit exam.

**Credits per course** Generally 6 or 12 EC per course

**Grading system** Most faculties at UvA use a grading system ranging from 1-10 (5.5 is a pass). Amsterdam University College uses the US letter system. Some courses may also be taken on a pass/non-pass basis.

**Transcripts** Official certified transcripts are automatically sent to the exchange office of the home university approximately six weeks after the end of the semester. As soon as the first results are registered in SIS, the student administration system, it is possible to obtain a transcript of records until that moment. You can download the results yourself by logging in to SIS

## Academic Calendar

**Semester system** Two semesters, each comprise three blocks of 8, 8 and 4 weeks.

**Semester 1** End of August 2020 – End of January 2021  
Exams: end of each block

**Semester 2** End of January 2021 – End of June 2021  
Exams: end of each block

**Collective days off** [Academic calendar](#)

## Dutch language

### Dutch Language courses

Each semester, the Institute for Dutch Language Education (INTT) of the UvA offers extensive Dutch courses (non-credit bearing) for international students at absolute beginners, beginners, intermediate and advanced level.

### Costs & reimbursement

The costs for the semi-intensive course (recommended) is €320\* and needs to be paid in advance. All Global Exchange students may apply for a one time reimbursement of €320\* upon successful completion of the course. The Intensive Dutch summer courses are not covered by this scholarship and have to be financed by the student him/herself.

(\*Price is based on last year's costs and is subject to change.)

### Application

Applications go through the Office of International Student Affairs.

### Dutch culture and society courses

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. From Rembrandt's Masterpieces to Mass Production: History Painting in Amsterdam c. 1630-1680 (6 ECTS)
4. The History and Future of Reading (6 ECTS)
5. Urban Multilingualism 1 (6 ECTS)
6. Multilingualism in a European Perspective 1 (6 ECTS)
7. The Netherlands in the world ( 6 ECTS)
8. All-Time Bestsellers from Amsterdam (6 ECTS)
9. Vermeer's Delft (6 ECTS)
10. 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.)

→ Continue to the next pages for practical matters



## Practical matters

### Immigration procedures

**Assistance** UvA Student Services assists all students with immigration procedures. The online application will start around four months before the beginning of each semester. For more information see [Visa](#).

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**Visa  
(travel to Amsterdam)** Based on the country of citizenship, students may need to apply for an entry visa. To find out whether you need a visa to travel to the Netherlands as a student.

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**Residence Permit /  
WHS permit** All non-European/European Economic Area (non-EU/EEA) students will have to apply for a residence permit to legally reside and study in the Netherlands for a semester or full year. Students with the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian nationality may also apply for the Working Holiday Scheme permit (WHS permit) instead of the regular residence permit.

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### Accommodation

**University housing** The UvA guarantees\* accommodation for Global Exchange students applying before the 'early bird' deadline. For more information see [Housing](#).  
(\*Depending on budget.)

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**Types of rooms** Each year, we reserve a range of furnished accommodation in Amsterdam and its surrounding areas for our international students. We work with different housing corporations that offer various types of rooms, including shared rooms, private rooms with shared facilities and private rooms with private facilities.

We would like to emphasise that there are not enough rooms available to accommodate all students within the city centre. Around 50% of the students are placed outside of the city centre. Allocation to housing is done by several housing corporations based on your indicated budget.

Housing prices in Amsterdam are not based on location. Instead it is based on a so-called 'point system.' This system measures the general quality of the room. For instance the condition of the room, type of kitchen and sanitary facilities (shared or private), room surface area, as well as the proximity of public transportation.

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**Contract periods** Contract periods are fixed for the duration of the signed lease agreement and run for almost the entire semester. Please note that it is **not** possible to shorten the contract if a student decides to arrive late, or leave before the end of the semester.

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**Housing application fee**

One semester	€209 (early bird) / €242 (regular) with reservation*
Two semesters	€413 (early bird) / €440 (regular) with reservation*

*\*Price is based on last year's costs and is subject to change.*

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**Approximate costs** The rental prices range from approximately €300 to €850 per month, depending on room type. An additional administration fee, ranging from €65 to €200 applies for each new contract.

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**Housing application** The UvA uses an online application portal to process all applications for student accommodation. Once admitted to the Global Exchange Programme at the UvA, students will receive an email with a link to the online application portal.

## Insurance

**Health** The UvA does not have a mandatory health insurance plan, but it is required by law to have appropriate health insurance for the duration of your stay in the Netherlands. The UvA has special agreements for exchange students with certain insurance companies. For more information see [Insurance](#).

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**Liability** Having sufficient liability insurance is mandatory in the Netherlands, in case of damage to other people or property.

## Arrival and Orientation

**Recommended arrival dates** Semester 1: Mid-August  
Semester 2: Last week of January

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**Airport pick up** The University of Amsterdam offers a pick-up service from Schiphol Amsterdam Airport during the recommended arrival dates. For more information see [Airport pick up](#).

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**Introduction Period** The Introduction period takes place right after the recommended arrival dates. For more information see [ISN Amsterdam](#).

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**Faculty Introduction** Generally takes place one week before the start of the semester.

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## Ambassadors programme

**Exchange Ambassadors Programme** As an ambassador, you will contribute according to your talents and interests. Working with other ambassadors in a mixed group of local and international students, you can get involved in advising students, organising events, writing articles or producing a newsletter. In return, you will receive training to help develop or enhance your intercultural networking, project planning and professional skills. In 2015, the Global Exchange Ambassador Programme won the prestigious Orange Carpet Award for the sector Higher Education. For more information see [Ambassadors](#).

## Estimated living expenses

*Provided numbers are rough estimates, and based upon the previous academic year*

Residence permit (including visa)	€ 210
Housing	€ 300 – € 850 per month
Application fee (early bird)	€ 209 (one semester) € 413 (full year)
Administration fee	€ 65 to € 200 (housing corporation)
Refundable room deposit	Generally equal to monthly rent (ranges from € 300 to € 850)
Personal expenses (including food)	€ 400 – € 600 per month
Books	€ 75 per month
Public Transport / Travel	€ 70 – 100 per month (if not using a bike and when living in Amsterdam)
Bicycle	€ 150 (Second-hand, including lock)
Health insurance	€ 75 per month

**Update January 2020**