



# UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

## Global Exchange Programme

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Fact sheet 2023-2024

### 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/exchange](http://www.uva.nl/exchange)

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**Email** [exchange-sts@uva.nl](mailto:exchange-sts@uva.nl)

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**Telephone** +31 20 525 1401

### Team

**Head** Bertine van Hoof

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**Manager Global Partnerships** Willeke Jeeninga  
Partnership agreements and exchange balance

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**Manager Student Experience & Engagement** Guido de Wilde  
General programme management and student advising

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<b>Partnerships</b>	Ingeborg de Brieder – Senior Liaison Officer
<b>Outbound Mobility</b>	Evi Rongen – Liaison Officer Julia Brandsteder – Liaison Officer Abigail Tjhay – Liaison Officer
<b>Inbound Mobility</b>	Maarten Terpstra – Liaison Officer Jurgen Rood – Liaison Officer

## About the UvA

<b>World-class education</b>	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.
<b>Studying in Amsterdam</b>	Amsterdam provides an ideal environment for academic studies. As the capital city, with a population over 900.000 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.
<b>Exchange</b>	The Global Exchange Programme is an extensive network of 100 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.

<b>Academic tradition</b>	<a href="#">Academic Climate</a>
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## Deadlines

<b>Nomination period and deadline (by host university)</b>	Semester 1: 1 March – 1 April Semester 2: 25 August - 15 September
<b>Application period and deadline (by student)</b>	Semester 1: 1 April – 15 April Semester 2: 15 September - 1 October

## Application and programme information

### Application

#### Nomination procedure

Official nomination from the home university is a strict requirement to be eligible to apply for the Global Exchange Programme. A link to the nomination portal will be emailed to partner universities before the start of the nomination period. For more information take a look at the [Application and Admission](#) page.

#### Application procedure

A link to the application portal will be sent directly to the student's email address during the application period.

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

- Certified copies of academic transcripts of *all* universities attended, including a list of pending courses.
- Motivation Letter & CV (only for AUC and PPLE)
- Copy of valid passport
- Copy of certified 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's 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](#).

#### Language requirements

International exchange students must provide proof of their proficiency in the English language by means of a TOEFL, an IELTS, or a CAE test report. Check the English language scorecard requirements stated in the [Course and Faculty Criteria](#).

#### Exemption

You do not need to submit an English proficiency test if either you are a national of, or if you have completed your secondary or higher education in: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, UK, or USA.

## Programme information

**Language of instruction** English

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**Level**

Most exchange courses are on bachelor (undergraduate) level. The possibility to take master (graduate) courses differs per department. A full year exchange on master level is not possible. Master level students can only stay for one semester.

Students holding a degree comparable to a Dutch Bachelor's degree can apply for master level courses. The international officer will evaluate on individual basis if the student has the required study background.

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

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**Faculties, colleges, and schools open to exchange students**

- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Humanities
- Amsterdam Law School (ALS)
- College of Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics (PPLE)
- Faculty of Science, incl. Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS)
- Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences – College of Child Development and Education
- Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences – College of Communication Science
- Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences – College of Psychology
- Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences – College of Social Sciences
- Amsterdam University College (AUC) - Liberal Arts & Sciences

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**Not open**

Faculty of Medicine (Amsterdam UMC-AMC), Faculty of Dentistry (ACTA), Graduate School of Social Sciences (except Research Master Urban Studies), MSc. Business Studies (Amsterdam Business School)

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**Course information**

You can find the course catalogue per faculty under [Entry Requirements and Course Selection](#).

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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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<b>Course selection</b>	<p>Students must take the majority of their courses at their preferred faculty, college, or school. In some cases, it is possible to take one or two courses at a different faculty, college, or school. However, 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 and specific course requirements.</p> <p>Amsterdam University College (AUC) courses are only available for exchange students accepted by AUC and AUC students can only select courses from AUC due to a different semester system.</p>
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<b>Limited enrolment</b>	<p>Due to high demand and space constraints, Amsterdam University College (Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences) and PPLe College have limited access and therefore reserve the right to review applications on motivation, CV, background, study progress and GPA.</p>
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<b>Dutch culture and society courses</b>	<p>The following Dutch Culture and Society courses* are open for students without a humanities background:</p>
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1. Dutch Culture and Society (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.)

## Academic Calendar

<b>Semester system</b>	Two semesters, comprised of 3 blocks of 2 times 8 and 1 time 4 weeks.
<b>AUC semester system</b>	Two semesters, comprised in a 16-week period and a 4-week period.
<b>Semester 1</b>	<p>End of August 2023 – End of January 2024</p> <p>Exams: end of each block</p>
<b>Semester 2</b>	<p>End of January 2024 – End of June 2024</p> <p>Exams: end of each block</p>
<b>Collective days off</b>	<a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>

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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.

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

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**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.

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**Credits per course** Generally, 6 to 12 ECTS per course

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**Re-sits** All students at the UvA are allowed to re-sit exams if the initial grade is not sufficient to pass the course. Re-sitting an exam to improve a grade that already counts as a pass (5.5 or higher) is not possible. For more information about rules and regulations please consult the host faculty at the UvA.

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**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 signing into SIS.

## Examination facilities

**Disability or a chronic illness,** Examination facilities for exchange students that have a [disability or a chronic illness](#), can be arranged via the regular procedure for UvA students. Facilities at the UvA may deviate from the facilities recommended by experts or other educational institutions. This means that the UvA won't automatically offer the same facilities as the ones students enjoyed at their home university. We recommend students to start the request in time, after acceptance and preferably four weeks before the start of the exchange programme.

**Contact student counsellors** Students can contact the [student counsellors](#) for support and examination facilities. For general questions, the student counsellors can be reached Monday-Friday 09:00-10:00 AM. When students want to arrange examination facilities, they can [schedule an appointment with a student counsellor](#).

## Extension procedure

### Extension procedure

To extend your stay at the UvA, there are several steps to undertake and practical matters to take into consideration:

- Required approval of the International Office of your home university for extending your stay at the University of Amsterdam.
- UvA's selection committee will discuss the possibilities.
- With regards to housing: the possibility of finding accommodation or extending your contract depends on the availability.
- With regards to visa: Extending your stay has consequences for the validity of your residence permit and could mean that you will have to follow extension procedures. Please find more information on [Residence Permit Extension](#).

Please note: The Global Exchange Programme has a maximum of one year in total. Extension cannot be guaranteed and does not apply to graduate students, and to students of the Amsterdam Law School.

## 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. For more information see [Exchange Ambassadors Programme](#).

## Dutch language INTT

### 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 all levels: (absolute) beginners, intermediate and advance.

### Costs & reimbursement

The costs for the semi-intensive Dutch language course is €365 (reduced fee for UvA students) and needs to be paid in advance. All Global Exchange students may apply for a one-time reimbursement of €365\* upon successful completion of the course. The Intensive Dutch summer courses are not covered by this scholarship and must 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. The application form can be found on [the INTT website](#).

## Immigration procedures

**Assistance** UvA Student Services assists all students with immigration procedures. The online application will start around 3 months before the beginning of each semester. For more information, take a look at the webpage of [Visas and Permits](#). In addition, please also pay close attention to the [Proof of Financial Means](#) paragraph (minimum amount is €4.875 for one semester, and €9.750 for a full year).

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**Visa  
(travel to Amsterdam)** Based on the country of citizenship, students may need to apply for an entry visa (so-called MVV) and change this into a residence permit once you have arrived in the Netherlands. For more information take a look at the [MVV-entry visa](#) page.

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**Residence Permit /  
WHS permit** All non-European / European Economic Area (non-EU / EEA) students have to apply for a residence permit to legally reside and study in the Netherlands for a semester or for a full year.

Students who hold an Argentinean, Australian, Canadian, Hong Kong, Japanese, New Zealand, Taiwanese, Uruguayan or South Korean passport may also apply for the Working Holiday Scheme permit (WHS permit) instead of the regular residence permit.

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## Accommodation

**University housing** To make the allocation of housing as fair as possible for all students, we work with a lottery system. Each semester, there is a small window in which students can apply for housing.

After acceptance at your preferred faculty, you will receive an invitation to start the online housing procedure. All applicants will be assigned a random place on the waiting list if they meet the housing requirements and deadline.

For more information, take a look at the [Housing](#) page.

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**types of rooms** Each year, we reserve a range of furnished accommodation in Amsterdam 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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<b>Contract periods</b>	Contract periods are fixed for the duration of the signed lease agreement and run for almost the entire semester. Please note that it is <b>not</b> possible to shorten the contract if a student decides to arrive late, or leave before the end of the semester.	
<b>Housing application fee</b>	One semester Two semesters	€ 235* € 465*
<i>* To be paid in advance. Fee becomes non-refundable as soon as student receives a room offer. Prices are based on last year's costs and are subject to change.</i>		
<b>Approximate costs</b>	The rental prices range from approximately €330 to €950 per month, depending on room type. An additional administration fee, ranging from €100 to €230 applies to each new contract.	
<b>Housing application</b>	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.	
<b>Insurance</b>		
<b>Health</b>	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 take a look at the <a href="#">Insurance</a> page.	
<b>Liability</b>	Having sufficient liability insurance is mandatory in the Netherlands, in case of damage to other people or property.	
<b>Arrival and Orientation</b>		
<b>Recommended arrival dates</b>	Semester 1: Mid-August Semester 2: Last week of January	
<b>Upon arrival</b>	Services upon arrival are provided to help you with matters such as registering with the municipality, opening a bank account, etc. For example, you can make an online Personal Arrival appointment (subject to change), or check the extensive <a href="#">Upon Arrival</a> page for a webinar, step-by-step guide, and the latest updates.	
<b>Introduction Days</b>	The Introduction Days take place right after the recommended arrival dates. For more information see <a href="#">ESN Amsterdam</a> .	

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**Faculty  
Introduction**

This takes place one week before the start of the semester. For more information, check the [Introduction Days](#) page. After this week your classes will start. Please note there is mandatory attendance for the first class.

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**Estimated living expenses**

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

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Residence permit (including visa)	€ 210
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Housing	€ 330 – € 950 per month
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Application fee	€ 235 (one semester) € 465 (full year)
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Administration fee	€ 100 to € 230 (housing corporation)
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Refundable room deposit	Generally equal to monthly rent (ranges from € 300 to € 850)
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Personal expenses (including food)	€ 400 – € 600 per month
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Books	€ 75 per month
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Public Transport / Travel	€ 70 – 100 per month (if not using a bike and when living in Amsterdam)
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Bicycle	€ 150 (Second-hand, including lock)
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Health insurance	€ 75 per month
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