Study programmes and courses

Exchange students in the Global Exchange Programme are registered on a non-degree basis for undergraduate courses. Access to graduate courses is unfortunately very limited and therefore restricted. Whether exchange students can be admitted at the graduate level is decided on a case-by-case basis. The main condition for a graduate application to be reviewed, is that the potential candidate has to hold a completed Bachelor’s/undergraduate degree in the desired field of study. Please note that taking graduate courses in Social Sciences is not possible for general exchange students (an exception to this applies for Research Master Urban Studies agreements with selected partners).

English-taught courses can be found in Humanities, Social Sciences, Psychology, Business, Economics, Law, Natural Sciences, Pedagogical & Educational Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Future Planet Studies, and Geography, Planning, and Development Studies.

Exchange students cannot take courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate School of Social Science, MSc. Business Studies.

The academic system

The UvA works with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The academic year consists of two semesters divided in three blocks per semester: 8 weeks, 8 weeks, 4 weeks. Most courses are valued at either 6 or 12 European Credits (EC). The full-time study workload is 30 EC per semester.

Each EC represent a certain hours of workload. This does not only involve lectures and seminars, but also self-study. The Dutch grading system is on a scale that ranges from 1 to 10. A “5.5” is a “pass”, an “8” is “very good”. Generally, students hardly ever receive a 10.

Each study programme at the UvA is part of a larger ‘Faculty’. These ‘Faculties’ are the overarching bodies, which generally represent an academic field. The study programme Sociology, for example, is part of the larger Faculty ‘Social Sciences’. Each study programme has its own academic standards and procedures (abbreviated as OER in Dutch), which explains all the specific regulations of that study programme. Your host Faculty at the UvA will explain you more about the rules and regulations of that Faculty during your introduction.
The website www.uva.nl/globalexchange

Our incoming exchange website provides a lot of information about the Global Exchange Programme. You can read about our list of partner universities, the different requirements, selecting courses, the application procedure and specific information for acceptance.

Please also take a look at the practical matters section (top menu, far right) as it gives more information about several important subjects such as:

- Accommodation
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Pick up service from the airport

Student Accommodation

International students are housed in different types of student rooms (i.e. shared accommodation, private accommodation with shared facilities or completely private, self-contained accommodation). Student housing is located all over the city of Amsterdam and in neighbouring town Diemen.

The housing market of Amsterdam is extremely tight. It is very difficult to find student accommodation on the private market; therefore the Global Exchange office of International Student Affairs will arrange -and guarantees- housing for all students who participate in the Global Exchange Programme.

Rental prices can vary between approximately €390 to €750 a month. Exchange students will need to take another € 400 - €500 per month into account for living expenses. All students who wish to take the guaranteed housing offer of the UvA, are required to pay a UvA fee of €340 (subject to change) for one semester and €555 (subject to change) for a full year. A discount on the fee will be given to students who apply before the early bird deadline: for one semester €285 and €475 for a full year. Students applying to the Amsterdam University College (AUC) are not able to use the UvA housing services. They will be placed in accommodation on the AUC campus instead.

Also see > www.uva.nl/housing

Visa

Citizens of European Union member states, Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and the United States do not need an entry visa to enter the Netherlands. Incoming exchange students of other nationalities must apply for an entry visa, called “Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf” (MVV) in order to enter the Netherlands.

Chinese nationals who wish to attend the UvA will also be required to register with Nuffic, the Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education, in order to obtain a “Nuffic Certificate” (formerly known as the NESO certificate) before applying for the visa. This certificate is one of the preconditions to apply for a MVV entry visa.

Also see> www.uva.nl/visa
Residence Permit

All non-EU international students will also need to apply for a residence permit in order to legally reside in the Netherlands for a period longer than three months. However, students younger than age 31 with the Australian, Canadian or New Zealand nationality can also apply for the Working Holiday Scheme permit (WHS) instead of the regular residence permit. The working holiday visa can only be used once in a lifetime, so please choose carefully.

UvA Student Services has a specific immigrations office who will inform all accepted exchange students about their immigration procedure. The office will guide international students through the online process of obtaining a visa and residence permit.

The residence permit costs €345*, the WHS permit costs €53*. These costs include the price of the entry visa (if applicable). *subject to change

Also see > [www.uva.nl/visa](http://www.uva.nl/visa)

Insurance

All students are required by Dutch law to have appropriate health insurance for the duration of stay in the Netherlands. For non-EEA/EU students requesting a residence permit through the UvA, liability insurance is also mandatory. Providing proof of your insurance is part of the immigrations procedure.

Also see > [www.uva.nl/insurance](http://www.uva.nl/insurance)

International Student Network

To help you find your way through the UvA and the city, the UvA has set up the Amsterdam International Student Network (ISN). ISN organises the introduction period (€65, with reservation), runs a coaching system, and focuses on a wide array of activities such as excursions, drinks and weekend trips. You can find more information about ISN on their website [www.isn-amsterdam.nl](http://www.isn-amsterdam.nl) or their Facebook page.

Also see > [https://www.facebook.com/pages/ISN-Amsterdam/359885487498322?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/pages/ISN-Amsterdam/359885487498322?fref=ts)
Airport Pick Up

Each semester, there are one or two designated arrival days. On those days the UvA offers a free airport pick up service from Schiphol Airport to the housing offices in Amsterdam where you will be able to sign your contract and pick up your keys. You will receive an invitation to sign up for the pick service in the final month before the start of your semester or you may visit the website directly. You can sign up until the last week before the arrival day(s).

Also see: [www.uva.nl/pickup](http://www.uva.nl/pickup)

Dutch Language Courses

Next to the academic courses of your host Faculty, the Institute for Dutch Language Education (INTT) of the UvA offers Dutch language courses for all international students at various levels: absolute beginners, beginners, intermediate and advanced level. Global Exchange students are welcome to apply for these Dutch language courses.

Since the Global Exchange Programme encourages language learning, we offer a full reimbursement of the tuition fee of the semi-intensive language programme upon successful completion of the course. The costs for the courses must however be paid in advance.

Applications for the language programme have to be signed by International Student Affairs. On the INTT website interested students can find an application form, which they can send to their adviser at the UvA for approval. More information can be found on the INTT website.

Also see: [www.hum.uva.nl/intt](http://www.hum.uva.nl/intt)

Academic Calendar

**First semester:** Monday, 4 September 2017 - Friday, 26 January 2018
**Second semester:** Monday, 5 February 2018 - Friday, 25 June 2018

Depending on the course selection, it is possible for students to attain a full academic workload of a semester (30 ECTS) during block one and block two (the first 16 weeks of the semester). Despite this fact, our semester officially runs until the beginning of February and end of June. All students will be asked to pay for their accommodation for the entire semester.
Summer programmes

The University of Amsterdam’s Summer School (UvA Summer School) offers an ever expanding selection of courses in various fields. A comprehensive list of all UvA summer programmes can be found on the following website: [www.uva.nl/summerschool](http://www.uva.nl/summerschool)

All students are welcome to apply for summer programmes in their field of study before or after their exchange semester. Tuition for UvA summer programmes varies depending on the programme, but there are scholarships available. Many programmes include housing, food, books or other amenities. Details can be found on the programmes’ pages via the link mentioned above.

UvA Summer School does not include travel to and from Amsterdam.

Please let us know if you have any questions…

**Head International Student Affairs**  
Ms Willeke Jeeninga

**Student Exchange Coordinator**  
Mr Guido de Wilde

**Senior Liaison Officer**  
Ms Ingeborg de Brieder

**Liaison Officer**  
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12 January 2017