



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Faculty of Humanities

Explore our
campus!

Humanities buildings

Walking Tour

We are 



Welcome to the Faculty of Humanities Walking Tour. This tour will guide you along the Humanities buildings located in the centre of Amsterdam, where you will be studying and attending lectures this year.

(1) Oude Lutherse Kerk

The Oude Lutherse Kerk (Old Lutheran Church) is the main auditorium of the University of Amsterdam (Aula). Before the University of Amsterdam (UvA) started using the building, it was used for religious purposes, as well for general meetings. Since 1961, the UvA has had the privilege of using the Old Lutheran Church for special events, such as orations, congresses and introduction meetings like the one you just attended!

Walk in the direction of Koningsplein until you reach the University Library (left).

(2) University Library

The University Library or UB (for short, pronounced: ú bé) is famous for its collection and the popularity of the study areas. The UB is opened on weekdays between 08:00 and 20:00 (from 10:00 to 18:00 on weekends). Do not forget to bring your student ID card!

Follow the arrows on the map to get from the University Library to the P.C. Hoofthuis via the Singel. If you see the statue of Multatuli on top of the bridge, you have arrived at the P.C. Hoofthuis.

All in the city centre



Unique about the University of Amsterdam, is that its facilities are spread across the city.

The Humanities buildings are all in the city centre. As a Humanities student, you get to study in some of the University's most historic buildings in the heart of Amsterdam, such as the Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis and the Oudemanhuispoort.



(3) P.C. Hoofthuis

This Humanities building is named after a famous Dutch historian, poet and playwright from the 17th century, Pieter Cornelisz Hooft. Although not the prettiest from the outside, this building will win your heart with its interior. The P.C. Hoofthuis is known for its mazelike interior structure and its cosy library located on the first and second floor. It can be a challenge to find the entrance to the library and you may get lost trying to find a staircase to go up or down; when in doubt, you can always take the lift!

Follow the arrows on the map to get to the Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis. On your way, you will pass the Royal Palace and cross Dam Square. Walk along Oude Hoogstraat until you reach a gateway on your right. Walk into the courtyard.

(4) Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis

The Bushuis and the Oost-Indisch Huis are joined to form one building, the Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis. The Bushuis is named after its former function as gunpowder storage space for the VOC (the Dutch East India Company). The Oost-Indisch Huis (East-India House) was built in the early 17th century and contains the courtyard where you are right now. The Bushuis houses the Humanities Labs, which provide a place for innovative research and education in the humanities, as well as the departments of History, Religious Studies and European Studies.

Walk along Kloveniersburgwal until you reach the gateway on your right into Oudemanhuispoort.

(5) Oudemanhuispoort (OMHP)

Built in 1601, the Oudemanhuispoort originally served as a men's old age home, hence the name Oude (old) - man (man) - huis (house) - poort (gate). In the centuries that followed, the building was increasingly used as part of the Binnengasthuis hospital, where people suffering from cholera were treated. Make sure you also take a stroll through the beautiful courtyard, leading up to the entrance of the Oudemanhuispoort study building. The Law Faculty used to be located in this building, but moved to the Roeterseiland campus in 2017. If you walk to the end of the Oudemanhuispoort, you will still be able to detect a sign of its previous function as old-age home, a pair of spectacles above the entrance on Oudezijds Achterburgwal.

Turn left at the end of Oudemanhuispoort and follow the arrows on the map to get to the Binnengasthuisterrein, where you will find a large round building.

Stroopwafels



Stroopwafel hack

The ultimate way to fully enjoy your stroopwafel is by placing it on top of your cup of hot tea or coffee.

The caramel inside the stroopwafel will soften and warm up. This is the perfect way to stay warm on a rainy Amsterdam autumn day.

Make sure you don't let your stroopwafel get too soft, or else it will end up in your hot drink!



(6) Binnengasthuisterrein

The Binnengasthuisterrein used to be a women's hospital and was in use as a hospital until the 1970s. In 2024, the brand new University Library will open its doors on this premise. The BG3 building (Binnengasthuisstraat 9) is home to the Faculty Board and to VOX-POP, the creative space of the humanities. In BG1 (Turfdraagsterpad 9) you will find the Media Studies department and the departments of Archaeology and Ancient Studies, while in BG2 (Turfdraagsterpad 15-17), the departments of Arts and Culture and Art History are located, as well as the International Office.

Follow the arrows on the map to get to the Allard Pierson Museum. Turn into Turfdraagsterpad and go through the gates to get to Oude Turfmarkt. You will find the Allard Pierson Museum on your left.

(7) Allard Pierson Museum

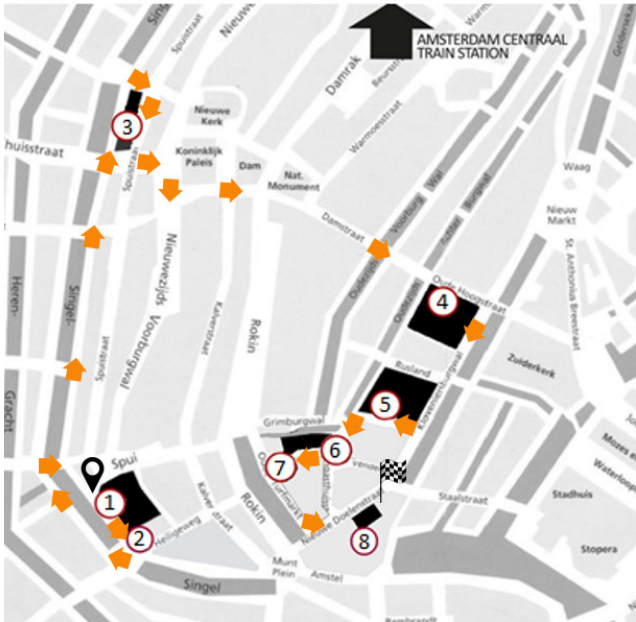
The building, where you now find the Allard Pierson Museum, used to be the main building of the Nederlandse Bank (the Dutch Bank), and has been a UvA building since 1934. The Allard Pierson Museum holds a collection of objects from ancient civilisations, and highlights their significance for contemporary European cultures in a thought-provoking way. It achieves this through its impressive archaeological collection and its collaboration with sister organisations, talented (Archaeology) students, and researchers.

Continue along Rokin and turn left onto Nieuwe Doelenstraat. Keep walking straight ahead until you see the University Theatre on your right.

Fun facts about Amsterdam!



- Amsterdam was named after the Amstel River.
- Which city has more bridges, Amsterdam or Venice? You guessed it: Amsterdam!
- Hold on to your bikes! Over 25000 bikes end up in the Amsterdam canals each year.
- Can you guess what the Amsterdam motto is? No? The Amsterdam motto is "Valiant, Steadfast, Compassionate".
- Amsterdam was listed as one of the five safest cities worldwide in the 2023 Safe Cities Index from *The Economist*.



Humanities buildings

The numbers on the map correspond to the descriptions of the buildings:

- (1) Oude Lutherse Kerk (Aula), Singel 411
- (2) University Library (UB) Singel 425
- (3) P.C. Hoofthuis (PCH) Spuistraat 134
- (4) Bushuis/Oost-Indisch huis Kloveniersburgwal 48
- (5) OMHP Oudemanshuispoort 4-6
- (6) Binnengasthuisterrein Turfdraagsterpad 15-17
- (7) Allard Pierson Museum Oude Turfmarkt 141-147
- (8) Universiteitstheater Nieuwe Doelenstraat 16

(8) Universiteitstheater

In 1961, the UvA bought this building from the antiquariat and auction house Fred. Muller & Co., which had been housed here from 1904. The famous Dutch painter, Rembrandt van Rijn, also lived in one of the four older houses that now make up the Universiteitstheater as it is today. The Universiteitstheater (University Theatre) is currently home to the Theatre Studies and Music Studies departments of the Faculty of Humanities.

We hope you enjoyed this walking tour!

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