



## Exchange Programme Factsheet Faculty of Science - University of Amsterdam

### A. Information about the higher education institution

Name of the institution	Erasmus code	Contact details	Website
University of Amsterdam Faculty of Science	NL AMSTERD01	<p><b>Selma Kujundzic</b> <i>Head of International Office</i></p> <p><b>Irene Verkist Pérez</b> <i>Exchange Coordinator</i></p> <p><b>Esther Sluis</b> <i>Exchange Officer</i></p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:studyabroad-science@uva.nl">studyabroad-science@uva.nl</a> T: +31 20 525 8099</p> <p>University of Amsterdam Faculty of Science Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam</p>	<p>Application (Erasmus and faculty agreement programmes): <a href="http://uva.nl/exchange-science">uva.nl/exchange-science</a></p> <p>Courses: <a href="http://coursecatalogue.uva.nl">coursecatalogue.uva.nl</a></p> <p>➤ Select Programme: 'Exchange Programme Faculty of Science'</p>

### B. Required or recommended language skills

#### Bachelor's (undergraduate) level

- Erasmus students applying for bachelor courses (except courses in Future Planet Studies), can hand in their Online Linguistic Support (OLS). The minimum required level is B2.
- All (non-Erasmus) students must show proof of English proficiency by handing in one of the official tests indicated below. OLS is not accepted.
- Students applying for courses of the bachelor programme Future Planet Studies must show proof of English proficiency as indicated below. OLS is not accepted.

#### Master's (graduate) level

- Students always need to show proof of English proficiency by one of the official tests indicated below. Other test versions and OLS are not accepted.

#### Exemptions:

- EU-nationals enrolled in a fully English taught bachelor or master programme at their home university, are not required to hand in a proof of English proficiency.
- Bachelor and Master students who have completed their secondary or higher education in English in Australia, Canada (with the exemption of Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom or United States of America are



not required to hand in a proof of English proficiency.

For further information see table below or [uva.nl/exchange-science](http://uva.nl/exchange-science).

English language requirements	Bachelor level (1 <sup>st</sup> cycle)	Master level (2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle)
<b>IELTS (academic)</b>	Minimum 6,5 overall score Minimum score 6 per component	Minimum 6,5-7 overall score Minimum score 6 per component
<b>TOEFL (ibt)</b>	Score range 0-120: minimum 92 overall score (minimum score 22 per component)  Score range 1-6: minimum 4.5 overall score (minimum score 4.5 per component)	Score range 0-120: minimum 92 overall score (minimum score 22 per component)  Score range 1-6: minimum 4.5 overall score (minimum score 4.5 per component)
<b>Cambridge Advanced or Proficiency English (CAE/CPE)</b>	Cambridge Advanced (C1) / Proficiency(C2): Minimum overall score of 180. Minimum score of 180 per component.	Cambridge Advanced (C1) / Proficiency(C2): Minimum overall score of 180. Minimum score of 180 per component.
<b>Online Linguistic Support (OLS)</b>	Level B2	Not accepted

*Please note: other test versions or modules are not accepted. Examples of this include but are not limited to: IELTS Online, IELTS Indicator, IELTS One Skill Retake, TOEFL Home Edition, TOEFL MyBest Scores.*

### C. Remarks/restrictions

#### For all exchange students

- It is not possible for students to hand-in their final BSc-/MSc-/PhD-thesis at the host institution. Final theses need to be graded and supervised by the home institution.
- Exchange students are expected to stay and study for the complete duration of the semester, minimum of 2 periods and 18 EC. It is not possible to arrive later than the start date of the semester.
- It is not possible to attend courses as an auditor. Students have to attend all sessions and participate actively in class discussions and presentations and are also required to take the exam(s).
- Exchange students nominated to the Faculty of Science are expected to take their courses at the Faculty of Science within their own study field. To avoid timetable conflicts, the faculty recommends students take most of their courses from one study programme.

*Note:* Please note that personal data can be shared with other UvA departments for the purpose of course registration.



## Master programmes

- Students who wish to apply for master courses must have obtained a bachelor degree or equivalent (first three years of a study programme equivalent to 180 EC) in the relevant study area, before their exchange period. Acceptance into courses on master level is dependent on the approval of the master programme coordinator.
- An official English language certificate is obligatory to participate in master courses.
- The following courses/ programmes are **restricted** to exchange students:
  - Courses of the master programme Forensic Science are (partially) restricted.
  - Courses of the master programme Earth Sciences are (partially) restricted. It may therefore not be possible to take 30 EC of Earth Sciences courses in one semester.
  - Courses of the master programme Artificial Intelligence. Elective courses are open to exchange students, mandatory courses are not. More information can be found in the Course Catalogue.
- The following courses/programmes are **not open** to exchange students:
  - Courses of the master programme Biomedical Sciences.
  - Courses of the master programme Security and Network Engineering.
  - Courses offered by the Vrije Universiteit (VU). If enrolment is done via the VU, or if VU is indicated under 'lecturer' or 'coordinator', the course is coordinated by the VU and taught at the VU.
  - Courses taught at Amsterdam University College (AUC).
  - Academic skills courses (Academic English, Teaching skills, Professional skills, etc.).

## D. General information

### 1. Academic information

	University of Amsterdam
<b>Credit system</b>	The University of Amsterdam uses the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS, EC's). The standard workload for full-time students is 60 EC per academic year (1680 hours of study) or 30 EC per semester (840 hours of study).



<p><b>Courses &amp; entry requirements</b></p>	<p>Courses can be found in the course catalogue: <a href="http://coursecatalogue.uva.nl">coursecatalogue.uva.nl</a> &gt; select Programme: 'Exchange Programme Faculty of Science'.</p> <p>There is a limited number of courses in English with a limited number of places available for exchange students. Therefore, it is very important for students to keep back-up courses in mind and be flexible about the course choices. Below you can find a list of the departments and their entry requirements.</p> <p><i>Bachelor:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial Intelligence - application possible for 3rd year students of AI (and related sciences), English taught courses in semester 1 only</li> <li>• Biology - application possible for 3rd year students of Biology, English taught courses in semester 1 only</li> <li>• Biomedical Sciences - application possible for 3rd year students of Biomedical Sciences (and related sciences), English taught courses in semester 1 only</li> <li>• Chemistry - application possible for 3rd year students of Chemistry</li> <li>• Computer/Information Science - application possible for 3rd year students of Computer/Information Science (and related sciences)</li> <li>• Future Planet Studies / Sustainability - application possible for 2nd and 3rd year students of Environmental Studies (and related sciences)</li> <li>• Mathematics - application possible for 3rd year students of Mathematics</li> <li>• Physics and Astronomy - application possible for 3rd year students of Physics and Astronomy, most English taught courses are offered in semester 1</li> <li>• Psychobiology - application possible for 3rd year students with a Biology or Psychology background, English taught courses in semester 1 only</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Courses &amp; entry requirements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science, Technology &amp; Innovation – application possible for 3rd year students of Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Computer/Information Sciences, Biology or Biomedical Sciences, course offered in semester 1 only</li> </ul> <p>The following fields are open to students from all study areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interdisciplinary courses - application possible for bachelor students of all study areas</li> <li>• Courses in Scientific Programming – application possible for students with a Science background</li> </ul> <p><i>Master:</i></p> <p>Students with a degree comparable to a Dutch bachelor's degree can apply for courses at a master's level. All <a href="#">master's programmes</a> are taught in English. Please note that master courses are only open to students who will have obtained a bachelor's degree or an equivalent (first three years of a study programme equivalent to 180 EC) in the required field of study, before the start of their exchange period.</p>			
<p><b>Number of study weeks/academic year</b></p>	<p>42 weeks (40 weeks courses, 2 weeks holidays). A semester consists of 3 periods (8-8-4 weeks).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 1591 1500 1738"> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1591 971 1738"> <p><i>Semester 1</i></p> <p>Period 1: September-October</p> <p>Period 2: November-December</p> <p>Period 3: January</p> </td> <td data-bbox="971 1591 1500 1738"> <p><i>Semester 2</i></p> <p>Period 4: February-March</p> <p>Period 5: April-May</p> <p>Period 6: June</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Courses can start at each of these periods and will run for one or two periods. Exams are at the end of each period or at the end of the semester. When selecting courses please note that you should divide your study load equally. For example, if you are selecting a standard study load of 30 EC per semester, you should select 12 EC in period 1, 12 EC in period 2 and 6 EC in period 3, as period 3 is the shortest period.</p>		<p><i>Semester 1</i></p> <p>Period 1: September-October</p> <p>Period 2: November-December</p> <p>Period 3: January</p>	<p><i>Semester 2</i></p> <p>Period 4: February-March</p> <p>Period 5: April-May</p> <p>Period 6: June</p>
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<b>Workload</b>	The credit system is based on student workload (lectures, seminars and individual study). Standard workload per semester is 30 EC. The workload is expressed in credit points based on the ECTS. 1 EC represents 28 hours of full-time study, including lecture attendance, hours spent on individual study and preparation of assignments.
<b>Language</b>	Most of the third year bachelor courses are taught in English. For more information go to: <a href="http://uva.nl/exchange-science">uva.nl/exchange-science</a> All master courses are taught in English.
<b>Application procedure</b>	Prospective Erasmus and SEMP exchange students fill out the online web form before the set deadline. For more information go to <a href="http://uva.nl/exchange-science">uva.nl/exchange-science</a> . Prospective Global Exchange Programme students need to apply through the Global Exchange Programme procedure. For more information go to <a href="http://uva.nl/exchange">uva.nl/exchange</a> .
<b>Duration of programmes</b>	A bachelor's programme (Bachelor of Science) has a duration of three years (180 EC). A master's programme (Master of Science) has a duration of either one year for a regular master (60 EC) or two years in the case of a research master (120 EC).
<b>Type of education</b>	There are different types of education. Lectures are frequently used as well as seminars and self-study. In seminars active participation is expected. Students are expected to attend all classes. Canvas, the digital learning environment, is used to prepare for classes, for discussions and exams.
<b>Assessment</b>	Various types of exams are practiced: written exams, essays, classroom presentation, work groups and assignments.
<b>Academic climate</b>	The UvA places a strong emphasis on independent and critical thinking. Students are expected to study independently. There is a lot of self-study required. Students find the academic climate challenging but rewarding. Exams and assessment are not only scheduled at the end of a course, but students can also find themselves doing weekly assignments such as small essays or reports and most courses have mid-term as well as final exams. It is not common for teachers to be more lenient or easy on the exchange students. Exchange students are expected to fully participate in courses, there are no auditor-only options.

## 2. Calendar Exchange Programme Faculty of Science

	Semester 1 (autumn)	Semester 2 (spring)
<b>Erasmus nomination and application</b>	Nomination deadline: <u>1 April</u> Application deadline: <u>1 May</u>  Students receive acceptance emails by 1 June.  Students will receive general exchange information by e-mail prior to their arrival.	Nomination deadline: <u>1 October</u> Application deadline: <u>15 October</u>  Students receive acceptance emails by 15 November.  Students will receive general exchange information by e-mail prior to their arrival.
<b>Course registration</b>	Course enrolment will take place in June. More information about course approval and enrolment will follow after acceptance.	Course enrolment will take place in December. More information about course approval and enrolment will follow after acceptance.



<b>Term dates (standard)</b>	1 September - 31 January See <a href="#">Academic Calendar</a> for specific dates per academic year.	1 February - 30 June See <a href="#">Academic Calendar</a> for specific dates per academic year.
<b>Date of arrival</b>	Recommended: 7 to 14 days prior to start of the semester. Attending the first class of the semester is obligatory.	
<b>Green travel</b>	The Uva encourages students to choose green travel options. Amsterdam is easily reachable by train or bus. Once in town, students should get a bike: cycling is the fastest and cheapest way to get around!	
<b>Introduction and welcome meeting</b>	The introduction programme is organized by International / Erasmus Student Network Amsterdam (ESN Amsterdam), usually one or two weeks before the start of the semester. More information can be found on <a href="http://esn-amsterdam.nl">esn-amsterdam.nl</a> .  The Faculty of Science Study Abroad Office will organize a welcome meeting at the end of August (semester 1) and at the end of January (semester 2). Attendance is obligatory. Date and time will be announced in due time.	
<b>Transcript of Records</b>	Students receive a transcript of records in March.	Students receive a transcript of records in July.

### 3. Grading system

In the Netherlands grades are awarded on a grading scale from 1-10, 10 being the highest. A passing grade is a 5.5 or higher. Very good/excellent grades are an 8 or higher. A 'pass' is given for courses/seminars which are not graded, but for which the student has met the requirements

University of Amsterdam 10 point grading scale	ECTS Quality Assessment	Distribution percentages	Recommended U.S. grades	Recommended ECTS grades
8 ≤ grade ≤ 10	Excellent	10%	A	A
7.5 ≤ grade < 8	Very good	25%	B	B
7 ≤ grade < 7.5	Good	30%	B	C
6 < grade < 7	Satisfactory	25%	C	D
5.5 ≤ grade ≤ 6	Sufficient	10%	D	E
< 5.5	Fail	-	F	F

### 4. Visa

University of Amsterdam	Contact details	Website for information
<b>Student Services</b>	Immigration office, see website.	<a href="http://uva.nl/visa">uva.nl/visa</a>



## 5. Housing

University of Amsterdam	Contact details	Website for information
<b>Student Services</b>	Housing office, see website.	<a href="http://uva.nl/housing">uva.nl/housing</a>  The Amsterdam housing market is extremely challenging. UvA International Student Housing has a limited number of rooms reserved for the newly incoming international students every semester. Therefore student housing cannot be guaranteed, and allocation may take place via a lottery.  Once a student is accepted to the exchange programme of the Faculty of Science, the student will receive instructions on how to apply for housing (lottery): mid-May for semester 1 (fall) and at the end of October for semester 2 (spring).  If a student does not receive a housing offer through the university we urge the student to start the individual housing search as soon as possible. However, if no accommodation has been found before the start of the semester, we do not recommend coming to Amsterdam for an exchange.

## 6. Insurance

University of Amsterdam	Contact details	Website for information
<b>Faculty of Science</b>	Faculty of Science – Student Exchange Office	<a href="http://uva.nl/insurance">uva.nl/insurance</a>

## 7. Assistance and facilities for students with disabilities or special needs

University of Amsterdam	Contact details	Website for information
<b>Student Services</b>	Student counsellors, see website.	If you have a disability, dyslexia or chronic illness, you might need special facilities and support during your studies. Find out here what kind of facilities and support the UvA offers at <a href="http://uva.nl/disability">uva.nl/disability</a> .  Please make sure to let us know by email if you have any disabilities at least two months before the start of your exchange.