



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

International Student Affairs



Global Exchange Programme

Factsheet 2025 - 2026

www.uva.nl/globalexchange

We are 

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International Student Affairs

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Emergency information

UvA Emergency website	https://student.uva.nl/en/topics/emergencies-at-the-uva
UvA's Central Control Room	+31 (0)20 525 2222.

Crisis at home	https://student.uva.nl/en/topics/help-in-a-crisis
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About 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 44.000 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 930.000 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 160 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.

Academic tradition

[Academic Climate](#)

Nomination & Application

Nomination Deadline (by host university)

Nomination period and deadline Semester 1:	15 March - 1 April
Nomination period and deadline Semester 2:	1 September - 15 September

Application Deadline (by student)

Application period and deadline Semester 1:	1 April - 15 April
Application period and deadline Semester 2:	15 September - 1 October

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](#).

Partners that have both University Wide and Faculty specific agreements with UvA are likely to have more than one nomination account for different agreements. If you are unsure about the correct agreement to use when nominating your student, you are recommended to check directly with us.

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 applicable for AUC and PPLE)*
- *Copy of valid passport*
- *Copy of certified English language test results.*

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 the [Entry Requirements](#) page.

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 per faculty stated on our [Entry Requirements website](#).

Exemption: Students do not need to submit an English proficiency test if either they are a national of, or if they have completed their secondary or higher education in: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, UK, or USA.

Programme information

Language of instruction:

English

Levels:

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.

Faculties, colleges, and schools open for Global exchange students:

- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Humanities
- Amsterdam Law School (ALS)

- 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
- College of Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics (PPLE)

Faculties not open for Exchange

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)

Academic calendar

Semester system

Two semesters, comprised of 3 blocks of two times 8 and one time 4 weeks

Semester 1 End of August 2025 – End of January 2026

Exams: end of each block

Semester 2 End of January 2026 – End of June 2026

Exams: end of each block

AUC Semester system

Two semesters, comprised of a 16-week period and a 4-week period.

You can more information about the Academic calendar, exam periods & national holidays on this [Academic Calendar](#) website.

Course information

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

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.

Course selection

Students must take most 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.

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.

Limited enrolment

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

Exchange 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.

Dutch Studies courses

The following Dutch Studies courses* are open for students without a Humanities background:

- The Netherlands in the Seventeenth Century: History, Literature, and Art (6 ECTS)
- Dutch Culture and Society (6 ECTS)
- All-time bestsellers from Amsterdam (6 ECTS)
- Reading the City: Amsterdam Literary Classics (6 ECTS) **
- Vermeer's Delft (6 ECTS)
- The Netherlands in the World (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.)*

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.

The costs for the semi-intensive Dutch language course at INTT is €375 (reduced fee for UvA students) and needs to be paid in advance. All Global Exchange students may apply for a one-time reimbursement of €375* 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. Students can apply for this course by going to the [INTT website](#).

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

Credit system, examination & 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. The recommended division is to follow a maximum of 12 ECTS during block 1, 12 ECTS during block 2 and 6 ECTS during block 3.

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.

Grading

[Our website](#) shows a clear overview of teaching & the grading system in the Netherlands.

Attendance

Please note that attendance is mandatory for the first class.

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

For most courses that cover one block this is 6 ECTS. For most courses covering two (or three) blocks this is 12 ECTS.

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.

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, dyslexia or 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.

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](#).

Immigration (visa and/or residence permit application)

Assistance

UvA Student Services assists all students with immigration procedures. If you need a visa/residence permit, the UvA Immigration office will apply for your visa/residence permit with the IND (Dutch Immigration office) on your behalf.

EU/EEA students will not need a visa/residence permit to enter or stay in The Netherlands. All other students will need a entry visa and/or a residence permit application to legally reside and study in the Netherlands for a semester or for a full year. The online application will start around 2-3 months before the

beginning of each semester. For more information about the procedure, take a look at the webpage of [Visas and Permits](#).

As part of the visa / residence permit application, students will also need to submit a proof of financial means. Students will need to submit proof of at least €1,100 a month (i.e. 5 months x €1,100) for one semester, and €11,000 (i.e. 10 months x €1,100) for a full year. We kindly request you to have a look at this UvA Immigration website for more information; [Proof of Financial Means](#).

Visa types

MVV students are students that have a nationality that requires them to have an entry visa before arrival that allows them to enter the Netherlands, which they will be able to change to a residence permit within 3 months after arrival in the Netherlands.

VVR students are students that have a nationality which does not require an entry visa, but they do need to submit a residence permit application.

Students who hold an Argentinean, Australian, Canadian, Hong Kong, Japanese, New Zealand, South Korean Taiwanese or Uruguayan passport may also apply for the [Working Holiday Scheme permit \(WHS permit\)](#) instead of the regular residence permit. Please note that you need to apply for the WHS at the IND yourself but that you will need to inform the UvA's Immigration Office of your decision to apply for the WHS instead of a student residence permit.

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 during which students can apply for housing.

After acceptance at their preferred faculty, students 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.

Due to the ongoing housing crisis in the Netherlands, there are fewer rooms available than incoming students. Accommodation is therefore not guaranteed, and we advise all incoming students to also search for housing independently. It is vital that every student can start the academic year without the stress of possibly being homeless. That is why we urge students to change their plans to study in Amsterdam accordingly if they have not found a residence before the start of the academic year.

For the past few years, students had a higher chance to receive a room offer when applying for an exchange programme for the second semester. The UvA expects this trend to continue during the upcoming year. For more information, take a look at the [Housing](#) page.

Room types

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. Students have the option to submit a budget preference during their application.

Housing prices in Amsterdam are not based on location. Instead, they are 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.

Contract period

Housing 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.

Housing application & costs

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. In the application students can indicate any (budget) preferences they might have.

Once students receive a positive lottery outcome, students will need to pay a housing application fee directly to UvA in order to receive their room offer.

One semester €245*

Two semesters €485*

** The housing fee is non-refundable.*

Once students are linked to a housing provider, they will usually also need to pay an application fee of up to €230 directly to the housing provider (as part of the first payment).

The rental prices of university housing range from approximately €400 to €1000 per month, depending on the room type.

More information and updates can be found on the [UvA Housing website](#).

Alternative accommodation

Students will also be able to search for alternative accommodation on the private market. Every summer the UvA Housing office will assist students with webinars on finding housing on the private market. Also, on our website you can find [tips on finding housing on the private market](#).

Insurance

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. Students should have a valid health insurance upon arrival in the Netherlands. The UvA has special agreements for exchange students with certain insurance companies. For more information take a look at the [Insurance](#) page.

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

Arrival & Orientation

Recommended arrival dates

Semester 1: Mid-August

Semester 2: Last week of January

Upon arrival

Services upon arrival are provided to help students with matters such as registering with the municipality, opening a bank account, etc. For example, students can check the extensive [Upon Arrival](#) page for a webinar,

step-by-step guide, and for the latest updates.

Introduction days

The Introduction Days take place right after the recommended arrival dates. For more information see [ESN Amsterdam](#).

Faculty introduction

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

Living expenses

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

Residence permit (including visa)	€ 228
Housing	€ 400 – € 1.000 per month
Application fee	€ 245 (one semester) - € 485 (full year) <i>* AUC applies a separate housing fee</i>
Administration fee	€ 100 to € 230 (housing corporation)
Refundable room deposit	Generally equal to monthly rent (ranges from € 300 to € 850)
Personal expenses (including food)	€ 450 – € 700 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	€ 60 per month