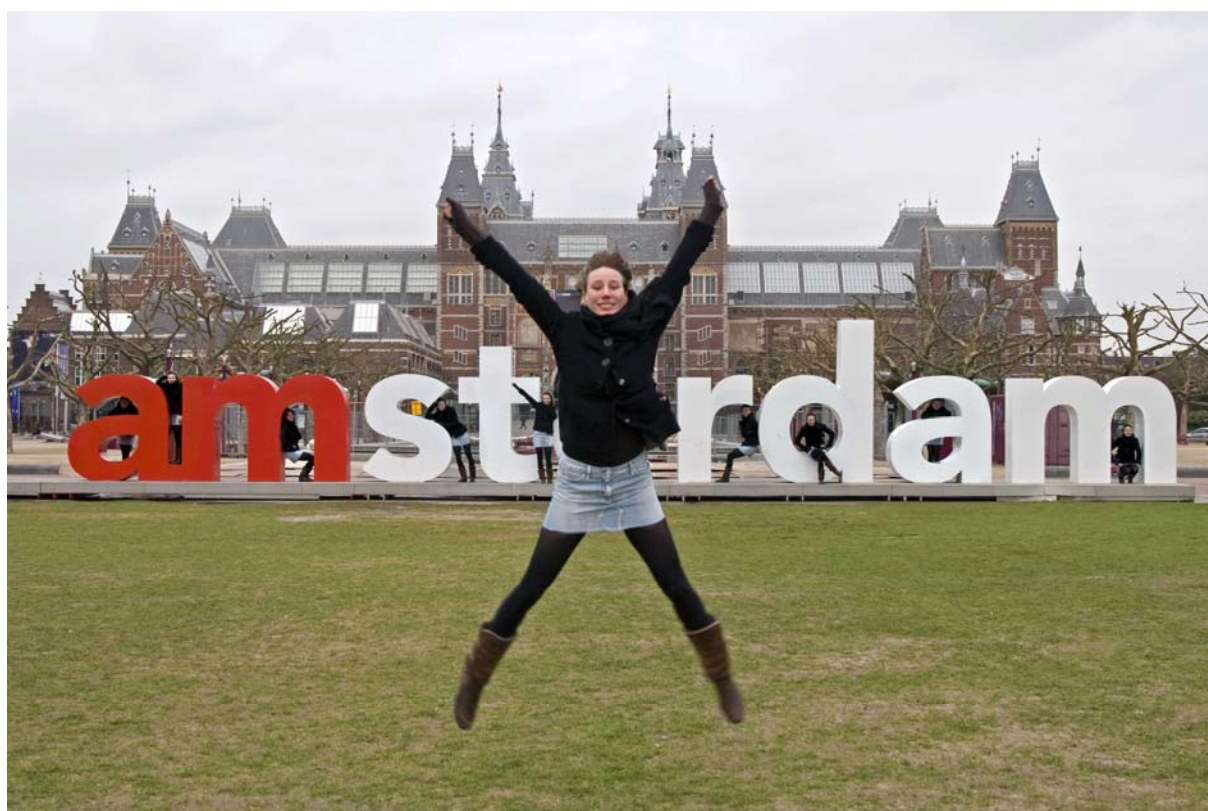




UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Factsheet 2011 - 2012



The University of Amsterdam (UvA) founded in 1632, has a strong historical bond with the city of Amsterdam. Nowadays, studying at the UvA means having one of the world's most fascinating cities as a campus because the university buildings are scattered all over the city. With over 30,000 students, including more than 3000 international students and researchers, the UvA is one of the four 'classical' comprehensive universities in the Netherlands. This means that it offers a very wide range of programmes. There are seven major faculties, teaching Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Economics, Medicine, Dentistry and Sciences. In order to attract some of the best students around the world, the UvA has developed strong mainstream academic programmes in English, taught by distinguished faculties. The UvA has established bilateral agreements with a large number of other universities all over the world. The office of International Student Affairs oversees and coordinates all student exchanges within these bilateral agreements.

Study programmes and courses

The current curriculum is comprised of over 100 international study programmes. The International Study Programmes (ISP) offers Undergraduate, Masters, Postgraduate and PhD Programmes. However, exchange students are registered on a non-degree basis for **undergraduate** courses. Access to Graduate courses is very limited and restricted. Admission on graduate level is decided on a case-by-case basis and only if the student has a bachelor/undergraduate degree in the desired field of study. But please know that graduate courses in social sciences are not possible.

English taught courses can be found in Humanities, Social Sciences, Psychology, Business & Economics, Law, Natural Sciences, Pedagogical & Educational Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, and Geography, Planning, and Development Studies. Students cannot follow courses in Medicine and Dentistry.

Entrance requirements for exchange students

Students should have at least two years of academic education, a Grade point **average of 3.0** (US system) and a relevant academic background in the proposed field of study. The guidelines of a relevant background are explained in the Course Selection document.

Language Requirements

Non-native English speakers should provide proof of proficiency in the English language by means of a **TOEFL (230 computer based, 88 internet based)** or an **IELTS (6.5)**. The Faculty of Law however asks for higher scores (TOEFL 250 computer based, 100 internet based; or an IELTS 6.5 with a minimum score of 6.0 for writing, speaking, reading and listening). Please view the website of the faculty of interest to see what further conditions are required.

The main website for exchange students

It gives detailed information about several subjects such as: practical matters (accommodation, immigration, insurance, money matters, et cetera), educational matters (courses, faculty websites, admission requirements, et cetera) and student life (testimonials, orientation, student facilities, et cetera):
www.uva.nl/exchange

Student Accommodation

International students are housed in different types of student rooms (shared accommodation, private accommodation with shared facilities, and private accommodation). Student housing is scattered all over the city and outside of Amsterdam in neighbouring towns like Diemen and Amstelveen. It is very difficult to find student accommodation on the private market; therefore International Student Affairs will arrange and **guarantee housing** for students who participate in exchange programmes within the bilateral agreement.

Rents of the rooms are approximately between 375 and 650 Euro a month and the student will need another 400/500 Euro for living expenses. Students will need to be nominated for the Guaranteed Student Housing by the partner university after which they will be asked to indicate their housing preferences through an online housing preference form. More information is to be found at:
www.uva.nl/exchange (coming to Amsterdam)

International Student Network (ISN)

ISN is a student organisation to help students find their way at the University and in the city itself, the UvA works closely with the International Student Network (ISN). The ISN provides mentors/coaches for international students and organizes a diverse blend of social activities. More information can be found on the ISN website: www.isn-amsterdam.nl

Dutch Language Courses

Each Semester the Institute for Dutch as a Second Language (INTT) of the UvA offers extensive courses for international students at absolute beginners, beginners, intermediate and advanced level. The costs for the extensive courses must be paid in full in advance. Applications go through International Student Affairs. Students will receive a full reimbursement of the costs upon successful completion of the course. Intensive Dutch summer courses are offered before the beginning of the academic year, but this pre-exchange language programme has to be financed by the student. More information can be found on the INTT website: www.hum.uva.nl/intt

Academic Notes

The UvA uses European Community Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Full study workload: 30 ECTS per semester. Most courses are either 5 or 10 ECTS. Number of hours per week: 2-3 hours per course. Number of weeks per term: 18-20 per semester. The UvA credit system is based on "student workload". Student workload not only involves lectures and seminars, but also self study. The Dutch grading system scale is from 1 to 10. A "6" is a "pass", an "8" is "very good" and students hardly ever receive a 10. All other academic information varies depending on the programme in which the student is enrolled.

Immigration Matters

Citizens of European Union member states, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the USA do not need a visa to enter the Netherlands. All other students must apply for a **visa**, called "Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf" (MVV) in order to enter the Netherlands. Chinese nationals who wish to attend the UvA will be required to register to the Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education and obtain what is called a "Nuffic Certificate" (formerly known as the NESO certificate) before applying for the visa.

And all students (except citizens of European Union member states) need to apply for a **residence permit** in order to study in The Netherlands for a period longer than three months.

Student Services (immigration-sts@uva.nl) within International Student Affairs will inform students about their personal immigration procedure and guide them through the online process of obtaining a visa and residence permit. The residence permit (including a visa if applicable) costs 438 Euro. More information can be found on the immigration website: www.uva.nl/visa

Academic Calendar

First semester: Monday 5 September 2011 - Monday 30 January 2012
Second Semester: Monday 6 February 2012 - Friday 29 June 2012

Deadlines for the academic year 2011/2012

- **April 1, 2011 for first semester and full year applicants**
- **September 15, 2011 for second semester applicants**

This is not a strict deadline; we will be able to receive paper applications until late April for first semester and full year applicants. For second semester applicants we will be able to receive paper applications until 15 October. However, partner universities should return the nomination form before 1 April or 15 September to inform us how many students they are planning to send and nominate for students housing.

Please let us know if you have any questions...

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