

Factsheet Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 2017-2019

Institutional information

Name of Institution	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam		
Erasmus Code	NL AMSTERD02		
Address	VU International Office De Boelelaan 1105 1081 HV Amsterdam The Netherlands		
Regional Coordinators	Africa	Colette Gerards	+31 20 598 7737
	Asia	Monique van Reij	+31 20 598 6387
	Europe	Simon Speksnijder	+31 20 598 9142
	Latin America	Monique van Reij	+31 20 598 6387
	Middle East	Sanne Boomsma	+31 20 598 2478
	North America	Sanne Boomsma	+31 20 598 2478
	Oceania	Monique van Reij	+31 20 598 6387
Website	www.vu.nl/exchange		
E-mail	internationalrelations@vu.nl		

Semester data and application procedure

Academic year	<p>The academic year runs from the start of September to the end of June and is divided into semester 1 (Fall) and semester 2 (Spring).</p> <p>Arrival days, orientation and introduction programme are scheduled during the last 2 weeks of August (semester 1) or the Friday before the start of semester 2. Exchange students are expected to attend the orientation and introduction programme.</p> <p>2017-2018 Semester 1: 04/09/2017-02/02/2018 Semester 2: 05/02/2018-29/06/2018</p> <p>2018-2019 Semester 1: 03/09/2018-01/02/2019 Semester 2: 04/02/2019-28/06/2019</p>
Nomination deadline	<p>Nominations can be sent to: internationalrelations@vu.nl. Please mention the student's First name(s), Surname, Gender, E-mail address, Exchange semester (1 or 2, or the full academic year), level, and field of study. Please use our nomination sheet.</p> <p>Deadlines for nominations (<i>please note that we prefer to receive nominations as early as possible!</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 April (Semester 1 or full academic year) • 1 October (Semester 2)

	A confirmation e-mail will be sent to the nominated student after the nomination deadline to inform the student about the (online) application procedure.
Application procedure	<p>Nominated students need to apply through the online application system of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The web link to the online application system will be communicated to nominated students only.</p> <p>Students should finalize the online application procedure before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 April (Semester 1 or full academic year) • 15 October (Semester 2) <p>Deadlines are strict when students need a visa and/or housing via the university.</p> <p><i>Students wishing to participate in courses at Master's degree level need to have finished a Bachelor's degree by the start of their exchange. They need to submit proof when applying by means of a (copy of a) Bachelor's degree, or an official statement that the student will have obtained the degree before the exchange.</i></p>
Relevant e-mail and website	<p>General: www.vu.nl/exchange</p> <p>E-mail: incoming@vu.nl</p>
Other options	<p>If there are more students interested in coming to VU Amsterdam for a semester than can be nominated in the framework of the exchange agreement, there is the possibility for them to come as fee paying non-degree students in our Study Abroad programme.</p> <p>VU Amsterdam also offers a very interesting and successful Summerschool Programme.</p>

Recommended language skills

Language of instruction	Dutch and English
Level of English required for student mobility	<p>C1 (TOEFL IBT at least 92, academic IELTS 6.5)</p> <p>Students at undergraduate level (Bachelor): <i>English language proficiency is the responsibility of the visiting student. Students can be rejected for courses if they do not meet the above mentioned level of English proficiency.</i></p> <p>Students participating in Master's degree courses: <i>Proof of English language proficiency by means of a TOEFL or IELTS test result is mandatory for students participating in courses at Master's level. Exempted are students who have completed at least two years of a fully English-taught programme no longer than two years prior to the exchange.</i></p>
Level of English required for teaching staff	C1 (TOEFL IBT at least 110, academic IELTS 7.5)
Level of Dutch required (for courses in Dutch only)	<p>C1 (advanced level, NT2)</p> <p><i>Proof of Dutch language proficiency is mandatory for visiting students who wish to participate in courses taught in Dutch. Exempted are only students who have completed at least two years of a fully Dutch taught programme no longer than two years prior to the exchange.</i></p>

The sending institution, following the agreement with the receiving institution, is responsible for providing support to its nominated candidates so that they can have the recommended language skills at the start of the study or teaching period.

Course information and grading

<p>Courses</p>	<p>An overview of courses available to exchange students can be found on the website for Exchange programmes (link).</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to limited capacity, students majoring in Business resp. Economics are given priority in registering for courses in the subject areas of Business resp. Economics. - Bachelor's students are not allowed to follow courses at Master's level, unless these courses are also mentioned in the exchange courses overview under Bachelor's courses. - Courses in the fields of Chemistry or Physics are no longer available for exchange students - Dutch taught courses are not always available to exchange students, even when having good proficiency in Dutch. Students should check with incoming@vu.nl if there is a list available of courses taught in Dutch in their subject area. 																												
<p>Transcript of records</p>	<p>After the exams, teachers have 4 weeks to publish the results. Once the student has obtained the results of all the exams and papers he/she completed during the exchange, the student submits a transcript request form to the VU International Office. The VU International Office checks the courses and grades on the form and prepares the transcript, which will be sent to the home institution.</p>																												
<p>Grading</p>	<p>The Dutch grading scale runs from 1 to 10, where 1 is the lowest and 10 the highest grade. A student passes with a grade 6.0 or higher and fails with a grade 5.0 or lower. On average 75% of the students who pass have a grade between 6.5 and 7.5. Less than 5% of the students get a grade 9. Less than 1% get a 10.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="512 1323 1011 1765"> <thead> <tr> <th>ECTS %</th> <th>Quality Assessment</th> <th>ECTS grade</th> <th>Dutch grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10%</td> <td>Excellent/Very good</td> <td>A</td> <td>8.0 - 10.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25%</td> <td>Good</td> <td>B</td> <td>7.5 - 7.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30%</td> <td>More than satisfactory</td> <td>C</td> <td>7.0 - 7.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25%</td> <td>Satisfactory</td> <td>D</td> <td>6.5 - 6.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10%</td> <td>Sufficient</td> <td>E</td> <td>5.5 - 6.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Fail</td> <td>F</td> <td>0.0 - 5.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>More information on Dutch grading and conversion can be found on the website of the Nuffic: www.nuffic.nl.</p>	ECTS %	Quality Assessment	ECTS grade	Dutch grade	10%	Excellent/Very good	A	8.0 - 10.0	25%	Good	B	7.5 - 7.9	30%	More than satisfactory	C	7.0 - 7.4	25%	Satisfactory	D	6.5 - 6.9	10%	Sufficient	E	5.5 - 6.4		Fail	F	0.0 - 5.4
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<p>Relevant e-mail and website</p>	<p>Courses and credits: www.vu.nl/en/programmes/exchange/courses/index.aspx E-mail: incoming@vu.nl</p>																												

Services

Welcoming programme	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers international students Arrival and Introduction days before the start of each academic semester. The programme consists of social activities, information about registration at the municipality, sports and cultural facilities for students, ICT, opening a bank account, etc. Students are most strongly advised to attend this orientation programme.
Dutch language courses	Students can take Dutch language courses at the Department of Dutch as a Second Language (link).
English language courses	No English language courses for exchange students are offered.
Studying at VU with a disability	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers facilities for students with a disability. The partner institution or the student should contact the VU International Office at incoming@vu.nl around the time of nomination to check if we can provide all necessary support and facilities.
Student counselling	For issues such as study progress, motivation, family matters, adjusting to life in the Netherlands, discrimination, disputes with lecturers, students can contact one of the student counsellors. More information can be found on the website of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (link).
Accommodation	<p>Exchange students can apply for student housing through the central VU International Office. An overview of housing options can be found here (link). A handling fee of €200 per semester is required for this service. Students will be informed about the procedure after uploading their application package. Housing cannot be guaranteed. Students housing can only be rented for the full period (semester or a year).</p> <p>Deadline for confirming accommodation and payment of the handling fee for housing is 1 June (semester 1) and 1 December (semester 2).</p> <p>For staff members, accommodation will be arranged through the department they will be visiting.</p>
Visa	<p>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will apply for a visa and/or a residence permit on behalf of the exchange student or staff member (if necessary). Students will be informed about the procedure after uploading their application package. More information about visa requirements can be found here (link).</p> <p>For staff members, visa and/or a residence permit will be arranged through the department they will be visiting.</p>
Insurance	<p>Health insurance is mandatory for all students and visiting staff.</p> <p>EU citizens can apply for an EU Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Non-EU citizens need to arrange their own private health insurance. VU Amsterdam recommends students and visiting staff insurance company AON (though students and visiting staff have the possibility to select their own insurance that will cover their stay in the Netherlands).</p>
Relevant website	More information can be found on the website: www.vu.nl/exchange