

Factsheet VU University Amsterdam

Institutional information

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| Name of Institution | VU University Amsterdam (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) | | |
| Erasmus Code | NL AMSTERD02 | | |
| Address | VU International Office De Boelelaan 1105 1081 HV Amsterdam The Netherlands | | |
| Regional coordinators | Africa | Monique van Reij | +31 20 598 6387 |
| | Latin America | Marieke Farchi | +31 20 598 9142 |
| | North America | Ramon Ellenbroek | +31 20 598 2919 |
| | Oceania | Ramon Ellenbroek | +31 20 598 2919 |
| | Asia (without Central Asia) | Nicole Prins | +31 20 598 3272 |
| | Northern Europe | Nicole Prins | +31 20 598 3272 |
| | Southern Europe | Job Mulder | +31 20 598 8990 |
| | Middle East & Central Asia | Job Mulder | +31 20 598 8990 |
| Website | www.vuamsterdam.com www.vu.nl/exchange | | |
| E-mail | Internationalrelations@vu.nl | | |

Semester data and application procedure

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| Academic year | <p>The academic year runs from start September to 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>2014-2015 Semester 1: 01/09/2014-30/01/2015 Semester 2: 02/02/2015-26/06/2015</p> <p>2015-2016 Semester 1: 31/08/2015-29/01/2016 Semester 2: 01/02/2016-24/06/2016</p> |
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| Nomination deadline | <p>Nominations can be sent to: internationalrelations@vu.nl</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) <p>A confirmation e-mail will be sent to the nominated student after the nomination deadline to inform the student about eligibility and the (online) application procedure. The home university will receive a copy of the e-mail.</p> |
| Application procedure | <p>Nominated students need to apply through the online application system of VU University. 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><i>Deadlines are strict when students need a visa and/or housing via the university</i></p> |
| Relevant email and website | <p>General: www.vu.nl/exchange</p> <p>E-mail: incoming@vu.nl</p> |

Recommended language skills

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| Language of instruction | Dutch and English |
| Level of English required for students mobility | <p>B2 (Toefl IBT at least 92, IELTS 6.5)</p> <p><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 and for students from China (due to visa regulations).</i></p> <p><i>Exempted are students who have completed or are enrolled at home in a fully English-taught programme (secondary school/Bachelor's/Master's)</i></p> |
| Level of English required for teaching staff | C1 (Toefl IBT at least 110, 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.</i></p> |

The sending institution, following 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

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| Courses | Course information can be found on the central website for Exchange programmes (link). Bachelor's exchange students are allowed to participate in all |
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| | courses available for Bachelor's exchange students provided they meet the entry requirements of the course. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Transcript of records | A transcript of records will be issued and sent to the home institution. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grading | <p>The Dutch grading scale is from 1 through 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><tr><th>ECTS %</th><th>ECTS grade</th><th>Cijfers</th></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>A</td><td>8 - 10</td></tr><tr><td>25%</td><td>B</td><td>7,5</td></tr><tr><td>30%</td><td>C</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>25%</td><td>D</td><td>6,5</td></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>E</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>F</td><td>0 - 5</td></tr></table> <p>More information on Dutch grading and conversion can be found on the website of the Nuffic: www.nuffic.nl</p> | ECTS % | ECTS grade | Cijfers | 10% | A | 8 - 10 | 25% | B | 7,5 | 30% | C | 7 | 25% | D | 6,5 | 10% | E | 6 | | F | 0 - 5 |
| ECTS % | ECTS grade | Cijfers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10% | A | 8 - 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25% | B | 7,5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30% | C | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25% | D | 6,5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10% | E | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 0 - 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Relevant email and website | <p>Courses: http://www.vu.nl/en/programmes/exchange-programmes/study-guide/index.asp</p> <p>Credits: http://www.vu.nl/en/programmes/studying-at-vu/semesters-and-credits/index.asp</p> <p>E-mail: incoming@vu.nl</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Services

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| Welcoming programme | VU University offers international students a Welcome and orientation programme 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 strongly advised to attend this Welcome 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 | VU University has good facilities for students with a disability. For more information the student can contact the VU International Office at incoming@vu.nl |
| 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 advisors. More information can be found on the website of VU University (link). |
| Accommodation | <p>Exchange students can apply for student housing through the central International Office of VU University.</p> <p>A handling fee is required for this service. Students will be informed about the procedure after uploading their application package. Housing cannot be</p> |

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| | <p>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 June 1 (semester 1) and December 1 (semester 2).</p> <p>Staff can apply for housing directly through the housing department of the IO: accommodation@vu.nl</p> |
| Visa | <p>VU University 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>Staff can contact: immigration@vu.nl</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 University 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 | <p>More information can be found on the website:</p> <p>www.vuamsterdam.com</p> <p>www.vu.nl/exchange</p> |