

Factsheet Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 2025-2026

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	Coordinator	Phone number	Region
	Iris de Vries (she/her)	+31 20 598 4691	Europe
	Dorien Boerrigter-Jansen (she/her)	+31 20 598 8697	North America, Africa, UK and Middle East
	Monique van Reij (she/her)	+31 20 598 6387	Asia, Oceania and Latin America
Website	www.vu.nl/exchange		
E-mail	internationalrelations@vu.nl		

Semester dates 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). 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>2025-2026 Semester 1: 01/09/2025-30/01/2026 Semester 2: 02/02/2026-26/06/2026</p>
Nomination deadline	<p>Nominations can be submitted in our online portal.</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 both you and the nominated student after the nomination has been entered and the student will be informed automatically about the (online) application procedure.</p>

Application procedure	<p>Nominated students will also apply through our online portal. The web link to the online application 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 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 Semester in Amsterdam programme.</p> <p>VU Amsterdam also offers credit-bearing Summer- and Winterschool programmes.</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): selection of students with sufficient level of English language proficiency (C1 level) is the responsibility of the home university.</p> <p>Students participating in Master's degree courses: Proof of English language proficiency according to VU Amsterdam's requirements 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 or students who are enrolled in a completely English-taught Master's degree.</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.</i></p> <p><i>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>

Course information and grading

Courses	<p>Information about courses and minors available to incoming students can be found on the website and students can search for courses in our exchange study guide.</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Courses in the fields of Psychology and at our School of Business and Economics have limited capacity. Therefore, incoming exchange students majoring in Psychology, Business and Economics are given priority in registering for courses in these subject areas. Students with different majors <i>can</i> apply for courses in these fields but should be prepared to adapt their course choice in case these courses are full.- 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.- 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.																					
Transcript of records	<p>After the exams, teachers have 4 weeks to publish the results. Once the results of all completed exams and papers have been published, the student can request an official digital transcript online.</p> <p>Upon request, a digital or hardcopy version of the transcript can also be sent to the students' home university directly.</p>																					
Grading	<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><tr><th>ECTS %</th><th>Quality Assessment</th><th>Dutch grade</th></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>Excellent/Very good</td><td>8.0 - 10.0</td></tr><tr><td>25%</td><td>Good</td><td>7.5 - 7.9</td></tr><tr><td>30%</td><td>More than satisfactory</td><td>7.0 - 7.4</td></tr><tr><td>25%</td><td>Satisfactory</td><td>6.5 - 6.9</td></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>Sufficient</td><td>5.5 - 6.4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Fail</td><td>0.0 - 5.4</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 %	Quality Assessment	Dutch grade	10%	Excellent/Very good	8.0 - 10.0	25%	Good	7.5 - 7.9	30%	More than satisfactory	7.0 - 7.4	25%	Satisfactory	6.5 - 6.9	10%	Sufficient	5.5 - 6.4		Fail	0.0 - 5.4
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Relevant e-mail and website	<p>Courses and credits: Courses - More about - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (vu.nl)</p> <p>E-mail: incoming@vu.nl</p>																					

Services

Orientation 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.
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 .
Accommodation	<p>After they have applied for the exchange programme, students can apply for accommodation through the International Office</p> <p>A <u>handling fee</u> of €250 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>The number of rooms available is limited and accommodation is assigned on a first paid, first served base. We cannot guarantee accommodation for every student but the International Office will do its utmost to find suitable accommodation for every individual.</p> <p>For staff members, accommodation will be arranged through the department they will be visiting.</p>
Visa	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. For staff members, visa and/or a residence permit will be arranged through the department they will be visiting.
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	www.vu.nl/exchange