GETTING STARTED

PROSPECTUS
BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S STUDENTS

VU VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM
WELCOME TO VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

You are considering starting a new adventure at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (‘VU Amsterdam’), one that is part of your own personal voyage of discovery and learning. The university’s ambition is to provide an academic environment in which our students can excel and develop themselves into well-rounded academic professionals who can make a meaningful contribution to the challenges facing our society. We welcome motivated young people irrespective of their social, ethnic, cultural, or religious background who wish to contribute to our community.

VU Amsterdam stands for three core values: responsibility, openness, and personal engagement. What do we mean by this? We want our students to take the responsibility to think independently and critically, to engage in open discussions with respect for the other’s position, to be accountable for their words and deeds, and to engage in the academic community and the broader world. Our institution and faculties are committed to providing you a challenging and fruitful academic experience.

Should our ambitions and values speak to you, we heartily welcome you to become part of the Vrije Universiteit’s academic community. International students enrich the vibrancy and diversity of our university - we are happy to have you here!

Prof. dr. V. (Vinod) Subramaniam
Rector Magnificus
DEAR STUDENT

Congratulations on choosing VU Amsterdam for the continuation of your studies. VU Amsterdam will not disappoint you in living up to your expectation that the decision you recently made to study with us will turn out to be life changing.

VU Amsterdam has witnessed a steady increase in the number of international students, both degree seeking students and those taking a semester abroad. It is not only the numbers as such that have grown, but it also concerns a higher number of excellent students and you are no exception to this trend.

In addition, there is also more diversity in backgrounds, be they national, religious, or cultural. We are convinced that this will help you in becoming a better student. Diversity in the classroom brings different perspectives which in turn increases our understanding of phenomena: diversity breeds excellence!

Just as attractive as Vrije Universiteit is the city that hosts us: Amsterdam. Again, you will not be disappointed. Amsterdam caters perfectly to almost any need you may have next to your study programme.

The International Office is there to assist you in making your stay in Amsterdam as productive and enjoyable as possible. Do not hesitate to call on the people of the International Office should you need help with solving problems in connection with your study and stay with us.

We wish you an excellent time at VU Amsterdam. We are confident that you will get the most out of our study programmes and that you will also find the time to discover Amsterdam and make new friends.

Frans Snijders
Director International Office
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Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (‘VU Amsterdam’) is a leading European research university established in 1880. With more than 24,500 students, we are a modern organisation at the cutting edge of academic higher education. Our students are challenged to ask critical questions, tackle problems and place what they learn in a wider philosophical, ethical and social context. VU Amsterdam offers a wide range of English-taught programmes at three levels: Bachelor’s (BA, BSc), Master’s (MA, MSc) and doctoral (PhD). Nine faculties share a single campus and cover a wide spectrum of arts, sciences, business and medicine.

UNIVERSITY FACTS AND FIGURES
Facts:
• 24,567 students
• 4,088 international Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD students
• 9 faculties
• 84 nationalities

Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD programmes:
• 16 interdisciplinary research institutes
• Over 170 programmes taught in English
• Only single-campus university in Amsterdam

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM:
• is consistently listed among the world’s top universities in various rankings;
• is located in one of the most dynamic and fast-growing business districts in the Netherlands;
• is a modern campus university with student housing just a five-minute bike ride away;
• helps you with housing, visa and the administrative side of studying in the Netherlands;
• offers an international environment. A quarter of the students in our English-taught programmes come from abroad;
• provides high-quality education in small and highly interactive classes;
• is located in lively and multicultural Amsterdam, the city with the largest concentration of students in the Netherlands, where English is widely spoken;
• is open to all cultures, nationalities and religions.

See why your fellow international students chose VU Amsterdam.

RANKINGS 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEIDEN RANKING</th>
<th>SHANGHAI ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES</th>
<th>TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING</th>
<th>QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>109 Worldwide</td>
<td>103 Worldwide</td>
<td>138 Worldwide</td>
<td>219 Worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Netherlands</td>
<td>7 Netherlands</td>
<td>10 Netherlands</td>
<td>11 Netherlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDYING AT VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

Education
The quality of Dutch higher education is amongst the best in the world. Education at VU Amsterdam is structured according to the Bachelor’s and Master’s system. In general, the teaching style can be described as student-centred; we stimulate students to develop their own opinion through independent and creative thinking. This means that teaching is conducted in small seminars where interaction is the norm rather than the exception. At VU Amsterdam students are encouraged to engage their professors in a discussion.

Academic year
The academic year starts in the first week of September and is divided into two semesters. Each semester consists of three periods of 8+8+4 weeks. Examinations are held at the end of each semester (January and June), or at the end of the eight- or four-week period. You are registered as a student from September 1st until August 31st.

Credits
At VU Amsterdam, credits are listed according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The ECTS credit system is based on study workload, which includes contact hours, time spent completing papers, assignments and preparing for examinations. In this system, 1 ECTS credit point represents 28 hours of study (including class attendance). A full-time student is expected to earn 60 ECTS credits in one academic year, and 30 credits in one semester.

Dutch grading system
When you come to Holland to study you will probably expect that many things are different than in your home country. The grading system may also not be the same as what you are used to. There are many different grading systems in the world, such as (from lowest to highest grade) 1 to 5, 1 to 10, 1 to 20, 1 to 100, 5 to 1, F to A. In the Netherlands, the traditional grading scale is from 1 through to 10, where 1 is the lowest and 10 the highest grade. The pass mark for a single subject is 6. Grades 1 through to 4 are very rarely given, and the same is true for grades 9 and 10. The most common grades in both secondary and higher education are 6 and 7.
Grading culture
Grading practice in the Netherlands can differ from how grades are awarded in other countries in as much as the top grades (10 and 9) are rarely awarded, regardless of the actual achievements of a given group of students. This is part of the grading culture in the Netherlands. When the 1 through to 10 scale was officially introduced back to the late 19th century, it was decided that a 10 should only be awarded in cases of absolute perfection. Furthermore, as at the time it was felt to be almost blasphemous for mere mortals to be judging what constituted absolute perfection, a 10 was hardly ever awarded. A 9 was considered to be only a slightly less impossible goal to reach. With the advent of multiple choice testing and yes/no answers to questions, 10’s and 9’s actually came within reach of ambitious students. To this day, however, these grades are still very rarely awarded in oral examinations or open question testing, such as essays, presentations, project reports or dissertations. More about the Dutch grading system and how grades are distributed? Make sure to visit the Nuffic website.

Grades
The Dutch grading system is generally based on a mark between 1 (minimum) and 10 (maximum). A grade of 6.0 or more stands for ‘pass’, a grade of less than 6.0 for ‘fail’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADES</th>
<th>ECTS % BACHELOR</th>
<th>ECTS % MASTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>0,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,5</td>
<td>1,1</td>
<td>1,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3,7</td>
<td>4,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,5</td>
<td>6,8</td>
<td>8,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>14,4</td>
<td>19,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,5</td>
<td>16,3</td>
<td>17,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>20,0</td>
<td>20,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,5</td>
<td>16,1</td>
<td>12,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>21,2</td>
<td>16,0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

When you apply
Your faculty’s International Student Advisor (ISA) will help you with the application procedure, admissions process, possible scholarship applications and any other information you may need related to your studies.

If you are admitted
The Services team of the International Office will assist you with finding accommodation and applying for a visa and/or residence permit (if applicable).

When you arrive
VU International Office will organise an introduction week for international students in August consisting of arrival days, in which you can arrange all kinds of practical matters, and can participate in social events and an intercultural programme.

During your studies
The Career Service will organise various events such as the annual career event and CV workshops, interview trainings and meet & greets with companies. There are Q&A sessions throughout the academic year, and we have student counsellors and a student desk that you can approach with any specific questions you may have. Guidance and support are offered to students with a disability.
2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S PROGRAMMES

To apply for a Bachelor’s or Master’s programme at VU Amsterdam, go to Studielink and apply online. Then go to the VU Student Portal with your VUnet ID (which you will have received by e-mail). You will have to pay a €100 (non-refundable) application fee and upload all required documents.

Once your application is complete (all required documents are correct) and we have received the application fee, your file will be taken into consideration. The Admission Board will decide within 4 weeks (for Bachelors) or within 6 weeks (for Masters).

The International Office will inform you about your (un)conditional admission by e-mail as soon as a decision has been taken.

After you have been admitted we ask you to confirm your participation in VUnet within two weeks and select the services you may need. Please note that all students with a non-EU/EEA nationality need to apply for a residence permit and/or visa.

After you arrive at VU Amsterdam, the International Office will help you arrange all practical matters in the Netherlands. You will also begin receiving invitations for (career) activities for International Students.

After you have paid your tuition fees you will be officially enrolled.

The application deadline for international students who need services from the International Office (housing/visa) is set to 1 April. For EU students who do not need housing/visa the deadline is 1 May for Bachelor’s and 1 June for all Master’s.

Your International Student Advisor at the International Office may contact you for additional information.

Before you can be accepted unconditionally to our university, we need to receive your certified copy of diploma or a statement of graduation which must be certified as genuine copy of the original by the issuing school/university or by a public notary. Additionally, we also need to receive your sufficient English language test score, please check the minimum required scores on your programme website.

Read the online admission, accommodation and visa (if applicable) pages in VUnet carefully to see if you need to send us any additional documents. If you need to apply for a visa/residence permit, you will have to upload all required documentation in VUnet before 1 June. After this date, your application for services may be delayed, which means we cannot guarantee your start date at VU Amsterdam.

You will have to pay the tuition fees before the start of the programme, August 31st. There are different payment methods.
How to apply for a Bachelor’s or Master’s programme at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam?

CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION

After you have been admitted to VU Amsterdam you can confirm your participation in VUnet. In VUnet you can also indicate whether you need a visa/residence permit and if you wish to apply for accommodation through VU Amsterdam. In VUnet you will be able to upload all required documents. There are four steps you need to be aware of (if applicable):

1. Confirm your participation in VUnet.
2. Apply for a visa/residence permit in VUnet, if you have a non-EU/EEA nationality. The application deadline is 1 June 2020.
3. Apply for accommodation in VUnet (recommended).
4. Transfer your visa fee and/or housing fee via the online payment tool in VUnet. Housing is assigned on a first-paid, first-served basis.

ENTRY VISA (MVV) AND RESIDENCE PERMIT (VVR)

Whether you need an entry visa (MVV) and residence permit (VVR) depends on your nationality (please see figure below). VU Amsterdam will apply on your behalf after you have submitted the required documents in VUnet and have transferred the visa fee. Your contact person of the Services team will inform you once the visa/residence permit has been approved. Also, you will be notified when and where you can collect the visa and/or residence permit.

Entry visa (MVV)
An entry visa (MVV) is a sticker in your passport issued by the Dutch Embassy or Consulate in your home country (or the country in which you legally reside). This sticker is needed to enter the Netherlands. An MVV is valid for three months after you have collected the entry visa at the Dutch Embassy/Consulate. Please note that your passport has to be valid for at least six months after you have collected your MVV. You will receive your residence permit after arrival in the Netherlands.

Residence permit (VVR)
All Non-EU/EEA students who will stay in the Netherlands for more than 3 months need a residence permit (VVR). This permit allows you to reside legally in the Netherlands for the duration of your study programme. Students who do not need an entry visa (MVV) first need to have their biometrics (electronic photo and fingerprint) taken after arriving in the Netherlands. You will be informed by the Services team how you can make an appointment to provide your biometrics at the IND. It takes approximately 2 to 4 weeks before your residence permit is ready after you have given your biometrics. VU Amsterdam will inform you when you can collect your residence permit.

Proof of financial means
When you are not from an EU or EEA country you must prove that you are able to finance the costs of living in the Netherlands. The Dutch Immigration Service determines the amount per month/year. For 2020-2021 you need to be able to prove that you have at least €900 per month for the total duration of your study programme enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONALITY</th>
<th>ENTRY VISA</th>
<th>RESIDENCE PERMIT</th>
<th>COSTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU/EEA COUNTRIES (ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>€ 0,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA, CANADA, JAPAN, MONACO, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH KOREA, UNITED STATES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>€ 250,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF AMERICA, VATICAN CITY*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRAEL, SAN MARINO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>€ 0,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER COUNTRIES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>€ 250,-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Students who will be following an Exchange programme with the Australian, Argentine, Canadian, South-Korean and New-Zealand nationality have the possibility to apply for the Working Holiday Permit (WHP) or Working Holiday Scheme (WHS). See our website for more information.
Additionally, you also need to prove that you can pay your tuition fees. So the proof of financial means consists of proof that you can pay the tuition fees and your living expenses. In VUnet you can upload the required documents. There are different options to prove you have sufficient financial means. Please have a look at our website for Bachelor’s students or Master’s students.

Tuberculosis test
A tuberculosis test may be part of your application for a residence permit after arrival in the Netherlands. VU Amsterdam will inform you when and where to go, depending on your nationality.

Satisfactory Academic Progress
The Dutch Immigration Service (IND) requires for all students with a residence permit for study purposes to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress. This means that students need to obtain at least 50% of the credits of their study programme each year in order to keep their residence permit for the next academic year. VU Amsterdam will check each year whether you meet these requirements. When students do not meet the requirements and there is no excusable reason for not passing enough courses, the International Office is obliged to inform the IND. Consequently your residence permit will be withdrawn regardless of the expiry date listed on the actual permit. This law applies to all students with a residence permit for study purposes. Please be aware that it is not possible to register for another study programme at VU Amsterdam if you do not meet the criteria for Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Read more about satisfactory academic progress for Bachelor’s students or Master’s students.

ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED VIA VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT

VU Amsterdam offers a wide range of accommodation to its international students: rooms with shared facilities are on offer as well as private studios. The price ranges from €350 to €950 per month. To register for accommodation, please apply in VUnet and transfer the housing fee. Please note that accommodation is assigned on the first paid, first served principle.

Housing fee
Students who want to apply for accommodation through VU Amsterdam will have to pay a housing fee of €500. This housing fee is charged to cover the costs of the university in providing the housing service to international students. Read more about accommodation for Bachelor’s students or Master’s students.

REGISTRATION WITH THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

All residents who stay in the Netherlands for more than four months must register with the BRP (personal records database of the municipality) at the municipal office. When you arrive on one of the Arrival Days, a representative of the municipality will be present to register you. Within a couple of weeks you will receive your Dutch tax and social security number (BSN). Please remember to change your correspondence address in VUnet.

PATHFINDER

When you stay in the Netherlands for the purpose of study you need to be aware of some rules and regulations. The Pathfinder is a useful wizard, when you fill out the wizard you will find all relevant information applicable for your situation.

Fill out the Pathfinder here.
FINALISE YOUR STUDENT REGISTRATION
AT VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

Once you have been (conditionally) admitted, there are still a few steps to take before your student registration is finalised:

1. Accept our offer for you to study at VU Amsterdam via VUnet.
2. Meet the conditions that are set for you in the admission letter you received from your international Bachelor’s or Master’s student advisor. Often these consist of supplying us with a certified copy of your diploma and/or a copy of your English test scores.
3. As a non-EU student you need to apply for a visa and/or residence permit or indicate that you already have a valid Dutch permit in VUnet.
4. If applicable, arrange your housing/visa/residence permit application in VUnet.
5. Pay your tuition fees.

Once these conditions are met, you are a student at VU Amsterdam and can start to register for your courses.

BANK AFFAIRS

You will need a current bank account to manage your day-to-day finances. There are several options available to you. In order to get your bank account, you can make an appointment at one of their offices once you have arrived in the Netherlands.

Paying with your student card
You can use your student card to borrow books at the University library or as an ID during exams. Your card can also be used to pay for the use of the multi-functional printers (printing, scanning and copying). The student card can be charged by means of the Digital IT Wallet. You can top-up it on this page and at IT Top-up points.

INSURANCE

Health insurance
Valid health insurance is compulsory in the Netherlands. If you have not arranged valid insurance yet, make sure that you arrange this as soon as possible. There are three options to insure your medical costs for the period of stay in the Netherlands.

- If you are an EU/EEA student, you are most likely covered for a temporary stay in the Netherlands by the health insurance policy in your home country. Please verify this before you arrive and remember to request your EU health insurance card (E111).
- If you are a non-EU/EEA student obliged to take out Dutch public healthcare insurance (zorgverzekering), you are free to buy insurance from any Dutch insurance company. We recommend to opt for the Aon ICS+ Complete package for extensive coverage at a good price. Please note this is a student insurance, which means it’s not sufficient if you also work in the Netherlands.
- If you are already privately insured in your home country, you need to check with your insurance company which health care services they cover during your studies. If coverage is not sufficient, you need to take out a new or special insurance policy for your stay in the Netherlands.

- Working while studying? If you get a job during your studies or undertake a paid internship, student insurance is not sufficient. You will need to purchase Dutch “basis” health insurance if you earn more than €150 per month.

More extensive information on health care and health insurance in the Netherlands can be found on this information sheet.

Liability insurance
You are liable for all associated costs when you cause an accident involving injury to others or damage to property. The resulting claim for damages could be very expensive. Therefore, we would strongly urge you to take out adequate liability insurance. Read more about insurance.
Insurance package
VU Amsterdam has assisted Aon Student Insurance with the development of a tailor-made ICS Complete+ insurance for international students. This insurance package covers health and non-medical costs worldwide. The package includes home contents, baggage, accidents, liability and legal costs. The complete insurance policy information and quote about this insurance can be found on https://www.aonstudentinsurance.com/students/en.

HEALTH MATTERS

The General Practitioner
The General Practitioner/Family doctor plays a key role in the Dutch health care system. You should consult your GP when you become ill, need a prescription or suffer from mental problems. The GP will either refer you to a specialist or treat you himself/herself.

More extensive information on health care providers in the Netherlands can be found on this information sheet.

The Dentist
All students of VU Amsterdam who stay for more than one year can register with ACTA (the Faculty of Dentistry) for dental care. Students who stay for less than one year can contact the Tandartsbemiddelingsbureau. They will assist you in finding a dentist who can help you at short notice.

ACTA (Dentists)
T +31 (0)20 598 0380
E info@acta.nl
Website ACTA

Tandarts bemiddelingsbureau
T +31 (0)20 506 3841

WORKING WHILE YOU STUDY

If you want to work in the Netherlands alongside your studies, it is important to know the rules and regulations. Students from the EU/EEA (except students from Croatia) who wish to work alongside their studies have the same rights as Dutch students. You do not need a work permit and the hours that you are allowed to work per week are not restricted. However, in most cases you will have to be able to speak a reasonable amount of Dutch. Non-EU/EEA students and Croatians require a work permit. With a work permit you are only allowed to work a maximum of 16 hours per week OR fulltime during the summer months.

Read more about working in The Netherlands while studying.
3. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION FEES

Students from the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA) pay the same tuition fees as Dutch students. The tuition fees for most programmes are determined by the Dutch government on an annual basis. Tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students vary depending on the programme. Please check the website for up-to-date information on tuition fees for Bachelor’s students or Master’s students.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As an international Master’s student at VU Amsterdam, you can apply for a number of grants and scholarships. Please check the website for detailed information about scholarships and deadlines.

VU Fellowship Programme (VUFP)

VU Amsterdam has established a fund to offer financial support to talented international Master’s students. The VU Fellowship Programme (VUFP) is a highly selective scholarship for students who have obtained excellent study results and who are strongly motivated. You can find the requirements for the VU Fellowship Programme online.

Holland Scholarship Programme (HSP)

The HSP scholarship is meant for Master’s degree students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who want to follow a Master’s programme at VU Amsterdam. In order to be selected, students should contribute to the diversity at our campus. Holland Scholarship Programme.

Student Finance

You are only eligible to apply for Student Finance if you are a Dutch national or have the same rights based on your residence permit or your nationality. Please note that this is a loan and not a gift. For more up-to-date information on Student Finance please check the website of DUO.

LIVING COSTS

While living as a student in Amsterdam you should expect to spend between € 900,- and € 1220,- per month (not including tuition fees). By way of indication:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>€ 350 – € 800 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food etc.</td>
<td>€ 325 – € 500 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transport</td>
<td>€ 60 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>€ 75 – € 100 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>€ 100 per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. THE VU EXPERIENCE

ARRIVAL DAYS AND ORIENTATION

VU Amsterdam offers an introduction programme at the beginning of each semester. During your first days the International Office will arrange several activities in order to help you become acquainted with the city of Amsterdam and the university campus, as well as to get to know your fellow students. All kinds of activities will be organised, such as social, cultural and sports events. In addition you can arrange practical matters regarding your registration at VU Amsterdam, meet your International Student Advisor, register with the municipality, open a bank account and much more. You will meet the board of our international student association ESN VU. Read more about the Introduction programme for Bachelor’s Students or Master’s Students.

Airport pick-up service
During the Arrival Days ESN VU Amsterdam offers a Pick-Up Service from Schiphol Airport. Go to the ESN Webpage for more information.

STUDENT SERVICES

International Service Desk
For all your questions concerning your stay, please visit the International Service Desk on the ground floor of the Main Building. The ISD is open on weekdays between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Student Desk
For general questions, for example on tuition fee payments, the student desk in the main building of VU Amsterdam is open from 10:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Academic Advisors
Each faculty has at least one academic advisor who can help you plan your studies, choose any extra courses that may be useful, discuss personal matters which may affect your studies and who can advise you on career choices. The academic advisor can also offer help to students with a disability or chronic illness. It is advised to discuss the possibilities before your arrival. Read more about studying with a disability here. In some cases, the academic advisor may refer you to someone else if he/she thinks they are better suited to help you. Contact an academic advisor in VUnet.

Student general counsellors
Student general counsellors offer advice and are able to help you address various matters. These may include study progress issues, financial matters and personal matters. Meetings with academic advisors and general counsellors are confidential and free of charge. You can make an appointment to meet one of the student general counsellors online. Contact the Student General Counselling Service.

Students-4-Students@VU
Students-4-Students@VU offers various programmes to students who find it difficult to settle in at VU Amsterdam or for when things aren’t working out as planned. The programmes offered are:
- Studying Together: join the Peer Support Canvas group to find other students who you can meet to study together.
- Peer Support: brings you into contact with a study partner - a fellow student who can support you if you are finding it hard to acclimatise to VU Amsterdam.
You can find more information on VUnet.

Psychological counsellors / University psychologists
If you experience study-related problems such as fear of failure, lack of motivation, procrastination, examination stress or personal problems such as loneliness, homesickness, adjustment problems, grief, feeling depressed, anger, anxiety, and lack of self-esteem you can ask the VU psychologists for help. VU psychologists can help students who would benefit from more intensive or specialised care and can help with finding the necessary care outside VU Amsterdam. For a referral it is important to have an insurance policy that covers mental health care in the Netherlands, and to have approval from your General Practitioner.
Consultations are strictly confidential. You can make an appointment through VUnet. Besides individual sessions, our psychologists offer a course called Back-on-track-study-group for international students. Please visit VUnet as well for tips on how to handle or prevent psychological problems yourself. Contact a VU psychologist or send an email to psychologists@vu.nl.

Confidential counsellors
The Executive Board is keen to ensure that VU Amsterdam offers a safe and pleasant environment for all staff and students. Sexual harassment and other forms of undesirable conduct (violence, intimidation, aggression, bullying) will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Special ‘confidential counsellors’ have been appointed and they can help you when you feel intimidated in any way. Contact a confidential counsellor.

Examination Committees
The Examination Committees are tasked with assessing the study programmes and upholding the quality of the examinations. The Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) of your study programme can be found on the website of your faculty. You can send a request to the committee for matters regarding your study programme (exemptions, results, exams, internships) in VUnet. If you disagree with the outcome of the Committee you can lodge an appeal with the Examinations Appeal Board.

Student Ombudsman
The Student Ombudsman helps students with problems or complaints that cannot be resolved by any other body within the university. For example, if you feel that the faculty has treated you unreasonably or if your rights as a student have been infringed upon. They act independently, are impartial, and will deal with all complaints in the strictest confidence. Contact the Ombudsman.

Course and career information centre
VU International Office organises various events and activities throughout the year such as the annual VU International Day or the Career Event for those international students who wish to work in The Netherlands after their study. You will be informed of these events through the International Student Newsletter and you can also check our website and the Vrije Universiteit Students Facebook page.

International student Chaplaincy
VU Amsterdam offers students a range of religious facilities and services. These include the Student Chaplaincy, a meditation room and an Islamic prayer room. Religion and identity at VU Amsterdam

STUDY FACILITIES
List of all Study facilities

University Library
The Vrije Universiteit Library is a relatively large and well-stocked academic library. This means you can consult a vast range of resources, either on paper or in digital form, to help you with your coursework and research. The library’s collection is distributed among several locations. All VU students are automatically a member of the University Library and may borrow materials upon showing their student card. The University Library does more than just lending out textbooks. For example, it organises various courses and workshops. Most products and services are free for VU Amsterdam students. Website Vrije Universiteit Library.

VU Audiovisual Centre (AVC)
VU Audiovisual Centre (AVC) is a state-of-the-art study and research environment on the first floor of the main building. VU Audiovisual Centre offers students, teaching staff and researchers the opportunity to experiment with the latest technologies and educational applications. All facilities are made available free of charge. It is also a perfect place for you to work together on joint assignments.
Media library
The media library is part of the university’s Audiovisual Centre (AVC). It has over four thousand videos on various academic and scientific subjects, all of which can be viewed on the premises. Current affairs programmes, documentaries, news bulletins and (relevant) feature films are recorded every day. You can view any of them upon showing your student card.

VUnet
All VU students receive a VUnet-id. This is a personal combination of a username and password which gives you access to VUnet and other ICT services. VUnet is your personalised internet start page, where you can find everything you need for your studies. You can read the latest Canvas messages at a glance, access your e-mail and find your examination results. You can also use your VUnet-id to buy software at a bargain price via Surfspot.

Student e-mail
All VU students will be provided with an e-mail address upon registration. We urge you to start using your VU student mail account as soon as possible as VU Amsterdam will use this account to communicate with you. You do not want to miss out on important information and deadlines!

Campus-wide wireless network
A wireless network is available throughout the whole VU campus with high bandwidth, including hotspots with extra high bandwidth. You can access this wireless network with your own notebook free of charge. VU Amsterdam has three wireless internet networks (see table at the top of this page). When you want to install WIFI on your laptop please visit the IT service desk in the VU main building. If you already have 3G or 4G on your mobile phone you can install WIFI on your mobile phone via www.vu.nl/draadloos.

Copy centre
The Copy centre’s services include photocopying (black and white or colour), printing, lamination, thermal binding and data processing. There are also self-service multifunctional copying machines available that you can use to print, copy or scan. They can be found throughout the campus and can be accessed using your student card.

Computer rooms
There are several computer rooms and internet work spaces available, as well as a notebook study room. Students wishing to study using a notebook or laptop should go to the study room in the main building (ground floor, room 0B-06). It has sixty workspaces, each equipped with a notebook holder, plug-in keyboard, power outlet and adjustable chair. The room is divided into two sections: the ‘silent area’ for private study, and a ‘working area’ in which you can talk with other students and work together on your joint assignment. There are also a number of places reserved for wheelchair users.

VU Bookstore
The VU bookstore in the main building stocks a wide range of academic and scientific textbooks. It specialises in Economics, Finance, Law, Theology and Medicine, but also offers books on other subjects as well as general reading material. You can buy all compulsory literature for your classes at this bookstore. The VU Bookstore now incorporates a general stationery department which sells magazines, greetings cards, postage stamps, public transport tickets, pre-paid smartcards, etc. Website VU bookstore.
**LANGUAGE COURSES**

**VU-NT2 Academy**
The Dutch as a Second Language Department offers various courses in Dutch. Whether you are new to our language or speak it reasonably well, they can help you with learning Dutch fast and effectively. [Website VU-NT2](#).

**VU Taalloket (language center)**
**VU Taalloket** is an independent translation and language-training agency affiliated with VU Amsterdam. They provide translations, language and communication training courses and text editing services. They also organise the VU institutional TOEFL test. This test is much cheaper than the official TOEFL test, although it is only recognised at VU Amsterdam.

**FOOD AND DRINKS**
There is a supermarket and three restaurants on campus where you can enjoy a light lunch. The restaurant in the main building also provides hot meals at lunchtime and in the late afternoon/early evening. There are also a number of coffee bars throughout the campus, as well as the campus cafe the Basket and Spar supermarket.

**VUUILENSTEDE CAMPUS**
A part of the student accommodation is located at VU Uilenstede. Here you can find a café/bar, the sports center and the cultural center. It is easy to reach, located only five minutes by bicycle from the university.

**VU SPORTS CENTRE**
The VU Sports Centre is a sports facility offered by the university. It offers a very wide range of opportunities to play sports and keep fit. There is a special offer available for international students. [Website VU Sports Centre](#).

**ART AND CULTURE**
Learning and personal development should go beyond the set course curriculum. VU Amsterdam therefore actively promotes art and culture. Griffioen Cultural Centre organises many creative courses in areas such as music, dance and photography. The Exposorium holds at least six exhibitions of contemporary art each year while Vrije Universiteit organises a number of public activities looking at various aspects of science, culture and society.

**VU Orchestra**
The VU-Orchestra is one of the most prominent student orchestras in the Netherlands. They rehearse every Wednesday evening at 19:30 at the Griffioen Cultural Centre. [Website VU Orchestra](#).

**GRIFFIOEN**
Griffioen is VU Amsterdam’s Cultural Centre. The professionally equipped Griffioen stage presents performances and concerts by established names and upcoming talent, interspersed with its own theatrical and musical productions. Prices are in accordance with a student’s budget. [Website Griffioen](#).
Movies
Cinema Griffioen presents recent hits, movie classics and little-known gems on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. They show two different movies each evening. Tickets are a mere € 8,- (students € 5,-).

Courses
The Griffioen has a range of over sixty courses to choose from. Visual arts, dance, music or drama: it’s all on offer at the Griffioen. You also have the opportunity to participate in drama or music productions, play in the VU orchestra or sing along in the VU choir. Last but not least, the centre houses a range of work spaces and studios where students can play the piano, make pop music, develop photographs and more.

ESN VU AMSTERDAM
ESN VU Amsterdam is an organisation for all international and Dutch students at VU Amsterdam. It brings together Dutch and international students from a variety of disciplines to introduce them to the university and to Amsterdam, and to make them feel at home. ESN VU Amsterdam organises a variety of activities, including cocktail parties, weekly get-togethers (borrels) and social gatherings every two weeks, as well as a larger social event once a month. As ESN VU Amsterdam is an organisation for students, it is also possible to become an active member, for example as a member of the PR committee, activities committee or mentor committee. Website ESN VU Amsterdam.

AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, boasting around 180 different nationalities and where English is widely spoken. At VU Amsterdam, some 84 nationalities work and study closely together creating a vibrant international academic community. Read more about Amsterdam.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
You will need a public transport chip card (OV-chipkaart) to make use of the public transport in Amsterdam. These cards are sold at GVB Tickets & Info points and at ticket vending machines. It is important that you always check in and check out of each vehicle with your card, including when transferring. Website GVB. Plan your journey.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...
• Amsterdam has approximately 800,000 inhabitants?
• Amsterdam has 165 canals and 1,281 bridges, even more than Venice?
• Amsterdam is the largest city in the Netherlands?
• According to Mercer’s 2018 Quality of Living Survey, Amsterdam is ranked 12th worldwide?
• Amsterdam is one of the safest cities in the world?
• With almost 92,000 students, Amsterdam is a great and lively place to study?
BEFORE YOU GO BACK HOME

Before you leave Amsterdam and go back home, there are some matters that need to be settled. Check these prerequisites first, so that you can leave the country with peace of mind.

Hand in your residence permit
Your residence document is the property of the Dutch government. You must, therefore, return your residence document before you leave the Netherlands. You can hand in your residence document at the IND desk in your region or you can send your document to:

IND Bureau Documenten
P.O. Box 7025
8007 HA Zwolle

Kindly make the document invalid before mailing it. You can do this by making a cut in the document or perforate it. Please do not cut the document in half.

Deregister from the Municipality
Deregistering from the Municipal Personal Records Database (Gemeentelijke Basisadministratie, BRP) is necessary. The municipality removes your personal details from the database and informs other government authorities of your departure.

Read more about the deregistration process in Amsterdam.
Read more about the deregistration process in Amstelveen.

Close your Dutch bank account
It is very important to close your Dutch bank account before you leave. You should visit the nearest bank office and they will help you close the bank account. When you do not close your bank account, you will continue to be charged for the use of it, which could result in an unexpected bill when visiting the Netherlands in the future.

Ask your faculty for a transcript
You should go to your faculty contact person and ask for an official transcript at the end of your studies. An official transcript only includes courses you have passed.

Hand in the keys of your accommodation
Towards the end of your tenancy, a caretaker will contact you to provide you with more information regarding the departure procedures. Please make sure that you leave your room clean and tidy.

If you rented from DUWO and you depart outside of office hours, for instance in the evening or during the weekend, you can put your keys in an envelope (with name, address and room number) and put them in the mailbox outside of the DUWO office.
AUGUST 2020 - JUNE 2021

Throughout the year Amsterdam offers a variety of cultural events and festivals, many of them are organised with an English-speaking public in mind. For a complete overview check your VUnet and the Amsterdam event guide.
<table>
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<tr>
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- **Arrival Days**: 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
- **Introduction week**: 24, 25
- **Opening Academic Year**: 31

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- **Exam period II**: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
- **Exam period IV**: 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

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- **Exam period V**: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
- **Exam period VI**: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

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6. VU CAMPUS + UILENSTEDE MAPS

VU AMSTERDAM
CAMPUS MAP
VU UILENSTEDDE
THE STUDENT RESIDENTIAL AREA
7. USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS

International Office
De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV Amsterdam
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 2788

International Student Advisors - Bachelors

School of Business and Economics
Tessa de Jong
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 6201
E-Mail: bachelors.sbe@vu.nl

Faculty of Science
Julia Tan
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 4212
Kim Daamen
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5284
E-Mail: bachelors.fs@vu.nl

Faculty of Social Sciences
Gijs van Ierssel
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 2883
E-Mail: bachelors.fss@vu.nl

Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences
Frieda Schaufeli
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 2883
E-Mail: bachelors.fbms@vu.nl

Faculty of Humanities
Rosa Vijftigschild
Tel: +31 (0)20 5985641
E-Mail: bachelors.hum@vu.nl

International Student Advisors - Masters

Faculty of Humanities
Irena Paap
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5252
E-Mail: masters.hum@vu.nl

Faculty of Science
Sandra van Daalen
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 7459
Jasper Oosterveld
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 6104
Marija Bosnić
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5409
E-Mail: masters.fs@vu.nl

School of Business and Economics
Amu Shrestha
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 4296
Leanne Schrijver
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 3032
Paul Steeman
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 8739
Marita Visser
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 7325
E-Mail: masters.sbe@vu.nl

Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences
Jet van der Wouden
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 6718
E-Mail: masters.fbms@vu.nl

Faculty of Law
Alexander Lindemans
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 2788
E-Mail: masters.law@vu.nl

VUMC School of Medical Sciences
Sandra van Daalen
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 7459
E-Mail: masters.vumc@vu.nl

Faculty of Social Sciences
Irena Paap
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5252
E-Mail: masters.fss@vu.nl
Faculty of Religion and Theology
Stipo Jeleč
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 8920
E-Mail: masters.ft@vu.nl

International Officers Services

Student Accommodation Matters
Student Accommodation team
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 1813
E-Mail: studentaccommodation@vu.nl

Student Immigration Matters
Student Immigration Team
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 3078
E-Mail: studentimmigration@vu.nl

Housing Corporation DUWO
Uilenstede 108
1183 AM Amstelveen
Tel: +31 (0)20 543 1100
Opening hours: Monday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Website DUWO

General Practice
Website finding and visiting a doctor

ACTA Amsterdam (Dentist)
Gustav Mahlerlaan 3004
1081 LA Amsterdam
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 0380
Website ACTA
E-mail: info@acta.nl

Tandartsbemiddelingsbureau
(Dentists, urgent matters)
Tel: +31 (0)20 506 3841

Municipality Office Amsterdam
Amstel 1
1011 PN Amsterdam
Tel: +31 (0)20 552 4433
Website Municipality Office Amsterdam

Municipality Office Amstelveen
Laan van Nieuwer Amstel 1
1182 JR Amstelveen
Tel: +31 (0)20 540 4263
Website Municipality Office Amstelveen

GG&GD (TBC test)
Nieuwe Achtergracht 100
Tel: +31 (0)20 555 5240
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Website GGD

VU Amsterdam Sports Centre (ASVU)
Uilenstede 100
1183 AM Amstelveen
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5090
Website VU Sports Centre

Griffioen Cultural Centre
Uilenstede 106
1183 AM Amstelveen
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5100
Reservations: +31 (0)20 598 5033
Website Griffioen

ESN VU Amsterdam
De Boelelaan 1083a, Room N044
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 5344
E-Mail: mail@esnvuamsterdam.nl
Website ESN VU Amsterdam
VU-NT2 Academy
De Boelelaan 1105, Room 8A-40
1081 HV Amsterdam
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 6398
Fax: +31 (0)20 598 6500
E-Mail: vu-nt2@vu.nl
Website VU-NT 2 Academy

VU Taaloket (language center)
Metropolitan Building, 4th floor
Buitenveldertselaan 3-7
1082 VA Amsterdam
Tel: +31 (0)20 598 6420
Fax: +31 (0)20 598 6505
E-Mail: taaloket@taalcentrum-vu.nl
Website VU Taaloket

Nuffic
European Platform - The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education
P.O. Box 29777
2502 LT The Hague
Tel: +31 (0)70 426 0260
Fax: +31 (0)70 426 0399
Website NUFFIC

IND
Immigration Services
Stadhouderskade 85
1073 AT Amsterdam
Tel: +31 (0)900 123 4561
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 09:00 a.m. - 04:00 p.m.
Website IND
8. SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK (international students)
www.facebook.com/vuamsterdam

TWITTER (Dutch only)
www.twitter.com/VUamsterdam

LINKEDIN (Dutch only)
www.linkedin.com/company/vrie-universiteit-amsterdam

YOUTUBE
www.youtube.com/vrijeuniversiteit

INSTAGRAM
https://instagram.com/vuamsterdam

STUDENT BLOG
www.amsterdamstudents.com