Netherlands UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) Adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's decision to apply for a UCEAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.

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Summary of Programs

In order to make an informed choice about which program in the Netherlands is the best fit for you, it is important to consider geographic location, university model, and instructional style.

Traditional Dutch University Model

Utrecht University | Fall, Spring, Year
Business & Economics, Maastricht | Fall
Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht | Fall
Biological and Life Science, Maastricht | Fall
Wageningen University | Fall, Spring, Year

Liberal Arts Model

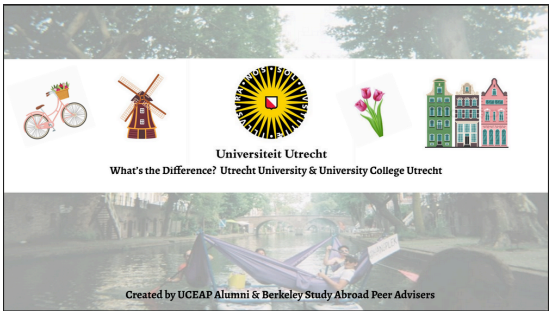
University College Utrecht | Fall, Spring, Year
University College Maastricht | Fall, Spring, Year

International

Maastricht Summer | Summer



Study Abroad in Northern Europe
Info Session



What's the Difference?
Utrecht University & University College Utrecht

Passport Requirements

Students must have a passport (valid 6 months past the end of the program) at the time of course registration at the partner university which typically takes place approximately 2-3 months after the application deadline. Please take action to apply for or renew your passport now if needed.

Students with Disabilities

Dutch law guarantees equality and access to social, employment, and transportation services for people with disabilities. However, government enforcement of the rules is limited, and public buildings and transport are not always easily accessible.

Review how to request disability related accommodations on the I am a Student with a Disability page.

Maastricht University (including University College Maastricht), Studying with a disability
Utrecht University (including University College Utrecht), Studying with a disability
Wageningen University, Studying with a disability

LGBTQIA+ Identifying Students

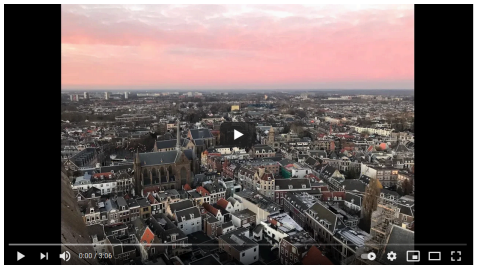
Threat to safety in the LGBTIQ community is minimal. Societal tolerance ranges from tolerance to acceptance. LGBTIQ individuals enjoy full rights and are protected by anti-discrimination laws.

Review tips and resources for LGTBQIA+ Identifying Students.

Traditional Dutch University Model

The Traditional Dutch University accepts all students that choose to attend and who pass qualifying examinations after high school. Students take fixed courses in the same subject their entire college career. As a study abroad student, you have the ability to take courses you choose from more than one field. Because they accept all students, traditional universities often feature large lecture courses, especially years one and two. At lower levels professors lecture, but do not have much personal interaction with students and usually do not hold office hours. Grading tends to rely heavily on the test at the end of the semester.

Utrecht University



[One Second a Day: UCEAP Netherlands, Utrecht University, Sunny Sichi]



[Exchange Student Experience at Utrecht University by Lauren Popko]

Housing

Be aware that there is an approximately $1800 deposit required for housing due in the semester before participation and before financial aid students receive a disbursement. UCEAP students contract with Short Stay Solutions to find housing. International students live in residence halls situated throughout the city with fully equipped kitchens. Students do their own cooking and shopping. The De Uithof Campus has a student cafeteria.

Housing at Utrecht University continues to be very challenging and is not guaranteed. If students are interested in studying in the Netherlands and want to have a more straightforward housing process, they should apply to University College Utrecht or University College Maastricht.

Academics

Many undergraduate classes are taught in Dutch, but in some faculties (departments) instruction is in English. Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Biomedical Sciences and Geosciences offer some courses in English. All Economics courses are offered in English.

Coursework is offered in two block periods per semester. For the second block period of the Fall semester, students have to find courses that are taught by professors that will allow early final exams so they can leave before the winter holidays.

This program filled before the deadline last year so it is a good idea to apply early.

Student Life

Many Berkeley students have enjoyed the Erasmus program for international students at Utrecht University, which organizes events and activities for foreign students. Utrecht is a popular city within the Netherlands where you can always find something to do.

Wageningen University



[Going on an exchange to Wageningen University: Students tell you about their experiences | WURtube]

Wageningen University ranks #1 in the world in Life Sciences and also offers Environmental Sciences, Food Sciences and Social Sciences. Research is part of every course. 2/3 of Bachelor's courses and all Masters-level courses are taught in English. Students take 4 courses, 2 per block, and can sample from a wide-ranging curriculum. Wageningen University offers minors in 23 different areas ranging from agricultural studies to food studies, biotechnology, sustainability and resource management. Research is not available at Wageningen.

Maastricht University



Berkeley Stories: Trey F, Maastricht



3 Minute Travel Guide: Maastricht, Netherlands

Maastricht is a small town in southeastern Netherlands near the Belgian border. All programs in Maastricht offer an innovative method of teaching called Problem Based Learning (PBL). Students must do assigned readings and be prepared to participate in every class. Students must also facilitate at least one class, usually along with a fellow student. This requires posing questions for the class on the day's assigned topic and guiding the discussion. The courses will be challenging but stimulating. Students will participate in group projects and develop writing and presentation skills. Prospective students must mention their interest and understanding of the PBL method in their statement of purpose.

In each program, students take courses in two blocks (like quarters). During the semester, each block is 8 weeks long and during summer, each block is 3 weeks long.

Business & Economics, Maastricht University

This program is appropriate for second semester juniors or seniors with background coursework in economics and business. Completion of the intermediate micro and macro economics series (Economics 100A and B) and additional upper division coursework in Economics or Business is required before departure. Students will be better prepared and get more from this program by participating near the end of their studies. This program is not suited for a first semester Junior beginning his/her upper division coursework abroad. Since space on the program is limited, students who have good background preparation will be given priority.

Courses are only available in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. Students who wish to take accounting, finance, decision-making and game theory, or economic modeling courses should have some background in calculus and possibly econometrics or statistical modeling.

Psychology & Neuroscience, Maastricht University

Maastricht is particularly well-known for its strong offerings in cognitive and biological psychology. Students will take one core course and one seminar per block. The core course will allow an independent study project. One course can be on Dutch art or culture. Field trips and excursions are offered throughout the semester.

Biological and Life Sciences, Maastricht University

This program is only open to Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology, and Biochemistry majors. Students will take one core course and one seminar per block. The core course will allow an independent study project. One course can be on Dutch art or culture. Field trips and excursions are offered throughout the semester.

Liberal Arts University Model

The Liberal Arts University Model reflects a focus on undergraduate education and a broad curriculum. Admission is selective. At these institutions, classes are small and seminar-sized. Attendance is mandatory and your grade goes down if you miss class. Special skills courses are offered at these institutions (UCEAP students can't take these courses for credit) and instruction is entirely in English. The method of instruction at University Colleges is the tutorial. Students are responsible for doing group presentations and discussion of the day's assigned reading. The professor or tutor does not lecture and only becomes involved when necessary to facilitate discussion. Professors are readily approachable and have office hours.

The curriculum at University College Utrecht and University College Maastricht tends to include writing "busy work". Because English is the language of instruction there are frequent writing assignments for the Dutch students for whom English is not their native language. These writing assignments are very beneficial for the Dutch students but may be less so for you as a native English speaker, unless you enjoy writing.

University College Utrecht

University College Utrecht (UCU) is a small honors liberal arts college within, but physically separate from, Utrecht University.

Housing

All students must live on campus in the dormitories and take the campus meal plan. Dorms are with both Dutch and international students, and students have single rooms within a suite of six rooms, a common room, and small kitchen facilities (small refrigerator, micro wave and hotplate so you can cook occasionally). Since you must use the meal plan, you will be eating Dutch cuisine.

Academics

Univ. College Utrecht has a semester of instruction, similar to Berkeley. Students must take four courses each semester. This program is intended for Sophomores and Juniors.

Student Life

UCU students can easily get involved with clubs and social activities on campus; there are activities every week. Seniors may apply but in the past some have not been happy in the program because of UCU's size and the residential nature of the program.

This program filled before the deadline last year so it is a good idea to apply early.

University College Maastricht

University College Maastricht (UCM) is a small liberal arts institution within the larger Maastricht University.

Housing

UCM is not a residential campus. Dutch students find their own apartments off-campus in the city of Maastricht. However, international students live in the UCM Guesthouse, also known as the “P” or “C” dorms. Students with dependents can choose to live off-campus.

Academics

The language of instruction is English, and about 50% of the students come from outside the Netherlands. University College Maastricht has six periods. Periods #1, #2, #4 and #5 are block instruction periods and periods #3 and #6 are for special projects. Year long UCEAP students attending University College Maastricht have the option of doing projects but semester students for either fall or spring will be finished after blocks #2 or #4. All classes utilize the Problem Based Learning Style.

International Model

Maastricht Summer

This summer program is six weeks long and is for international students, meaning you will not interact much with Dutch students. There is an orientation at the beginning of the program including a trip to Amsterdam and there are field trips and museum visits offered throughout the program. Each student will take two courses, one per block. A list of 16-18 courses is offered in a variety of subjects. All courses implement the Problem Based Learning style. Students stay in the Guesthouse, which is about a 40 minute walk to campus. Most students bike-ride and if you do not plan to bike, please consider this commute time in your daily routine. Students buy their own groceries and cook their own meals.

Housing Considerations

If you are considering housing options prior to your study abroad program or upon your return to Berkeley, please review the Berkeley Housing Strategies for Study Abroad Students.