Information for Students on Exchange

University	University of Amsterdam (UvA)
Country	Netherlands
Academic Calendar	Semester 1 (Fall): August to January Semester 2 (Spring): January/February to June UvA: https://student.uva.nl/en/academic-calendar Amsterdam University College (AUC): https://www.auc.nl/academic-programme/auc-academic-calendar/academic-calendar.html
Exchange Duration	One semester
Language Proficiency Requirement	International exchange students must provide proof of their proficiency in the English language by means of a TOEFL, an IELTS, or a CAE test report. Exemption: You do not need to submit an English proficiency test if either you are a national of, or if you have completed your secondary or higher education in: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, UK, or USA. The exact requirements per faculty are different. Please find the details on the following webpage: https://www.uva.nl/en/education/exchange/global-exchange-programme/entry-requirements-and-course-selection/entry-requirements-and-course-selection.html
Course Information	Minimum workload per semester: 24 ECTS (Approximately 4 courses) Maximum workload per semester: 30 ECTS (Approximately 5 courses) The regular semester workload for full-time undergraduate students as determined by the Office of the Provost is 30 ECTS. Credits earned at the host university may not be directly equivalent to NUS credits and you can refer to the SEP Credit Transfer Calculator for information on units exchange ratio at the host university. Please note that the actual number of credits earned is subject to the units exchange ratio at the point of credit transfer. At UvA, if exchange students wish to take less than 24 ECTS, permission is needed from the home university and their UvA academic advisor. According to Dutch immigration guidelines, students need to be enrolled in at least 18 EC per semester to be eligible for a student residence permit, but UvA recommends you read more EC.

	Course catalogue (faculty by faculty)
	https://www.uva.nl/en/education/exchange/global-exchange-programme/entry-requirements-and-course-selection/entry-requirements-and-course-selection.html#Faculty-of-Economics-and-Business
	Course placement
	All incoming students are advised to be as flexible as possible with their course selection. UvA aims to register students for preferred courses, but cannot guarantee course placement. Placement is generally not confirmed until right before the start of the semester.
	Course and faculty criteria
	Students must take most of their courses at their preferred faculty, college, or school. In some cases, it is possible to take one or two courses at a different faculty, college, or school. However, this can only be arranged on a case-by-case basis by the international officer of your accepting faculty and is dependent on availability of courses and specific course requirements.
	Amsterdam University College (AUC) courses are only available for exchange students accepted by AUC and AUC students can only select courses from AUC due to a different semester system.
	https://www.uva.nl/en/education/exchange/global-exchange-programme/entry-requirements-and-course-selection/entry-requirements-and-course-selection.html
	Limited enrolment
	Due to high demand and space constraints, Amsterdam University College (Liberal Arts & Sciences) and PPLE College have limited access and therefore reserve the right to review applications on motivation, CV, background, study progress and GPA.
	Faculties not open for Exchange • Faculty of Medicine (Amsterdam UMC-AMC) • Faculty of Dentistry (ACTA) • Graduate School of Social Sciences (except Research Master Urban Studies) • MSc. Business Studies (Amsterdam Business School)
Accommodation	Accommodation is not guaranteed. The University of Amsterdam has reserved a number of rooms with reliable housing providers in the Amsterdam area. Their short-stay programme can accommodate roughly half of the newly incoming international students each year. If they cannot offer you a room, you will have to find accommodation on your own. There is more chance to get provided

	housing in the Spring Semester. UvA uses an online application portal to process all applications for student accommodation. Once admitted to the Global Exchange Programme at UvA, students will receive an email with a link to the online application portal. In the application, students can indicate any (budget) preferences they might have. Once students receive a positive lottery outcome, students will need to pay a housing application fee directly to UvA in order to receive their room offer. The housing fee is non-refundable. Once students are linked to a housing provider, they will usually also need to pay an application fee of up to €230 directly to the housing provider (as part of the first payment). The rental prices of university housing range from approximately €400 to €1000 per month, depending on the room type. More information and updates can be found on the UvA Housing website: https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/housing/what-you-need-to-know/what-you-need-to-know.html
Visa	UvA Student Services assist all students with immigration procedures. If you need a visa/residence permit, the UvA Immigration office will apply for your visa/residence permit with the IND (Dutch Immigration office) on your behalf. EU/EEA students will not need a visa/residence permit to enter or stay in the Netherlands. All other students will need a entry visa and/or a residence permit application to legally reside and study in the Netherlands for a semester or for a full year. The online application will start around 2-3 months before the beginning of each semester. For more information about the procedure, please visit: https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/visas-and-permits/visas-and-permits.html. As part of the visa / residence permit application, students will also need to submit a proof of financial means. As of 2025, students will need to submit proof of at least €1,100 a month (i.e. 5 months x €1,1100) for one semester, and €11,000 (i.e. 10 months x €1,100) for a full year. UvA kindly requests you to have a look at the UvA immigration website for more information: https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/visas-and-permits/documents-and-financial-proof.html#Im-an-exchange-student. Visa types MVV students are students that have a nationality that requires them to have an entry visa before arrival that allows them to enter the Netherlands, which they will be able to change to a residence permit within 3 months after arrival in the Netherlands.

	VVR students are students that have a nationality which does not require an entry visa, but they do need to submit a residence permit application. Students who hold an Argentinean, Australian, Canadian, Hong Kong, Japanese, New Zealand, South Korean, Taiwanese or Uruguayan passport may also apply for the Working Holiday Scheme permit (WHS permit) instead of the regular residence permit. Please note that you need to apply for the WHS at the IND yourself, and you will need to inform the UvA's Immigration Office of your decision to apply for the WHS instead of a student residence permit. See the following webpage for more information: https://ind.nl/en/residence-permits/au-pair-and-exchange/residence-permit-working-holiday.
Insurance	All full-time NUS students are covered under the university's Student Group Personal Accident & Medical Insurance and the Student Travel Insurance. For more information on the university medical insurance, please refer to https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/student-insurance/all/. At UvA, it is required by law to have appropriate health insurance for the duration of your stay in the Netherlands. Students should have a valid health insurance upon arrival in the Netherlands. The UvA has special agreements for exchange students with certain insurance companies. For more information, please visit: https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/insurance/health-insurance.html. Having sufficient liability insurance is mandatory in the Netherlands, in case of damage to other people or property. It is recommended that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance for the full duration of your stay abroad, including your personal travel within/outside Netherlands. Please review your insurance coverages to ensure that they meet your needs. Students are strongly encouraged to assess the risk of their intended activities and purchase supplemental insurance plans to ensure they are adequately covered during their time abroad.
Useful Links	Student Exchange Information: https://www.uva.nl/en/education/exchange/global-exchange-programme/global-exchange-programme.html Studying in Amsterdam Brochure: https://www.uva.nl/binaries/content/assets/uva/en/education/exchange/general/studying-in-amsterdam---uva-exchange-programmes-2026-2027_update-10-07-2025.pdf

Video "Studying in Amsterdam as an exchange student":
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTAToEw-OBA

Housing information:
- Video "International Student Housing – Student Experiences": Student ambassador Laura on Housing in Amsterdam | University of Amsterdam - YouTube – please note: Housing lottery takes place after application.
- Video "International Student Housing – Locations and room types"
- Video "Student Vlog – How to find housing in Amsterdam?" https://vimeo.com/518198096 & UvA Housing video 'Tips on how to find housing in Amsterdam – on the private market'.
- More info on accommodation for international students: www.uva.nl/housing

Social and extra-curricular activities:
- Cultural Student Centre (CREA) – various cultural courses (music, dance, art, photography, theatre etc) and summer courses
- University Sports Centre (USC) – 90 different sports (trainings, competition, clubs)
- More info on Preparing for a stay abroad - Preparing for your stay abroad - student.uva.nl

Cost of Living (as of 2025):
- Residence permit (including visa): € 228
- Housing: € 400 – € 1.000 per month
- Application fee: € 245 (one semester) - € 485 (full year)
  * AUC applies a separate housing fee
- Administration fee: € 100 to € 230 (housing corporation)
- Refundable room deposit: Generally equal to monthly rent (ranges from € 300 to € 850)
- Personal expenses (including food): € 450 – € 700 per month
- Books: € 75 per month
- Public Transport / Travel: € 70 – 100 per month (if not using a bike and when living in Amsterdam)
- Bicycle: € 150 (Second-hand, including lock)
- Health insurance: € 60 per month