Factsheet Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 2027-2028

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, UK and Middle East
	Monique van Reij (she/her)	+31 20 598 6387	Asia, Oceania
	Esther Fris (she/her)	+31 20 598 2213	Africa, Latin America
Website	www.vu.nl/exchange		
E-mail	Partner universities: internationalrelations@vu.nl Students: incoming@vu.nl		

Semester dates and application procedure

Academic year	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 and Saturday before the start of semester 2. Exchange students are expected to attend the orientation and introduction programme. **2027-2028** Semester 1: 30/08/2027- 28/01/2028 Semester 2: 31/01/2028- 23/06/2028

Application procedure	All nominated students will receive a link to the online application form after the nomination deadline. Students should finalize the online application procedure before: • 15 April (semester 1 or full academic year) • 15 October (semester 2) *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: 1 September for fall semester and 1 February for spring semester. They need to submit proof when applying by means of a (copy of a) Bachelor's degree, or an official statement that the student has obtained 180 ECTS including the bachelor's thesis before the start of the exchange.*
Other options	If the number of interested students exceeds the number of available spots determined in the exchange agreement, there is the possibility to come as fee paying non-degree students in our Semester in Amsterdam programme as freemovers. VU Amsterdam also offers Summer school courses.

Recommended language skills

Language of instruction	Dutch and English
Level of English required for student mobility	*The selection of students (undergraduate and graduate level) with sufficient level of English language proficiency (C1 level) is the responsibility of the home university.*
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)	C1 (advanced level, NT2) *Proof of Dutch language proficiency is mandatory for visiting students who wish to participate in courses taught in Dutch.* *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.*

Course information and grading

<table>
<tr><td>Courses</td><td>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.

Restrictions:
- Students are generally allowed to choose courses across faculties. However, for advanced courses (level 300 and up), a background in that field of study is required.
- Bachelor’s students are not allowed to follow courses at Master’s level.
- Students who wish to take Dutch-taught courses should reach out to incoming@vu.nl.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Transcript of records</td><td>We ask incoming exchange students to request their transcript of records themselves. They need to make sure that all their grades appear on the transcript, which takes 2 to 4 weeks after the exam.
Transcripts are issued in digital format and without failed courses. If a transcript needs to contain failed courses or needs to be sent directly to the partner university (digitally or as a hard copy), students should fill in a special form.

Students are informed about all details regarding their transcript of records on our online learning platform Canvas.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grading</td><td>In the Netherlands a ten-point grading scale is used in higher education. 10 is the highest possible grade and 1 is the lowest grade. 6 is the minimum pass grade.

<table>
<tr><th>Dutch grade</th><th>Explanation</th></tr>
<tr><td>10</td><td>Outstanding</td></tr>
<tr><td>9</td><td>Excellent</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td><td>Very good</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>Good pass</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>Pass</td></tr>
<tr><td>1 - 5</td><td>Fail</td></tr>
</table>
A final mark between 5 and 6 will be rounded to the nearest whole number: final marks below 5.5 are rounded down to a 5.0; final marks of 5.5 and higher are rounded up to a passing grade of 6.0.

In the grading distribution table below you can find the grading frequency for study programmes at VU Amsterdam, calculated over the last three years.
<table>
<tr><td>Grade</td><td>6</td><td>6.5</td><td>7</td><td>7.5</td><td>8</td><td>8.5</td><td>9</td><td>9.5</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Percentage</td><td>17.77%</td><td>15%</td><td>18.65%</td><td>17.69%</td><td>15.18%</td><td>8.7%</td><td>4.59%</td><td>1.67%</td><td>0.74%</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
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Relevant e-mail and website	Courses and credits E-mail: incoming@vu.nl

Services

Orientation programme	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers international students an introduction programme before the start of each academic semester. The programme consists of social and cultural activities and a 'Practical Matters Day', where students receive information about registration at the municipality, insurance, opening a bank account, etc. In addition, students will be introduced to the new academic environment through presentations, workshops and campus tours. Students are strongly advised to attend the introduction programme to ensure a soft landing at VU.
Dutch language courses	Students can take a Dutch language course at VU Amsterdam. The course Basic Dutch on Campus caters specifically to international students. This 6 ECTS course has a reduced price, and students may count it towards our minimum requirement of 24 ECTS per semester.
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 wellbeing	VU Amsterdam provides a wide range of support around mental health and wellbeing. For example, students can reach out to student counsellors or student psychological counsellors. For more information, please visit the Student Wellbeing website.
Accommodation	We strongly advise students to apply for accommodation through the International Office. Students can only start this process after their exchange application has been approved. A handling fee of €250 per semester is required for this service. The number of rooms available is limited, accommodation cannot be guaranteed and is assigned on a first-paid, first-served base. Rental periods are fixed and cannot be adjusted to the student's arrival and/or departure dates. Further information can be found on our website. For staff members, accommodation will be arranged through the department they will be visiting.

Visa	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will apply for a visa and/or a residence permit on behalf of the exchange student or staff member (if applicable). Students will be informed about the procedure after they complete their application. A handling fee of €275 is required for this service. For staff members, visa and/or a residence permit will be arranged through the department they will be visiting.
Insurance	Health insurance is mandatory for all students and visiting staff. 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).
Relevant website	www.vu.nl/exchange