

Amsterdam University College

Information Sheet 2014 – 2015



General information

Name of institution	Amsterdam University College
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About AUC

Brief facts Amsterdam University College (AUC) is a joint institute of the University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam offering a small, selective liberal arts and sciences programme taught fully in English.

The English-taught interdisciplinary AUC Bachelor programme focuses on far-reaching themes and real-world problems in science and society. AUC is based on the American liberal arts and sciences model, with the students living and studying together on an international campus. The programme is small-scale and intensive, with only 200 students admitted each year, selected on their academic performance and motivation.

Education AUC offers a wide range of courses in the sciences, social sciences and humanities. At AUC students design their own individual study programme from among the many courses that are offered. Students can major in the sciences, social sciences or humanities. Six themes provide an orientation to the programme: Energy, Climate and Sustainability, Life, Evolution, Universe, Health and Well-being, Social Systems and Cities and Cultures. Course options are influenced by choice of major and theme.

Within the AUC curriculum there is a strong focus on the sciences. Since most scientific advances and cutting edge discoveries occur at the boundaries of disciplines, such issues are best pursued based on rigorous scientific training in an interdisciplinary context. AUC's science curriculum embraces this view by providing a carefully structured course sequence supported by various methodology courses along defined interdisciplinary themes.

Campus The AUC academic building is located at the [Science Park Amsterdam](#). This is across the street from the [student residences](#), also located at the Science Park. The AUC programme is residential. All AUC students live together and are guaranteed accommodation in the student residences. Half of the AUC student population is international and the residential aspect of the international campus is an essential part of the AUC learning experience.

University website www.auc.nl

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Academic information

Exchange students may participate in all courses offered by AUC. Courses are coded by major (Academic Core, Science, Social Science and Humanities) and by level (100, 200 and 300). Some courses may have prerequisites. Students who wish to take a course with a prerequisite must have completed a course similar to the course prerequisite in order to be eligible to take the course.

For more information on the courses offered at AUC, please download our [course catalogue](#).

Course registration

Course information

For the Autumn semester, course preferences can be given in June. Preferences for the Spring semester can be sent in December. Confirmation of course enrolment will be given at the end of August (Autumn semester) or at the end of January (Spring semester). During the first week of the semester, there is an add/drop period. AUC's international officer will inform accepted students via email.

Exchange students at AUC can only take courses offered by AUC and designated honours courses (interdepartmental courses offered by VU, UvA and AUC).

Priority of enrolment

Please note that we **cannot** guarantee any courses. AUC courses have a maximum capacity of 25 students. If a course attracts more students than there are places, students enrolled in the AUC degree programme will be given priority above exchange students.

Language courses

AUC offers Dutch language courses in January and June to all AUC students. Exchange students may select a Dutch course as part of their study abroad curriculum for course credit.

The Institute for Dutch as a Second Language Courses (INTT) also organises Dutch language courses for exchange students. Courses at all levels start five times a year. Students interested in taking part in one of the courses should contact the INTT for a brochure and application form. Students participating in an exchange programme are eligible for a special reduced fee for courses taken at the INTT. Upon successful completion of the course students will receive a certificate of completion, but the course will not count towards the credits they obtain abroad.

For more information about the INTT Dutch language course, please see the following website: www.intt.uva.nl

The AUC academic calendar is divided into two semesters. Each semester is then subsequently divided into one period of 16 weeks and one period of four weeks.

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Students complete four courses during the 16-week period and one course over the four-week period.

Autumn semester 2014-2015

Academic calendar

Suggested arrival date	18 August 2014
Introduction week	25-29 August 2014
16-week period	1 September – 19 December 2014
4-week period	5 – 30 January 2015

Spring semester 2014-2015

Suggested arrival date	19 January 2015
Introduction week	26-29 January 2015
16-week period	2 February – 29 May 2015
4-week period	1 – 26 June 2015

For more information on the academic calendar, please click [here](#).

AUC uses the European Community Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS). A full study workload consists of 30 ECTS per semester, split into 16 week and 4 week periods as defined below:

Course load

16 week period: 24 ECTS (4 courses)

4 week period: 6 ECTS (1 course)

Courses offered by AUC count for 6 ECTS. Some courses may be offered for a half-semester and are subsequently worth 3 ECTS.

The AUC credit system is based on “student workload”. Student workload not only involves lectures and seminars, but also self-study. Students are required to attend class from 12 – 16 hours a week and spend an additional 28 - 22 hours a week engaging in self-study.

Assessment

AUC grades students per course on a letter scale: A, B, C, D, F. A plus (+) or minus (–) reflects nuances in the assessment. Students must achieve a grade of C- or better in order to pass a course. Each letter grade is related to a percentage and a grade point (see table below).

Letter	Grade point	Percentage
F	0.0	00.00 – 44.99
D-	0.7	45.00 – 50.99
D	1.0	51.00 – 52.99
D+	1.3	53.00 – 54.99
C-	1.7	55.00 – 58.49
C	2.0	58.50 – 63.49
C+	2.3	63.50 – 66.49
B-	2.7	66.50 – 68.99

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B	3.0	69.00 – 72.49
B+	3.3	72.50 – 77.49
A-	3.7	77.50 – 82.49
A	4.0	82.50 – 89.99
A+	4.0	90.00 – 100.00

Language of instruction With the exception of foreign language courses, all AUC courses are conducted in English.

On-campus accommodation All AUC students are housed in a recently completed purpose-built complex on the Carolina MacGillavrylaan in the Science Park Amsterdam. These modern student residences are owned and run by DUWO housing association. Exchange students will be assigned a single room or share a double or triple occupancy room with fellow AUC students.

Students are not permitted to live off-campus. For more on the student residences, please see the following page:

<http://www.auc.nl/life-at-auc-students/campus/campus.html>

Living costs <http://www.auc.nl/admissions/fees-costs/fees-costs.html>.

The costs provided above are rough estimates. Prices are subject to change due to inflation and will vary depending on lifestyle and preferences of individuals. Exchange students pay tuition fees to their home university.

Immigration

Student visa Citizens of European Union member states, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the USA do not need a visa to enter the Netherlands. All other students must apply for a **visa**, called “Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf” (MVV) in order to enter the Netherlands. Chinese nationals who wish to attend AUC will be required to register with Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education and obtain what is called a “Nuffic Certificate” (formerly known as the NESO certificate) before applying for the visa.

Residence permit All students (except citizens of European Union member states) need to apply for a **residence permit** in order to study in The Netherlands for a period longer than three

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months.

Student Services at the University of Amsterdam (uvastudentservices@uva.nl) will inform students about their personal immigration procedure and guide them through the online process of obtaining a visa and residence permit. The student residence permit (including a visa if applicable) costs €320. For more information on the visa procedure, please visit the [University of Amsterdam website](#).

Health and insurance

International students enrolled at the AUC are entitled to use the University of Amsterdam Student Medical Service free of charge if they are properly insured. In other cases, access to the Student Medical Service requires an annual fee or payment per consultation. These fees do not cover the cost of prescriptions. Students should check with their insurance company on how medical costs are reimbursed.

University Health Service

International students from European countries can request a European Health Insurance Card from their home country, which simplifies the procedure when receiving medical assistance during their stay in a European Union member state.

Health insurance is mandatory by Dutch law. AUC also strongly recommends students take out an appropriate general third-party insurance (liability insurance). For non-EEA/EU students requesting a residence permit through the University of Amsterdam, liability insurance is mandatory. If students have plans to travel outside of the Netherlands, they should make sure that their insurance policy covers those regions as well.

Students should check whether their insurance will cover the complete period of their stay abroad, and what type of coverage it consists of before arriving in the Netherlands.

Insurance

For more information on the type of insurance required based on country of citizenship, please visit the Nuffic website.

<http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students/how-to-prepare/insurance/health-insurance>

For recommended private insurance companies offering insurance covering medical expenses, accidents, luggage, general liability and legal assistance in the event of physical injury, please see the links below.

<https://www.students-insurance.eu/index.jsp?language=en>

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<http://www.ips-lippmann.com/ips/>

Application

1. Fill-in the AUC Study Abroad Application Form (available from the Study Abroad Office of the home institution).
2. Submit the completed application form to the Study Abroad Office of home institution.
3. The Study Abroad Office of the home institution will review the applications submitted and nominate students for exchange in a particular semester or academic year
4. The following documents must be submitted to AUC as part of the study abroad application:

Procedures

- Completed Study Abroad Application Form
- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae (resume)
- One Academic Letter of Reference (by a member of staff at the applicant's home university)
- Photocopy of student's identification card or passport
- Two recent passport photographs with the student's name written on the back
- Official transcript(s) of all university courses/examinations the student has taken including the credits and grades obtained (to be sent in a closed envelope, sealed by the university). Transcripts in any other language than English, French, German or Dutch should be translated into English by a sworn translator. If the student has attended more than one university, then a chronological overview of the universities attended should be included with the application.

Proof of English proficiency (please see the section on entrance requirements for acceptable proofs of English proficiency).

Entrance requirements

- Student must have completed at least 90 ECTS (or the equivalent in local credits) at the time of departure for study abroad.
- Students should have a grade point **average of 3.0** (out of 4.0) and a relevant academic background in the proposed field of study.
- Proof of English proficiency (one of the items below is required)
 - Letter certifying English is the language of instruction and assessment from the home institution.
 - IELTS: overall score of 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components)

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- TOEFL:
(paper based): overall score of 600, with a Test of Written English score of 5.5
(computer-based): overall score of 250, with Test of Written English score of 5.5
(internet-based): overall score of 100
The institutional code for AUC is 5209
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): grade A
- Cambridge Certificate for Proficiency in English (CPE): grade C
- Students who do not meet the English language requirements may request a Skype interview to assess their language skills

Please note that AUC will also accept a score of 92 for the internet-based TOEFL test for incoming exchange students

Deadlines for the 2014-2015 academic year

Autumn semester intake (including full year)	30 April 2014
Spring semester intake	15 October 2014

The deadline for students wanting to apply for the first semester of 2015-2016 is 15 April 2015.