amsterdam university college
Liberal Arts and Sciences

Course Listing
2025-2026
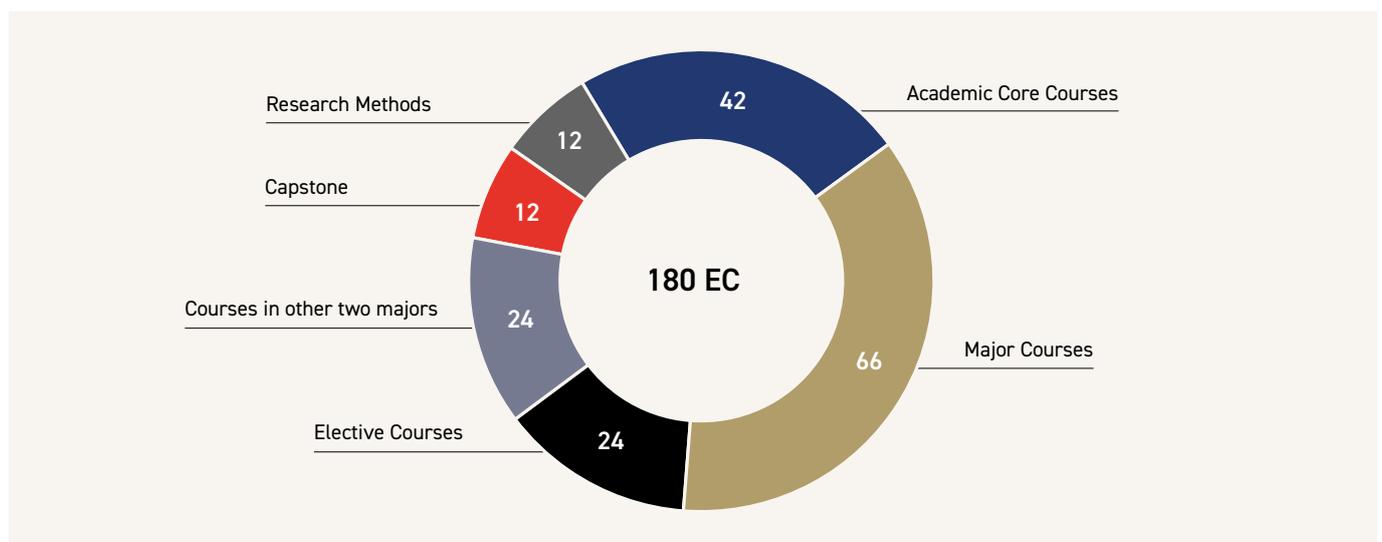
www.auc.nl

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

VU VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

Build your own curriculum from over 200 courses

At Amsterdam University College, you develop your own individual study plan to match you and your interests. Together with your academic tutor, you select courses to create a coherent curriculum that will grant you access to master programmes and a wide variety of careers.

You choose one of three majors: Sciences, Social Sciences, or Humanities. Within your chosen major, you'll take courses that deepen your knowledge in one or more fields of study. Alongside your major, you'll also explore courses from the other two majors, as well as electives, to broaden your knowledge. Our unique Academic Core helps you develop essential skills in research, writing, programming and critical thinking.

Research Methods — 12
Capstone — 12
Courses in other two majors — 24
Elective Courses — 24
180 EC
Academic Core Courses — 42
Major Courses — 66

Our Bachelor's degree consists of 180 European Credits (ECs). Each course is worth 6 ECs and is numbered 100, 200 or 300 to indicate whether it's introductory, intermediate or advanced. You will take most of your courses at AUC, with the option of studying at our parent universities (UvA or VU) or abroad through an international exchange programme.

Academic Core

The Academic Core helps you develop essential skills in writing, research, logic and languages. It provides a strong foundation in critical thinking, communication and problem-solving.

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

100	Academic Writing Skills
	Logic, Information, Argumentation
	The Global Identity Experience

| 300 | Advanced Research Writing |

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Community Project
Internship
Double Internship
Full semester Internship

BIG QUESTIONS COURSES

200	Big Questions: Data, AI & Society
	Big Questions in the Senses
	Big Questions in the Anthropocene
	Big Questions in Time
	Big Questions in Consciousness
	Big Questions on the Environment: Science, Society & Culture
	Big Questions: Language, power and (dis)empowerment
	Big Questions in Bioethics

LANGUAGES COURSES

Taken as electives, language courses offer students the opportunity to develop strong communication skills and engage with the histories and cultures in which they're rooted.

100	Dutch 1a
	Dutch 1b
	Spanish 1
	Arabic 1
	Chinese 1

200	Dutch 2
	Spanish 2
	Arabic 2
	Chinese 2

| 300 | Dutch 3 |
| | Spanish 3 |

PROGRAMMING COURSES

100	Programming Your World
	Programming in Digital Societies
	Intermediate Programming: Principles and Practice

Sciences
Courses per area of study

RESEARCH METHODS

100
Calculus
Methods in Life and Earth Sciences

200
Linear Algebra
Statistics for Sciences

300
Advanced Research Methods and Statistics

INFORMATION

100
Artificial Cognition: Pattern Recognition
Intermediate Programming: Principles and Practice
Programming in Digital Societies
Programming Your World

200
Advanced Programming
Complexity Lab
Data Structure and Algorithms
Information Lab
Machine Learning
Maker Lab
Philosophical Logic

300
Discrete Mathematics and Algebra
Mathematical Logic
Mind Reading: Multivariate Pattern Analysis
Modelling Real World Problems
Text Mining

PHYSICS

100
Electricity and Magnetism
Introduction to Physics
Introduction to the Energy Transition

200
Complexity Lab
Maker Lab
Philosophy of Science
Quantum Physics
Statistical Mechanics
Thermodynamics

300
Case Studies in Energy, Climate and Sustainability
Mathematics of Physics
Nanoscience
Physics

BIOLOGY

100
Ecology – from Soil to Society
Introduction to Biology
Life, Earth and Universe

200
Cell Biology and Physiology Lab
Evolution and Origin of Human Diseases
Freshwater and Marine Biology
Molecular Cell Biology
Urban Ecology Lab

300
Cancer Biology and Treatment
Challenges in Health and Society
Conservation and Restoration Biology
Epigenetic Regulations
Human Evolution
Infectious Diseases

CHEMISTRY

100
Introduction to Chemistry
Introduction to Climate and Sustainability
Introduction to the Energy Transition

200
Chemistry Lab
Environmental Chemistry / Eco-Toxicology
Making of a Painting
Medicinal Chemistry
Organic Chemistry
Pharmacology
Thermodynamics

300
Atmospheric Sciences
Case Studies in Energy, Climate and Sustainability
Molecular Sustainability

EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT

100
Introduction to Climate and Sustainability
Introduction to Environmental Sciences
Introduction to Geological Sciences

200
Field Course in Environmental Earth Sciences
Hydrology and Watershed Management
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
Risk Management and Natural Hazards
System Earth

300
Advanced Geosciences
Atmospheric Sciences
Case Studies in Energy, Climate and Sustainability
Climate Sciences: Past and Present
Life, Earth and Universe
Human Evolution
Urban Environment Lab

MATHEMATICS

100
Calculus
Linear Algebra
Methods in Life and Earth Sciences
Statistics for Sciences

200
Complexity Lab
Dynamical Systems
Econometrics
Game Theory
Numerical Mathematics
Probability and Statistics
Vector Calculus

300
Discrete Mathematics and Algebra
Mathematical Logic
Partial Differential Equations

BIOMEDICAL

100
Health, Resilience and Human Flourishing
Introduction to Health and Wellbeing
The Human Body – Anatomy and Physiology

200
Genes, Bioinformatics and Disease
Hormones and Homeostasis
Human Body – Anatomy and Physiology II
Immunology
Metabolic Biochemistry
Molecular Techniques Lab

300
Cardiovascular Diseases
Challenges in Health and Society
Clinical Neurosciences
Infectious Diseases
Lifestyle and Disease
Neuroscience

HEALTH

100
Challenges of Food and Nutrition Security
Health, Resilience and Human Flourishing
Introduction to Health and Wellbeing
Introduction to Public Health

200
Brain and Cognition
Epidemiology
Gastronomy: the Applied Sciences of Cooking
Health Lab
Medical Anthropology
Nutrition and Health

300
Addiction
Challenges in Health and Society
Human Stress Research
Lifestyle and Disease
The Empathic Brain

Social Sciences
Courses per area of study

RESEARCH METHODS

100
Methods for Social Sciences Research
Mathematical Methods for Economics

200
Statistical Methods for Social Sciences Research
Qualitative Research Methods

300
Advanced Research Methods & Statistics

COGNITION

100
Artificial Cognition: Pattern Recognition
Linguistics
Psychology

200
Cognition Lab
Cognitive Psychology
Developmental Psychology

300
Mind Reading: Multivariate Pattern Analysis
Social Cognition
The Empathic Brain

LAW

100
Law, Society and Justice

200
Constitutional and Administrative Law
Environmental Law and Policy
Human Rights Law and Politics
International Law
Principles of Private Law

300
Artificial Intelligence, Technology and the Law
Corporate Social Responsibility
Criminal Justice Systems
European Union Law
Global Environmental Governance
Legal and Social Philosophy

SUSTAINABILITY

100
Environmental Economics
Introduction to Climate and Sustainability
Introduction to Environmental Sciences

200
Environmental Law and Policy
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
Risk Management and Natural Hazards
Sustainable City

300
Case Studies in Energy, Climate and Sustainability
Corporate Social Responsibility
Global Environmental Governance
International Sustainable Development
Urban Environment Lab

"I've had the opportunity to take many courses beyond my main field of study. Instead of focusing solely on law, I've been able to explore courses in economics, philosophy and environmental studies. This has challenged me and strengthened my overall academic foundation. At AUC, I feel I can go beyond my major, becoming more well-rounded while keeping my studies rigorous."

– Hayden Anderson, Third Year, Social Sciences

POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

100
Classical and Modern Political Thought
International Relations Theory and Practice

200
Data Futures Lab
Democracy in Crisis
Empire and Its Afterlives
Human Rights and Human Security
International Political Economy
The Politics of Modernity

300
Corporate Social Responsibility
Diplomacy Lab
International Crimes
Peace Lab
Political Communication and Data Analytics
The International (dis)order: Past and Present
Violence and Conflict

ECONOMICS

100
Challenges of Food and Nutrition Security
Economic Thought in a Historical Perspective
Environmental Economics
Perspectives on Economic Thought

200
Econometrics
Fundamentals of Macro-Economics
Fundamentals of Micro-Economics
Game Theory
International Political Economy

300
Advanced Macro-Economics
Advanced Micro-Economics
Behavioural Economics
Corporate Social Responsibility
Development Through an Equity Lens
Market Failures
The Art Market and Culture Industry

SOCIOLOGY

100
Classical and Modern Sociological Thought

200
Gastronomy: The Applied Sciences of Cooking
Gender and Sexuality
Inequality and Poverty
Nations, Nationalism and Modernity
Philosophy of Science
Sociology of the Other

300
How Societies Change: Revolutionary Moments
Migration, Integration and Diversity
Race, Class and Gender Intersectionality

ANTHROPOLOGY

100
Classical and Modern Anthropological Thought
Health, Resilience, and Human Flourishing

200
Anthropologies of Community
Medical Anthropology

300
Cultural Memory Studies
Decolonisation in Historical Perspective
Photograph as a Socio-Political Document
Queering Media Studies
Religion, Trauma and Violence
Urban Anthropology Lab

HEALTH

100
Introduction to Public Health

200
Brain and Cognition
Epidemiology
Nutrition and Health

300
Addiction
Human Stress Research

Humanities
Courses per area of study

RESEARCH METHODS

100	Methods in the Humanities I
200	Methods in the Humanities II

FILM

100	Introduction to Film Studies
200	Adaptation Studies
	Documentary
	Film Analysis
	Film Lab
	National Cinemas
300	Film and the Body
	Film Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY

100	Introduction to Philosophy I
	Introduction to Philosophy II
200	Ethics
	Philosophical Logic
	Philosophy of Science
	The History of Ideas
	World Religions
300	Ancient Philosophical Texts
	Debates and Dialogues in Philosophy
	Existentialism in Literature and Philosophy
	Film Philosophy
	Legal and Social Philosophy
	Mathematical Logic
	Modern Philosophical Texts

LITERATURE

100	Introduction to Literature
	Literature Off the Page
	Music and Text
200	Adaptation Studies
	Author in Context
	Creative Writing
	Literary Ecologies
	Modernism and Postmodernism
	Poetics of Protest
300	Advanced Creative Writing
	Contemporary Postcolonial Literature
	Existentialism in Literature and Philosophy

"AUC is a place to explore, discover and push your curiosity further. You'll join a global community where students and teachers challenge each other's ideas and inspire one another."

– Dr. Jonathan Gill,
  Lecturer and Tutor, Academic Core

HISTORY

100
A Golden Age? History and Heritage of the Dutch Republic
Early to Modern History

200
Counterculture
History Lab
Nations, Nationalism and Modernity
The History of Ideas

300
Cultural Memory Studies
Decolonisation in Historical Perspective

CULTURE

100
Introduction to Cultural Analysis

200
Cases in Cultural Analysis
Counterculture
Gender and Sexuality

300
Cultural Memory Studies
Cultural Studies of Affect and Emotion
More than Human
Race, Class and Gender Intersectionality
Religion, Trauma, and Violence
Visual Culture

MEDIA

100
Introduction to Media Studies

200
Digital Habits, Digitized Lives
Journalism
Media Lab
Perspectives on Games

300
Media / Environment
Queering Media Studies
Visual Culture

ART HISTORY

100
Intro to Design, Architecture and Urbanism
Introduction to Art History 1
Introduction to Art History 2

200
Bodies on Display
Contemporary Art
Making of a Painting
Portraiture and the Body

300
Photograph as a Socio-Political Document
The Art Market and Culture Industry
Visual Culture

Want to know more?

Discover what your study plan could look like on our website.

Visit us

Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113

Amsterdam 1098 XG

The Netherlands