

Amsterdam University College

Exchange Programme Information Sheet 2019 – 2020



General information

Amsterdam university college

Name of institution	Amsterdam University College
Study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences (joint degree)
Erasmus code	NLAMSTERD01 (University of Amsterdam) NLAMSTERD02 (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
Address	Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Telephone	+31 (0)20 525 8780
Website	www.auc.nl
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Contact

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About AUC

Brief facts Amsterdam University College (AUC) is a joint initiative of the University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam offering a small-scale and intensive, international liberal arts and sciences programme, taught completely in English.

Education The 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. All students live and study together on our international campus in Amsterdam East. The programme is small-scale and intensive, and with only 300 students admitted each year, selected on their academic performance and motivation, the programme is intensive.

AUC offers a wide range of courses in the sciences, social sciences and humanities. AUC students are able design their own individual study programme from the many courses that are offered. 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.

Within the AUC curriculum there is a special focus on methodology and scientific inquiry. 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](#). The Academic Building is located across the street from our [student residences](#). The AUC programme is residential, which means that all AUC students (including exchange) live together and are guaranteed accommodation in the student residences. More than half of the AUC student population is international which means that the international residential aspect of the campus is an essential part of the AUC learning experience.

University website www.auc.nl

Deadlines Nomination deadline (by home university): 1 April 2019 / 1 October 2019
Autumn 2018 application deadline (for students): 15 April 2019
Spring 2019 application deadline (for students): 15 October 2019

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Academic

Course 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). Courses may have prerequisites. Students who wish to take a course with a prerequisite must have completed a course with similar learning outcomes to the course prerequisite in order to be allowed to take the course of choice.

For more information about the courses offered at AUC, please visit our [course catalogue](#). Not all courses are offered in every semester. It is important to determine if a course is taught in the semester of choice. (Take into account that semester changes do occasionally occur over the year and the new course catalogue won't be published until after you apply to AUC.)

Course registration

For the Autumn semester, course preferences can be given in June. Preferences for the Spring semester can be sent in December. The AUC registrar will survey you for your preferences and manually enrol you on available courses. 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, during which you make adjustments to your schedule. Exchange students at AUC can only take courses offered by AUC, as UvA and VU courses lead to timetable clashes and have a different grading system.

Priority of enrolment

Please note that we **cannot** guarantee 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 over exchange students.

Language courses

AUC offers intensive language courses in January and June to all AUC students. Exchange students may select available courses in French, German, Spanish, Arabic or Chinese (depending on availability). They may also select AUC's 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 visit the website of the INTT. AUC exchange students 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 AUC credits they obtain abroad. For more information about the INTT Dutch language course, please see the following website: www.intt.uva.nl

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Academic calendar

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. Students complete four courses of 6 European Credits (EC) during the 16-week period and one course of 6 EC over the four-week period. It is possible to ‘overload’ and take 5 courses (i.e. 30 EC) during the 16-week period, for students who wish to leave early but need to complete a full workload.

Autumn semester Academic Year 2019-2020

Free shuttle from AMS airport	www.uva.nl/pickup
Introduction week	26 August - 30 August 2019
16-week period	2 September - 20 December 2019
4-week period	6 January - 31 January 2020

Spring semester Academic Year 2019-2020

Free shuttle from AMS airport	www.uva.nl/pickup
Introduction days	29 January - 2 February 2020
16-week period	3 February 2019 – 29 May 2020
4-week period	1 June 2020 - 26 June 2020

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

Course load

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

16 week period: 24 EC (4 courses)

4 week period: 6 EC (1 course)

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

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).

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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- (pass)	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
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 (e.g. Dutch, Spanish, German, Arabic), all AUC courses are conducted in English.

On-campus accommodation All AUC students are housed in a purpose-built complex on the Carolina MacGillavrylaan in 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.

Rooms will come furnished, in case of direct tenancy from the landlord. or in some cases students will be able to sublet a room from students who are abroad themselves, therewith leaving their personal furnishing for the exchange student.

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/student-residences>

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

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.

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Immigration

Student visa Citizens of European Union member states, EEA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the USA do not need an entry 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 also be required to register with Nuffic, and obtain what is called a “Nuffic Certificate” before applying for the visa. All exchange students will be guided through the visa and registration procedure through the University of Amsterdam. For more information about the student visa, visit www.uva.nl/visa

Residence permit All students (except citizens of European Union member states and EEA) need to apply for a **residence permit** in order to study in The Netherlands for a period longer than three 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 around €325. For more information on the visa procedure, please visit the University of Amsterdam website.

Health and insurance

University Health Service 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.

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.

Insurance 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

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

<https://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/insurance/healthcare-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 link www.uva.nl/insurance

Application

Procedures Exchange students of AUC partner universities and Erasmus+ partners apply directly to AUC in four simple steps:

1. The home university nominates a student for exchange at AUC, at the latest two weeks before the application deadline
2. Candidate may download and complete the AUC exchange student application form from www.auc.nl/exchange
3. Please collect following supporting documents, which must be submitted as part of the study abroad application:
 - Motivation letter
 - Curriculum Vitae / Resume
 - Scan of your identification card or passport
 - Official transcript(s) of all university courses/examinations the student has taken including the credits and grades obtained.
 - Proof of English proficiency (see the section on entrance requirements for acceptable proofs of English proficiency).
4. Submit the application as one PDF to international@auc.nl before the given deadline.

Note: If you are a student of a UvA or VU partner university, then you must apply through the central international office of the institution (UvA or VU) that your home university has an exchange agreement with. The central international offices will pass these applications on to AUC.

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Entry 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. See also above for how a 3.0 is translated into percentages. For 1-10 grading scales, 7 is the minimum requirement.
 - 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)
 - 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
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Student application deadlines for the 2019-2020 academic year

Autumn semester intake (including full year)	15 April 2019
Spring semester intake	15 October 2019