

FAQs VU Amsterdam Summer School

Here you will find the answers to the most frequently asked questions. If any information is missing, please feel free to let us know via e-mail at amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl.

When is my admission definite?

Your admission will be definite once we have reviewed your application on the basis of the entry requirements, availability in the courses, and once we have received your payment. Your place in the VU Amsterdam Summer School will not be guaranteed until we have received your payment.

How big are the course groups?

All groups will be small, with a maximum of 25 participants. In this way we can guarantee interactivity within the courses.

Will the VU Amsterdam Summer School arrange a visa for me?

No, since you will be enrolled in a short term programme it is not possible to apply for a study-visa for the Netherlands. This means you will have to apply for a tourist visa at the Dutch embassy in your home country yourself. Check the [how to apply and visa page](#) for more information.

What are my chances of being accepted?

If you apply on time and meet both the general as well as the course entry requirements, you have a good chance of being accepted to the programme. Beware that your spot in the course is not guaranteed until we receive your payment. Students are placed on a first paid, first serve order, which means that courses may be full well before the deadline of 1 May. If so, this will be announced on the website in the course information. If a course is full, you can ask to be places on the waiting list.

What is and what is not included in the fee?

Included in the tuition fee are:

- The course, syllabus and articles
- Airport pick-up on the arrival day between certain times
- Welcome activities and goodbye drinks
- Goodiebag
- On-site support
- 24/7 emergency assistance
- Transcript of records after completion of the course
- Excursions that are part of the course

Not included in the tuition fee are:

- Accommodation
- International and local travel expenses
- Insurance
- Costs for visa
- Social programme activities
- Meals
- Additional books (although most courses use free digital articles or books available in the library)

Do I need insurance?

Yes, it is important to have sufficient insurance when participating in the VU Amsterdam Summer School. Check with your insurance to see if you will be covered in the Netherlands. If you do not have coverage, you may get a temporary insurance from www.aonstudentinsurance.com or www.studentsinsured.com.

Can I transfer my credits to my home university?

At the end of the course you will receive a transcript of records if you pass the final assessment. In most cases you will be able to transfer these to your home university but this depends on their regulations. Make sure to check this with your home university well in advance. All courses are expressed in ECTS-credits according to the European Credit Transfer System. Because some educational systems (such as the American universities) base their credits on contact hours, we have included information about the contact hours in the course descriptions.

How do European credits (ECTS) relate to credits of my non-European University?

It is useful to consult your home institution about the conversion of ECTS to the credits of your country. Your home institution can take the contact hours in consideration to determine the right amount of credits.

Do you have scholarships available?

VU Amsterdam Summer School offers three kinds of scholarships: the Academic Scholarship, the Photographer Scholarship and the Vlogger/Videographer Scholarship. More information about these scholarships can be found [here](#).

Is accommodation available for students? And when can I receive the key to my room?

Yes. Since finding an affordable place in Amsterdam yourself is extremely difficult, we arrange [accommodation](#) for summer school students. On the Saturday before the start of the courses an arrival day is scheduled. We will arrange an airport pick-up service during the morning and afternoon (exact times to be announced) of the arrival day. You will be brought directly to your accommodation, where you will receive the key to your room.

What is the voltage in Europe?

The voltage in the Netherlands is 230 V, and plug types C and F. Check if you need a world adapter for your local plugs.

What living expenses can I expect while studying at the VU Amsterdam Summer School?

Apart from accommodation, you may consider the following estimated living expenses per two weeks:

- Food €100 (if you cook yourself, eating out will be more expensive)
- Insurance €20
- Transportation €50 (unless you buy or rent a bike)
- Other expenses €100 (at minimum, increases if you visit more museums and undertake more social activities)

What is the common form of payment in the Netherlands? Should I bring Euros?

The Euro is the currency in the Netherlands. You could consider bringing some cash with you for the first day or so, but overall there are plenty of ATM's available and major credit and debit cards are accepted in most shops and restaurants.

How can I pay for the VU Amsterdam Summer School?

Once you are accepted to a course, you will receive an e-mail with a link to an online payment system. You can pay by Visa credit card or Master credit card. For the following countries it is also possible to pay online by debit card (Maestro): The Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Poland, Russia and Denmark.

What will the weather be like in Amsterdam in the summer?

The summers in the Netherlands can be described as mild. Usually the average temperature will be around 20-25 degrees Celsius (or about 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit). It may occasionally rain. Make sure to bring a light summer jacket that you can wear during the evenings.