

Study abroad at 2018/2019 University College Maastricht

Pick University College Maastricht as your first choice in education

- An honors liberal arts college offering a wide range of courses entirely taught in English;
- The first College in The Netherlands to receive a quality label from the NVAO for the achievement level of its graduate students. In addition, the NVAO awarded UCM in 2014 with the prestigious distinctive quality feature 'Small-scale and Intensive Education';
- University College Maastricht is the #1 bachelor's programme in the Netherlands for the second time in a row.
- Study using the Problem Based Learning method, an innovative teaching system where students learn in small classes and a dynamic learning environment;
- Attend courses for credits while improving your qualifications;
- An international college where more than 50 different nationalities are represented;
- Good student support networks, student clubs and societies, you will be able to make friends quickly and easily;
- A world class university in the heart of Europe located only a short train ride away to London or Paris;
- Located on the Maas river, Maastricht is one of the most beautiful and oldest towns in the Netherlands. It is full of history, tradition and culture. There are many sights to see and many shops, cafes and museums to explore;
- A university town, students give it a buzzing vibe day and night;
- Friendly staff who will ensure you have a great experience on your exchange.

University College Maastricht has provided countless students with memories to last a lifetime. One of our exchange students said:

*'Exchange opens your life to opportunities and experiences you never thought you'd have.
It's a time of my life which will always evoke a sense of achievement, adventure and growth'*

University College Maastricht

University College Maastricht (UCM) offers qualified students the opportunity to study in English at a Liberal Arts and Sciences college in the Netherlands. Students are highly motivated and study hard. Classes are small, with emphasis placed on independent learning via a group process (the Problem-Based Learning method). This approach is interdisciplinary and students build their own curriculum from courses offered in the Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences concentrations, including academic skills trainings and academic core courses.

UCM caters for students with broad academic interests who do not want to limit themselves to a program focused on one single academic discipline. Exchange students are encouraged to choose courses that meet their study requirements at home.

The Academic Year

The academic year at UCM is divided into two semesters of 20 weeks. The Fall semester starts in September, will have a two-week Christmas break, and ends late January/early February. The Spring semester starts in February and ends late June/early July. A semester is divided into three periods: two course periods of 7 weeks and one project period of 4 weeks. Exchange students coming in Fall may decide not to take the project period in January and leave before Christmas, provided their home university agrees.

Students take two courses per period, meaning four courses per semester. Classes in academic skills run alongside these courses. At the end of each semester all students participate in a project. This can be, for example, a research project or an extended writing assignment.

Academic calendar	Fall 2018	Spring 2019
Application Deadline	1 May 2018	1 November 2018
3-Day introduction (obligatory)	27 - 29 August 2018	28 - 30 January 2019
First day of classes	3 September 2018	4 February 2019
Last day of classes	1 February 2019	5 July 2019

Student status

All exchange students will be enrolled as non-degree seeking students during their study at UCM.

Assessment

Continuous assessment is a prime characteristic of the examination system at UCM. For assessment, staff may employ a whole range of methods. In almost all courses students will have to write a paper or give a presentation. Their contributions to tutorial groups may also count to their final grade. There is usually also a final test, which typically consists of essay type questions.

Students are awarded credit and grades for a course if the following requirements have been met:

- Students must have attended at least 85% of all tutorial group meetings to be allowed to take the final test of the course. For many of the skills courses, a 100% attendance is required.
- Students must have obtained at least a pass for the overall assessment of the course.

UCM course assessment is expressed through the following grading system:

Letter Grade	GPA	Dutch Grade	Description
A+	4.0	8.6-10	Excellent
A	4.0	8.0-8.5	Good
A-	3.7	7.7-7.9	Good
B+	3.3	7.4-7.6	Good
B	3.0	7.0-7.3	Good
B-	2.7	6.7-6.9	Pass
C+	2.3	6.4-6.6	Pass
C	2.0	6.0-6.3	Pass
C-	1.7	5.5-5.9	Pass
D+	1.3	5.4	Fail
D	1.0	5.0-5.3	Fail
F	0.0	0.0-4.9	Fail

Attendance requirement

Please be aware it is compulsory to attend all courses, projects and skills trainings at UCM. An attendance record is kept for all meetings. Failing the minimum attendance requirements results in failing the course.

Instruction method: Problem-Based Learning

UCM uses Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as its method of instruction. PBL is a student centered approach to teaching and studying. The students discuss (in small groups of a maximum of 12 students) scientific and practical problems prepared by faculty members. The tutorial groups meet twice a week and are guided by a faculty member. Weekly lectures may provide an overview, explain difficult subjects or expand on the literature.

The PBL method requires active participation and self-guided initiative from students. Extensive PBL-training is part of the UCM introduction program.

Course load / credit system

Undergraduate exchange students enroll in a maximum of 30 ECTS per semester (or 60 ECTS for a full year), which is a typical full-time study load. Depending on a student's home university requirements, exchange students are allowed to take a reduced load. Since courses are offered in short 7-week periods, **UCM does NOT have an add/drop period**. Mutual approval concerning your course selection is part of the application process well before you come to UCM.

Credits are earned by successfully completing courses, projects and skills trainings (including the attendance requirement). A course earns 5 ECTS, a project 5 ECTS and a skills training 2.5 ECTS.

A normal credit load for a semester looks like this:

Course period 1 7 weeks	Course period 2 7 weeks	Course period 3 4 weeks	Total
Course 1 5 ECTS	Course 3 5 ECTS	Project 5 ECTS	
Course 2 5 ECTS	Course 4 5 ECTS		
Skills 1 2.5 ECTS	Skills 2 2.5 ECTS		
12.5 ECTS	12.5 ECTS	5 ECTS	30 ECTS

The curriculum

Students can select subjects in any area within the three concentrations. Students attend courses, academic skills trainings and projects. All are offered on three levels: introductory (1000), intermediate (2000), and advanced (3000). 2000- and 3000-level courses have prerequisites. The prerequisites are found in the course descriptions available in the UCM course catalogue which can be found on our webpage www.ucm.nl/exchange under the header General Information you will find a link to "Course Offering".

Areas within the concentrations

Social Sciences	Humanities	Sciences
Economics and Business Administration	History	Applied Mathematics
Sociology	Cultural Studies	Information and Computer Sciences
Political Science	Arts and Literature	Biomedical Sciences
International Relations	Philosophy	Biology
Public Policy		Biochemistry
International Law		Cognitive Sciences and Neurosciences
Psychology		
Statistics		

Application procedure

Exchange students must be nominated by the international office of their home institution. Once a student has been nominated, the student will receive application instructions. An original or official certified copy of the student's current academic transcript (in English) must be submitted. Students from a non-English speaking background must attach appropriate evidence of English language proficiency. The College's English language requirements are TOEFL 575 (paper-based version), TOEFL 232 (computer-based version), TOEFL 90 points (internet-based version) or an IELTS test with a score of at least 6.5. Students from certain countries may submit alternative proof of language proficiency. Please contact your home international office for details.

Application process

Once an application has been received, UCM will carefully review the courses selected. Based on the academic transcript, UCM will decide whether a student meets the course requirements for the selected courses. If not, UCM will try to reach mutual agreement by offering alternative choices. Once the student, the home institution and UCM agree upon a student's course selection, the student is officially accepted as an exchange student.

Visa requirements

All non-EU students need to obtain a residence permit to study in The Netherlands. Some may also need an MVV, an entry visa. Requirements and fees for the residence permits may differ per citizenship. Usually the cost for a residence permit for non-EU citizens is 317 Euro (per 1 January 2017). Under special conditions, Canadian students can come on the WHP (Working Holiday Program), and Australian and New Zealand students can come on the WHS (Working Holiday Scheme). These special permits only cost approximately 50 Euro.

Students should check with the nearest Dutch consulate or embassy for exact requirements. Information can be found on: www.ind.nl or www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/visas-and-permits

Information about the application procedure for an MVV and/or residence permit will be given to the student after receipt of the application form.

The Visa Office of Maastricht University will assist students applying for the entry visa/residence permit.

Housing

Housing is offered by the Maastricht University affiliate - Maastricht Housing. Prices range from 550 Euro up to 1000 Euro per month, depending on the facilities. Students can make an on-line reservation on: www.maas-trichthousing.com.

Students should not wait too long with the booking; the earlier they book, the more choices they will have. In order to search for a room, the student needs to register (costs 35 Euro), and in order to finalize the booking, a one-month rent needs to be paid. It should be noted that it is easier to extend a stay than to shorten it. Once a student has made a reservation at the Guesthouse it is NOT possible to get a refund if the student leaves early.

Students who do not wish to live in the Guesthouse can check: www.housinganywhere.com and the UCM Semester Abroad Facebook group for rooms sublet by students who are going on a semester abroad. UCM cannot guarantee any of these rooms for services, facilities or safety issues.

Health Insurance

It is compulsory for all international students studying at a Dutch university to have an adequate health and liability insurance during their stay.

Arrival

Arrival directions can be found at: www.ucm.nl/exchange under the header "Road to UCM" you will find a link to Arrival, Pick up & Buddy. Exchange students should arrive before the introduction program starts (see below). Universalis, UCM's study association, organizes a pick-up service from the railway station in Maastricht. Students will be contacted well in advance by Universalis with the request to share arrival details as well as more information about their buddy/mentor program.

Introduction program

In the Fall semester, two different introduction programs are organized. The INKOM program is organized for all freshmen students in Maastricht. This INKOM program is NOT part of the UCM introduction program and also NOT obligatory but exchange students are welcome to attend. For more information: "www.inkom.nl/eng"

The UCM Fall 3-day introduction program is **OBLIGATORY** for students and is free of charge. The first day of introduction is Monday 27 August 2018. Students should arrive no later than Sunday 26 August 2018. In the Spring semester only the 3-day UCM introduction program is organized. It is **OBLIGATORY** for exchange students. It is free of charge and starts on Monday 28 January 2019. Students should arrive by Sunday 27 January 2019.

Maastricht University

Maastricht University is a young research university (established in 1976). It currently has about 16,000 students and over 4,000 faculty and staff members.

In 2013 UM was granted institutional accreditation and a distinctive feature for internationalization from the NVAO; this is an important recognition of the UM quality assurance system applied to all study programs and the special focus on internationalization that has long been a key point of attention for UM. Maastricht University is an official member of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). The WUN comprises 19 research-intensive institutions spanning 6 continents. The WUN aims to create multilateral opportunities for international collaboration in research and graduate education.

UCM is a small academic community where students (600) and teachers know each other well. There is no anonymous mass teaching at UCM. Students study in an international atmosphere where more than 50 different nationalities are represented. Its international character is a hallmark of University College Maastricht.

UCM is one of the divisions of the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences. Each faculty at Maastricht University provides a wide range of bachelor, master, graduate and post-graduate programs.

Maastricht University

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
School of Business and Economics
Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences
Faculty of Humanities and Sciences
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Maastricht

The Roman city of Maastricht is the oldest in The Netherlands. It was founded around 50 BC when the Romans set up camp on the banks of the river Maas. Maastricht combines a historic setting with a strong international orientation. The city is located in the southernmost part of The Netherlands close to the German and Belgian borders with cities such as Brussels and Paris only a short train ride away.

Maastricht gained international fame as the host of the European Summit of 1991 where the 'Treaty of Maastricht' was adopted as the formal foundation of the European Union. The city has a reputation of being a little foreign even in its own country. Many tourists visit Maastricht to go shopping or taste the Burgundian, flamboyant atmosphere. Commerce, industrial manufacturing and service are the most important sectors in Maastricht. Maastricht University has been an important factor in the city's recent development. Although Maastricht is not a very big city (125,000 inhabitants), it is usually buzzing

with people day and night, many of whom are students. There are numerous shops, bars, cafés, restaurants, pubs, clubs, galleries and theatres to enjoy.

Study in Holland

General information about studying in The Netherlands can be found at: www.studyin.nl and <http://mymaastricht.nl>



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More information to be found on:
www.ucm.nl/exchange
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