

# Change your world

STUDY AT VU AMSTERDAM

INTERNATIONAL  
BACHELOR'S  
PROGRAMMES  
2023-2024



 **Top-ranked**  
university

 **>5,000**  
international students

 **133**  
nationalities

**VU**  **VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
AMSTERDAM**









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# Introduction

Old ideas can go out the window and a fresh wind blows through your brain. Are you curious? Do you think things can be done differently? Then opt for a degree programme at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam ('VU Amsterdam'). Studying at our university is an opportunity to change and improve the world around you. Because change is the constant in everything we do. Students at VU Amsterdam are not satisfied with the status quo: they research, analyse and ask questions. Every day. How will you change your world?

## CHANGE ENERGY STUDY AT VU AMSTERDAM



Dear neighbour, can I charge my car using your solar panels? The way in which we generate and distribute energy is being turned on its head very rapidly. Fossil fuels will soon be a thing of the past, and new sources of energy are already starting to play a leading role. Our planet is crying out for it. How can we push that transition along a little more quickly? That's something that you might typically study at VU Amsterdam. Are you motivated and inspired by this kind of challenging issues? Then VU Amsterdam is the right university for you.

When bots and trolls are filling up the internet with falsehoods, what is truth? And when politicians immediately dismiss any news that they don't like as 'fake news', how should we respond? As a student at VU Amsterdam, you will learn to think about such questions. What can we really share with each other, when everyone lives in their own bubble, with their own version of the truth? Do you believe that things could be different? Then VU Amsterdam is the place for you. Our students learn to ask the right questions, and keep on asking them until they get to the truth.

## CHANGE FAKE NEWS STUDY AT VU AMSTERDAM





# Facts & Figures

 **31,704**  
Students in total



 **20**  
International Student  
Advisors



 **5,190**  
International students

 **133**  
Different nationalities



 **132**  
International Student  
Ambassadors



VU Amsterdam is an internationally renowned research university. With more than 31,000 students, we conduct cutting-edge research into problems of major societal and scientific importance. We live in a world where social issues fully influence each other and where contradictions grow. This requires a distinctive way of applying science. A university with a social focus on the future.

With 25 English-taught Bachelor's programmes and around 150 English-taught Master's programmes, VU Amsterdam offers a wide range of study options. The university campus is situated in the southwestern part of Amsterdam, in one of the most dynamic and fast-growing business districts in the Netherlands. Proximity to International Airport Schiphol and train connections within Europe make VU Amsterdam easily accessible to the world.





# Welcome to VU Amsterdam

I am delighted that you are considering studying at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam). As an international student, you will contribute to what is one of the special characteristics of this university – its diversity. We value diversity in all its aspects, and strongly believe that diversity is one of the drivers of excellence, contributing significantly to enhancing the quality of the academic discourse.

At VU Amsterdam you encounter academic rigour coupled with a keen awareness for placing the knowledge you gain in the context of addressing the complex problems of today's society. We have accordingly bundled relevant research and education programmes into four strategic themes that address important societal challenges: Science for Sustainability, Connected World, Human Health and Life Sciences, and Governance for Society.

We attach great importance to the societal impact of our education and research. Personal development and social involvement are key parts of our vision on education, in which individual differences are seen as a strength. This allows us to develop innovations and insights that contribute to a better world. We hope that you will be inspired by our vision and ambition, and look forward to welcoming you as a member of the VU Amsterdam community.

**Mirjam van Praag**  
President of the Executive Board



# International ranking and position

The Netherlands has a binary system of Higher Education with 13 research universities, including VU Amsterdam, and 40 universities of applied sciences. The Dutch research universities are all of high academic quality, and consistently ranked among the first 250 universities in international rankings. Only the US and UK feature more research universities in the top 200. In no other system except for Switzerland, the proportion of all research universities in the top 250 is this high.



	🌐 Worldwide	🇳🇱 The Netherlands
Scientific Impact – Leiden Ranking	79	6
ARWU – Shanghai Ranking	131	7
Times Higher Education (THE)	116	8
Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)	214	10

## Leiden Ranking

The Leiden Ranking is based on publications in the Web of Science database produced by Clarivate Analytics. The Leiden Ranking uses the Science Citation Index Expanded, the Social Sciences Citation Index, and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index. Only publications of the Web of Science document types article and review are taken into account. VU Amsterdam holds the 79th position in this ranking.

## Shanghai Ranking

In the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 (ARWU, Shanghai Ranking), which focuses on research excellence, VU Amsterdam currently holds the 131st position worldwide.

## Times Higher Education

We are among the top 150 universities in the World University Ranking of Times Higher Education: this ranking places our university at spot 116. This global performance ranking judges research-intensive universities across their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

## QS Ranking

The QS Ranking (Quacquarelli Symonds) of 2023 places VU Amsterdam 214th in the world. We position ourselves most strongly on the component 'citations per faculty' (position 150 worldwide). Compared to last year, VU Amsterdam also positions itself higher on the component 'education to international students'.

## 2nd in action against climate change

VU Amsterdam ranks 2nd in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2020 when it comes to taking action against climate change. The ranking evaluates the contribution of 766 universities worldwide to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on the total evaluation, we rank 39th.



# Our students

VU Amsterdam is home to 133 nationalities, making us a truly international and diverse university. Our students come from all around the globe to study at our campus. Curious to find out how they feel about the Netherlands and the city of Amsterdam? On this page you can find several testimonials from students, who all took the leap and chose to follow a Bachelor's programme at VU Amsterdam.



Rike Jensen

## Germany

"I always wanted to study abroad and be surrounded by people from various cultures with different backgrounds. At the same time, I wanted to have an impact in this world and help to improve it. My field of study combines all of that. I get to meet interesting people and learn about the most fundamental principles of life. This experience gets only better with the location Amsterdam and all the fun opportunities it has to offer."

Biomedical Sciences



Sofia Vargas

## Chile

"During my last years of high school, I realised VU Amsterdam was the best choice for me. My field of study is giving me all the tools I need to carry out my projects. I will never have regrets about my decision; the city is wonderful, people are very nice and friendly, the university has lot of study facilities and there are a lot of internationals."

International Business Administration





Dora **Angelache** 

## Romania

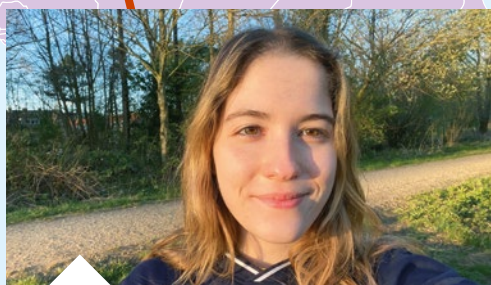
"The idea of moving to a whole new country was a mixture of feelings for me: from thrill and excitement to worry. But now, after a year here, I can say Amsterdam was the best choice I could have made. A lively city filled with exciting opportunities and friendly people that guide you along the way. My courses at VU Amsterdam introduced me to many other internationals and broadened my perspective. Now, I am only looking forward to the future!" **Law in Society**



Shadman Sahil Chowdhury

## Bangladesh

"I had high expectations from Amsterdam when I moved here and I can say that I am far from disappointed. From experiencing the liveliness of the city, to meeting such a diverse population, I could not have been happier to be an Amsterdammer. With my first year coming to an end, I am yet to come to terms with the Dutch cuisine, but I am thrilled to find out what the next couple of years in this outstanding city have in store for me." **Computer Science**



Ana de Menezes Silva

## Portugal

"Choosing IBA at VU Amsterdam was one of my first big decisions, and I couldn't be more proud. My course taught me to analyse cultures and expand my interest in international business. More, moving from a collectivist to an individualistic culture created life-changing experiences. This charming city gave me independence, vast numbers of international friends, and access to outstanding education quality and facilities."

**International Business Administration**







# Interesting facts about Amsterdam

🚲 881,000

bikes, which is more than the number of residents



☁️ 40

parks to relax or work out in

🏠 165

canals



🛡️ 2nd

safest city in Europe and the 6th safest in the world



🏛️ 100

museums



👥 873,338

inhabitants



😊 11th

in Mercer's Quality of Living ranking





# Things to do in the city



## Amsterdam from the water

Amsterdam is a city filled with water. You can tell by looking at the name of the city: Amsterdam comes from 'dam in the river Amstel'. The Amstel is the biggest and most famous waterway, but there are also 165 canals running through the city. You can easily rent a boat to cruise around, or perhaps go on a guided tour that shows you all the highlights. From the water, you will have a great view of the canal houses.



## Get a bike

The best way to feel truly like an Amsterdam local, is by riding your bike through the narrow streets of the city. In Amsterdam everyone owns a bike, and it is the cheapest and healthiest way to move through town. You can easily rent a bike to get the hang of it, but for that true local feel it's best to buy one. Don't forget to get some insurance with it, and always lock your bike!



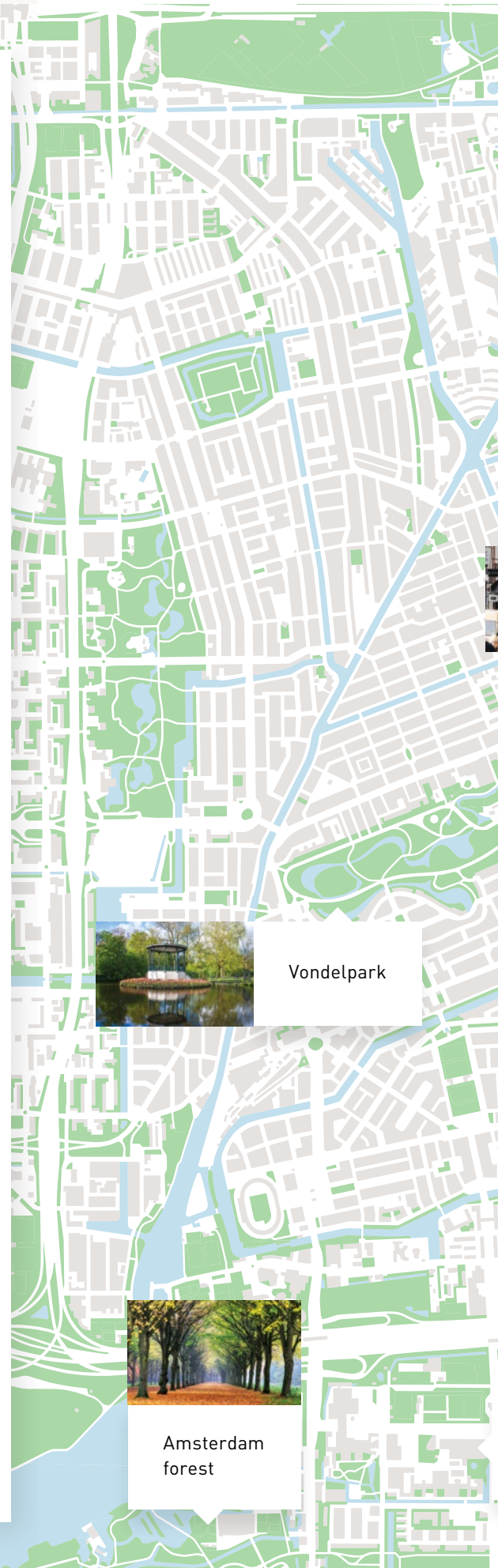
## Explore new cultures

Amsterdam is home to many great museums. On the Museum square you can find three of the most popular ones: the national Rijksmuseum, the Stedelijk museum which showcases modern art, and the Van Gogh museum, dedicated to the most famous Dutch painter. The square itself is a great place to hang out as well. You can also visit more specialised museums, such as science museum NEMO or the Dutch costume museum.



## Visit the Amsterdam forest

Amsterdam has quite a large forest: 'het Amsterdamse Bos'. From our campus, it's only a 10-minute bike ride to the entrance. In the Amsterdam forest you can stroll around or have a picnic. But it's also possible to sail on the big lake in the middle, rent a canoe, or pet a goat on the goat farm. During the summer many artists perform in the so called 'Forest theatre'. Bring some snacks, cuddle up under a blanket and listen to your favourite music: what's not to love?



Vondelpark

Amsterdam forest



Eye  
Filmmuseum

A'DAM  
Lookout



Anne Frank  
Huis



Westerkerk



Royal Palace  
& Dam Square



Leidseplein



Flower  
Market



Artis  
Royal Zoo



Rijksmuseum



Stedelijk  
Museum



Van Gogh  
Museum



Albert Cuyp Market



AUC



Zuidas




VU Amsterdam








# Science

From health to sustainability: science changes your world fundamentally!

 **8,983\***  
Students

 **132**  
Professors

 **39%\***  
International students

 **5**  
English-taught programmes

The Faculty of Science at VU Amsterdam encourages scientists and students to find sustainable solutions to the complex social issues of this day and age. With great dedication, we practice science addressing every manner of subject, from forest fires to big data, from obesity to medication, and from molecules to the moon. The collaboration between scientists working on fundamental and applied research allows communities to be built beyond the borders of the various disciplines, following new and innovative pathways.

## Why study at this faculty?

Our dedication is passed on to our students, who are in direct contact with the professors in their field. Our vibrant campus is a place where knowledge and experience are shared among an international community of students, doctoral candidates and scientists.




## Your future career


We educate the cyber security specialists and data scientists, the business analytics professionals and business innovators, the climate change scientists and global health experts and the technology game changers of the future.


## Specific admission requirements

Please check the Bachelor's programme of your choice to find out if any knowledge of specific subjects is required, for example knowledge of mathematics. The Bachelor's programmes in Biomedical Sciences and Computer Science have a Numerus Fixus, which means there are limited spots available. You can apply for the 2023-2024 cohort until January 2023. The exact date will be published in autumn 2022.

## Programmes

-  **Artificial Intelligence**
-  **Biomedical Sciences**
- Business Analytics**
-  **Computer Science**
- Mathematics**

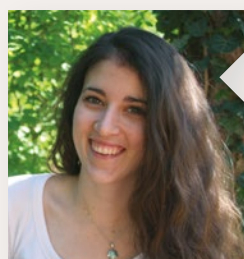
 **Application deadline:**  
Numerus Fixus: January 2023 for both EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA  
1 April (non-EU/EEA), 1 May (EU/EEA)

 [bachelors.fs@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.fs@vu.nl)  
 [www.vu.nl/science](http://www.vu.nl/science)




"I chose AI because I wanted a truly interdisciplinary programme. This expectation was more than fulfilled, I found the classes very diverse and stimulating. Almost all of our classes include group projects, which helped me find friends even though I was sitting hundreds of miles from campus behind my computer. I joined study association STORM and the Student Ambassadors


team to get more involved in university life, and I can say it was well worth it."



**Zsófi Katona**  
Hungary  
Artificial Intelligence

 This icon stands for a Numerus Fixus programme.

\* Please consult the footnote text on p. 22.



# School of Business and Economics

For ambitious students who wish to positively impact society



6,379\*  
Students



96  
Professors



21%\*  
International students



4  
English-taught programmes

Following our mission “Science with Purpose”, the School of Business and Economics combines high-quality education and excellent research with a focus on contributing to the social, economic and ecological challenges of our time. Our programmes challenge students to develop and widen their perspective. We do this academically, professionally and by shaping their future roles as members of society. Our community represents that society, with a highly diverse population where international students represent a large and thriving student body. Our international outlook is also expressed in our double Business and Accounting AACSB accreditation.

## Why study at this faculty?

At the School of Business and Economics you will be part of one of the most culturally diverse university communities in which Dutch and international students grow and flourish. The National Satisfaction Survey showed yet again a significant rise in the students’ appreciation of their learning experience at our School. For example, the Bachelor’s Econometrics and Operations Research has been awarded with a top-rated status for the fourth year in a row.

## Your future career

After their Bachelor’s programme, many students choose to broaden their knowledge with a Master’s programme before entering the job market. We offer 41 interesting Master’s and specialisations: from Climate Econometrics to Marketing and from Supply Chain Management to Entrepreneurship.


## Programmes

### Econometrics and Operations Research

- Econometrics and Data Science
- Econometrics and Operations Research

### Economics and Business Economics

### International Business Administration

 **Application deadline:**  
1 April (non-EU/EEA), 1 May (EU/EEA)

 [bachelors.sbe@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.sbe@vu.nl)  
 [www.vu.nl/sbe](http://www.vu.nl/sbe)

Website:



“Moving across the world to study is the best choice I have made. I was able to make new friends and I get to fulfill my European dream. At VU Amsterdam, besides good events, the university also assists you with all kind of procedures, which is especially useful for an international student like me. Furthermore, thanks to VU Amsterdam, I get to be a part of the Erasmus programme and go on an exchange in Spain!”

**Nguyễn Khoi**  
**Vietnam**  
International  
Business  
Administration





# Social Sciences

## Social Sciences for Society



2,991\*  
Students



39  
Professors



30%\*  
International  
students



3  
English-taught  
programmes

Do you want to be challenged to discover new perspectives on society? Broaden your horizon by working with students from all over the world? And find solutions for the societal challenges our world faces today? Come and study one of the Social Sciences programmes at VU Amsterdam. Located in one of the world's most exciting and diverse cities, we offer programmes that invite our students to think critically about real societal problems, to look at how perspectives from different disciplines can be applied, and to study societal phenomena by applying state of the art research methods. In our faculty thinking is for doing: you will actively try to contribute to understanding and solving today's wicked societal problems, taking into account the perspectives of communication technology, political systems and cultural diversity.

## Why study at this faculty?

The Faculty of Social Sciences is committed to Social Sciences for Society. In our activities in teaching, research and valorisation we engage, work on and are committed to find solutions for the societal challenges our world faces today. We invest in diversity and in internationalisation of our staff and students. We prepare our students to be able to develop inclusive and creative solutions for global challenges.

## Your future career

Graduates from our programmes have found positions in e.g. consultancy firms, management positions and traineeships in major companies, the public sector, NGOs and international organisations, social work and medical professions, research and education, HRM and recruitment policy or research in academic or non-academic institutes. Others now work in

policy-making in development, aid or governance, journalism, as an advisor or policy officer, in internal communications, planning and media, as policy analysts or as advisors with international governmental or non-governmental organisations in the private sector. You can also find our graduates in positions as civil servants in government ministries, in communication and public relations, or at universities or other research institutes. With a degree from our Faculty of Social Sciences, your future is full of opportunities!

## Programmes

Communication Science

Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology

Political Science: Global Politics

 **Application deadline:**

1 April (non-EU/EEA), 1 May (EU/EEA)

 [bachelors.fss@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.fss@vu.nl)

 [www.vu.nl/fss](http://www.vu.nl/fss)

Website:



"I chose this degree because I believed it could give me a deeper academic understanding of the world around me. A truly international environment has made the study experience priceless, and my expectations were more than met. What I like the most about the programme, besides connecting with many international students from all over the world, is how we are always provided with surprising and topical examples about the society we live in, that support the theories studied."



**Alessandro Perego**  
Italy  
Communication  
Science

# Liberal Arts and Sciences

(Amsterdam University College)

Our multidisciplinary approach provides great skills for the future



897

Students



51

Professors



69%

International students



3

English-taught majors

Whether your passion is climate change, public health, AI or another global issue, at AUC you can make your vision a reality. You will begin studying a core curriculum to sharpen your thinking, writing and argumentation skills. You will then create your own interdisciplinary study path, choosing courses that fit your interests. Come prepared to participate in a living education that involves labs, internships, community outreach, creative initiatives and international engagement!

## Why study at this college?

You will be a student at both University of Amsterdam and VU Amsterdam, meaning you will have access to the services and courses offered by both institutions. Housing is guaranteed: you will live with 900 classmates in the student residences for all three years. You will receive personal education with tailored guidance from your tutor, and have class sizes of max. 25. The AUC Scholarship Fund supports between 5-10% of enrolled students ([www.auc.nl/scholarships](http://www.auc.nl/scholarships)).

## Your future career

You will be qualified to apply for diverse Master's programmes at the UvA, VU Amsterdam, other Dutch universities and prestigious institutions in Europe and around the globe.



As an interdisciplinary expert with strong communication, writing and analytical skills, there will be plenty of paths to choose from: continuing to study subjects you're passionate about, launching a start-up or venturing into businesses or other organisations.

## Specific admission requirements

Liberal Arts and Sciences is a selective programme. You will need a secondary school diploma equivalent to the Dutch VWO (e.g. IB; GCSE plus 3 GCE A-levels), very good levels of written and spoken English, and strong mathematics skills. More info: [www.auc.nl/admissions](http://www.auc.nl/admissions)

## Majors

Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences

### Application deadline:

Early bird deadline: 1 December 2022

Regular deadline: 1 February 2023

✉ [info@auc.nl](mailto:info@auc.nl)

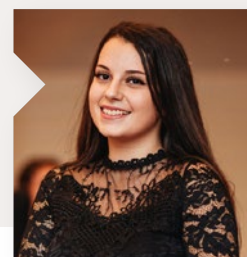
🖱 [www.auc.nl](http://www.auc.nl)

Website:



"I feel that I belong in the AUC community and found myself in the people here. There are many interesting social committees and I even joined a couple of them. I live in a shared room and having a roommate ended up being way better than I expected. Having someone to help you through the day and share responsibilities with is a huge advantage. I am so thankful for what I have here and I would not change it for anything."

**Mila Lazarova**  
Republic of  
North Macedonia  
Liberal Arts and  
Sciences





# Humanities

## Plural thinking about being human



1,810\*  
Students



48  
Professors



37%\*  
International  
students



10  
English-taught  
programmes

What are nations and citizens, who are included or excluded, even becoming refugees? Where does Artificial Intelligence take us? How do media, art, history and communication influence our lives in our world? These and many other questions are addressed in our Bachelor's programmes. The Faculty of Humanities is a vibrant community with a global outlook. Students work in small groups, allowing a lot of interaction with fellow students and teachers. Academic challenges, active teaching methods and high-quality supervision are important elements of education in the Faculty of Humanities.

## Why study at this faculty?

Are you looking to contribute to a better world by studying what makes us human? Within our Bachelor's programmes there is plenty of space for combining disciplines, and for applying your knowledge in a societal context. Join us and become a part of our academic community with Amsterdam as our vibrant humanities laboratory close at hand.

## Your future career

You graduate with a broad skills set, profound and interdisciplinary knowledge, and refined historical and cultural perspective. This makes you an ideal candidate for a variety of jobs in education, business, public administration and politics, cultural organisations, media, healthcare, and the heritage sector.

## Programmes

**Ancient Studies**

**Archaeology**

**Communication and Information Studies**

- English Language and Communication Studies
- Language and Media
- Language Learning and Language Teaching

**Creative Technology (Joint Degree VU-UT)**


**History: History and International Studies**

**Literature and Society**

**Media, Art, Design and Architecture**

**Philosophy**

Website:

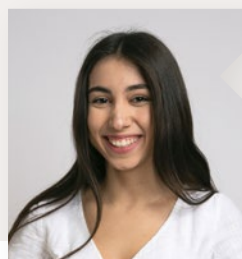
 **Application deadline:**  
1 April (non-EU/EEA), 1 May (EU/EEA)

 [bachelors.hum@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.hum@vu.nl)

 [www.vu.nl/hum](http://www.vu.nl/hum)



"The first year is almost over and I couldn't feel more satisfied of my choice. I remember the day I applied: I had so many questions and doubts. Now, I look back and I am so grateful about my decision. The Language and Media programme represents everything I was looking for: it perfectly suits me. The programme challenges you to be creative in different fields and offers you precious insights applicable to the real world, thereby giving you inspiration for your later career. VU Amsterdam has offered me a great opportunity not just for my Bachelor's, but for life. The international environment gave me all the instruments to become a highly motivated and open-minded student, to appreciate diversity and to expand my horizons".



**Giorgia Giannini**  
Italy

Communication and  
Information Studies:  
Language and Media

# Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Better decisions for a better world



273

Students



44

Professors



48%

International students



1

English-taught programme

PPE is a truly interdisciplinary Bachelor's programme that applies Philosophy, Political Science and Economics directly to important societal questions. PPE offers a personal learning experience, due to the low student-to-teacher ratio and a high number of contact hours. The programme is embedded in the **John Stuart Mill College**, which has its own facilities within VU Amsterdam's main building. The programme is truly international in its orientation: 50% of PPE students come from abroad, and all students have a very international outlook on life.

## Why study at this college?

The teaching in PPE courses is generally divided equally between lectures and seminars, in order to give you the opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of the material in small groups (at most 20 students). In the first year, you will take foundational courses in the three main disciplines. From your second year onwards, you choose **two out of the three** disciplines to deepen your knowledge.

## Your future career

The majority of PPE graduates continue to do a Master's programme in one of the three disciplines (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics) or in a related subject. PPE graduates are ready to take on the world: whether as a politician, a consultant for a think-tank, a reporter or journalist, a research-

er at an academic institution, or a leader in a commercial company or a non-governmental organisation. Plus, the PPE programme gives you plenty of opportunities to make contact with potential future employers during your studies.

## Specific admission requirements

To qualify for admission, you will need a secondary school diploma equivalent to the Dutch VWO level (e.g. IB Diploma or Abitur), including proof of sufficient proficiency in Mathematics and English. Whether you will be offered a place in this selective programme will depend on your grade point average, motivation and suitability for the programme. Check our website for more details.



### Application deadline:

Early bird deadline: 14 February

Regular deadlines: 1 April (non-EU/EEA),  
1 May (EU/EEA)



[admissionsppe@vu.nl](mailto:admissionsppe@vu.nl)



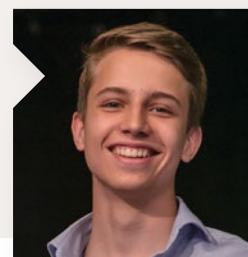
[www.vu.nl/ppe](http://www.vu.nl/ppe)

Website:



"I have always been interested in the bigger picture and the PPE programme has already given me many of the tools necessary to understand the world better. Studying PPE means always taking more than just one subject into account, trying to understand all possible sides of an argument and combining all three subjects to find the best solution. However, it also means working together with fascinating people from all over the world with the common goal of making a meaningful contribution to society."

**Jan Otte**  
Germany  
Philosophy, Politics  
and Economics (PPE)





# Behavioural and Movement Sciences

A unique profile within the broad domain of behaviour and health



4,121\*  
Students



48  
Professors



29%\*  
International  
students



1  
English-taught  
programme

Our scientific knowledge and insights in mental and physical human behaviour in society contribute to lead a healthy, active and meaningful life for everyone at any age. It's our faculty's mission to play a leading role in understanding how behaviour comes about and how it can be influenced. Therefore we use our unique resources and expertise to facilitate high-quality, interdisciplinary research and education in a diverse, open, safe and sustainable environment, to address the major societal needs related to our field.

## Why study at this faculty?

We conduct top research that pushes theoretical and methodical boundaries, including advanced techniques for detailed and large-scale data collection (e.g. genotyping, neuro-imaging, 3D motion recording, e-mental health applications), data analysis, storage and management. In the Bachelor's in Psychology, you will learn to understand behaviour - how we think, feel and act - and how those processes interact with each other.

## Your future career

You will have various career opportunities, for instance in applied research at a rehabilitation centre or sports institu-


tion, or in vocational education in sports or healthcare. You can advise organisations on their HR policy, conduct research, or implement projects aiming to change a company's organisational culture.

## Specific admission requirements

The Bachelor's programme in Psychology has a Numerus Fixus, which means there are limited spots available. You can apply for the 2023-2024 cohort until January 2023. The exact date will be published in autumn 2022.

## Programmes

NF Psychology

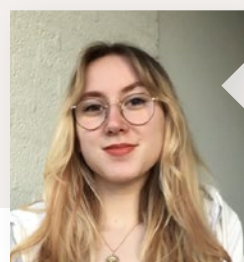
 **Application deadline:**  
January 2023 for both EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA

 [bachelors.fbms@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.fbms@vu.nl)  
 [www.vu.nl/fbms](http://www.vu.nl/fbms)

Website:



"When I thought about studying abroad, I worried about the distance between me and my loved ones, and losing my friends at home. But the truth is I made so many new friends from all around the world, gained so many amazing memories and learned a lot about myself. The programme has something for everyone and expands your horizons. Your English skills will improve in no time while learning about the different fields of psychology. It will be challenging but in a good way, and the university will guide you every step of the way."



**Lisanne  
Riemenschneider**  
Germany  
Psychology

NF This icon stands for a Numerus Fixus programme.

\* Please consult the footnote text on p. 22.

# Law

## Become a different kind of lawyer



4,102\*  
Students



65  
Professors



49%\*  
International  
students



1  
English-taught  
programme

Academic education provided by the faculty is linked to current societal themes, united in the motto: Law in Action! Next to several Dutch-taught programmes, the Faculty of Law offers the unique English-taught programme Law in Society. The teaching we provide in this Bachelor's is based on the idea that our society needs academically trained lawyers who combine expert knowledge of the law with an understanding of the societal context in which law operates. Within the Law in Society Bachelor's programme you will examine complex societal questions from a range of legal perspectives.

## Why study at this faculty?

Instead of the traditional approach to public, private and criminal law, our Law in Society Bachelor's programme starts with real societal problems and looks at how different legal perspectives can be applied. Using a multidisciplinary approach with a strong social sciences component and a cross-cultural emphasis, you'll work in groups to carry out empirical research on real-world cases.

## Your future career

After completing the Law in Society programme, you receive a Bachelor of Laws (LLB). A Bachelor of Laws (LLB) will set you up perfectly for a Master's programme with a similar multidisciplinary international approach. As a graduate, you are well suited for roles involving international issues, for example working on sustainability in the Port of Rotterdam, or on human rights at an international law firm.

## Specific admission requirements

Law in Society is a selective programme. This means that, besides the general admission requirements, your application will also be assessed by an Admissions Board. The Admissions Board will determine if you're a good fit for the programme, based on (amongst other things) your motivation for studying Law in Society, as well as for participating in a mixed classroom.

## Programmes

### Law in Society

**Application deadline:**  
1 April (non-EU/EEA), 1 May (EU/EEA)

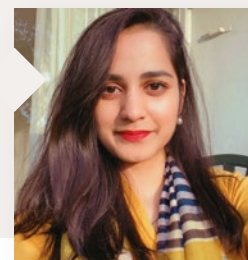
[bachelors.law@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.law@vu.nl)  
 [www.vu.nl/law](http://www.vu.nl/law)

Website:



"Growing up surrounded by societal issues and global injustice, I have always been ambitious to bring change in society with the help of rules and regulations of law. After encountering the course Law in Society, I can't think of any other course I would have rather chosen. Law in Society is a unique course as it not only contributes to understanding law but also gives an insight into social science subjects. Moreover, the faculty has a great student community and associations which allows students to participate in extracurricular activities."

**Aymin Rehman**  
Pakistan  
Law in Society





# Religion and Theology

Religion moves people



445\*

Students



33

Professors



8%\*

International students



1

English-taught programme

The Faculty of Religion and Theology at VU Amsterdam is the academic knowledge centre for religion and the biggest experimental theological laboratory in Europe. We are at the service of students, journalists and pastors, government bodies and policymakers, social organisations and religious communities. We are there for those who want to know what motivates people.

## Why study at this faculty?

When you choose for the faculty of Religion and Theology, you enter the rich and fascinating world of religion and faith. VU Amsterdam is known as a safe space where different religions coexist, side by side. How does religion contribute to shaping identity - yours and other people's? In our Bachelor's Theology and Religious Studies, you investigate religious and social themes and gain a solid foundation in the principles of religions and theology.

\* This number is the total of all Bachelor's and (Pre)Master's students at this faculty, including the Dutch-taught programmes. The percentage reflects the international students in the English-taught Bachelor's programmes from this faculty.

## Your future career

Our Bachelor's programme gives you a wide-ranging perspective on world events and trains you in critical reflection. With your Theology and Religious Studies degree, you can work in many different organisations as a spiritual caregiver, researcher, policy officer, teacher or journalist.

## Programmes

### Theology and Religious Studies



**Application deadline:**

1 April (non-EU/EEA), 1 May (EU/EEA)



[bachelors.frt@vu.nl](mailto:bachelors.frt@vu.nl)



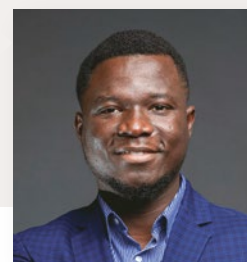
[www.vu.nl/frt](http://www.vu.nl/frt)

Website:



"Getting the opportunity to study at VU Amsterdam was a challenging transition from a purely African community to a Western one. I thought my perspective was too foreign or "too African" and would attract some ridicule, but I was proved wrong. My lecturers and colleagues encouraged, listened and shared with me freely. The culture here doesn't exclude the uniqueness of any person's perspective. It rather embraces and includes everyone in the teaching and learning process."

**Samuel Entsua-Mensah**  
Ghana  
Theology and Religious Studies



# The Dutch education system



## Education

The quality of Dutch higher education is amongst the best in the world. Education at VU Amsterdam is structured according to the Bachelor's and Master's system. In general, the teaching style can be described as student-centred; we stimulate students to develop their own opinion through independent and creative thinking. This means that teaching is conducted in small seminars where interaction is the norm rather than the exception. At VU Amsterdam students are encouraged to engage with their professors in a discussion.



## Academic year

The academic year starts in the first week of September and is divided into two semesters. At VU Amsterdam, each semester consists of three periods of 8+8+4 weeks. Examinations are held at the end of each semester (January and June), or at the end of the eight- or four-week period. You are registered as a student from 1 September until 31 August.



## Credits

At VU Amsterdam, credits are listed according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The ECTS credit system is based on study workload, which includes contact hours, time spent completing papers, assignments and preparing for examinations. In this system, 1 ECTS credit point represents 28 hours of study (including class attendance). A full-time student is expected to earn 60 ECTS credits in one academic year, and 30 ECTS credits in one semester.



## Dutch grading system

When you come to the Netherlands to study you will probably expect that many things are different than in your home country. The grading system may also not be the same as what you are used to. In the Netherlands, the traditional grading scale is from 1 through to 10, where 1 is the lowest and 10 the highest grade. A grade of 6.0 or more stands for 'pass', a grade of less than 6.0 for 'fail'. Grades 1 through to 4 are very rarely given, and the same is true for grades 9 and 10.



## Grading culture

Grading practice in the Netherlands can differ from how grades are awarded in other countries. When the 1 through to 10 scale was officially introduced back in the late 19th century, it was decided that a 10 should only be awarded in cases of absolute perfection. A 9 was considered to be only a slightly less impossible goal to reach. With the advent of multiple choice testing and yes/no answers to questions, 10's and 9's actually came within reach of ambitious students. To this day, however, these grades are still very rarely awarded in oral examinations or open question testing, such as essays, presentations, project reports or dissertations.



## The mixed classroom

VU Amsterdam aims to provide an open environment to students with backgrounds that vary in many different dimensions, such as religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, and socioeconomic status. Our mixed classroom is an educational approach that builds upon differences to enrich the learning experience for all students present. Capitalising on differences does not entail compromising between different perspectives or merging them into one uniform perspective. Instead, it uses the differences and possible tension between perspectives to stimulate critical thinking, develop analytical skills, and generate creative solutions.





# Admission and application

## Step by step

1

Register in  
Studielink

Go to Studielink and create an account. Studielink is the central application platform for all Dutch universities. Here you can select VU Amsterdam and the programme of your choice. Once you have submitted your application you will automatically receive your login details for your dashboard (our student platform) by e-mail.

2

Complete your  
application in your  
dashboard

For your application you are asked to complete an application form and upload this in your dashboard. You can find the required template on the webpage of your programme of interest. You do not have to send original hard copy documents when applying!



## Admission requirements

In order to be eligible for admission, you need a Dutch pre-university diploma (VWO) or an equivalent international diploma. Furthermore, you must meet the English requirement. For some programmes there are additional requirements. Always check the programme's webpage for a complete overview.

The admission and application procedure for Amsterdam University College (AUC) slightly differs. See for more information [www.auc.nl](http://www.auc.nl)

3

### Pay the application fee

We ask you to pay a non-refundable €100 application fee, if you are applying with a diploma obtained outside of the Netherlands. Only after you have paid this fee will we be able to start the assessment of your application file. The International Support Assistant will check your application and inform you if any documents are missing.

4

### Wait for the admission decision

Once your application file is complete you will receive a confirmation e-mail. Your application will then be assessed by your International Student Advisor. We aim to inform you about the decision within max. 8 weeks. Note that this may be longer for programmes with an additional selection procedure, or closer to the deadlines.

## International Student Services

### When you apply:

#### International Student Advisors (ISAs)

If you have a specific question about applying for one of our international Bachelor's programmes with a non-Dutch diploma you can contact the International Student Advisor of your programme. The ISA will be your main point of contact and can help with questions about the programme, admission requirements or application procedure. Every Bachelor's degree programme has its own International Student Advisor(s).

#### Accommodation Services for students

Our Student Accommodation Service can help with arranging accommodation for international students enrolling in one of our international Bachelor's programmes.

#### Student Administration

The Student Administration will help you with any questions about paying your tuition fee and will verify the certified copy of your diploma.

### When you are admitted:

#### Immigration Services for students

When you are a citizen of a non-EU/EEA country, you need to complete the immigration procedure before you can start your studies at VU Amsterdam. Our Student Immigration Service will apply for the required immigration documents on your behalf.

### When you arrive:

#### The VU Introduction Team

The Introduction Team organises a warm welcome for you. We offer a pick-up service from Schiphol airport and an extensive introduction programme in August. During the Arrival days you can arrange all kinds of practical matters, and during the introduction week you can participate in social events and an intercultural programme.



# What happens after your application

## Decision on admission

Once your application is complete (all required documents are approved) and we have received the application fee, your file will be taken into consideration. Your International Student Advisor will aim to inform you about the decision within a maximum processing time of 8 weeks.

You may be contacted by your International Student Advisor for additional information.

## Admitted unconditionally

The International Office will inform you about your (un)conditional admission by e-mail as soon as a decision has been taken.

Before you can be admitted unconditionally to our university, we need to receive a certified copy of your diploma or a statement of graduation which must be certified as a genuine copy of the original by the issuing school/university. Additionally, we also need to receive your sufficient English language test score. Please check the minimum required scores on your programme webpage.

## Admission, accommodation and visa

After you have been admitted we ask you to confirm your participation in your dashboard within two weeks and select the services you may need. Please note that all students with a non-EU/EEA nationality need to apply for a visa and/or residence permit.

Read the online admission, accommodation and visa (if applicable) pages on our website carefully to see if you need to send us any additional documents. If you need to apply for a visa and/or residence permit, you will have to complete your application before 1 June. After this date, your application for services may be delayed, which means we cannot guarantee your start date at VU Amsterdam.

## International Office will help you arrange practical matters

After you arrive at VU Amsterdam, the International Office will help you arrange practical matters in the Netherlands. You will also begin receiving invitations for (career) activities for International Students.

## Officially enrolled

After you have paid your tuition fees you will be officially enrolled. You will have to pay the tuition fees before the start of the programme, which is 31 August. The deadline for Numerus Fixus programmes can differ. There are different payment methods.



# Finances

## Tuition fees

Students from the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA) pay the same tuition fees as Dutch students. The tuition fees for most programmes are determined by the Dutch government on an annual basis. Tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students vary depending on the programme. Please consult the website for the specific tuition fees for academic year 2023-2024: [www.vu.nl/tuitionfee](http://www.vu.nl/tuitionfee)

## Application fee

If you are applying for an English-taught Bachelor's programme you are asked to pay a non-refundable €100 application fee. Only after you have paid this fee, we will be able to start the assessment of your application file.

## Scholarships

For international Bachelor's students, scholarship options are limited. However, Dutch higher education is subsidised and tuition fees are relatively low. Study in Holland offers an overview of all scholarships and grants available to international students. [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl)

## € 1,000 to 1,400 Monthly living costs

Some students manage to spend less, but this of course depends on your own lifestyle. By way of indication (not including tuition fees):

Accommodation	€400 - €750	per month
Food etc.	€325 - €400	per month
Public transport	€60	per month
Insurance	€75	per month
Books and printing	€30	per month
Other costs: clothing etc.	€100	per month

## Proof of financial means

When you are from a non-EU/EEA country you must prove that you are able to finance the costs of living in the Netherlands, as part of your immigration procedure. The Dutch Immigration Service determines the amount per month/year. For 2023-2024 you need to be able to prove that you have at least the minimum specified amount per month at your disposal for the total duration of your study programme enrolment. Additionally, you also need to prove that you can pay your tuition fees.





# Other education at VU Amsterdam



## Master's programmes in English

Once you have completed your Bachelor's degree, a broad range of Master's programmes is available to you. VU Amsterdam offers more than 150 Master's programmes in English. More information can be found online at [www.vu.nl/internationalmasters](http://www.vu.nl/internationalmasters)



## Honours programme

VU Amsterdam offers an Honours programme for excellent students. The programme is designed for students who have passed all of their first-year Bachelor's subjects by the end of that year with an average mark of 7.5 or higher and who are motivated to take extra subjects in their second and third year. [www.vu.nl/honours](http://www.vu.nl/honours)



## Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Dutch

VU Amsterdam also offers many Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Dutch. If you are interested in following one of these programmes as a non-Dutch speaker, you can take advantage of the special language-learning facilities offered by the university. Further information can be found on our website [www.vuamsterdam.com](http://www.vuamsterdam.com)





## Exchange programmes

During your Bachelor's degree, it is possible to go on exchange to take courses at a partner university. Spending a semester abroad is a guaranteed boost for your career and personal development. You will be part of another culture, create an international network and improve your language skills. It's a unique academic challenge during which you will live and study in an international environment.

The most suitable period for an exchange is the first semester of your third Bachelor's year, because most study programmes have no compulsory courses in this period. We have exchange agreements with over 200 universities around the world. You could be one of the students spending a semester at one of our partner universities in Europe, the USA, Canada, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, or Latin America.



Take a look at the VU Worldmap, select your (future) studies and discover your possibilities.



## VU Amsterdam Summer School

Are you looking for an inspiring way to spend your summer and meet people from all over the world? Join VU Amsterdam Summer School! We offer two-week courses for Bachelor's and Master's students, small-scale classes, exciting social activities and much more! From start to finish, the summer team will be here to support you. Will you join us? [www.vu.nl/summerschool](http://www.vu.nl/summerschool)



## Gap Year Experience

The VU Amsterdam Gap Year Experience provides you with the opportunity to experience life at a university and as an international student, as well as life in the city of Amsterdam, before committing to a Bachelor's programme. Through the Gap Year Experience, you can try out courses in various different fields, or else choose a specific field of study at university level, so that you can choose the right field of study for you and already gain some valuable first-hand university experience.

Gap Year students will also enjoy a full programme of social activities, hands-on personal guidance and advising, guaranteed housing, and support services via the dedicated Gap Year Study Abroad Team. The VU Amsterdam Gap Year Experience will not only assist you in choosing an appropriate academic career, but it will help you learn to balance your academic career with the everyday demands of life as an international student. For more information, go to [www.vu.nl/gapyear](http://www.vu.nl/gapyear)



# Our campus

VU Amsterdam wants to offer an attractive study and working environment that responds to the modern demands that students and employees have. Our campus is a dynamic, urban environment in direct connection with business district 'Zuidas Amsterdam'. This brings new opportunities for cooperation with alliances and our surroundings.

## 2 Sport Centre locations

## Transportation

Proximity to Schiphol International Airport and train connections within Europe make VU Amsterdam easily accessible to the world. Amsterdam has a wide variety of buses, trams and subways to get you where you need to be. But if you truly want to experience life as an Amsterdam resident, buy a bike! Amsterdam has more bikes than people, and you will learn that Dutch people cycle everywhere within the city, no matter the distance or weather.



## Student housing

Counting 3,400 residents, Campus Uilenstede is the largest student campus of Northern Europe. Uilenstede is home to quite a few of our international students. Of course, aside from living and studying there, there's a lot more to do for the students of the Campus, such as a cosy diner and regular events. Read more about student housing on the next few pages.



## Sport facilities

The VU Sports Centre brings people together. With two locations on campus, there is a sport for everyone: from fitness to yoga, and from futsal to boxing. Both students and staff can use the facilities at a competitive rate. Every year an enthusiastic group of students take part in the Race of the Classics, the biggest student sailing race in Europe. Also during the internationally known 'Dam tot Dam' running competition, a big team represents VU Amsterdam.

## Culture and entertainment

Griffioen is the cultural centre of VU Amsterdam. In addition to courses, Griffioen organises film screenings, music, theatre and dance performances. The Events Office can host all kinds of cultural activities and various rooms are available for rent. The VU Amsterdam Orchestra is the student orchestra of VU Amsterdam and was founded in 1962. Together, the students mainly perform late-romantic and twentieth-century music in the most beautiful halls at home and abroad.



## Study associations

Study associations are attached to a particular faculty, programme or course. The emphasis is on social events and relaxation, although most also organise activities which are relevant to the coursework itself. Having joined an association, you may wish to take a hand in running it by sitting on one of its (sub-) committees. You can then help to organise excursions or to produce the association's magazine for example.

## Shopping

From the first cup of coffee in the morning to a delicious hot meal at the end of the day: the campus has a wide variety of cafés and restaurants to satisfy any craving. More and more shops are opening up on our Campus square, i.e. VU Amsterdam bookshop, SPAR University supermarket, Doppio Espresso, Science Café (OI2 Lab building), Grand Café The Basket and several food trucks.



Curious to see what our campus looks like? Have a look at our online campus tour!



# Housing

Studying at VU Amsterdam and living in Amsterdam is a great experience, but finding a room can be a challenge. The university can help you with this.

## The International Office can help

The International Office offers accommodation to participants in English-taught degree programmes. There are furnished and unfurnished rooms with private or shared facilities. The number of rooms available is limited so we cannot guarantee accommodation for every student, but the International Office will do its utmost best to find suitable accommodation for everyone.

## Accommodation types and locations

The university's types of accommodation are located in various areas of the Amsterdam metropolitan area, including Uilenstede, StuNest, BOLD, the Student Hotel, and OurCampus Diemen. Generally, VU Amsterdam can be reached easily by bike and public transport from all locations.

### Types of contracts

- **Campus contracts**, covering the total duration of your study programme
- **Rental contracts** for a fixed period of 1 year

## Costs

### Costs


The price of accommodation varies between €400 and €1,000 per month. Utilities (water/electricity/internet) are included in the price. When you choose a room with a low rent, you will have to share your facilities (kitchen and/or bathroom). A flexible attitude is desirable when sharing a bathroom and/or kitchen.

### Housing fee

Students who want to apply for accommodation through VU Amsterdam will have to pay a housing fee of €500. This housing fee is charged to cover the costs of the university in providing the housing service to international students.







## Get to know fellow international students

Students from all kinds of nationalities live closely together. A great way to make new friends!



## How to apply

### Step 1

After your admission, you confirm that you will participate in the programme.

### Step 2

Apply for accommodation in your personal dashboard on our website.

### Step 3

Transfer the housing fee. Accommodation will be assigned based on a first paid, first served system. The date on which VU Amsterdam receives the payment will determine when you get access to the booking system.

### Step 4

Wait for further instructions. You will receive additional information from the International Office by e-mail within a few weeks.

## More information

We advise you to apply for housing as soon as possible after being admitted. A timely application for one of our programmes is therefore recommended.

More information about the different types of housing, rental periods, taxes and housing allowance can be found on our website: [www.vu.nl/accommodation](http://www.vu.nl/accommodation)

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to [studentaccommodation@vu.nl](mailto:studentaccommodation@vu.nl)

Amsterdam University College (AUC) has its own campus. Therefore, the housing procedure is different. See for more information [www.auc.nl](http://www.auc.nl)



# We are here to help



## International Student Advisors

“We understand that applying for a degree programme abroad can lead to many questions. Is my diploma valid in the Netherlands? Can I be admitted to the programme of my choosing? And how do I prove my English language proficiency? Registering in another country, complicated procedures, new systems: it is not always easy. That is why you will have an assigned International Student Advisor (ISA) from the very beginning.

For every faculty we have assigned ISAs who know everything about the programmes, requirements, and deadlines. We will guide you throughout the application process and answer any questions you might have. It is our priority to help you every step of the way, making sure you are all set to become a student at VU Amsterdam.”



**Stipo Jeleč**  
Team Leader  
Degree Mobility



Curious to see who your International Student Advisors will be? Just follow the QR-code or go to [www.vu.nl/isa](http://www.vu.nl/isa)! On this page you will also see their contact information so you can easily reach out.



## Other services for international students

“Moving to Amsterdam is one of the best choices you can make, but of course there are also some arrangements that need to be made. Where will you live, and do you perhaps need a visa or residence permit for your stay here? Our Services Team at VU Amsterdam International Office will help you with all these practicalities. We will make sure you'll have an easy landing.

We offer accommodation to international students in English-taught degree programmes. The number of rooms available is limited so we cannot guarantee accommodation for every student, but we will do our best to find a suitable accommodation for everyone. More information about housing can be found in this brochure or on our website.

Another important thing to take care of, is your potential immigration to the Netherlands. When you are a non-EU/EEA citizen, you need to complete the immigration procedure before you can start your studies at VU Amsterdam. Our

Services team can help you with this, and will apply for the immigration procedure on your behalf.”



**Michelle Zumbrink**  
International Officer  
Services team



More information about our services can be found via [www.vu.nl/visa](http://www.vu.nl/visa) or [www.vu.nl/accommodation](http://www.vu.nl/accommodation). It is also possible to make an appointment with us via our online tool.

# Ambassadors and Alumni

## Student Ambassadors

Have a question for a current student? Curious about everyday life in Amsterdam, from our campus to the food, music and events going on in the city? Want to know how much homework you will have each night, or how the Dutch educational system differs from your own?

Ask one of our VU Ambassadors! They would love to answer your questions by sharing their personal experiences of living and studying at VU Amsterdam.

You can find our International Student Ambassadors via [www.vu.nl/ambassadors](http://www.vu.nl/ambassadors)

## Alumni Ambassadors

Besides our Student Ambassadors that are currently studying at VU Amsterdam, we of course also have a community of International Alumni Ambassadors! These (former) students graduated from VU Amsterdam and are currently either working in the Netherlands, abroad or doing a PhD or (second) Master's.

Are you interested in what opportunities and/or challenges lie ahead after graduating? The Alumni Ambassadors can share their personal experiences. At what company are they working now? What can you do during your studies to prepare for your career? Was it easy to get into a Master's programme after graduating from a Bachelor's programme at VU Amsterdam? You can easily ask them questions like these via [www.vu.nl/ambassadors](http://www.vu.nl/ambassadors) after you select 'Alumni' under 'Levels'.



 We organise several events for our Ambassadors, from drinks to workshops







## Off- and online contact

📍 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
De Boelelaan 1105  
1081 HV Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

T +31 20 598 9898

✉ [International@vu.nl](mailto:International@vu.nl)  
🖱 [www.vuamsterdam.com](http://www.vuamsterdam.com)

## Follow us on social media

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📷 #vuamsterdam  
✍ [www.amsterdamstudents.com](http://www.amsterdamstudents.com)

## VU Bachelor's days



Please check our website  
to find out how and where  
you can meet us in the  
upcoming year.



 Campus university

in the vibrant and multicultural  
city of Amsterdam