

# Study abroad at 2023/2024 University College Maastricht

## Choose 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 with the prestigious distinctive quality feature 'Small-scale and Intensive Education';
- University College Maastricht has received the Top Quality Seal and is top ranked in the Elsevier Dutch University Colleges Ranking.
- Study using the Problem Based Learning method, an innovative teaching system where students learn in small classes in 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. 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. Each period ends with an exam week followed by 1 week off – this is your Reflection Week. Exchange students coming in Fall may decide not to take the project period in January and leave before Christmas, provided their home university approves.

Academic calendar	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Application Deadline	1 May 2023	1 November 2023
3-Day introduction (obligatory)	28 - 30 August 2023	29 - 31 January 2024
First day of classes	4 September 2023	5 February 2024
Last day of classes	2 February 2024	5 July 2024

## 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 credits 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 and all projects, a 100% attendance is required.

*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 that an attendance record is kept for all meetings. Not meeting the minimum attendance requirement 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 maximum 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. Intensive PBL-training is part of the UCM introduction program. For instructional videos about PBL please search "PBL Maastricht University" on YouTube.

## 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 the 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 the beginning of your exchange at 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

We do not allow students to enroll in additional courses on top of the maximum 30 ECTS. Also, it is not possible to be flexible with the maximum number of 30 ECTS. Meaning, you can not take an additional course to make up for credits you miss for not taking a skill or project.

## 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: intro-

ductory (1000), intermediate (2000), and advanced (3000). Our 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](http://www.ucm.nl/exchange) under the header “Study Info” 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 may submit alternative proof of language proficiency. Please contact your home institutions international office for details.

Once the application has been received and approved the student will be asked to fill out our Course Registration Form. At UCM we will carefully review the preferred course selection for each student, based on the submitted academic transcript. If the student meets the requested prerequisite of the course he/she will be enrolled. If not, UCM will try to reach mutual agreement by offering alternative choices. Once the student’s courses have been confirmed, the selection is final, we will enroll the student and a personal time table will be created.

### 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. The estimated cost for a residence permit for non-EU citizens is approx. 207

Euro (per 1 January 2022). Our visa office will contact you with information about the application procedure and the steps to take in order to obtain a MVV and/or 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.maastrichthousing.com](http://www.maastrichthousing.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 to finalize the booking, a one-month rent deposit 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](http://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. We strongly advise students with pre-existing conditions to verify if their current health insurance will cover any specialized help that is required while abroad. If this isn’t the case please look into an additional health insurance so you can request professional help when needed.

### Arrival

Arrival directions can be found at: [www.ucm.nl/exchange](http://www.ucm.nl/exchange) under the header “General Information”. Exchange students should arrive before the introduction program starts (see below). Universalis, UCM’s study association, organizes a pick-up service from the central railway station in Maastricht. Students will be contacted well in advance by a Universalis member, with instructions how to request a pick up.

### Introduction program

In the Fall semester, two different introduction programs are organized.

The UCM 3-day introduction program is **OBLIGATORY** for students and free of charge. The first day of Fall introduction is Monday 28 August 2023. Students should arrive no later than Sunday 27 August 2023. For Spring semester only the 3-day UCM introduction program is organized and starts on Monday 29 January 2024. Students should be in Maastricht by Sunday 28 January 2024.

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: <https://en.inkom.nl/>

## 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 Science and Engineering. 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 Science and Engineering
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](http://www.studyin.nl) and <http://mymaastricht.nl>



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