



# Leiden University Study Abroad/Exchange

Study in Leiden or The Hague

## Application and admission

### Exchange

If you are currently enrolled at one of Leiden University's partner institutions, you can apply for an exchange semester or year in Leiden. This has the advantage that you will only pay tuition fees at your home university. Leiden University participates in the Erasmus+ programme and the International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP). In addition, we have bilateral agreements with over 70 distinguished partner institutions. Leiden University currently offers exchange opportunities in nearly 20 fields. We recommend that you contact the exchange or study abroad coordinator at your home institution to determine whether you are eligible to participate in an exchange programme.

### Study Abroad

If there is no exchange agreement between Leiden University and your home institution, you have the option to apply for a Study Abroad programme for one or two semesters instead. Within this context, you will be able to create your own programme by choosing a selection of courses that match your background and interests. Alternatively, you can participate in programmes that are especially tailored for students with a particular interest in law, Dutch language and culture, or

biomedical sciences. Leiden University does charge tuition fees for Study Abroad programmes.

### Admission requirements

Admission as a study abroad or exchange student is based on a number of factors. In general, you must have completed at least two years of university education, have a GPA of at least 3.2 out of 4.0 (or equivalent) and your academic background must be relevant to the courses you are applying for. You may also have to submit English language test results. The minimum test scores required are 90 (TOEFL) or 6.5 (IELTS Academic). Please consult your exchange or study abroad coordinator and our exchange website for details on the application procedure and admission requirements.

### Questions? Contact us!

International Relations  
Leiden University, Student and Educational Affairs  
Gravensteen Building, Pieterskerkhof 6  
2311 SR Leiden, The Netherlands  
☎ +31 71 527 7781  
✉ [exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl)  
🌐 [universiteitleiden.nl/exchange](https://universiteitleiden.nl/exchange)



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University

# Come to the Netherlands: the gateway to Europe

Inspiring and relaxed – these are qualifications that perfectly describe the Netherlands. At the same time, there is much more to say about the country. The Netherlands is one of the safest countries in the world, is in the top 10 happiest countries in the world, and the Dutch have the best English proficiency in Europe, making the Netherlands a perfect study destination!

## Typical Dutch

Visionary architecture, vintage-meets-contemporary fashion and interiors, street markets selling rainbows of fresh flowers, herring and cheese, and drinks at canal-side cafés are just some of the reasons to love the Netherlands. Living in Holland means you can enjoy the culture of historical cities like Leiden, Amsterdam and Delft, the fishing village of Volendam, and the cheese capital of Alkmaar.

Did you know that Holland has the largest museum density in the world? Visit the Rijksmuseum, for instance, or the Van Gogh Museum or Mauritshuis in The Hague. The humble bicycle is among the Dutch one of the favourite means of transportation in the country. A bike will most likely be among your first purchases in the Netherlands, and there are over 15,000 kilometers of bicycle paths for you to discover once you get going!

## Studying in Holland

The Dutch education system is interactive, student-centred and focused on teamwork, which makes it easy to meet other students. Studying in Holland means developing an open mind and increasing your international orientation. The teaching method at Dutch higher education institutions is founded on respect for each individual's opinions and convictions. This respect is a national virtue that characterises Holland's diverse and pluralistic society. The method aims to provide students with both the attention and freedom they need to develop their own opinions and creativity in applying new knowledge.

## International atmosphere

The Netherlands is the gateway to Europe. Paris, Berlin, London and Brussels are all within a few hours of Leiden University and add an additional international aspect to your educational experience.

## The Dutch experience

- Population: 17 million
- 120,000+ international students
- The Netherlands is home to over 200 nationalities
- Headquarters of Heineken, Shell, Philips, Unilever, as well as many high-tech, legal, financial and international organisations
- The cradle of 'Dutch Design', featuring consumer articles, fashion, architecture, and new media
- The birthplace of painters Rembrandt, Vermeer and Vincent van Gogh as well as modern photographers Anton Corbijn and Erwin Olaf
- A cultural hub, with nearly 1,000 top-class museums such as the Rijksmuseum and a wealth of festivals and concerts by world-famous musicians like (Leiden alum!) Armin van Buuren and Martin Garrix
- A lively academic and professional landscape including many symposia and debates
- Home to star soccer players Ruud Gullit, Johan Cruyff, actresses Carice van Houten (Game of Thrones) and Famke Janssen (X-Men) as well as the creators of The Voice, Big Brother, Survivor and other popular TV shows
- Windmills, canals, cheese markets, beautiful North Sea beaches and of course, endless fields of gorgeous tulips from March until May!

# Discover the world at Leiden University

Are you curious, critical and involved in the world around you? At Leiden University you will develop the knowledge and skills you will need in your future career, make a valuable contribution to tackling the various issues facing modern society and benefit from the inspiring academic community we have to offer.

## Be a part of it

For over 440 years, students and lecturers from all over the world have come to Leiden University, the oldest university in the Netherlands. Leiden University offers you a truly international experience with 120 nationalities represented in a unique mosaic of cultures. We are a small-scale academic community where there is room for personal contact and regard for your talents and opportunities.

## Learn from the best

Leiden University is among the top 100 universities in prominent international rankings. Our academic staff include many top scholars with an international reputation of excellence. You will have the chance to closely interact with Leiden's scholars and thinkers, conducting your own research and exploring topics that are timely and relevant.

## Look beyond your boundaries

Leiden University attaches great value to freedom of spirit, thought and speech, and is open to everyone who is willing to get the best out of themselves. What binds us is the search for solutions for current global challenges, a search that we conduct with an open mind. We do not shy away from difficult discussions and we allow one another the space to disagree. We expect the same active, open-minded and critical attitude from you.

## A tale of two cities

Leiden University's story is a tale of two cities: Leiden and The Hague. Medieval and quaint, Leiden is the founding city and heart of the university. A short 10-minute train journey away is our second home: The Hague. Our teaching and research in the International City of Peace and Justice reflect the themes that are important to this centre of government and international diplomacy.



## Student Life

Leiden University has a range of services available to meet your academic or personal needs. It all starts with a warm welcome at Schiphol airport and introduction weeks in Leiden and The Hague.

### A warm welcome

Coming to a new country to live and study is exciting, but it can be daunting as well. You can best start off by taking advantage of our Warm Welcome Service! Newly arriving international students will be met at the airport and provided with travel information and assistance with post arrival formalities. You should also register for one of the international introduction weeks at the start of the academic year, to make sure you feel at home in your new city before starting your classes.

- [universiteitleiden.nl/prepare](https://universiteitleiden.nl/prepare)
- [orientationweek.org](https://orientationweek.org)
- [hopweek.org](https://hopweek.org)

### Housing

Leiden University is not campus-based. The university buildings and student housing are spread throughout the cities of Leiden and The Hague. As housing cannot be guaranteed, it is recommended to apply for housing and to pay the housing fee as soon as possible. The Housing Office website also offers a list of tips and tricks for finding housing on your own. In a number of housing locations there are Residence Assistants to help international students feel happy and at home. They aim to bring students together, create a sense of community and foster a safe and tolerant living environment.

- [universiteitleiden.nl/housing](https://universiteitleiden.nl/housing)
- [universiteitleiden.nl/residence-life-programme](https://universiteitleiden.nl/residence-life-programme)

### How to feel at home quickly

We encourage you to join Leiden United or the International Student Network (ISN) for trips, cultural events, social events and help with academic and practical questions, and to become a member of the Leiden University Sports Centre. Our international student advisers can be consulted on a variety of matters, ranging from financial concerns, settling down issues, academic issues to dealing with external housing agents or finding a family doctor. Our student counsellors can help in legal, financial and personal matters, but can also assist you in developing study-related skills.

- [leiden-united.com](https://leiden-united.com)
- [isnleiden.com](https://isnleiden.com)
- [usleiden.com](https://usleiden.com)

### Fenestra Disability Centre

Our Fenestra Disability Centre supports students with a functional disability or a learning disorder with practical support and relevant information.

Read about the international student experience on The Leidener blog.

[www.theleidener.com](https://www.theleidener.com)