

Leiden University

Study Abroad/Exchange Information Sheet

2023-2024



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University

INSTITUTION

Name Institution	Universiteit Leiden
Website (General)	www.universiteitleiden.nl (Dutch) www.universiteitleiden.nl/en (English)
Website (for exchange programme)	Study Abroad/Exchange Programmes Information for after arrival

CONTACT

Name	Student and Educational Affairs (SEA), International Relations Office
Visiting / Postal Address	“Gravensteen” building - Pieterskerkhof 6, 2311 SR, Leiden / P.O. Box 9500, NL-2300 RA, Leiden, The Netherlands
Telephone number	+31 71 527 7781
Email	<p>Admission information about study abroad/exchange applications: (Ms) Gaye Eksen, Team Lead Mobility Team: exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl</p> <p>Partnerships: (Mr) Hung-Wah Lam Head of International Relations internationalrelations@sea.leidenuniv.nl</p>

APPLICATION

Nomination deadlines	Fall Semester and Full Year	March 1
	Spring Semester	September 15
Application deadlines	Fall Semester and Full Year	April 1
	Spring Semester	October 15
Admission requirements	A GPA of 3.2 out of 4.0 and at least two years of prior academic study, unless otherwise agreed in bilateral agreements.	
<u>Language Requirements</u>	<p>IELTS Academic test: at least 6.5 TOEFL test: 90 (internet-based test) Cambridge CAE (Certificate of Advanced English): 180 Cambridge CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English)</p> <p>Test results should not be older than two years. Institutional TOEFL (ITP) tests are not accepted. A few individual courses may require a higher test score. All courses at LUC require IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 100 (internet-based).</p> <p>Please note that we do not accept the TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ and TOEFL IBT Paper Based™ for admission.</p> <p>An English language test result is not required if students have completed their secondary education in Australia, Canada (English-taught programmes), Ireland, New Zealand, the UK or the USA, or if they have an International Baccalaureate diploma.</p> <p>Chinese nationals also need to get a Nuffic Certificate.</p> <p>Programme specific language proficiency requirements for Master programmes can be found on our website.</p>	
Online nomination	Students need to be nominated by their home university coordinator via our online nomination form before they can start their application. Nominations instructions will be shared separately to this document.	

Online application and admission	<p>Once their nomination has been approved, students will receive Leiden University account details, (ULCN) and will be invited to submit their application via our online application portal uSis.</p> <p>After completing their personal details and submitting supporting documents, students are prompted to submit course requests in our online application portal. Once an application is complete, if the student meets the admission criteria, course requests are forwarded to the faculties for evaluation. A student must be admitted to several specific courses of min. 15 ECTS before an offer of admission can be extended. We recommend that students not book flights or make other travel plans before receiving their offer of admission. In addition to their desired courses, students should also select max. 3 alternative courses in case their first choices are not all approved.</p>	
Required documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Transcript • Motivation letter • Copy of passport ID page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language certificate (as listed above) • Nuffic certificate (Only Chinese nationals – as listed above)

PRE-DEPARTURE

Website for international students	<p>This website with information on life in the Netherlands and practical matters such as Visa, Housing and Financial Matters will help students prepare their stay.</p>	
Housing	<p>Like many universities in the Netherlands, Leiden University does not have a central campus or student dormitories. Instead, our faculties are spread throughout the cities of Leiden and The Hague and students live in accommodation rented via housing organisations and landlords. In general, students are expected to arrange their own housing. We advise prospective students to start to explore ways of finding accommodation well before arriving in the Netherlands to begin their studies.</p> <p>Each year, Leiden University reserves a limited number of rooms via housing agency DUWO for new international students, but due to high demand and limited availability, Leiden University cannot guarantee accommodation to all applicants.</p> <p>Prospective students are thus advised to apply for housing in a very early stage, and to pay the housing application fee (€285) as early as possible after application, and well before the housing application deadline of June 1st for the Fall semester and November 15th for the Spring semester. An application for housing can be submitted via the application portal as soon as their application for admission has been submitted. There is no need to await a decision on their application for admission to Leiden University. Once a student has reserved an accommodation via University Housing, the housing agency DUWO further coordinates the process.</p> <p>Housing through Leiden University cannot be guaranteed, we insist that students also seek housing via other routes. If a student needs to find housing independently Leiden University can give advice and tips. Please be informed that private housing can be expensive and is scarce.</p>	
Visa and residence permits	<p>Holders of EU/EEA passports do not require a residence permit to study at Leiden University. Students with a non-EU nationality must have a residence permit and in many cases an entry visa as well. Once a student has been admitted to Leiden University, the International Relations Office will work with the student to apply on their behalf. Students should note that there is a fee of €210 for visas/permits (this fee is subject to change) and strict deadlines for submission of documents.</p>	
Insurance	<p>All students are obliged to have health insurance to cover any medical costs incurred during their stay. We strongly recommend that students ensure they have medical insurance before their arrival. Students are also highly recommended to take out liability insurance to cover any accidental damage caused to other persons or property.</p>	
Estimated living expenses	<p>On average, students will need at least €968 – €1338 per month. Also see financial matters.</p> <p>Please note that public transport is not free for exchange students, but discount cards are available.</p>	

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

Warm Welcome Service	<p>Prior or during the orientation weeks, Leiden University offers a free 'Warm Welcome Service' to assist international students with post-arrival practicalities. This service offers a great opportunity to attend all necessary appointments before the start of orientation.</p> <p>What is provided?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information desks at locations in Leiden and The Hague offering help and advice on a range of practical matters, such as bank accounts, housing, student cards, insurance policies, GP/Doctor registration. <p>For the upcoming Warm Welcome dates please refer to our website.</p>	
Orientation: Leiden and the Hague	1st semester:	The Hague: August 2023 Leiden: August 2023
	2nd semester:	Leiden: late January – begin February 2024 (For students studying in Leiden & The Hague)
	<p>Leiden University organises two orientation programmes:</p> <p>Orientation Week Leiden – OWL - is the orientation programme to help new international students settle in and find their way around Leiden and the university.</p> <p>The Hague Orientation Programme – HOP - is the orientation programme organized for Dutch and international students who study in The Hague, to help them discover city life, student life and university life of our Campus in The Hague.</p> <p>The orientation programme fee is €95 for participation in August and €45* for participation in January. *These fees are subject to change.</p> <p>Participation in either OWL or HOP is optional - and great fun!</p>	
Residence Life Programme (RLP)	<p>Students living in university provided international accommodation in Leiden area and The Hague can rely on Resident Assistants living in their buildings. The Resident Assistants try to create a home away from home for the new tenants by organizing community building events, lending a sympathetic ear, and helping them with issues or questions they may be experiencing. They also function as a contact point, referring them to the appropriate Student Support Services, and as a liaison between DUWO, and the interests of the tenants.</p>	
International Student Associations	<p>Leiden University houses several international student associations who organize cultural and social events for international and internationally-oriented students in Leiden and The Hague; a great way to make friends and get involved!</p>	
Dutch language and customs	<p>Language courses are not available as regular exchange programme courses. The University's Academic Language Centre offers Dutch language courses for a fee. Please note that the grades of the language courses cannot be included in the transcript.</p> <p>However, international students can register for the free online Dutch language course Dutch & More, which has been developed for international students. Once they have completed the SPOC successfully, they can register for the Dutch 1B course at Leiden's Academic Language Centre for just 75 euros.</p>	
Student life	<p>Leiden and The Hague are vibrant student cities with a rich student life and plenty of sports and cultural activities.</p>	

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Support Services	<p>The student support services desk is the student information point at Plexus Student Centre in Leiden, where students can go for information about study options, study skills and any other study-related matters. In The Hague, students are welcome at Beehive Student Centre for the services provided by Student Support Services. Students can contact the student support services desk with questions about issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study programme choice • study skills • internships, careers and the job market • regulations and rights
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> finances
International Exchange Coordinators	Each faculty has an international coordinator who can assist incoming exchange students with questions regarding courses in that faculty and sign the learning agreements.
Student psychologists	Our student psychologists are accessible and easy to approach. Students are welcome to arrange a consultation to discuss any problems they might be experiencing.
Disability services	Fenestra Disability Centre is Leiden University's service centre for students with a (learning) disability.
24/7 Emergency number	<p>From the Netherlands: 071 527 66 66 From abroad: +31 71 527 66 66</p> <p>For emergency services (fire, police, ambulance): 112 (can only be reached by a Dutch telephone number).</p> <p>For more information on emergencies and incidents please check our website</p>

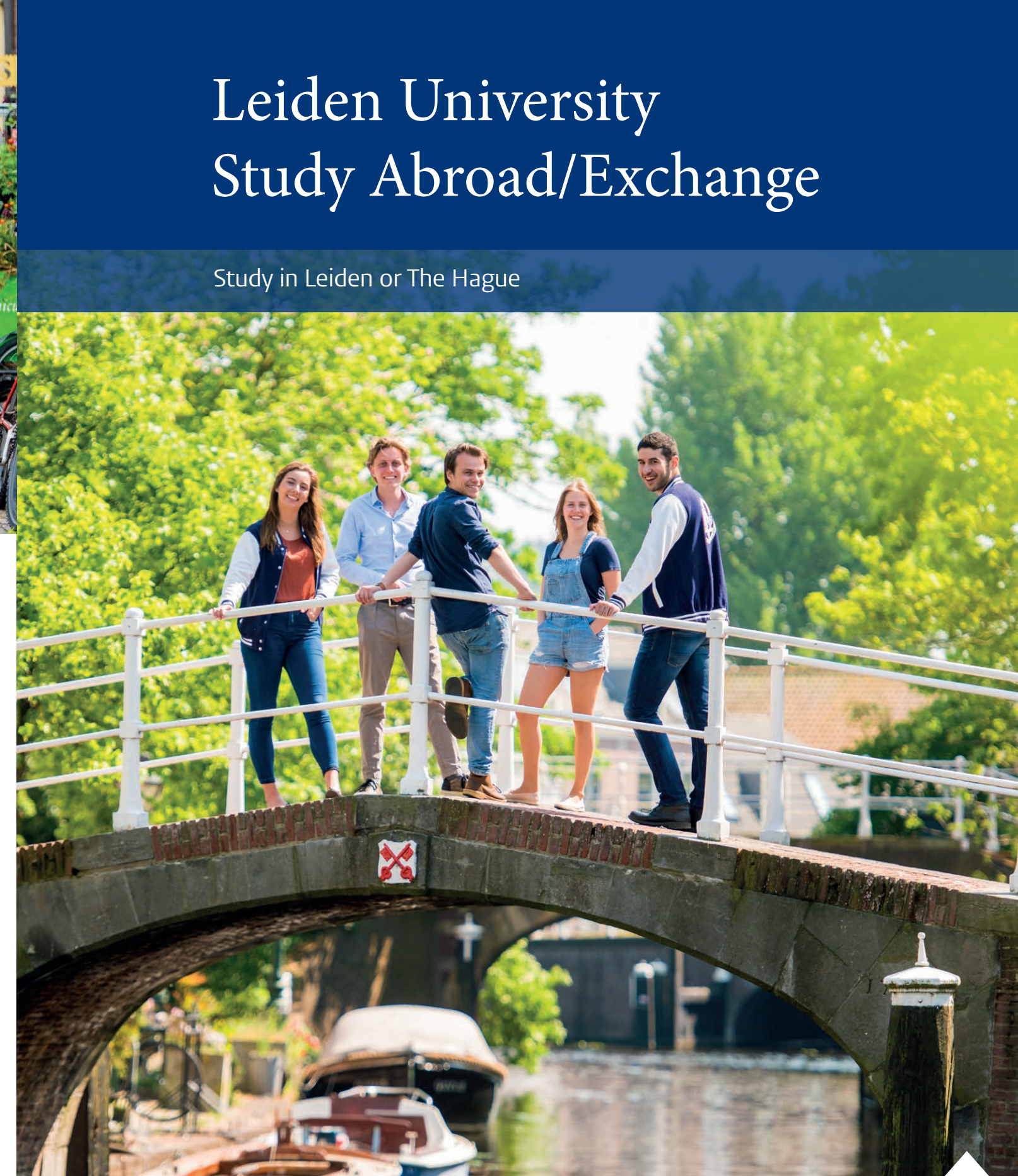
ACADEMIC

Academic calendar	The academic year officially runs from September 1 through to August 31. All faculties follow a semester calendar: the first semester lasts from September until December/January. The second semester courses start in February.	
Recommended arrival week (in order to benefit from the Warm Welcome Service and settle in prior to orientation)	1st semester:	mid-August (please check the Warm Welcome Service dates)
	2nd semester:	Third week of January (please check the Warm Welcome Service dates)
Semester dates	1st semester, from / to:	<p>4 September 2023 – 4 February 2024 (exams: late Dec & Jan).</p> <p>*Please note: Psychology exams typically take place in February, and this can cause problems with your university housing. Read more about this under “examinations” hierbelow and check their calendar for more information.</p> <p>*Courses in the Leiden University College (LUC) start slightly earlier, please see their calendar for more information.</p>
	2nd semester, from / to:	<p>5 February 2024 – 7 July 2024 (Final exams: May & June & early July)</p> <p>Please note that housing contracts for the Spring semester go until August. July and August are typically months for exam resits.</p>
Courses available to non-degree students	Students should check the Prospectus under “Exchange” for information on course content, language of instruction, pre-requisites, semester dates and assessment.	
Languages of instruction	English and Dutch	
Credit and grading	<p>Leiden University uses the ECTS credit transfer system. Most courses carry a load of 5 or 10 ECTS credits. As is common in the Netherlands, the top grades of 9 and 10 are rarely given.</p> <p>A grading table will be provided on all transcript of records. Please check the website for more information on the grading table.</p>	
Standard course load	<p>15-30 ECTS per semester for non-degree students.</p> <p>30 ECTS is the standard full-time semester load for degree students.</p> <p>1 ECTS credit equals 28 hrs of study, including contact hours and self-study.</p>	

	<p>Important note: To be admitted as an exchange/study abroad students, students must be admitted to at least 15 EC for one semester. However, home universities will usually require that students take more credits than that. We recommend that students make sure they are admitted to sufficient courses to meet their credit requirements before arrival!</p>
<p>Course approval & registration</p>	<p>Course approval occurs at the time of application to the exchange program. This process reserves students a place in the approved courses. Registration for approved courses in our online registration system occurs prior to the start of the semester. This process differs per faculty; students will receive further instructions close to the start of the semester.</p> <p>Questions regarding course registration after arrival should be directed to the academic coordinator at the faculty responsible for the course a student wishes to take.</p> <p>Please refer to our website for detailed information about course selection. About the course restrictions refer to the information under <i>Important faculty-specific considerations</i>. It's important to note that Leiden Law School only offers a maximum of 15 EC of courses to university-wide students.</p>
<p>Examinations</p>	<p>Many exams for courses that are available to international exchange students are held so that students may return home by the end of December. There is, however, no guarantee that this will always be possible. Alternative arrangements for assessments may be possible, only at the discretion of the lecturer/department.</p> <p>Please note: It is not possible to make alternative arrangements for Psychology exams. If students need to be back at their home university in early January, they cannot take psychology courses in period 2.</p>
<p>Transcript issuance</p>	<p>Students will be able to download a digitally certified transcript in their application portal uSis. They will have access to the portal up to 60 days after the last day of their last semester at Leiden University.</p> <p>In case a transcript is required after that date, it can be requested via email to exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl.</p> <p>Transcripts are downloadable by students at any time, but should be complete by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for Fall students: mid-February to mid-March - for Spring and Full-Year students: mid-June to end of August <p>Please note that this is an indication only. Unfortunately, we are not able guarantee transcript issuance dates.</p> <p>Transcripts will not automatically be mailed to our partner institutions. Should it be necessary that you receive the students' transcripts directly from us, please contact us on exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl to discuss. Please refer to our website for more information about the transcript.</p>

CORONAVIRUS NOTICE

<p>Impact on 2022-2023 studies & Updates</p>	<p>Education at Leiden University including exchange programme currently takes place on-campus.</p> <p>For most recent updates on the coronavirus, current restrictions and its impact on Leiden University, please refer to the university's coronavirus website</p>
<p>Campus Protocol</p>	<p>The Leiden University Campus Protocol lists the measures and guidelines that apply within the University to ensure the safety of our students and staff and reduce the risk of a further spread of the virus.</p>



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!
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🌐 universiteitleiden.nl/exchange



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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.



Leiden University: Founded in 1575 the oldest university in the Netherlands



A leading academic centre

For teaching and cutting-edge research



16 Nobel Prizes

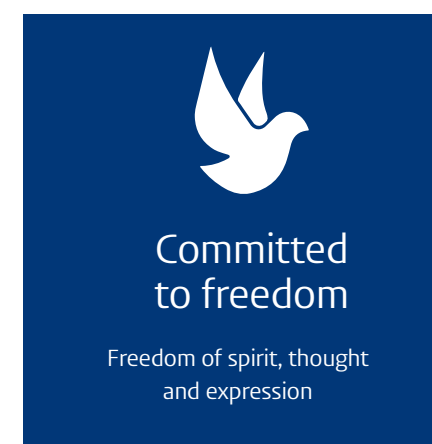
Laureates include Albert Einstein



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Faculties

Archaeology, Governance and Global Affairs, Humanities, Law, Medicine/Leiden University Medical Center, Science, Social and Behavioural Science



Committed to freedom

Freedom of spirit, thought and expression



A top-ranked university

Leiden University is consistently highly ranked world-wide



120 Nationalities



110K

alumni including:
King Willem-Alexander
and Prime Minister of the Netherlands
Mark Rutte



Collaboration and networks

Strategic connections with renowned knowledge institutes, museums and academic world players



120 Nationalities



110K

alumni including:
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Mark Rutte



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
- 📍 orientationweek.org
- 📍 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
- 📍 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
- 📍 isnleiden.com
- 📍 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