IES Amsterdam - Psychology & Science
at
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)

http://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad/programs/amsterdam-psychology-sciences

Watch the webinar on this program to better understand its structure:
http://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad/advisors-faculty/webinars

Our mission is simple: to provide you with the best study abroad program possible— which includes the highest quality academic and cultural experiences.

While in Amsterdam, you take 15-17 credits per semester at VU University Amsterdam (VU), known for its strong offerings in psychology and the sciences.

Create your own academic experience by selecting from the following required and optional components:

- Psychology or science courses at VU University Amsterdam (VU) (3 credits each)
- One IES Abroad area studies course (optional, maximum of 6 credits)

Courses

This is a list of planned course offerings. After you are accepted, you will see a list of final course offerings in your MyIESabroad account.
Courses

Students take a combination of IES elective & Dutch language and culture courses and VU courses.

**VU University Amsterdam (VU) Tracks and Courses**

Course offerings change yearly

You can find more information about the Spring 15 options offered at the VU through the links below: You can find the full course listing at [http://www.studyabroadinamsterdam.nl/en/semester/Courses/course-list/index.asp](http://www.studyabroadinamsterdam.nl/en/semester/Courses/course-list/index.asp)

Below sample course offerings in:
- Psychology
- Health science
- Computer science
- Life science
- Earth science

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**Psychology**
- Communication
- Consumer Psychology
- History and Philosophy of Psychology
- Applied Cognitive Psychology
- Religious psychology
- Theme: Addiction
- Theme: Cognition and Emotion
- Theme: Emotional Development
- Theme: Human Cooperation: Selfishness versus Altruism
- Theoretical Psychology: Philosophy, Cognition and Brain

**Sciences**
- Computer Systems
- Databases
- Introduction to Partial Differential Equations
- Logic and Sets
- Software Modelling
- Decision Making in Policy and Public Administration
- History of Science
- Networks and Graphs
- Science and Society
- Security
- Algebraic Topology
- Numerical Methods
- Statistical Data Analysis
VU University Amsterdam (VU) Courses are organized in “specialized tracks”

It is important to note that, at VU, students enroll in what the VU calls a “specialized track”—a group of related courses in your major, taught in English. A specialized track is a combination of courses in one specific field, therefore giving the student specialized knowledge of that field. An additional advantage is that courses within the track never clash in the timetable.

Students choose 1 specialized track + 1-2 elective (including Dutch)

Students going to VU in Amsterdam should commit primarily to one study track but can also enroll in courses outside their track as well as long as their schedule allows it. Most courses at VU are small and highly interactive.

Specialized Tracks - Psychology

Computer Sciences
* Databases and Security
* Deep Programming
* Introduction to Computer Science
* Network and Systems
* Webservice and Data
* Web Science
* Advanced Programming and Development
* Artificial Intelligence

Life Sciences
* Evolutionary Biology and Ecology
* Biomolecular and Neuro Science
* Brain and Mind
* Topics in Biomedical Sciences

Health Sciences
* Five Big Issues in Health
* Psychology Identifying Influences
* Biomedical Topics in Health Care
* Biomedical and Health Interventions

Earth Sciences
* Earth Surface
* Solid Earth

Specialized Tracks - Sciences

All tracks can be found on the VU website
Programme at the VU

- Courses are clustered in specialized tracks
- Students take a total of 15 US credits – 3 to 4 courses are part of a track; one to two courses are electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Half of Semester</th>
<th>Second Half of Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course 1 track</td>
<td>Course 3 track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3 IES credits)</td>
<td>(3 IES credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course 2 track</td>
<td>Course 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3 IES credits)</td>
<td>(3 IES credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 5: elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3 IES credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total IES credits: 15</td>
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Students choose 1 specialized track + 1-2 elective (including Dutch)

*Note: Courses at the VU are listed in ECTS. 2 ECTS=1 U.S. Credit.*
Specialized Tracks – Example Psychology

Social Psychology

Courses (3 US credits each):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Half of Semester</th>
<th>Second Half of Semester</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict and Cooperation</td>
<td>Evolutionary Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>Group Dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;D3: Individual and Organizational Diagnosis</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(period 3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Period 3 is in January / June when students have already left Amsterdam

Specialized Tracks – Example Sciences

Biomedical and Health Interventions

Courses (3 US credits each):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Half of Semester</th>
<th>Second Half of Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Challenges in Global Health</td>
<td>Clinical Trials and Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Strategies in Disability and Neuropathy</td>
<td>Tailoring Medicine and Telemedicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Development</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(period 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Period 3 is in January / June when students have already left Amsterdam

Note:
Fall classes are offered in Periods 1 and 2.
Spring courses are offered in Periods 4 and 5.
Note: All courses will be taught in English, however, it is possible that course descriptions are still in Dutch for now.

Courses in these classes are the 3rd year level (final year) of Dutch university so fairly advanced. VU will carefully screen the transcript of records of the student in order to determine whether their background knowledge is sufficient to meet the course entry requirements. If this is not the case, we will ask the student to change their selection of courses.

- To see the 3-4 course components of each track, click on the track.
- Fall classes are offered in Periods 1 and 2. Spring courses are offered in Periods 4 and 5.
**Elective Courses**

Students take a combination of IES elective & Dutch language and culture courses and VU courses.

**IES Abroad Courses:**
Students can take a total maximum of 6 credits at IES. This includes the 2 that are related to the IES Dutch language and culture course. However, if they are looking for a Dutch course the VU does offer one for 3 US Credits that is more intense and fully immersive.

**VU Elective courses:**
Students who want freedom of choice can choose from over 300 English taught Bachelor’s courses which are part of the regular academic programmes. Courses from different disciplines can be combined. Students have to meet the entry requirements mentioned in the course descriptions for each course. It is also possible that they may not be able to take the courses of choice as these may clash in the timetable.

Students selecting Sciences courses should be aware that these courses often have clashes with other courses in the timetable. Therefore it is often not possible to combine them.

- **Elective VU Courses**
  - Daily Dutch (language course)
  - European Integration & Networks
    - To offer a comprehensive course on strategic socio-economic and spatial driving forces of European cooperation including trade and network developments, ranging from transport to knowledge and communications networks, in the light of emerging European integration policies
  - Typically Dutch
    - Learn about the dilemmas of Dutch national history (writing) by reading and discussing scientific handbooks, articles and lectures. Improve knowledge of Dutch modern history in general and specific themes like nationalism, pillarization, and tolerance
    - These courses are taught in the early evening and do not clash with the specialized tracks

- Other options for an elective course:
  - Alternative course at VU outside Psychology and Sciences program to fulfill a requirement at home
  - One of the IES Abroad courses:
    - Introduction to Gender and Sexuality (6 credits)
    - Research Experience (6 credits)
    - Studio Rietveld (3 credits)
    - Highlights of Dutch Art (4 credits)
    - Dutch Language and Culture (2 credits)

*Under the condition that there is no time clash with specialized track and that student has appropriate academic background*
Other Program Information

Programme Dates:
- Fall: mid/late August - 3rd week December
- Spring: late January – end of May/early June

Museum card included: students can visit most museums in the Netherlands for free

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) is located on a campus about 20 min from downtown Amsterdam.

Housing with intl students (but Dutch students also live on campus)
Volunteer opportunities available

Housing

- Housing at VU campus Uilenstede (5 min cycling from the academic campus)
- Single rooms:
  - private bathroom
  - shared kitchen with other international students
- Sport & cultural facilities on Uilenstede campus
- Dutch students also live on campus