STUDY ABROAD EXCHANGE

October 26, 2021

Utrecht University

University College Utrecht
Exchange
Curriculum planning: Annemieke Meijer
Application 2022-2023
FAQ and Q&A
What?
Who can go on exchange?

* In principle, everyone if....
  • you have no shortage of credit
  • No social or academic probation before exchange semester
  • Note: these criteria must be met at the time of application and at the time of departure for your exchange
Why?

- Academic
- Network
- Broaden horizon
- Good for your CV
- Great experience
Corona and impact on exchange?

What do we know? What do we do now?

October 2020

October 2021

Your exchange semester?

?
Semester abroad
Curriculum planning

Dr. Annemieke Meijer
Head tutor
When can I go on exchange?

In your 4th or your 5th semester. What does that mean for this years round:

If you are currently in your 3rd semester:
In your 5th semester (Fall 2022)

If you are currently in your 2nd semester (halfie):
In your 4th semester (Fall 2022) or in your 5th (Spring 2023)

Or:
If you are currently in your 1st semester:
In your 4th semester (spring 2023) or 5th semester (fall 2023)*

* The application round for AY 2023-2024 will start next year. This session will focus on academic year 2022-2023!
4th semester

Advantages
• You will be back on campus for the full final year, which makes it easier to plan:
  • Curriculum (many level 3 courses are only offered once a year)
  • Research Thesis (15 EC)

Disadvantages
• You will have limited time to plan your exchange
  • Major not yet clear
  • Planning 3 semesters ahead
  • Still getting used to UCU life in general (however: note the alternative deadline!)
5th semester

Advantages
• Last chance for exchange
• You can get great input for your thesis

Disadvantages
• You might miss out on UCU level 3 courses that are only offered in fall
• It may be more difficult to spread your level 3 courses over several semesters
Where can I go on exchange?

[Hold your breath – Sahra will tell you in a minute]
How do I prepare a study plan for my exchange application?

- Make an appointment with your tutor!
- Try to construct your curriculum such that you will meet your graduation requirements even without courses on in exchange counting for that
- Plan methodology courses as much as possible before going on exchange
- Mathematics course for SCI majors to be finished in semester 3 if abroad in semester 4
- Language and culture requirement to be finished in semester 3 if abroad in semester 4
Can I take any courses I like?

• You will be asked to send a Learning agreement to the UCU Exam Board once you have arrived at your destination and chosen your classes
• The Exam Board will assess the level & number of credits and if approved the courses will be added to your transcript
• Note: the default course load on exchange is 30 EC. However, if you have a ‘credit surplus’ (at least 7.5 EC extra completed before going abroad), you are allowed to take courses worth 22.5 EC only
Exchange programs:

1. UCU exchange programs
2. UU wide exchange programs
3. UCR
Where?

- 143 partners
- 6 continents
- Over 140 spots at UCU alone
- Partners who match UCU
- A high chance of getting selected for your first choice
How...

To choose

• Based on academic content and courses of interest
• Based on personal preference for a region/country
• Language
• Finances
• Facilities
Parents/guardians
Savings/job/investment etc
DUO public transport compensation
DUO loan
Erasmus+ Grant
Holland Scholarship
Travel green grant
ICM grant Morocco (2 per year)
UCU grant
Timeline

Orientation
- Where do you want to go and why? Do they offer the courses you like and need?

Study Plan
- Not only for exchange semester but your academic career at UCU
  - Approval form online

Motivation Letter
- Max 1 A4
- For your first choice

Destinations
- 2 mandatory
- 3 maximum
- Make sure the Study field of the partner is compatible with your needs

Deadlines
- 1 December 2021 (both semester)
- April 8th second round for class of 2024
1 Nov

Apps can be submitted on Osiris and formdesk

1 Dec

Deadline for exchange in 22-23

24 Dec

Outcome announced to students who chose UCU as their first preference

22 Jan

Latest date to find out which partner you have been placed at

8 April

Second chance deadline for current first semester students
More information?

• Flyer (all UCU destinations and number of spots)
• Description of destinations
• Facebook pages and websites of host universities
• Former UCU exchange students &
• Exchange students currently at UCU

For university wide: students.uu.nl/exchange
Questions

Q: Do I pay tuition fees at the host university?
A: No, tuition fee is payed at your home university

Q: How do you know which courses to take to fit into your programme here?
A: see answer on the first question in next slide

Q: Do I need to pay campus fees here or will that be transferred to the partner for my housing cost there?
A: You don’t have to pay campus towards UCU and can use that money to finance your housing costs at the host university

Q: Is it a good idea to use the exchange to explore interest of our major?
A: See answer on the first questions in next slide

Q: I want to go to Berkeley, what are my chances?
A: We can only select you for University of California after which they place you at one of your top 3 choices. Please only choose California ONLY if you are happy being placed at two different California colleges too.
Q: Can I take courses unrelated to my study?
A: Studying abroad for one semester is a wonderful opportunity to take courses that UCU does not offer, and to explore fields outside of your major. In principle, you can take any academic course that you fancy. At the start of the semester, you will send a proposal to the UCU Exam Board, who will check levels and number of credits. Once this so-called Learning agreement is approved, the courses will be added to your UCU transcript automatically on completion. Ideally, try to build your curriculum plan in such a way that during your exchange semester you will not need to take particular courses in order to meet the UCU graduation requirements, so try to finish things like the Langue & culture requirement and the methods requirement prior to going. Remember that in principle, track finishers should be taken at UCU.

Q: What stresses students out most that they didn’t expect?
A: the gap between students getting accepted by UCU for their exchange and getting the formal acceptance by the partner. Depending on the semester that you will go on exchange the time in between can range from 3 months to 8 months.
Q: Will we be living on campus at the host university?
A: It depends, most have on campus housing which you can apply for. Other only offer assistance.

Q: What support systems are in place during your exchange?
A: Depends on what type of assistance. In general, both UCU and your host university will be able to assist you as needed.

Q: How is the selection procedure?
A: At UCU we will be looking at the requirements and if you meet those, you are almost guaranteed your first preference. UU destinations will be located based on a lottery.
Questions?

Join the other sessions about how to finance an exchange and the regional Q&A sessions.

Jossy Borlée and Sahra Farah
UCU International Office
Room 018, College Hall
open office hours:
TUE 14:00-15:30 hours; THU 15:00-16:00 hours
ucu.internationaloffice@uu.nl
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