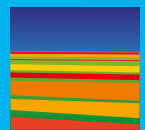


# A top ranked university in Amsterdam's thriving business district



**holland**  
international  
study centre

For progression to  
Vrije Universiteit  
Amsterdam

[hollandisc.com](http://hollandisc.com)

A man with a blue backpack, wearing a striped t-shirt and jeans, stands in profile in front of a glass entrance. The entrance has a sign that reads "holland international study centre".

holland international  
study centre

Holland International Study Centre in Amsterdam will prepare you for a range of undergraduate degrees at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam).

Your pathway  
Universiteit An



# to Vrije nsterdam

## Contents

- 02 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 04 Holland International Study Centre
- 06 Why study in Holland?
- 08 Amsterdam life
- 10 Make a home in Amsterdam
- 12 How to apply





UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT



VU AMSTERDAM  
BIKE



STUDY AREAS



MODERN CAMPUS

# Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam) is a place for new ideas and freedom of expression. Founded in 1880, this top research university encourages a broad education and worldview – its name literally translates to ‘Free University’.

## World-ranking university

Studying at VU Amsterdam, you can expect a high-quality education built on research and interactive learning. Classes are made up of small groups, encouraging you to develop independent thought and contribute to discussions. It is no wonder this research university consistently appears in the world top 200 university rankings.

## Fast-paced business setting

VU Amsterdam is an urban campus university based in one of Holland’s fastest-growing business districts, Zuidas. A financial hub with high-tech office space, Zuidas attracts big companies including Google, Mitsubishi, Boeing and Nikon. As a student at VU Amsterdam, you can use this inspiring location as an opportunity to network with businesses and find work opportunities.

## Real-life learning

Thanks to its partnerships with major companies, VU Amsterdam teaches you how to apply your skills and knowledge to the real world. You can explore your career options with work placements and internships during your degree, or even study a semester in another country. For advice, workshops and one-to-one coaching, you can book an appointment with the University’s career service.

## Urban campus

Study on a campus with everything you need all in one place. Classrooms, study areas, a library and restaurants are all in one building. There are also sports clubs and student societies to suit any interest, from volleyball and rowing to choir, art, debating and Model United Nations.

Events, open-plan spaces and a culture of collaboration create a place where everyone feels part of the community. Supportive staff place great value on making all cultures, nationalities and religions feel welcome.

To find out more about the University, visit [hollandisc.com/VU](http://hollandisc.com/VU)

RANKED

# Top 150

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD  
UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2020

OVER

# 800

COMPANIES IN NEARBY  
ZUIDAS DISTRICT

STUDENTS AND STAFF OF

# 84

NATIONALITIES

“

The location is very strategic. It is really nearby the business district and living here in Amsterdam is also a very nice opportunity for me. There are also a lot of communities where you can actually get in touch with people from different nationalities and cultures. They provide a very good platform to build your future career.



## Francine from Indonesia

Studied International Foundation Year  
in Business and Management  
Now studying BSc International Business  
Administration at VU Amsterdam





WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE



PANORAMIC VIEWS OF AMSTERDAM



A RIVERSIDE SETTING



MODERN STUDY FACILITIES

# Holland International Study Centre

Study in Amsterdam alongside students preparing for a wide range of English-taught degrees at top universities in Holland.

## Study in Amsterdam

At our dedicated centre in Amsterdam, supportive teachers will help you reach the grades you need to get on to your chosen undergraduate degree at a university in Holland.

### At the International Study Centre, you will:

- develop your academic and English language skills
- gain an introduction to your chosen subject
- get to know Dutch culture and teaching methods before you start your degree
- learn how to research and write university essays
- practise presenting and join in group discussions
- feel supported by your personal tutor and peers
- join in social events organised by the student committee
- develop employability skills by writing and working through a personal development plan.

## International Foundation Year

The International Foundation Year is a three-term programme that prepares students for entering the first year of an undergraduate degree in Holland.

For progression to selected degrees at VU Amsterdam you can choose from two pathways:

- **Business, Economics and Social Sciences**
- **Science, Engineering and Computing**

Your chosen pathway will introduce you to core and subject-specific modules related to your chosen progression degree. You will be assessed through a mix of presentations, extended essays and end of module assessments.

### Key facts

**Entry:** September

**Age:** 17 or older

**Course length:** Three terms

**English language entry requirements:** IELTS 5.0 overall (5.0 in writing, 4.5 in all other components)

TOEFL overall 35-45 (minimum sub skills: writing 14, speaking 12, listening 3, reading 3)  
TOEIC (600)

For PPE: IELTS 5.5 overall (no score below 5.5) / TOEFL overall 46 (minimum sub skills: Writing - 18, Speaking - 16, Listening - 7, Reading - 8)

**Academic entry requirements:** Good high school graduation grades or equivalent academic study

## Study plan guide

Programme	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
International Foundation Year		T E R M 1				T E R M 2				T E R M 3			Start your degree at VU Amsterdam

Holiday

### Your degree at VU Amsterdam

Once you successfully complete your programme and achieve the required academic grades, you can progress to an English-taught degree at VU Amsterdam.

### Degree progression from the Business, Economics and Social Sciences pathway

#### BSc International Business Administration

This course puts theory in an international context with a strong focus on people. You will study fundamental business disciplines, including strategy, organisation, marketing, accounting, finance, supply chain management and technology. In your third year, you will spend a semester studying at one of VU Amsterdam's partner universities around the world, such as University of Sydney, University of Leeds or University of Illinois. With a wide choice of elective and specialised modules, you can shape your course to your interests.

#### BSc Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

This is a multidisciplinary programme integrating philosophy, politics and economics. It is the first full PPE degree in continental Europe, giving you a broad foundation before you specialise and choose from a wide range of elective modules in your second year. Areas of study include History of Philosophy, Political Science: State, Power, Conflict and Macro and Microeconomics. Your final year includes international study or an internship, giving you the chance to put theory into practice.

### Degree progression from the Science, Engineering and Computing pathway

#### BSc Business Analytics

This programme offers a unique combination of mathematics, computer science and business administration. Studying Business Analytics will enable you to utilise the power of data science, big data, statistics and machine learning to optimise business processes. Business Analytics graduates are in high demand, with around 95% going straight into full time employment (VU Amsterdam estimate).

#### BSc Computer Science

This course is all about our interaction with information, from railway timetables to health data. You will learn how computer networks share information efficiently and securely, and how users interact with systems. VU Amsterdam is the only academic institution in Amsterdam to offer a specialisation in software engineering and you will be taught by lecturers who work on top-level research. They have close relationships with businesses in the field, offering you the opportunity to work on real-life projects during your programme.

For the latest information, including modules, country-specific entry requirements and progression requirements, visit [hollandisc.com](http://hollandisc.com)

“  
I didn't feel quite ready to go to a European university because I knew the level was going to be really difficult. So I thought I needed some preparation, that's why I chose the foundation year. I think everyone should take a foundation year so that they can transition more smoothly.



### Noemi from Ecuador

Studied International Foundation Year in Science and Engineering

# Why study in Holland?

Top-ranked universities, degrees taught in English and a visa that enables you to apply for jobs after you graduate make Holland a perfect study destination.

## World-class universities

Many international students choose Holland for its range of globally-respected degrees taught in English. Universities here are known for their academic quality, interactive learning, and respect for sharing ideas. That is why you will consistently see a high number of Dutch universities listed in the world top 200 rankings.

## Exciting graduate careers

Knowledge and talent is valued in Holland, so after you graduate you can take advantage of a one-year post-graduate visa while you look for employment. You also have the option to find part-time work during your studies. With fast-growing industries and large Dutch multinationals such as Philips, Shell, KLM, ING Bank and Unilever, Holland offers exciting career prospects. That's why 25% of international graduates remain in Holland after five years (Nuffic survey, 2018).

## European travel

You will have the advantage of studying in English in the heart of a European city. Your visa will cover the full duration of your studies in Holland and also allows travel throughout the Schengen area of Europe. Bustling cities like Paris and Berlin are each just a three-hour train journey or a one-hour flight from Amsterdam, giving you exciting travel opportunities on your doorstep.

## Multicultural and open-minded

With 100,000 students choosing Holland as a study destination every year, you will be part of a vibrant community of students from all around the world. Dutch people are welcoming and accepting of new ideas, so it is easy to talk to them and share your culture.

# 95%

OF DUTCH PEOPLE SPEAK ENGLISH

# 100,000

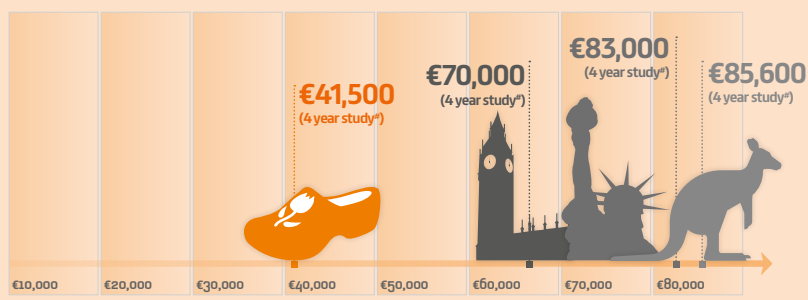
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT IN HOLLAND EVERY YEAR

“

I really like the Dutch culture. For me it is very safe, open, tolerant and also very lovely and friendly. Also, it is important that there is more reasonable tuition for the students.

## Affordable fees

University tuition fees in Holland are significantly lower compared to the UK, Australia or the USA. For example, a similar three-year degree can cost around €20,000 more in the UK and €40,000 more in the USA or Australia.



\*The cost for four-year study includes a foundation course.



## Tashi from Tibet

Studied International Foundation Year in Business and Management  
Now studying BSc International Business Administration at VU Amsterdam





KING'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



VONDELPARK, GREEN SPACE IN CENTRAL AMSTERDAM



RIJKSMUSEUM AMSTERDAM



EVENING SKYLINE



THE NINE STREETS AREA



AMSTERDAM CANALS



JOIN AN OPEN-MINDED COMMUNITY



DISTINCTIVE DUTCH ARCHITECTURE



# Amsterdam life

Holland International Study Centre is located in the heart of Amsterdam. Living in the Dutch capital, you will find an open-minded city with one of the largest student populations in the country.

## Welcoming and safe

Amsterdam is a welcoming city home to more than 180 nationalities. Despite being the country's largest city with around 800,000 inhabitants, it keeps a small town feel with cobbled streets and neighbourhoods that are easy and safe to explore. There is also a large student population thanks to the city's three universities, so it is an exciting place to live and learn.

## English-speaking

Although their first language is Dutch, around 95% of people in Holland also speak English. Amsterdam itself is one of the most international cities in Holland. Friendly locals can help you if you get lost and you will easily find menus, signs and restaurants in English. This gives you plenty of opportunity to practise the language while you study here.

## Exciting start-up scene

Amsterdam is an attractive destination for companies with its diverse talent pool, international population and excellent transport links. As a result the city has a growing start-up scene. It's the 4th city in Europe to become a top tech innovation hub outside Silicon Valley (KPMG, 2019), and every year it hosts The Next Web tech conference. There is also a growing financial district, Zuidas, which is home to 800 Dutch and international companies including ABN AMRO and EY.

## Historic and picturesque

For a relatively small city centre, just over 219km<sup>2</sup>, Amsterdam is packed with things to see and do. Picturesque canals, historic buildings dating back to the fourteenth century, world-class museums and art exhibitions are all perfect to explore on foot or by bicycle. The city also holds many music festivals and sporting events throughout the year so there is always something to do.

## Well-connected in Europe

Amsterdam is a well-connected city and public transport and dedicated cycle routes make it easy and safe to get around. If you want to explore other European cities, Brussels, Antwerp and Paris can be reached in just a few hours by train. For international travel, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is a major European hub, flying to destinations across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and America.

# 180

NATIONALITIES IN AMSTERDAM

MORE THAN

# 880,000

BIKES

“

It was a really easy decision to choose Amsterdam because it's a liberal country and it's fun; the people are open-minded and friendly. There are a lot of students in Amsterdam. It's easy to make friends here. Even within The Student Hotel there are Dutch people as well, so they give you information about everything you need to know about Holland.



## Lara from Syria

Studied International Foundation Year in Business and Management  
Now studying International Business Administration at VU Amsterdam



AMSTERDAM CANALS



VAN GOGH MUSEUM



RELAXED CAFÉS



HISTORIC BUILDINGS



PICTURESQUE HOUSES



WELL-CONNECTED CITY





**THE  
STUDENT  
HOTEL**

# Make a home in Amsterdam

During your foundation programme, you can stay at The Student Hotel in Amsterdam. It offers a well-designed, comfortable and welcoming home with a lively student community.







EN-SUITE BATHROOMS



GYM FACILITIES



COMMON AREAS

### The Student Hotel

International Study Centre students can choose to live at The Student Hotel, a homely and welcoming place for anyone studying in Amsterdam. There is a choice of locations: Amsterdam City and Amsterdam West. Each is within easy reach of the International Study Centre, shops, restaurants and transport links.

#### Room types

- Budget
- Standard
- Standard Plus
- Executive

#### Facilities and services

- Games room / lounge area
- Fully-equipped gym
- Study and co-working spaces
- Launderette
- Bar, café and restaurant
- Free use of a bicycle
- 24-hour security

#### About your room

- Wide range of comfortable, fully-furnished rooms and luxury suites
- Private / en-suite bathroom
- High-speed internet and Wi-Fi included
- Energy costs and services included
- Private or shared kitchens
- Flat screen TV
- Bed linen provided
- Room cleaning

### Welcoming and convenient

Making friends is easy thanks to regular social activities and summer barbecues. If you need help there is always someone on hand to ask, and there is 24-hour security so you feel safe and secure. Optional extras include a chef's starter kit with all the basic cooking accessories you need, or a pre-paid meal plan for the on-site restaurant.

#### How to book

We have reserved rooms at The Student Hotel specifically for International Study Centre students. When you confirm your offer to study with us, we will email you a specific link to book your room (if you requested this in your application). Be sure to wait for this link before you book so you get the correct room, price and date.

For more information about The Student Hotel, visit [hollandisc.com](http://hollandisc.com)

“

The Student Hotel is a very good place to live because I can spend my time with friends from other countries. The Student Hotel has good services like study rooms, fast Wi-Fi and games like billiards. At weekends, I usually spend my time exercising at the gym or playing soccer with my friends at The Student Hotel.



**Aditara from Indonesia**

Studied International Foundation Year in Science and Engineering

# How to apply

You can apply to Holland International Study Centre through your local education agent or directly via our website.

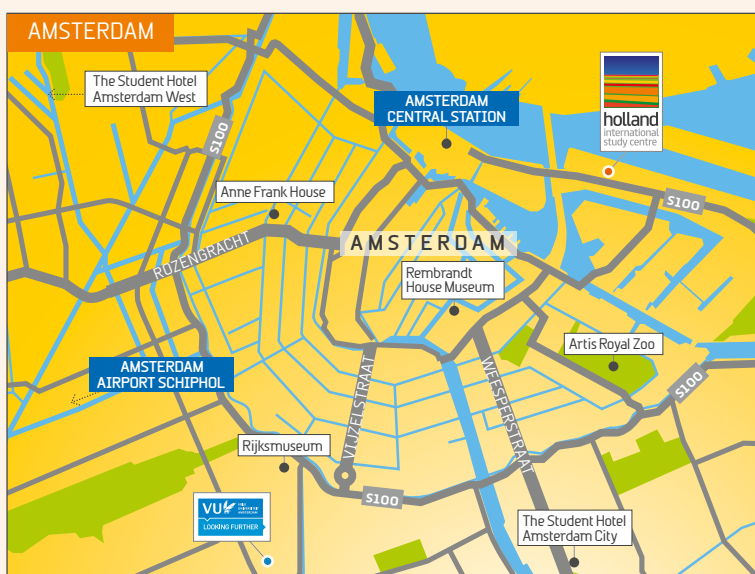


## Where to find us

**Holland International Study Centre**  
**Piet Heinkade 55**  
**1019 GM**  
**Amsterdam**  
**Netherlands**

If you are applying directly and have a question, our Student Enrolment Advisors will be happy to help. They speak a variety of languages and understand several more.

**For full application information visit [hollandisc.com](http://hollandisc.com)**



## AMSTERDAM CENTRAL STATION TO:

**HOLLAND INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE** 15 MIN WALK / 1 TRAM STOP  
**VU AMSTERDAM** 15 MIN BY TRAM (FROM CENTRAL STATION)  
**AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL** 17 MIN BY CAR / 15 MIN BY TRAIN  
**THE STUDENT HOTEL AMSTERDAM WEST** 18 MIN BY CAR / 10 MIN BY METRO  
**THE STUDENT HOTEL AMSTERDAM CITY** 15 MIN BY CAR / 10 MIN BY METRO

## Visas and permits

- The application procedure for your entry visa is arranged by your university.
- Your visa is valid for the duration of your studies in Holland so you do not need to renew after you complete your programme at the International Study Centre.
- You are allowed to work up to 16 hours a week or hold a full-time job during summer holidays.
- Graduates are eligible to stay for one year applying for jobs with the Orientation Year for Graduates Seeking Employment.

## Student insurance

All international students should have the protection of appropriate accident and medical insurance for the duration of their time in Holland. You must arrange student insurance before you arrive in the Netherlands. You can take advantage of our insurance package from Aon, or choose to use another insurance company. You will be sent information as part of your application process.





“

In the beginning it was hard, but right now I think I feel more comfortable, more confident to stay without my parents independently, and I think it was the right decision.



VU AMSTERDAM CAMPUS



STUDY AREAS



### Bamdad from Iran

Studied International Foundation Year  
in Science and Engineering  
Now studying BSc Computer Science  
at VU Amsterdam

## Connect with us

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Instagram.com/hollandisc

linkedin.com/school/holland-international-study-centre



Programmes at Holland International Study Centre are delivered by Study Group.

For more information visit [studygroup.com](http://studygroup.com)



Study in Holland is an initiative of Nuffic to promote and inform students about Dutch higher education worldwide. Study in Holland is the starting point for all international students who are considering Holland as a study destination.

To learn more, visit [studyinholland.nl](http://studyinholland.nl)



### Disclaimer

This prospectus is issued for the general guidance of students considering entry to Holland International Study Centre from September 2020. The information is correct at the time of going to press and the programmes and services described herein are those which Study Group is planning to offer.

We make every effort to ensure that the content of our prospectus, website and other materials is accurate. However, on occasion it may be necessary to alter certain aspects of a module or programme, for example if changes are required to meet external requirements; or if programmes are over-subscribed and the quality of teaching would be adversely affected as a result.

In such circumstances, we may have to alter the timetable, change the teaching location of the programme or, in extreme cases, cancel or substantially amend the content of the programme. Should any of these changes become necessary, we will give you as much notice as possible before they come into effect and ensure that any disruption to your studies is minimised. If your programme is cancelled, we will work in consultation with you to offer a suitable alternative, subject to meeting the admission requirements for that programme or the opportunity to obtain a refund of any advance payments you have made for the programme.

The alternative programme may not be at the same International Study Centre as the original offer. Study Group reserves the right, where applicable, to amend the regulations governing programmes at Holland International Study Centre. We therefore strongly recommend that immediately prior to making any application to – or accepting any offer from – us, you refer to the most up-to-date version of the programme descriptions and specifications and the regulations on the Holland International Study Centre website.

Neither the university in this prospectus nor Study Group shall be liable for any errors or omissions that may be contained in this prospectus.