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 groningen

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international relations

University of Groningen

2010 – 2011



Information Guide for Exchange Students

www.rug.nl/internationalstudents



University of Groningen 2010 – 2011

Profile of the University of Groningen, founded in 1614

The University of Groningen (RUG; Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) was founded in 1614 and is one of the oldest research universities in Europe. The university provides the highest level of education and offers the widest range of academic and technical courses available at any university in the Netherlands.

There are ten faculties:

- Arts
- Behavioural and Social Sciences
- Economics and Business
- Law
- Philosophy
- Spatial Sciences
- Theology and Religious Studies
- Medical Sciences
- Mathematics and Natural Sciences

All faculties offer courses at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level. Over 25.000 students currently study at the University of Groningen.

As a strong international orientation is vital for academic research and education, internationalisation is a priority for the RUG. The university has extensive networks with universities abroad, both within Europe and further afield. English is the language of instruction for over 70 degree programmes. As a result, more than 2.600 international students from over 100 countries find their way to the University of Groningen.

As investing in top quality is one of our main objectives, we provide extra funding for high quality programmes. Students have different backgrounds, abilities and ambitions. At the University of Groningen excellent students are given the opportunity to take extra courses to intensify their knowledge or to broaden their scope. For instance we offer Research Master's Programmes, which strongly emphasize research.

City

Founded some 1000 years ago, the city of Groningen currently has 185,000 inhabitants. It is the cultural, regional and business capital of the northern part of the Netherlands. Groningen has many restaurants, cafes, museums, theatres and art galleries. Groningen's industries include the exploration and production of the largest natural gas field in Western Europe, one of the largest world-wide sugar factories and one of the country's largest shipbuilding centres.

The city is renowned for its lively atmosphere, its safe community character and its young population. In fact one in every 5 inhabitants is a student. A wide range of facilities caters for just about every taste in sports, culture and recreation. For those who



want to step out of urban life for a while, the rural and largely unspoilt countryside is only a 15-minute bicycle ride away.

Groningen can be reached within two and a half hours by train from Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and in three hours (by bus or train) from Bremen (Germany). There is a direct railway connection with Amsterdam International Airport (Schiphol) every hour and a bus connection to the airport in Bremen.

Exchange students

To study in Groningen as an exchange student, your university needs to have an exchange agreement with the University of Groningen. Please check with your own university's exchange coordinator whether there is such an agreement.

The University of Groningen has exchange agreements with universities all over the world and offers a wide range of courses for exchange students. These courses are mainly for students who are in the final year of the bachelor's programme and for students who are taking a master's programme. The courses are **taught in the English language**.

The exchange coordinator of your university will inform you about the available courses and any selection procedures. He or she will also arrange the application for you.

Dutch is the official language of the Netherlands but most people also speak English. Exchange students have access to the university's computer facilities, sports facilities and to the university library. The university will assist you in finding appropriate housing. If a visa is required the faculty of your choice will inform you about the procedures and help you with the application.

Academic matters	
Bachelor's degree	A Bachelor's degree (3 years) is awarded to students who obtain 180 credits.
Master's degree	The minimum number of ECTS credits needed to obtain a Master's degree is mostly 60 credits, 1 year (usually in the fields of humanities, economics, social sciences and law). 120 credits, 2 years, are required for programmes in the field of natural sciences and research masters, whereas other programmes vary from 180, 3 years, (as in medical sciences) to 240 credits, 4 years.
European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	ECTS is an EU standardized system for measuring study load as a way to facilitate international mobility. One ECTS credit represents 28 hours of full-time study (including contact hours, reading, independent studies, preparation for exams, etc.). 60 credits represent one year.
Study Load	30 ECTS - per semester 60 ETCS - per year



<p>Grading</p>	<p>The Dutch grading scale runs from 10 (highest mark) to 1 (lowest mark). As an indication: The lowest passing grade is 6; 9s are seldom given and 10s are extremely rare and grades 1-3 are hardly ever used.</p> <p>10 excellent extremely rare 9 very good seldom given 8 good 7 satisfactory 6 pass 1 to 5 failure</p>
<p>Courses</p> <p>Websites</p>	<p>The University of Groningen offers a wide range of courses which are taught in the English language. These courses are part of the regular curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate level. The courses cover the disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics • Management and Organisation • Arts (Dutch Studies) • Behavioural and Social Sciences • Spatial Sciences • Law (limited number of places available). <p>Course catalogue: www.rug.nl/ocasys/ Dutch studies: www.rug.nl/let/onderwijs/dutch/studyprogramme/index</p> <p>Exchanges / short courses www.rug.nl/prospectiveStudents/index</p>
<p>Semester I</p> <p>Application Deadline</p>	<p>Orientation 2 + 3 September 2010 Start of classes 6 September 2010 Semester break 20 December 2010 – 3 January 2011 End of classes 4 February 2011</p> <p>15 April 2010 for university wide exchange. Faculty to Faculty exchange have different deadlines for application.</p>
<p>Semester II</p> <p>Application Deadline</p>	<p>Orientation 3 February 2011 Start of classes 7 February 2011 End of classes 2 July 2011</p> <p>1 November 2010 for university wide exchange. Faculty to Faculty exchange have different deadlines for application.</p>
<p>Application information</p> <p>Enclosures</p>	<p>Exchange students should apply through your International or Study Abroad Office. Exchange applications will only be accepted as official nominations from a partner university.</p> <p>With your application you should enclose the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ academic transcript ▪ curriculum vitae / resume ▪ TOEFL score of 580/IELTS score of 6.5 (non native speakers only)



Visa / residence permit	
Visa	Exchange students with the nationality of Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea, United States, Vatican City do not need a visa for entering the country. All other non-EU nationalities should check the website whether they need a visa.
Website	www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/information/visaImmigration
Residence permit	<p>All students who stay longer than 90 days need to apply for a residence permit. A residence permit is a document that states your identity, your nationality and your right to reside in the Netherlands. A residence permit is issued with a specific purpose in mind, which in your case would be 'studying'. A residence permit will usually be issued for the duration of your registration at the RUG and may be extended on a year-by-year basis if all conditions are complied with.</p> <p>The documents to bring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a valid passport (and visa type C or D if applicable) ▪ one passport photo in colour (3 x 4 cm) made in the Netherlands ▪ evidence of adequate financial means of support: for exchange students: approx. € 650,- per month ▪ evidence that you have a placement as a student; your student registration card ▪ evidence that you have adequate health insurance.
Website	<p>www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/information/residencePermit</p> <p>The University of Groningen pays the fee for the residence permit.</p> <p>Your faculty contact person will assist you with this. They will have the application form, assist you with the documents you need for the application. Please contact them upon arrival.</p>
Work permit	
	<p>Non-EEA nationals require a student residence permit before they can apply for a work permit. Note that the application for a residence permit usually takes approximately 3 months. With this, you are allowed to work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ full-time in June, July and August; OR ▪ no more than 10 hours per week throughout the academic year. <p>The employer must apply for the work permit, so first you have to find an employer or employment agency willing to do this for you. You need to submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a copy of your residence permit



Websites	<p>Please look at the websites of AON or IPS for more information and costs. You can apply for the insurance through their websites. It is also possible to apply for the IPS insurance at the Cash Desk (de Kas) of the University.</p> <p>Keep in mind! When you have a paid job in the Netherlands you are obliged to conclude the 'basic insurance' (basisverzekering). This will cost you approximately € 95 per month.</p> <p>AON - www.students-insurance.eu IPS - www.ace-ips-nl.com/</p>												
Financial requirements													
Living expenses	<p>The cost of living varies from student to student. This overview is an estimation.</p> <table><tr><td>Housing</td><td>€ 250 - 340 per month</td></tr><tr><td>Food</td><td>€ 180 per month</td></tr><tr><td>Spending money</td><td>€ 55 per month</td></tr><tr><td>Insurance</td><td>€ 36 - 55 per month</td></tr><tr><td>Language courses</td><td>€ 100 - 450 per course</td></tr><tr><td>Bicycle (good quality second hand bicycle)</td><td>€ 45 - 110</td></tr></table> <p>Security deposit Approximately 2 weeks rent</p>	Housing	€ 250 - 340 per month	Food	€ 180 per month	Spending money	€ 55 per month	Insurance	€ 36 - 55 per month	Language courses	€ 100 - 450 per course	Bicycle (good quality second hand bicycle)	€ 45 - 110
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Financial guarantee	<p>Students are required to show evidence of adequate financial means of support. For students with non-EU nationalities the amount is approximately € 650 per month.</p>												
Contact details													
Mailing address	<p>University wide exchanges:</p> <p>University of Groningen International Service Desk Office for International Relations P.O. Box 72 9700 AB Groningen</p>												
Street address	<p>Broerstraat 5 9712 CP Groningen The Netherlands Tel: +31 50 363 8181 Fax: +31 50 363 7100</p>												



Website	<p>Email: ISD@rug.nl www.rug.nl/isd</p> <p>Opening hours Mo – Fri: 1 – 4 PM</p> <p>Faculty exchanges: Exchanges are often arranged through the different faculties. More specific information on exchange opportunities and contact details can be found on the website of the Faculty.</p> <p>http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/exchanges_shortprogrammes/</p>
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