

# *Exchange*

University College Maastricht

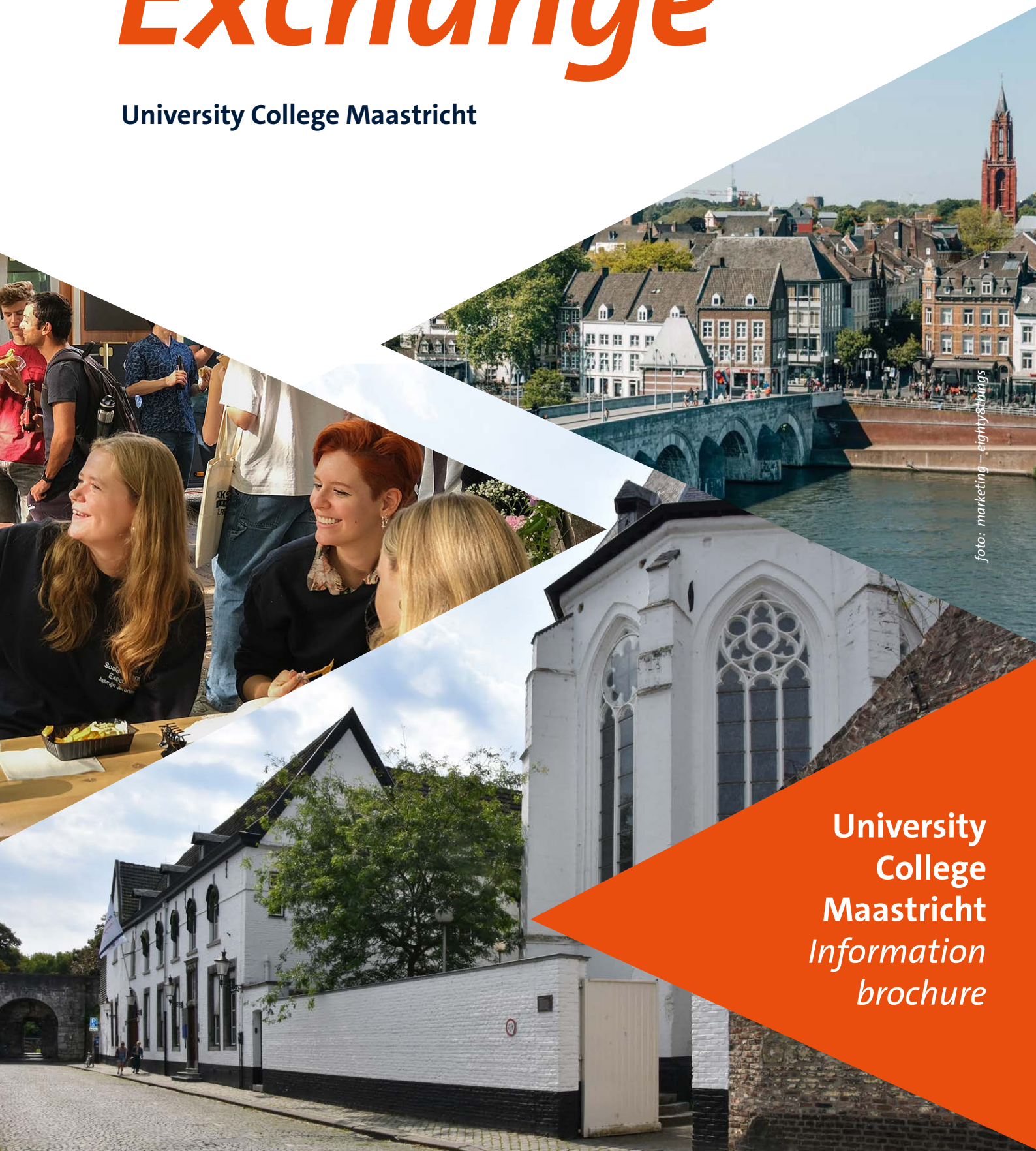


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University  
College  
Maastricht  
Information  
brochure



# *In this guide*

<b><i>The destination of your journey</i></b>	<b>4</b>
The Netherlands and Limburg	4
Maastricht, the heart of Europe	5
Practical matters	6
 <b><i>Maastricht University</i></b>	 <b>8</b>
Problem-Based Learning (PBL)	9
10 reasons to choose Maastricht University	11
Academic calendar	12
Information on courses	13
Application journey	14
The Student Portal	15

# The destination of your journey

## The Netherlands

### *A country full of sophisticated cities*

If you think of the Netherlands, you probably think of tulips, windmills and cheese - but this country has so much more to offer! Enjoy the bracing wind with a beach walk along the Dutch coast or a cycling tour on the Veluwe. Experience the welcoming and burgundian hospitality of North Brabant and Limburg, the authentic charm of our Hanseatic cities and the Achterhoek in eastern Holland, and the freedom of the provinces of Friesland and Groningen with their wide horizons.

In addition to these cultural characteristics, the Netherlands also provides you with excellent entertainment until the early hours. The nights in the Netherlands become the 'starry night' of its people and the travelers who seek an unforgettable experience. There are numerous popular cities in the Netherlands, for the best nightlife that can blow your mind. Visit the squares that are lined with pubs and restaurants and simply enjoy watching people stroll by, while enjoying a drink or a meal on a terrace with friends.

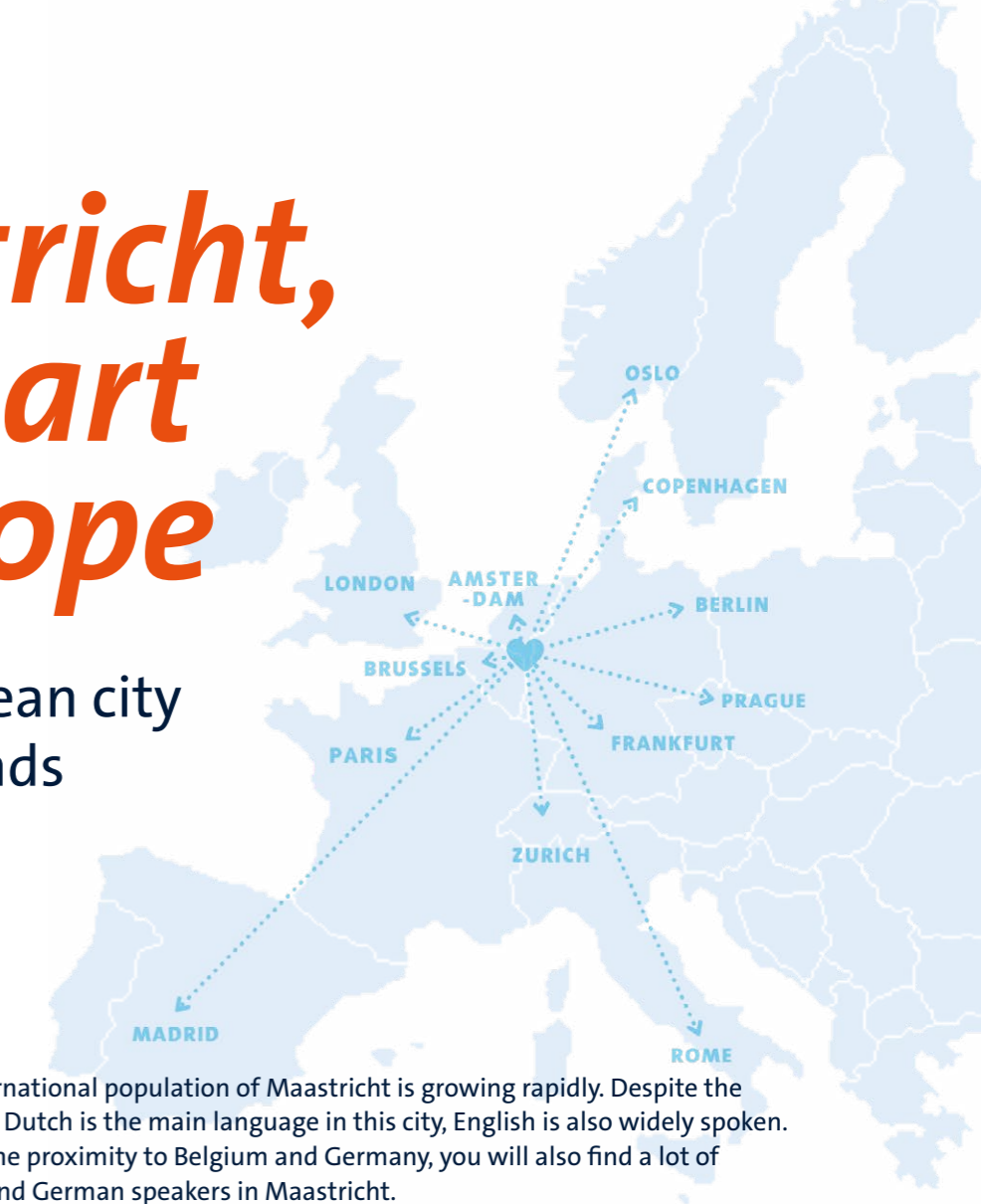
## Limburg

### *Limburg, the "not so Dutch" part of the Netherlands.*

The southern part of Limburg is unlike the rest of the Netherlands. This applies not only to the landscape, where the rolling hills stand out against the backdrop of brightly coloured grass and grain fields, and the Maas meanders from nostalgic village to authentic town. For nowhere else in the Netherlands do traditions, the burgundy lifestyle and good food with good company play such an important part of daily life as here. Which is why so many of our Dutch compatriots feel like they are abroad when visiting Maastricht. How lucky would you be to study in this award-winning, five-star landscape!

# Maastricht, the heart of Europe

## The most European city of the Netherlands



The international population of Maastricht is growing rapidly. Despite the fact that Dutch is the main language in this city, English is also widely spoken. Due to the proximity to Belgium and Germany, you will also find a lot of French and German speakers in Maastricht.

Maastricht is characterised by its, historic buildings and trendy designer stores, adventurous caves, menus full of taste sensations and terraces full of conviviality, vibrant festivals and its wide squares. In short, the perfect city to have the best time while studying!

Maastricht is centrally located in the heart of Europe, bordering Belgium and Germany, which means that Brussels is an hour-and-a-half away, Amsterdam two, Paris and Frankfurt three, and London four-and-a-half hours.

Any location you might want to visit can be reached within a few hours. The plane, train, bus will take you pretty much anywhere you want to go. The high-speed train services (InterCityExpress and Eurostar), are the best choices for travelling throughout Europe. The relatively short distances between cities and the comfort of travelling (sightseeing on the go, no check-in, arrive in city center) makes it the quickest way of getting around. If you prefer to fly anyway? There are eight airports within an hour's travel.

**Europe is at your fingertips!**

Discover  
Maastricht



# Practical matters

## Let's make Maastricht your home

### Housing

#### UM Guesthouse

Most exchange students end up staying at the UM Guesthouse, which is located in the vicinity of the university buildings. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that all students who apply will get a room at the UM Guesthouse. Applications for the guesthouse are processed on a first-come first-served basis. Reserving a room at the UM Guesthouse is only possible via their online reservation system ([www.maastrichthousing.com](http://www.maastrichthousing.com)).

#### How to find housing on your own?

Of course, you are not obliged to rent a room in the UM Guesthouse, even though it is the easiest option. You can also find a room on the private market. It is not always easy to find a room in Maastricht, so it is best to start as soon as possible. Maastricht Housing acts as intermediary for the local/private housing corporations in the so called "social" rent sector. The MyHousing portal will notify you whenever new offers that meet your needs become available.

### Costs of living

Students looking to move to the Netherlands are drawn to Maastricht because the cost of living is lower than in other Dutch student cities such as Amsterdam or Rotterdam. Living in Maastricht is a good decision for those looking to stretch their budget.

Living, studying  
and working in  
Maastricht



For example, living in Maastricht will save you money on the biggest monthly expense: rent. On average rent in Maastricht is about 34% lower compared to student housing in Amsterdam.

The daily expenses include accommodation, insurance, books and study materials, groceries, transportation, clothing and personal care, leisure, and other expenses. Experience has shown that students living and studying in the Netherlands spend approximately € 1.850 a month. For more information about the costs of living visit the Maastricht University website ([www.maastrichtuniversity.nl](http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl)).

### Visa

Nationals of the following countries do not need a long-stay visa to study in the Netherlands: Members of the EU, EEA, Switzerland, UK, Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea, USA and Vatican City State. A longstay visa is necessary for nationals of all other countries (if you are a Chinese national, make sure you carefully read the information about the Nuffic certificate.) For a stay of more than three (3) months, all non-EU nationals need a residence permit. Please check the webpage of our Visa Office for more information.

If applicable, Maastricht University's Visa Office will contact you regarding the visa and/or residence permit application via your Maastricht University email account.

### → Important note

It is compulsory for all international students, studying at a Dutch university to have an adequate health and liability insurance during their stay.



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Watch a video about  
Maastricht University

# Maastricht University

The most international  
university in the Netherlands

University College Maastricht is a Liberal Arts and Sciences Honours College that provides small-scale and personalised bachelor's education. UCM students are highly motivated, and wish to create their own curriculum based on their personal interests. At UCM, students are part of an international community, working and socialising with students from more than 50 countries. We offer more than 150 different courses in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences from which students can choose to add to their academic profile. An exchange at UCM will help prepare today's students – the professionals of tomorrow – for a successful career in a highly globalised environment. They obtain an understanding of international developments in their own field of study, as well as of social and cultural differences.

Located in the heart of Europe, we are an open and accessible community where cultures, perspectives and ideas come together. We welcome talented people from all over the world with open arms.

# Problem-Based learning (PBL)



Read more  
about PBL

## Teaching Method

*Problem-Based Learning (PBL) offers you a different, more active, way of learning from traditional university education.*

a lot of time between tutorial meetings to read articles and books, and to do research in the university library.

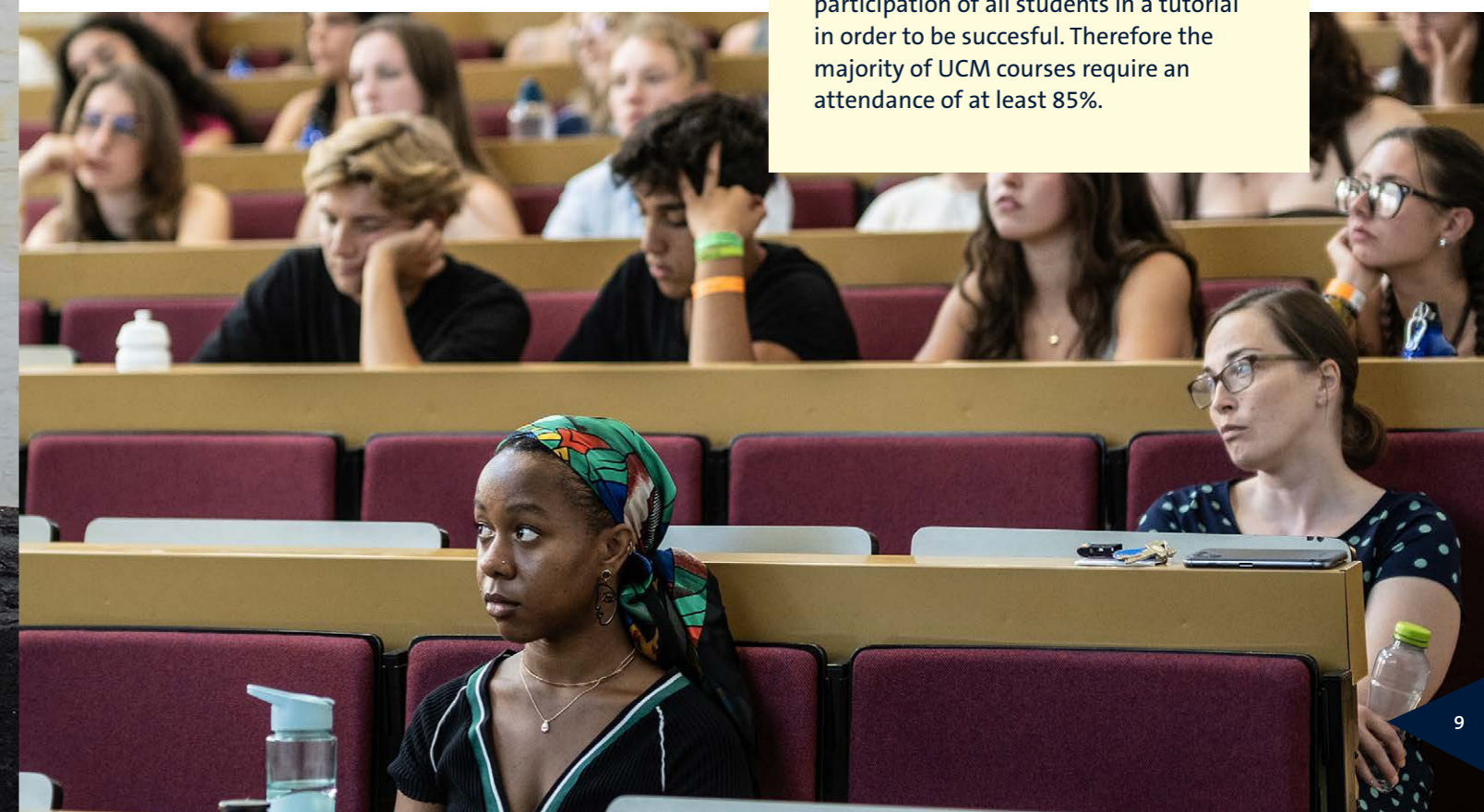
Students do not spend hours listening to lectures - although there are some - instead, per course, they attend two-hour tutorial group meetings twice a week. These meetings form the core part of the study programme and are the driving force for learning. Within the tutorial groups, problems are presented and researched as cases.

The international classroom- in other words, working in small tutorial groups with people from different cultural backgrounds- adds to the benefits of the PBL system. By approaching problems from a variety of perspectives, students become acquainted with different ways of seeing things and that enhances the quality of discussions. In this way, the international classroom prepares you for the rapidly globalising labour market.

A tutorial group is composed of 12 students plus a tutor: a staff member who guides the group process but who does not automatically give answers to the problems. It is up to the students to discover where their knowledge falls short and to fill in the gaps. To do so, you will have to spend

### → Important note

PBL requires adequate preparation and participation of all students in a tutorial in order to be successful. Therefore the majority of UCM courses require an attendance of at least 85%.





Get to know more about  
UCM through our Instagram  
[@um\\_universitycollegemaastricht](https://www.instagram.com/um_universitycollegemaastricht)

## 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE MAASTRICHT / MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY



### **An honors liberal arts College**

The first college in The Netherlands to receive a quality label from the NVAO for the achievement level of its graduate students. In addition the NVAO awarded UCM with the prestigious distinctive quality feature "Small-scale and Intensive Education". UCM has received the Top Quality Seal in Elsevier Dutch University College Ranking.



### **Located in the heart of Europe**

Maastricht is located in the southernmost tip of the Netherlands, in the heart of Europe. Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, and London can be reached within a few hours and there are several airports within an hour's drive.



### **Personalised approach with Problem-Based learning**

At Maastricht, you learn in small groups, which means you actively participate and gain essential skills for your future. Teachers often know you by first name and the threshold to walk into a professor's office is low.



### **Vibrant student life**

The nights in Maastricht turn into unforgettable experiences for its inhabitants and travelers. There are numerous popular bars in Maastricht; visit the squares that are lined with pubs or dance the night away at one of the internationally renowned clubs.



### **The most international university of the Netherlands**

With more than 50% foreign students, 40% foreign staff and almost all programs in English, Maastricht University is the most international university in the Netherlands. Students obtain an understanding of international developments which helps prepare them for a successful career



### **Great student support**

University College Maastricht and related study associations are here to support and guide you in your academic journey, future career and help you adjust to life in Maastricht.



### **One of the best young universities worldwide**

Maastricht University is ranked in the Top 10 of the Times Higher Education for Young Universities. Young in spirit, interdisciplinary and inclusive; this is how we characterise our academic community. Together with our partners, near and far, we contribute to solving societal issues.



### **UM SPORTS**

UM SPORTS offers a wide variety of sports, an extensive accommodation, wide opening hours and a good atmosphere. Whether you want to exercise for your health, to improve your fitness level, to relax, to feel more energised or to meet friends: the possibilities are endless at UM SPORTS!



### **The city of Maastricht**

Maastricht boasts beautiful historic little districts, welcoming and exceptionally good restaurants and bars, and plenty of art and attractions, study areas on, for example, the Tapijnsterrein; Maastricht is a young and vibrant city with a historic city center.



### **Universalis**

As an exchange student at UCM you automatically become a member of Universalis, our study association. The board members of Universalis will organize social events on numerous occasions throughout the semester. You are always welcome to join them! Check out their weekly stories and posts on Insta: [ucmsa\\_universalis](https://www.instagram.com/ucmsa_universalis)

# Academic calendar

The academic calendar is divided into two semesters, a fall and a spring semester. Each semester is further divided into three different course periods:

- **Fall semester:** course periods 1, 2 and 3
- **Spring semester:** course periods 4, 5 and 6

Course periods 1, 2, 4 and 5 consists of seven education weeks including one exam week. Course periods 3 and 6 consist of three weeks of so-called skills training; these are not compulsory for exchange students.

## Fall semester

Compulsory Introduction Days:  
late August - early September

PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3
<b>Education</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Project period</b>
Early September / Mid-October	Late October / Mid-December	Early January / Late January
<b>Exams</b>	<b>Exams</b>	
Mid-October	Mid-December	
<b>Resits</b>	<b>Resits</b>	
Mid-December	Mid-March	

## Spring semester

Compulsory Introduction Days:  
late January

PERIOD 4	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 6
<b>Education</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Project period</b>
Late January / Mid March	Late March / Mid May	Late may / Mid June
<b>Exams</b>	<b>Exams</b>	
Mid March	Mid May	
<b>Resits</b>	<b>Resits</b>	
Mid-May	Mid-June	

# Information on courses

UCM facts  
and forms



## Study load and skills training

### Course database

In the online course catalogue, you will find all information about our bachelor's courses at University College Maastricht. This includes information about when a course is offered, prerequisites, number of ECTS credits, learning outcomes and competences and literature. ([www.ucm.nl/exchange](http://www.ucm.nl/exchange))

### Skills training

Focusing on the mere acquisition of knowledge is not sufficient if you are a student at University College Maastricht. You have to be able to work in all kinds of organizations, which implies that you need to develop social and communication skills. And don't forget research and presentation skills or argumentation and international negotiation, these are also essential in today's employment market.

### Study load

As an exchange student at UCM, you will register for at least 20 ECTS and maximum 30 ECTS per semester. A full time student will enroll in 2 courses (each 5 ECTS) and 1 skill (2.5 ECTS) in both periods 1 and 2 for fall and period 4 and 5 in spring. During periods 3 and 6, our project periods, students enroll in 1 project.

Exchange students will discuss their study plan with their home university's Academic Advisor and will enroll accordingly.

### → Important note

Most courses (except for the skills trainings) are worth 5 ECTS credits. One ECTS credit equals 28 hours of study, which means that one regular course equals 140 hours of study, 36 of which should be considered contact hours.

PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 6
Max. 2 courses and 1 skill (max. 12.5 ECTS credits)	Max. 2 courses and 1 skill (max. 12.5 ECTS credits)	Max. 1 project (max. 5 ECTS credits)	Max. 2 courses and 1 skill (max. 12.5 ECTS credits)	Max. 2 courses and 1 skill (max. 12.5 ECTS credits)	Max. 1 project (max. 5 ECTS credits)
Min. 2 courses (10 ECTS credits)	Min. 2 courses (10 ECTS credits)		Min. 2 courses (10 ECTS credits)	Min. 2 courses (10 ECTS credits)	

# Application journey

## Steps to entry

### Before you apply

#### 1. Eligibility

As a bachelor student you need to have completed at least two semesters at your home university before starting your exchange. At UCM we ask that exchange students meet a min GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0.

#### 2. English language requirement

All courses are taught in English. To successfully complete your courses, we request proof of an advanced level of English of all students, comparable to a Cambridge B2 level. If you are a native speaker or your home university teaches solely in English, you do not need to provide proof.

Our Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach requires you to actively engage with the subject matter in your tutorials. To be able to participate in UM's teaching method it is essential to master an advanced level of both written and spoken English.

### How to apply

#### 3. Nomination by home university

As an exchange student, your home university must officially nominate you. After your home university submitted your nomination, you will be informed about the online registration and application procedure via our "First Mail".

#### Nomination by home university

Fall semester deadline → 1 April

Spring semester deadline → 1 October

#### 4. Online registration and application

After you have finished your online application, we will process this as soon as possible. We will send your acceptance letter by email about three months before the start of your study in Maastricht. If applicable, Maastricht University's Visa Office will contact you regarding the visa and/or residence permit application.

#### Application deadline by student

Fall semester deadline → 15 April

Spring semester deadline → 15 October

# The Student Portal

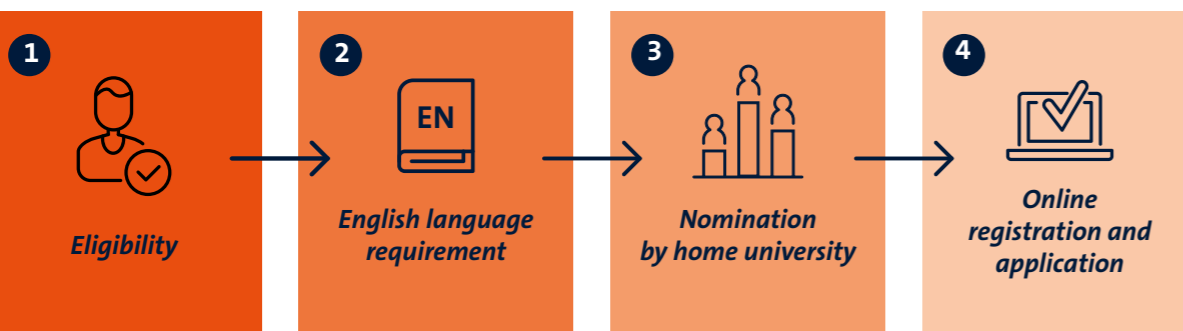
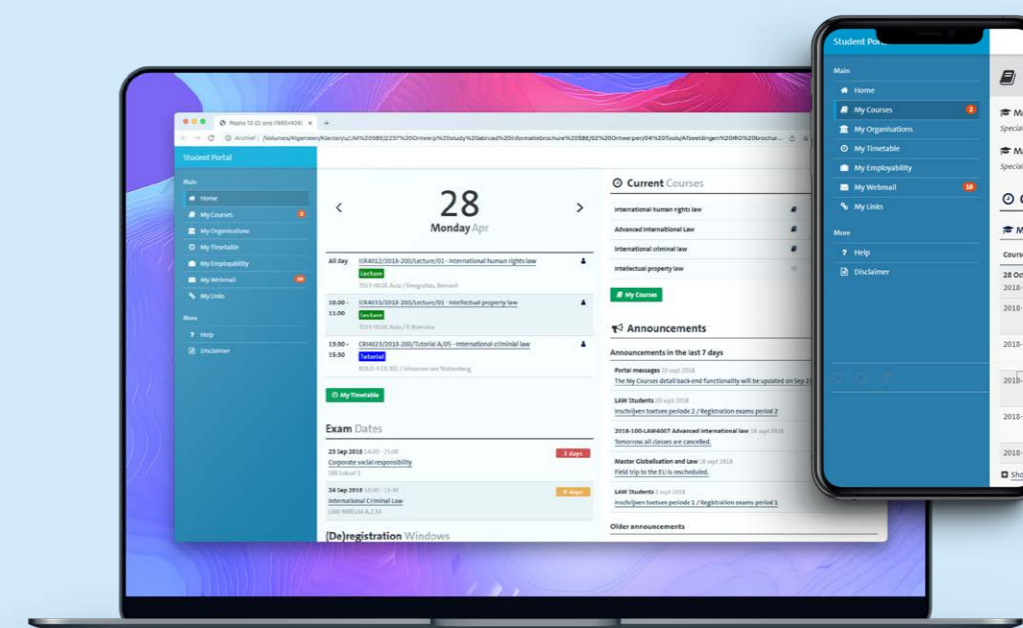
## Electronic learning environment

*The Student Portal application provides information on courses and serves as a portal for all student information. Throughout the programme you can access your own course materials, for example readers, PowerPoint presentations, assignments, exams and various means of communication such as announcements, group discussions, timetables, etc. You will be introduced to the Student Portal at the start of your programme.*

#### What can you find on the Student Portal:

- Information on the courses you attend (including a database with course descriptions);
- Manuals and forms;
- Deadlines for reregistration and withdrawal;
- Education and examination schedules;
- Examination results;

- Announcements from your tutor or course coordinator;
- A portal to submit your assignments;
- All materials to take the course (for example literature, cases, data, sheets and old exams);
- The entrance to a community that is especially designed for your tutorial group, where you can work individually on tasks and learning goals, and together with your fellow students on group assignments;
- Your UM e-mail account;
- Entrance to the UCM Student Intranet, on which you can find information about Student Counselling, the International Relations Office, the Student Council, the Code of Conduct, regulations, rights and duties etc.



## University College Maastricht

Would you like to know more about studying abroad?  
Contact our International Relations Officers if you have questions:

Email address: [ucm-iro-incoming@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:ucm-iro-incoming@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

 Follow us on Instagram!  
[@um\\_universitycollegemaastricht](https://www.instagram.com/um_universitycollegemaastricht)



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[www.ucm.nl/exchange](http://www.ucm.nl/exchange)