

Frequently Asked Questions and *answers* for American prospective students

As an American student, can I receive financial aid/loans?

FAFSA is available to American students studying at Maastricht University. If you would like to take out a FAFSA loan, follow the steps outlined under '[Application Procedure](#)'. If you are not eligible for federal loans, [SallieMae](#) is a good alternative. These private loans are intended to cover your studies, room and board, as well as travel expenses.

If you possess dual nationality (US/EU), you may be eligible for monthly loans through [DUO](#).

Is Maastricht University 529 eligible?

Yes, Maastricht University is eligible for 529 college saving plans.

Do I need a visa to live in the Netherlands?

If you will stay in The Netherlands for more than 90 days, you do not need a visa; you need a residence permit. The Maastricht University visa office will file for a residence permit on your behalf once you have sent them the required documents. A breakdown of the residence permit process is listed on Maastricht University's [website](#).

What is an apostille stamp?

Before coming to Maastricht University, you need to have foreign documents, such as your birth certificate [legalised](#). An apostille stamp proves that your foreign documents are legitimate. The apostille stamp is required by the Maastricht municipality in order to obtain your residence permit. Make sure you do this well in advance as the process may take a few months.

Why do I need to pay my tuition and living expenses in a single lump-sum transfer?

This is a requirement for all first year non-EER students in The Netherlands. The lump sum proves that you can fully afford your first year of tuition AND proves that you are financially stable for at least one academic year. After your first year at Maastricht University, you can choose to pay tuition in monthly instalments.

Once you have arrived in The Netherlands, you will need to open a [Dutch SEPA bank account](#). Once you have opened this account, the university will transfer the remainder of your deposit (proof of sufficient living expenses) back to you.

Does Maastricht University have a campus?

Maastricht University has a [decentralised campus](#). There are two main campuses: Randwyck (East of the Maas River) and the inner city. Located at Randwyck are the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, the University Sports Centre, the University Hospital and the Randwyck Library. Located in the inner city are the Law Faculty, the School of Business and Economics, University College Maastricht, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Science and Engineering and the Maastricht Science Programme.



Maastricht University has two satellite campuses in Brussels (Belgium) and Venlo (The Netherlands), which is about 80 kilometres north of Maastricht.

If there is no centralised campus, where do I live?

In Maastricht, you will find many student houses. A student house is generally a larger house/building where students each have their own bedroom, but share a kitchen and a bathroom. There are also several dorm-type residences in Maastricht. All housing is independent from the university, but full of students from different Maastricht University faculties. It is best to find housing near to your faculty as you will likely get around by bike and on foot.

We suggest you start searching for housing two to three months in advance. After Maastricht University students graduate in either July or February, there will be many rooms available. We strongly advise you find housing **before** arriving in Maastricht.

Rent prices vary widely in Maastricht. If you plan to live in the inner city, rent will naturally be higher. If you are looking for more affordable options, you might consider housing in neighbourhoods such as Scharn and Heer (East of the Maas river) or near the Dutch-Belgium border.

There are many housing companies which charge a membership fee. Keep in mind that these companies often require your physical presence at viewings. If you are unable to attend viewings physically, you will need to find a stand in. Another popular way to find student housing is through Facebook. There are many Facebook groups in which students list their rooms for rent or sub-rent.

Do I need health insurance?

[Health insurance](#) is compulsory in The Netherlands. Without it, the Dutch National Healthcare Institute can fine you. You can apply for health insurance once you arrive in The Netherlands with the help of the International Help Desk in the Student Service Centre. You may be eligible for [healthcare subsidies](#), but the International Help Desk can help you determine your eligibility as well.

I still have questions! Whom should I contact?

Don't worry! We know that the admissions process and transition to life in The Netherlands can be overwhelming, but we are here to help you.

With any questions and/or concerns, contact: info-usa@maastrichtuniversity.nl