

# Leiden University

## Study Abroad/Exchange Information Sheet

2021-2022



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University

## INSTITUTION

Name	Leiden University
Website	<a href="http://www.universiteitleiden.nl">www.universiteitleiden.nl</a> (Dutch) <a href="http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en">www.universiteitleiden.nl/en</a> (English)

## CONTACT

Name	Student and Educational Affairs (SEA), International Relations
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Email	Admission information about specific applications: (Ms) Hieke Hoekstra, Coordinator Mobility Team: <a href="mailto:exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl">exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl</a>  Partnerships: (Ms) Martine Wierenga, Senior International Relations Officer: <a href="mailto:internationalrelations@sea.leidenuniv.nl">internationalrelations@sea.leidenuniv.nl</a>

## APPLICATION

Application deadlines	Fall Semester and Full Year	April 1
	Spring Semester	October 15
Nomination deadlines	Although there is no formal nomination deadline, we recommend nominating students at least four weeks before the application deadline.	
Admission requirements	A GPA of 3.2 out of 4.0 and at least two years of prior academic study, unless otherwise agreed in bilateral agreements.	
Language requirements	<p>IELTS Academic test: at least 6.5 TOEFL test: 90 (internet-based test) Cambridge CAE (Certificate of Advanced English): 180 Cambridge CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English)</p> <p>Test results should not be older than two years. Institutional TOEFL (ITP) tests are not accepted. A few individual courses may require a higher test score. All courses at <a href="#">LUC</a> require IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 100 (internet-based).</p> <p>An English language test result is not required if students have completed their secondary education in Australia, Canada (English-taught programmes), Ireland, New Zealand, the UK or the USA, or if they have an International Baccalaureate diploma.</p> <p>Chinese nationals also need to get a <a href="#">Nuffic Certificate</a>.</p>	
Online application and admission	<p>In our online application students are prompted to submit course requests and to download a nomination form for their home university co-ordinator to sign. Once an application is complete, if the student meets the admission criteria, course requests are forwarded to the faculties for evaluation. A student must be admitted to several specific courses before an offer of admission can be extended. We recommend that students not book flights or make other travel plans before receiving their offer of admission. In addition to their desired courses, students should also select at least 3 alternative courses in case their first choices are not all approved.</p> <p><i>Please note: Leiden University is currently developing an online nomination system. Our partners will receive detailed information about the new procedure in due time. Until then nominations can be sent to <a href="mailto:exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl">exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl</a></i></p>	
Required documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official Transcript</li> <li>• Nomination form</li> <li>• Motivation letter</li> <li>• Copy of passport ID page</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of student ID</li> <li>• English Language certificate (as listed above)</li> <li>• Nuffic certificate (Only Chinese nationals – as listed above)</li> </ul>

### PRE DEPARTURE

<a href="#">Website for international students</a>	<p>This website with information on life in the Netherlands and practical matters such as Visa, Housing and Financial Matters will help students prepare their stay.</p>
<a href="#">Housing</a>	<p>Like many universities in the Netherlands, Leiden University does not have a central campus or student dormitories. Instead, our faculties are spread throughout the cities of Leiden and The Hague and students live in accommodation rented via housing organisations and landlords. Prospective students should start to explore ways of finding accommodation well before arriving in the Netherlands to begin their studies. In general, students are expected to arrange their own housing.</p> <p>The Leiden University Housing Office does reserve a limited number of rooms for international students each year, but due to high demand and limited availability, the Housing Office cannot guarantee accommodation to all applicants.</p> <p>Prospective students are thus advised to <a href="#">apply for housing</a> in a very early stage, and to pay the housing application fee (€350) as early as possible after application, and well before the housing application deadline of June 1st for the Fall semester and November 15th for the Spring semester. There is no need to await a decision on their application for admission to Leiden University.</p> <p>For detailed information on housing fees and deposits please visit the <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
<a href="#">Visa and residence permits</a>	<p>Holders of EU passports do not require a residence permit to study at Leiden University. Students with a non-EU nationality must have a residence permit and in many cases an entry visa as well. Once a student has been admitted to Leiden University, the International Relations Office will work with the student to apply on their behalf. Students should note that there is a fee of €171 for visas/permits (this fee is subject to change) and strict deadlines for submission of documents.</p>
<a href="#">Insurance</a>	<p>All students are obliged to have health insurance to cover any medical costs incurred during their stay. We strongly recommend that students ensure they have medical insurance before their arrival. Students are also highly recommend to take out liability insurance to cover any accidental damage caused to other persons or property.</p>
<a href="#">Estimated living expenses</a>	<p>On average, students will need at least €928 – €1378 per month.</p> <p>Please note that public transport is not free for exchange students, but discount cards are available.</p>

### ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

<a href="#">Warm Welcome Service</a>	<p>On a number of days prior to the orientation weeks, Leiden University offers a free 'Warm Welcome Service' to assist international students with post-arrival practicalities. This service offers a great opportunity to attend all necessary appointments before the start of orientation.</p> <p>What is provided?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome desk at Amsterdam Schiphol airport</li> <li>• Assistance with rail travel to Leiden or the Hague</li> <li>• Welcome service at Leiden Central and The Hague Hollands Spoor train stations</li> <li>• Assistance with finding the way to the Leiden University student accommodation</li> <li>• Information lounges at locations in Leiden and The Hague offering help and advice on a range of practical matters, such as bank accounts, housing, student cards, insurance policies, GP/Doctor registration</li> </ul> <p>For the upcoming Warm Welcome dates please refer to our <a href="#">website</a>.</p>	
<a href="#">Orientation: Leiden and the Hague</a>	<p>1st semester:</p>	<p>The Hague: 23 – 27 August 2021 Leiden: 30 August 2021 – 3 September 2021</p>
	<p>2nd semester:</p>	<p>Leiden: 31 January – 4 February 2022 (For students studying in Leiden &amp; The Hague)</p>

	<p>Leiden University organises two orientation programmes:</p> <p><b>Orientation Week Leiden – OWL</b> - is the orientation programme to help new international students settle in and find their way around Leiden and the university.</p> <p><b>The Hague Orientation Programme – HOP</b> - is the orientation programme organized for Dutch and international students who study in The Hague, to help them discover city life, student life and university life of our Campus in The Hague.</p> <p>The orientation programme fee is €85 for participation in August and €45 for participation in January. These fees are subject to change.</p> <p>Participation in either OWL or HOP is required - and great fun!</p>
<b>Residence Life Programme (RLP)</b>	<p>Students living in university provided international accommodation in Leiden area and The Hague can rely on Resident Assistants living in their buildings. The Resident Assistants try to create a home away from home for the new tenants by organizing community building events, lending a sympathetic ear, and helping them with issues or questions they may be experiencing. They also function as a contact point, referring them to the appropriate Student Support Services, and as a liaison between DUWO, and the interests of the tenants.</p>
<b>International Student Network (ISN)</b>	<p>ISN organizes cultural and social events for international and internationally-oriented students in Leiden; a great way to make friends and get involved!</p>
<b>Dutch language and customs</b>	<p>Language courses are not available as regular exchange programme courses. The University's <b>Academic Language Centre</b> offers Dutch language courses for a fee.</p> <p>However, international students can register for the free <b>online Dutch language course Dutch &amp; More</b>, which has been developed for international students. Once they have completed the SPOC successfully, they can register for the <b>Dutch 1B course</b> at Leiden's Academic Language Centre for just 75 euros.</p>
<b>Student life</b>	<p>Leiden and The Hague are vibrant student cities with a rich <b>student life</b> and plenty of <b>sports and cultural activities</b>.</p>

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

<b>Student Support Services</b>	<p>The student support services desk is the student information point at <b>Plexus Student Centre</b> in Leiden, where students can go for information about study options, study skills and any other study-related matters. In The Hague, students are welcome at <b>Beehive Student Centre</b> for the services provided by Student Support Services. Students can contact the student support services desk with questions about issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• study programme choice</li> <li>• study skills</li> <li>• internships, careers and the job market</li> <li>• regulations and rights</li> <li>• finances</li> </ul>
<b>International Exchange Coordinators</b>	<p>Each faculty has an international coordinator who can assist incoming exchange students with questions regarding courses in that faculty.</p>
<b>Student psychologists</b>	<p>Our student psychologists are accessible and easy to approach. Students are welcome to arrange a consultation to discuss any problems they might be experiencing.</p>

<p><b>Disability services</b></p>	<p>Fenestra Disability Centre is Leiden University's service centre for students with a (learning) disability.</p>
<p><b>24/7 Emergency number</b></p>	<p>From the Netherlands: 071 527 66 66    From abroad: +31 71 527 66 66          For emergency services (fire, police, ambulance): 112           For more information on emergencies and incidents please check our <a href="#">website</a></p>

## ACADEMIC

<p><b>Academic calendar</b></p>	<p>The academic year officially runs from September 1 through to August 31. All faculties follow a semester calendar: the first semester lasts from September until December/January. The second semester courses start in February.</p>	
<p><b>Recommended arrival week (in order to benefit from the Warm Welcome Service and settle in prior to orientation)</b></p>	<p>1st semester:</p>	<p>mid-August (please check the Warm Welcome Service dates)</p>
	<p>2nd semester:</p>	<p>Third week of January (please check the Warm Welcome Service dates)</p>
<p><b>Semester dates</b></p>	<p>1st semester, from / to:</p>	<p>6 September 2021 – 6 February 2022 (exams: late Dec &amp; Jan).          *Courses in the Leiden University College (LUC) start slightly earlier, please see their <a href="#">calendar</a> for more information.</p>
	<p>2nd semester, from / to:</p>	<p>7 February 2022 – 10 July 2022 (final exams: May &amp; June)           Please note that housing contracts for the Spring semester go until August. July and August are typically months for exam resits.</p>
<p><b>Courses available to non-degree students</b></p>	<p>Students should check the <a href="#">Prospectus</a> under “Exchange” for information on course content, language of instruction, pre-requisites, semester dates and assessment.</p>	
<p><b>Languages of instruction</b></p>	<p>English and Dutch</p>	
<p><b>Credit and grading</b></p>	<p>Leiden University uses the ECTS credit transfer system. Most courses carry a load of 5 or 10 ECTS credits. As is common in the Netherlands, the top grades of 9 and 10 are rarely given.           A grading table will be provided on all transcript of records. Please check the website for <a href="#">more information on the grading table</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Standard course load</b></p>	<p>15-30 ECTS per semester for non-degree students.          30 ECTS is the standard full-time semester load for degree students.          1 ECTS credit equals 28 hrs of study, including contact hours and self-study.</p>	

<b>Course registration</b>	<p>Course approval occurs at the time of application to the exchange program. This process reserves students a place in the approved courses. Registration for approved courses in our online registration system occurs prior to the start of the semester. This process differs per faculty; students will receive further instructions close to the start of the semester.</p> <p>Questions regarding course registration after arrival should be directed to the <a href="#">academic coordinator at the faculty</a> responsible for the course a student wishes to take.</p>
<b>Examinations</b>	<p>Many exams for courses that are available to international exchange students are held so that students may return home by the end of December. There is, however, no guarantee that this will always be possible. Alternative arrangements for assessments may be possible, only at the discretion of the lecturer/department.</p> <p>Please note: It is not possible to make alternative arrangements for psychology exams. If students need to be back at their home university in early January, they cannot take psychology courses in block 2.</p>
<b>Transcript issuance</b>	<p>During the semester, students will have a Transcript Request Appointment with their International Programmes Officer.</p> <p>Transcripts will be issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- for Fall students: mid-February to mid-March</li><li>- for Spring and Full-Year students: mid-June to end of August</li></ul> <p>Please note that this is an indication only. Unfortunately we are not able to give a guarantee with respect to transcript issuance dates.</p>