

SU-in the Netherlands

This document serves as a resource for you to help your student as they prepare to study away. Your student has all of this information.

The semester before your student studies away, they will attend a GO Long Process Overview meeting and a Program-specific meeting. These meetings cover the next steps in the GO process including but not limited to how to transfer credit back to Susquehanna and information on applying directly to the University of Maastricht. You will see references to the University of Maastricht as well as the Center for European Studies (CES), which is the study abroad program.

Posted online is the CES Student Handbook, which is a PDF document found under "quick links" [on this page](#).

The typical semesters are similar to Susquehanna's. Students should refer to their acceptance documents for exact program dates. In general: Spring runs January-May and Fall runs August-December.

Application Process

Your student needs to apply directly to University of Maastricht as a visiting student. To ensure space in the program, your student should do this application by **October 1 (Spring), or March 1 (Fall)**.

In anticipation of this, they should have the following documents ready:

- A motivation letter
- One color passport picture (digital, in jpeg format)
- A scan or clean copy passport (photo page and any with stamps)
- Official transcript – ordered online.
- Academic recommendation

Their application is complete only when the application forms and all additional documents have been received by the CES program coordinator. This program does fill up quickly, and extension are not granted for the application process, so it is important to be timely with requested information.

Courses at Maastricht:

As a study abroad student at Maastricht's Center for European Studies (CES), your student will choose from courses from one of five program areas:

- [Business and Economics in Europe](#)
- [Politics, Law & International Relations in Europe](#)
- [Psychology & Neuroscience in Europe](#)
- [Public Health & Medicine in Europe](#)
- [Humanities & Social Sciences in Europe](#)

Maastricht differentiates between courses that are related to the program (so-called 'programme-related Majors': for example Marketing classes in the Business & Economics in Europe program) and courses that are not related to the program (so-called 'Electives'). At least half the selected courses need to be program-related. The courses have been pre-selected by CES from all courses offered to exchange students at Maastricht University, based on their relevance, average grade, passing rates and previous student experience.

The academic schedule for this program consists of 2 8-week block periods (Fall is blocks 1 and 2; Spring is blocks 4 and 5). Students take two or three courses per block period depending on the number of credits required. The number of credits awarded per course varies widely per department. Students earn 24-32 ECTS (12-16 SU credits) during a semester. Students must take one of the CES core courses in either the first or second half of the semester

Your student must take one of the required courses:

- *DUT1003: Dutch for Beginners 1 or 2*
- *DUT1006: Dutch Culture & Identity*
- Other Dutch themed class, i.e. *Dutch Art History*

CES staff will help your student navigate the enrollment process. Make sure they look for, read, and respond to CES emails and requests, especially around the issue of enrollment for courses as there is no add/drop period in Maastricht.

Courses at Maastricht follow a Problem-based learning (PBL) model, where students take an active role in their own learning process: discussing and solving cases, giving presentations etc. The role of the professor (tutor) is that of a guide or mentor, who oversees the learning process, but tries to interfere as little as possible. Because classes are so small, there is a lot of emphasis on participation and attendance.

With this program, it is very common to have classes four days per week and to have three day weekends.

Housing in Maastricht

Students stay at the International Student Guesthouse, which is home to international students from all over the world. Housing preference is indicated on the application form & students can choose between single- or double- rooms with a private kitchen (P-building) or communal cooking facilities (C-building); in both buildings the bathroom facilities are shared.

There is always someone at the security desk at the Guesthouse, and the Guesthouse has a doctor's office and pharmacy onsite.

- Wifi access is available throughout the Guesthouse.
- There are free laundry facilities
- Tennis and basketball courts and equipment. They can also borrow a bicycle pump, vacuum cleaner, iron, and tools.
- The Guesthouse provides cover sheets, pillow, pillowcase, blanket and blanket cover. (Students will need to bring their own towel).

The housing costs on the budget sheet are confirmed costs however, if your student chooses a more expensive housing option, you will be charged the difference.

Visa Requirements

US citizens do not require a visa to enter the Netherlands. They do however require a **temporary residence permit** since they are staying in the Netherlands for more than 90 days.

Maastricht's Center for European Studies (CES) will assist your student with this process in conjunction with Maastricht University's Visa and Residence Office. During the semester before the program, staff at Maastricht will request the necessary information, including an apostilled birth certificate.

Maastricht will also send you an invoice for the residency permit, which is *paid directly to them by you* (through wire transfer or Western Union - [how to make a payment from the us.pdf](#))

Your student will finalize the residency paperwork during the on-site orientation program once you have arrived in Maastricht. To be eligible to receive a residence permit for study, your student must:

- Be accepted by a university in the Netherlands
- Be able to show sufficient funds for your semester in the Netherlands through a bank statement no more than three months old or through a printout of your bank account balance page

Further information is outlined on the [Visa page](#) on the CES website, and CES program coordinators can assist with further questions.

*note that visa information is provided based on US citizenship. Students holding a non-US passport should consult with the host consulate for any visa considerations.

After Acceptance:

Your student will receive an email with the acceptance letter attached. CES will be continuing to send your student resources and pre-departure information.

Do not make tuition/housing payments directly to University of Maastricht for tuition or housing, as SU should be billed. If you receive a bill, please forward it to GO Program (goprogram@susqu.edu) right away.

Booking flights and Arrival information:

Students are responsible for booking their own flight to the Netherlands and back. They should book the flight in advance after receiving the official acceptance letter from the University of Maastricht and have confirmed program dates.

If you'd like to use a travel agent to assist with travel planning, Student Universe (studentuniverse.com), Travel Time (trvltime.com) and STA Travel (<http://statravel.com/airfare-deposit-program.htm>) have been used by students in the past. If not using a travel agent we recommend booking your airfare directly with the airline rather than a third-party website.

Maastricht University will recommend which airport to arrive into. CES typically arranges a FREE airport pick up, taking students straight to the International Student Guesthouse at Maastricht University for all students who arrive within a specific time frame on the official arrival day. Students arriving later or at different airports are advised to travel to Maastricht by train or airport shuttle – please check the [travel section](#) on Maastricht's website. Once travel arrangements are set, your student should send their final travel plans to your Maastricht University CES program coordinator as soon as possible so they can help make any necessary arrangements.

Other Matters:

Packing: Pack all essential items in your carry-on (medicine, jewelry etc.). Refer to the guidelines for bringing liquids in a carry-on (<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/liquids-rule>) as well as the airlines' luggage weight limits. We have additional resources posted in your students' application regarding some tips for Traveling and Packing.

Medication: For prescription medicines, students must either bring enough with them for the duration of the semester. Note that some medications are prohibited by the European Union, including many medications for the treatment of attention deficit disorders. Please reach out to a physician to determine a plan of action. We recommend that your student has a written prescription with them as they may be asked for it by customs officials.

Money Matters: We recommend having some local currency. Most local banks have access to give Euros or your student can convert USD to Euros at the airport. ATMs are also readily available throughout the Netherlands and they can withdraw Euros from ATMs. Students should inform their bank about all travel plans, and find out whether the bank and credit card issuers charge international transaction fees.

Health Insurance: Your student is covered under SU's emergency insurance. Should your student need additional maintenance health care, they should contact GO about purchasing additional coverage.

Travel Day:

Your student should carry their passport, acceptance letter, student travel visa letter (the letter from Global Semesters), Program Contact and Arrival Instructions in their carry-on luggage. DO NOT CHECK THEM!

We recommend arriving at least three hours before an international flight is scheduled to board to give time to get through airport security, bag check, etc. If the flight is delayed or cancelled, contact the travel agent or airline where you booked the ticket to be put on the next flight and alert the host program/university of any travel delays.

Orientation: Students are required to attend orientation. At Maastricht University, it is called Introduction Programme. The Introduction Programme is an extensive two-week introduction that offers a mixture of social activities, academic sessions, cross-cultural seminars and more. The goal of the introduction is to prepare for the stay in the Netherlands as well as the academic system. Your student will receive more information directly from Maastricht about this.