

FAQ for LUISS students within the structured mobility with U.S.E.

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Course-related questions to studentdesk.use@uu.nl

Application and Erasmus grant questions to: ieo.leg@uu.nl

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Arriving and Living

1. Will housing in Utrecht be arranged?

Universities in the Netherlands do not own student housing. Utrecht University does offer a [Reserved Accommodation Programme](#) with limited furnished rooms and studios for new international students who meet the requirements. Finding housing this way is **not** guaranteed.

The largest share of student housing in Utrecht is provided by private homeowners. Due to the increase in the number of (international) students, there is a large demand for accommodation in Utrecht. Many students have to put in a lot of time and effort before finding accommodation in the tight private housing market.

Please also have a look [at this website](#) for more information on finding a house in Utrecht.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the information we provide. Student Services is your Housing contact:

- Email: studentservices@uu.nl (please mention your UU student number!)
- Phone: + 31 30 253 7000 (Monday to Friday 11-12 am and 2-3 pm)

2. When do the lectures start in Utrecht?

Courses start in the first week of September. There are Orientation days before this, for which you will be invited.

3. Do I need to register for courses in Utrecht?

You do not need to register for courses in the first semester. The student desk USE will arrange this for you. In October you will receive a reminder and more information from the student desk USE about the elective courses in the second semester.

4. Can I take a Dutch language course in Utrecht?

Since you will be studying in English, you will find there is no great need to learn Dutch. Most Dutch people speak English fairly well and Dutch television for example shows programmes in their original language with Dutch subtitles. However, if you really want to get to know the country, or if you plan to stay and work here after your studies, it is very useful to learn the language.

There are several places where you can do so:

- [Babel](#)
- [Volksuniversiteit](#)

5. When are the vacation periods?

Please have a look at [the Academic Calendar](#).

6. Do non-EU students need to apply for a visa to go to Utrecht?

Yes, but you cannot apply for an entry visa/residence permit to study with the IND yourself. Only the Dutch educational institution where you will study can do this for you. That is why the Visa Office of Utrecht University will apply on your behalf. This means that we will always be your only point of contact regarding the application procedure, never the IND directly.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about the requirements.

7. How is public transport arranged and what about the costs?

The OV-chipcard is the means of payment for the entire public transport system throughout the country (bus, train, tramway, and subway). The card is the size of a bank card and contains an invisible chip. The OV-chipcard can be loaded with credit in euros with which you can travel anywhere within The Netherlands. You can [click here for more information](#) about the OV-chipcard.

You can also buy a single-use/disposable OV-chipcard at train stations. Another option would be the ISIC/OV-chipcard; a custom-made mobility card for international students with a train discount. [Order the ISIC/OV-chipcard](#) prior to your arrival in Utrecht, don't wait too long as stock is limited!

The Netherlands has a very good public transportation network, which makes it easy to get around. You can easily plan your trip with the door-to-door journey planner: <http://9292.nl/en/> or download the free 9292 app.

Please visit [this website](#) for more information.

8. Where can we buy books for courses in Utrecht?

You can buy books for all your courses with Study Association ECU'92.

Make sure to order your books before the deadline, which will be approximately two weeks before the book sale. The exact deadline for each period will be published on the ECU'92 website: <https://ecu92.nl/store/books/>.

If you have any general questions, send an e-mail to education@ecu92.nl.

9. How can I open a Dutch bank account?

If you open a Dutch bank account, you will receive a debit card that allows you to pay at for example cafeterias, photocopiers/printers, and soft drink vending machines at the university where you cannot pay in cash, or in shops and supermarkets where credit cards are not commonly accepted. Moreover, with a Dutch bank account, you can withdraw cash from ATMs without paying a fee.

There are generally three requirements for opening a Dutch bank account:

- You must have a valid identification
- You must have a Dutch address where you will live during your stay

- Banks will also ask for your 'BSN' number. This is a unique identification number assigned by the Dutch government, which you obtain when you register with the city. Some banks will open an account for you if you do not yet have a BSN on condition that you submit it to them later.

Because opening a bank account can involve a rather lengthy procedure it is recommended to make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible after your arrival. The following bank offices are situated at central locations in the city center of Utrecht:

- ING Bank – Lange Viestraat 1
- Rabobank – Maliebaan 15
- SNS Bank – Nachtegaalstraat 15

ABN AMRO Bank does not have a location in the city centre but has a good online service that is easily accessible to internationals.

10. Are there any student organisations I can join?

Utrecht's bustling student community is made up of more than 150 student organisations. Some of these focus on having a good time while others center around a religion, a sport, or a shared cultural interest (singing, photography). Visit [our website](#) for more information.

ECU'92 is the study association for all students at U.S.E. For more information about Study Association ECU'92 and what it has to offer to you, please visit [their website](#).

Contacts

11. Who do I contact for questions at U.S.E.?

- For practical or general questions regarding your exchange and course enrolment, please contact the U.S.E. Exchange Officer: studentdesk.use@uu.nl.
- For Erasmus grant and application questions regarding your exchange, please contact the International Exchange Office: ieo.leg@uu.nl.
- For specific questions regarding your study planning or if you encounter any (personal) problems during your time at U.S.E., please contact the [Study Advisors](#): studyadvisor.use@uu.nl.
- For LUISS-specific questions, please contact the exchange coordinator Stefan Vukojevic: s.vukojevic@uu.nl.
- For course-related questions, please contact the course coordinator of each course. You can find their contact details in our [Course Catalogue](#).

Please also have a look at the [website](#) for more practical information about people, buildings and services.

12. Who do I contact if I encounter study-related or personal problems?

The Study Advisors can guide and advise you on your study and study-related matters (e.g. personal circumstances, special provisions disability). They can also help you find your way through the countless amenities Utrecht University offers. You can find some more information on [this website](#).

[Student services](#) provide information about studying and student life, such as information about admissions, registration, tuition fees, student finance, administrative grants, career orientation, and student organisations.

Student psychologists can help you to solve study-related problems and to address personal problems. [Read more information here and book an appointment.](#)

13. Who is the International Relations Officer from LUISS?

Responsible for the whole partnership: Manfredi Mineo (mmineo@luiss.it or tel. +39-06-85225685), Sergio Rios Perez (srios@luiss.it)

14. Who is the Programme Coordinator in Rome?

Professor Daniela Di Cagno (ddicagno@luiss.it).

Useful Links

U.S.E. Contacts	https://students.uu.nl/en/leg/economics-and-business-economics/practical-information/people-buildings-services
U.S.E. Academic Calendar	https://students.uu.nl/en/leg/economics-and-business-economics/academics/schedules
International Exchange Office LEG	https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/international-office-faculty-of-law-economics-and-governance/contact-international-office
Italian Embassy in the Hague	https://amblaja.esteri.it/ambasciata_laja/it/ambasciata/gli_uffici/
Emergency Phone Number in the Netherlands	112
For police matters that are not an emergency	0900-8844
U.S.E. Bachelor's programme	https://students.uu.nl/en/leg/economics-and-business-economics
U.S.E. Master's programmes	https://students.uu.nl/en/leg/economics-and-business-economics/study-programme/masters
