Introduction to Leiden University

History
Founded in 1575, Leiden University is the oldest University in the Netherlands. It was a gift from William of Orange to the brave citizens of Leiden, who had withstood a long siege by the Spanish, and saved the entire region from Spanish occupation. Leiden University has always been strongly committed to freedom of belief and religion, as reflected by the University’s motto ‘Praesidium Libertatis’ (Bastion of Liberty). Over the years, this atmosphere of freedom of speech has provided the ideal environment for such famous scholars as Descartes, Boerhaave and Einstein to develop their theories. In its almost 450 years of existence, Leiden has produced many outstanding academics and scientists, including several Nobel Laureates.

Present
Today, Leiden is a fully accredited modern university with an enrolment of over 18,000 students, including approx. 1,600 international students. Increasing numbers of international scholars and students find their way to Leiden.

Leiden has established a firm international position among the world’s top research and academic institutes in a great many fields. Top research increasingly means joining forces across the boundaries of departmental disciplines, faculties and the University itself. To this end, Leiden University is also a member of partnerships such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU), Coimbra and the Europaeum.

The University comprises seven faculties: Archaeology, Campus The Hague, Humanities, Law, LUMC/Medicine, Science, and Social and Behavioural Sciences. Leiden offers many non-degree courses in a wide variety of subjects, as well as more than 80 master’s degree and PhD programmes in English. More than 50 bachelor’s programmes are offered, mainly taught in Dutch.

Location
The city of Leiden with its 118,000 inhabitants is conveniently located in the political, cultural and economic heart of the Netherlands. Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht are just half an hour away by train; The Hague and Schiphol International Airport lie at a mere fifteen minutes distance.
If you want to study for one or two semesters at Leiden University, you can do this either as an exchange student or as a study abroad student.

**Exchange Students (in a Reciprocal Exchange Programme)**

‘Exchange students’ are students who come to Leiden within the framework of a reciprocal exchange programme. In such an exchange programme, Leiden students can study at the partner university and in return Leiden University receives students from the partner institution. In each case, the departing student creates a place for the incoming student. As an exchange student, you remain registered at your home university during the exchange. Leiden University has more than 100 bilateral exchange agreements, and participates in the following programmes:

- The Erasmus programme of the European Union
- ISEP (International Student Exchange Programme)

You can check at the International Office of your home university whether you can participate in one of the above-mentioned programmes.

**Study Abroad Students**

If you do not fall under the terms of such an exchange programme, you can apply to take non-degree courses at Leiden University as a study abroad student.

**Other Programmes**

Besides the exchange and study abroad programmes, Leiden University also offers other programmes open to international students, such as: bachelor’s programmes, master’s programmes, PhD tracks and Summer Schools.

For more information and a complete overview of the programmes, please visit: www.education.leiden.edu.

Language courses are offered by the Academic Language Centre, please visit: www.hum.leiden.edu/languagecentre.
Courses

The courses open to exchange and study abroad students in Leiden are many and varied. You can take courses in subjects such as:

- Archaeology
- Humanities: Art History, Chinese Studies, Dutch Studies, English Language, History, Japanese Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Russian Studies, Slavic Languages and Cultures
- Social and Behavioural Sciences: Cultural Anthropology, Psychology, Public Administration, Political Science
- Law: Leiden Law Courses (LLC)
- Medicine: Biomedical Sciences & Medicine
- Science: Biology, Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chemistry, Life Science and Technology, Mathematics

All available courses and course descriptions can be found through: www.leiden.edu/studyabroadinleiden.

Leiden University offers a unique study abroad programme called EuroScholars. For students interested in discovering their potential for a research career this programme offers outstanding opportunities to work as a junior researcher in a research project. Supervision will be provided by academic staff, working on and/or responsible for the research project. The programme comprises a Language and Culture Course, an in-depth literature review on the chosen research topic and the actual research project. Research can be done in all kinds of fields at Leiden University. Details about the projects that are offered can be found at the EuroScholars website (see below).

Student Profile

Outstanding and motivated advanced undergraduate, honours or (post) graduate students with a strong interest in an academic/research career with a United States Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.4 or higher out of 4. This programme is especially suited to students from institutes where undergraduate research forms part of the regular curriculum. Students do not need to have research experience, however, science-students need to have ample academic experience in a laboratory setting. For more information about EuroScholars, please check the website: www.euroscholars.eu.
Please find below a short description of the admission requirements and application procedures. Admission to a specific course may also depend on the maximum number of participants that can be accommodated in a class. If you would like to study for a semester or a year at Leiden University, please apply via our online application form. For up-to-date and detailed information about the procedures and online application form, please visit our website www.leiden.edu/studyabroadinleiden

Application Deadlines
Your application should be received before the relevant deadline. The deadlines for our two semesters are:
• 1 April for a September start
• 15 October for a January/February start

Processing Time
Usually we will need around 4 to 6 weeks to assess your application and inform you about your admission. Please bear in mind that applications may take longer to process, particularly during the peak periods around the application deadlines.

Admission Requirements Exchange Students
It is only possible to study at Leiden University as an exchange student if your own university has signed an exchange agreement with Leiden University. In order to be accepted as an exchange student you should be nominated as such by the responsible co-ordinator of the exchange programme at your home university. The best place to find out if your university can nominate you and how to apply for a place is the International Office of your own university.

Scope of the Exchange Agreement (for Exchange Students)
If you are accepted on the basis of a bilateral exchange agreement which is limited to a specific field or discipline, you do not automatically have the right to enroll in courses offered by other faculties or departments.

Admission Requirements Study Abroad Students
You should have completed at least two years of academic education with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.2/3.4 out of 4, or its equivalent. In addition, higher level courses usually have specific pre-requisites that you will need to have fulfilled.

English Language Requirements
All Leiden University applicants are required to take an English proficiency test. This requirement does not apply if you have completed your education in Canada, the USA, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, or if you have obtained an International Baccalaureate diploma. Many Erasmus Exchange students are also exempted from taking the test. Leiden University accepts three kinds of official tests, detailed below, although the IELTS is preferred. These tests are generally only valid for two years.
The scores listed below are the minimum entry requirement to the study abroad and exchange programmes as a whole. Please note that a few individual courses may have higher test score requirements.

1. International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Minimum score of 6.5 on the Academic IELTS test. For more information, please see: www.ielts.org.

2. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Minimum score 570 (paper-based) / 230 (computer-based) / 88-90 (internet-based). For more information, please visit: www.toefl.org. Original test results should be sent directly to us by the Educational Testing Centre. The TOEFL institution code for Leiden University is 0504. Institutional TOEFL tests are not accepted.

3. Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English.

Note: applicants from mainland China are required to submit an academic IELTS test or internet-based TOEFL score due to visa requirements.

**Tuition Fees**

**Exchange Students**

Almost invariably, Leiden University and the partner university have agreed not to charge any tuition fees for each other’s exchange candidates. As an exchange student you are, however, not exempted from paying participation fees for any of the special programmes, for courses offered by the Academic Language Centre or for participation in the Leiden University Summer Schools.

**Study Abroad Students**

Leiden University charges a standard Study Abroad tuition fee. The tuition fees are:

- Study Abroad Semester: half year, up to 30 ECTS*, excluding housing: € 6,450 (2013/2014 academic year)
- Study Abroad Year: up to 60 ECTS*, excluding housing: € 12,800 (2013/2014 academic year)

These tuition fees cover participation in regular courses open to Study Abroad students. Please see our website for information about fees for EuroScholars, Language Centre courses and Summer Schools.

**Cost of Living**

A single student needs around € 10,000 per year to cover living and other expenses. For detailed information, please check: www.prospectivestudents.leiden.edu/practical-info.

Please note that if you need a visa to enter the Netherlands and/or a residence permit to stay legally in the Netherlands, you must provide proof of your ability to cover your expenses during the whole period of your stay (see also page 6).

* The course load is given in ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credit points. A full-time programme has a course load of 60 ECTS. 1 ECTS equals 28 hours of study. This includes preparing for and attending classes, reading books, writing papers, studying for tests and exams, etc. In ECTS, 60 credits represent the workload of a year of study. Normally, 30 credits are given for a semester.
Accommodation, VISA & Insurances

Housing through the University
The housing office co-ordinates applications for international student housing for those students coming from abroad. You can indicate on the Online application form whether you require assistance in finding accommodation in Leiden.
If you need a visa, you are strongly advised to apply for housing through the University. More information on housing options, prices and conditions is available at: www.studenthousing.leiden.edu.
You can also find information via this website about finding housing yourself in the private sector.

Visa and Residence Permit
If you have a passport issued by one of the EU or EEA countries, or Switzerland, you do not need a visa or residence permit. All other students require a visa and/or a residence permit for a stay longer than three months. Leiden University’s Admissions Office will apply for the visa and/or residence permit on your behalf before you travel to the Netherlands. The Dutch immigration authorities do not allow students to apply for a visa themselves for the purpose of study. The procedure will only be started once you have been admitted to Leiden University, and the visa/residence permit can only be granted if a number of requirements are met:
1. You should be in possession of a valid passport;
2. You should be admitted to a full-time study programme;
3. You should be able to show that you can finance your study and living expenses according to the standard amounts set for this by the Immigration Department;
4. For students from China: You should have applied for a Nuffic certificate.
For up-to-date requirements and procedures, please check our website: www.prospectivestudents.leiden.edu/practical-info.

Health Insurance
All residents of the Netherlands, including international students, are required by law to have adequate health insurance. Leiden University itself does not offer insurance. However, there are several insurance companies that offer policies for students. Please check our website and compare the different policies: www.prospectivestudents.leiden.edu/practical-info.
Student Life in- and outside the Classroom

Leiden is a true university town with a rich student life. There are many activities for students, both social and study-related, and many different clubs and organisations for students to join, such as the study and student associations. Prior to the first and second semester, the University organises an introduction programme for new international students. This programme consists of a general introduction to the University and the faculties, the city of Leiden and the student organisations.

Facilities and Student Support Services at the University

Leiden University offers a wide range of facilities to support you in your studies, but also to make your time as a student as enjoyable as possible. The University has one central library, and many faculties and departments also have their own dedicated libraries. Computer rooms are available at the faculties, the University Library and Plexus Student Centre. Students can also bring their own laptop to most computer rooms where wireless internet is available. Furthermore, the University offers a sports centre, a language centre, a student careers centre, and many other amenities.

As a student of Leiden University, you will also have access to various support services specially designed to assist students. Some of these services, such as the International Student Adviser, offer support particularly aimed at international students. At the faculties, you can, for example, receive support from co-ordinators and study advisers. Special assistance is also offered for students with a disability. You can find information on all the facilities and support services available at: www.leiden.edu/students.

Study and Student Associations

Study associations are for students from a particular degree course; they focus on the academic aspects of student life and organise course-related activities, such as lectures, seminars, field trips or excursions. The main focus of student associations is on social events such as drinks, sports activities, lectures, camp weeks, etc.

Many of the associations offer you the opportunity to develop your organisational skills to complement your academic curriculum and to extend your social network. Many of these associations are Dutch oriented. Please also see: www.leiden.edu/students.

Historical Leiden, with all the Modern Amenities

Leiden is a beautiful and historic city with many 17th century buildings; its picturesque city centre is criss-crossed with boat-lined canals, bordered by red brick streets. At the same time, it is also a modern cultural and business centre offering all the amenities you need to make your stay here both enjoyable and memorable. The city has twelve museums, a wide range of shops, delightful cafés and international restaurants, several cinemas and much more. For more information about the city of Leiden, please visit: www.leiden.nl.
Contact

Website
Homepage: www.leiden.edu
More information on the Study Abroad and Exchange Programme: www.leiden.edu/studyabroadinleiden

Questions
For general information: study@leidenuniv.nl
For application information: info@leidenuniv.nl

Other Brochures
You can order brochures via the following link:
www.leiden.edu/brochures

Disclaimer

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Although the information in this brochure has been compiled with the utmost care, Leiden University does not accept responsibility for any errors that may be contained herein. The reader is urged to seek detailed information from the website www.leiden.edu

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