



**International Office Humanities
Faculty for Humanities**

8 March 2012

**Information Letter ONE
Pre-application 2012-2013**

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Enclosures

www.studeren.uva.nl/exchange-humanities

- How to determine your level
- Time Line 2012-2013 Semester 1/entire year

We are very happy that you are considering a place as an exchange student at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Amsterdam (UvA). We hope you can find all the information you need in this letter and on our website.

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Application procedure

To complete your application you need to fill out our official application form. You can find this on http://www.studeren.uva.nl/exchange_humanities under [Application](#). The form will be open from mid March.

When you have completed the form, print it and have it signed by the student exchange coordinator at your University.

Please enclose the following items with your application:

- a passport-size picture;
- a transcript in English. This should include your courses, grades and credits. If your university cannot provide transcripts in English, please translate it yourself. In that case please send us the official transcript from your university (in your own language) as well.
- English language test certificate

Please send it to:

Universiteit van Amsterdam
Faculty of Humanities
International Office Humanities
Spuistraat 210
1012 VT Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Deadline Application

The deadline for the first semester/complete academic year 2012/2013: May 15th 2012

The deadline for the second semester 2012/2013: September 15th 2012

Please note: students who apply for the 2nd semester only, receive more information in September/October. Until that time their application will be kept on file.

Information about English language requirements

If you are not a native speaker of English we strongly recommend you take an official English language test (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge). We can never emphasize too much the importance of an excellent level of English for incoming students. If upon arrival your level of English is deemed not high enough you cannot participate in courses taught in English. This might mean you might not be able to a full 30 EC course load or worse have to return home. Students wanting to take MA courses are required to provide us with an official English exam. Please send in the official test results before July 1st .

Please read the attached document *How to determine your level* carefully, this document is very important. It also contains information on the accepted official tests and the minimum result requirement.

If you are not a native speaker and do not have an official English test you will be asked to take an online English language test, the Digital Oxford Placement Test. The Humanities' International office will provide you with the log-in information after their application. Please read the attached document '*How to determine your level*' for more information on the consequences of this test result.

Information about the study programmes

The normal semester workload of a regular student at the UvA is 30 EC (European Credits). This is equivalent to around 40 hours of study per week, including lectures, reading, assignments, library queries and discussions. You are not obliged to take 30 EC. A total of 24 EC or even 20 EC will be accepted by us.

In order to facilitate credit transfer between European universities, the UvA uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Most courses are each worth 6, 12 or 18 EC credits at the UvA. At the end of their stay we send you a transcript listing the credits (EC) and grades obtained.

Course catalogue

Information about courses can be found in our online course catalogue via <http://coursecatalogue.uva.nl> Right now you can only view the current course catalogue for the year 2011-2012. The guide for 2012-2013 will be available no sooner than late May 2012.

Please use the guide for 2011-2012 only to get an indication of the kind of courses that are on offer. The Faculty of Humanities is changing the structure and duration of the

courses for the academic year 2012-2013, see below for more information on the curriculum reform.

Exchange students at our faculty can select courses from the undergraduate certificate programme in Humanities (for exchange students). To view it, go to 'Search programme' and type in *Undergraduate Certificate Programme in Humanities (for Exchange students)*. [This link](#) will bring you to the programme for 2011-2012, but please only use this as an orientation not for your final course choice.

Courses are divided in so-called 'clusters'. These clusters focus on the strong points of our faculty. You can choose courses from these clusters, but you do not need to limit yourself to one cluster.

Each course in Undergraduate Certificate Programme in Humanities for exchange students has its own level. The level of a course is determined by the academic background and by the level of English or Dutch language skills needed to attend the course.

Level 1

All students can take these courses. Students who did not score sufficiently on the digital English test can only take level 1 courses and courses in their own language. There are very few level 1 courses on offer.

Level 2

The majority of courses are at this level. They are open to students who scored sufficiently on the digital English test or have passed an official English test. Students must meet the entry requirements of all courses.

Level 3

These are courses offered in the Cluster Nederlandse taal, cultuur en geschiedenis or by the College of Social Sciences (CSS). In the last case students need to have passed an official English test and two years of academic background in the relevant field of study. Acceptance depends on the decision of the CSS (Humanities' International Office will forward your file to the CSS). Students in the Humanities programme are allowed to take one or two CSS courses. However Humanities students will have second priority in these courses so participation cannot be guaranteed.

Level 4

These courses are at MA level. Students need a sufficient official English test (see *How to determine your level*) and need to have three years of academic background in the relevant discipline. Exchange students who would like to take MA courses must apply for these courses at the Humanities' International Office and not at

the Graduate school for Humanities. Participation in an MA course depends on availability and permission from the MA coordinator (the Humanities' International Office will make such requests on behalf of students).

Please note that, unfortunately, application for a course does not guarantee placement; courses may be cancelled or there may be more applicants than available places. For that reason, students applying for courses should realize that it might not be possible to take a full workload in their area of study (and at the appropriate level). Flexibility and a willingness to take courses outside of students' field of study are important!

Curriculum reform

The Faculty for Humanities is changing the structure of the courses. Please find below an overview of these changes in comparison to the academic year 2011-2012.

	Currently (2011-2012)	Per 2012-2013
EC	5 or 10 EC per course	6, 12 or 18 EC per course
Blocks	2 teaching blocks (8 weeks) per semester, 1 exam block (4 weeks)	3 teaching blocks per semester: 8 weeks- 8 weeks- and 4 weeks
Exams	Exams in January and June	Exams directly after the end of the block.

These changes will have an impact on the curriculum. The number of EC's given to courses will change, but also the duration of many courses and the exam method. Students therefore cannot assume that they can base their course choices on the current 2011-2012 course catalogue. This is why we urge students to be extra flexible in their course options

Undergraduate certificate programme in Humanities 2012-2013

We are pleased to inform you that you will be able to choose from approximately the same number of English taught courses as in previous years. In addition we have extended the number of 'special programme courses'. These are 12 EC seminar courses that have been developed especially for our exchange students:

- Identities in Popular Culture (Sem 1)
- Capita Selecta European Art 1850-1940: from Monet to Salvador Dali (Sem 1)
- The American Western and its Impact on Global Film Culture (Sem 1)
- Independent Reading Course Genocide in the 20th century (Sem 1)
- Dance Me To The End of Love: Romantic Love Narratives (Sem 1 and 2)
- Identities in Visual and Cultural Studies (Sem 2)
- Capita Selecta Western Art : from Salvador Dali till the present (Sem 2)
- The Great Film Directors: From film-director to film-author (Sem 2)

The complete overview of the 2012-2013 curriculum will become available late May and can be accessed via <http://coursecatalogue.uva.nl> “*Undergraduate Certificate Programme in Humanities (for Exchange Students)*”.

After application

Once we have processed your application, we will send you more information on various practical and academic matters, such as accommodation, Dutch language courses and course registration. You will regularly receive information letters similar to this letter in order to keep you informed and up to date with further developments.

It is extremely difficult to find accommodation in Amsterdam. The University of Amsterdam collaborates with several housing corporations who have student flats for international students in various parts of Amsterdam.

After you have been admitted, we will send you an email with a link for the online application for student housing. The student housing facilities of the UvA are limited, therefore filling in the online application does not guarantee placement.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.