Utrecht City

Utrecht is a lively city in the geographical center of the Netherlands. It is not only an important junction where traffic, trade, distribution and services meet and mingle, but also a true knowledge center: apart from Utrecht University it houses important research institutes and several other institutes of higher education. With its 300,000 inhabitants, Utrecht is the fourth largest city in the Netherlands and with no less than 50,000 of the inhabitants being students, Utrecht is a real student city.

Several canals crisscross the city and encircle the city centre. The Dom tower is the focal point of the city: with a height of 112 meters, it offers a magnificent view over the city.

To the south of the Dom is the ‘museumkwartier’, the city’s museum quarter. There you will find a varied offering of excellent museums in a setting of picturesque courtyards, unexpected small restaurants and delightful little shops. Along the canals you will find a rare phenomenon, of which Utrecht citizens are extremely proud: the wharves. These wharves, which provide direct access to cellars, were used for the loading and unloading of ships and the storage of goods in the Middle Ages. These days, they are mostly used as outdoor terraces for restaurants where you can enjoy a drink or a meal looking over a canal lit by decorative lights framing the contours of the bridges.

In terms of culture, Utrecht is a festival city, with festivals like the Spring Dance Festival, the Holland Early Music Festival, The Holland Animation Festival and the Dutch Film Festival. When not hosting a festival, Utrecht is the stage for the ‘Cultural Sundays’ - cultural events inspired by a location, theme or particular art form.

Graduate Student Exchange Program in Sustainable Development

Interested in Studying Abroad?

Please contact Professor Ben Hobbs for more information.

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Some text and photos courtesy of Universiteit Utrecht
http://www.uu.nl/uupublish/homeuu/homeenglish/1757main.html
Utrecht University is one of the oldest universities in the Netherlands and one of the largest in Europe. The internationally known faculty of Geosciences is home to the Department of Innovation and Environmental Sciences as well as the Copernicus Institute.

Program of Study

Exchange students from JHU will participate in the Master’s Program in Sustainable Development at the University of Utrecht for one or two semesters. Each exchange student shall determine his or her study program at UU in consultation with academic advisors from both institutions.

The Master's Program consists of a number of general courses and five tracks. Exchange students can choose to study from one of these five tracks:

- Energy and Resources
- Land Use, Environment & Biodiversity
- Environmental Policy & Management
- International & European Environmental Law
- Sustainable Livelihood in Developing Countries

Each of these foci involve research and instruction (in English) which integrates both the environmental sciences and social sciences to various degrees. In addition, students can take courses in:

- Science and Innovation Management
- Geographical Information Management & Applications
- International Development Studies

- Master of Research in Human Geography and Planning
- Urban Geography
- Natural Resources Management

All courses of the program are taught in English, and English is widely spoken at the University as well as in the Netherlands.

Research is possible during an exchange project in the form of projects or a master’s thesis. If a student is interested in undertaking research, it is best to communicate to the Utrecht program ahead of their exchange visit so that preparations can be made to identify suitable subjects and research supervisors.

Length of Study

Standard lengths of stay for exchange students will be one semester (two quarter terms) or a full academic year (four quarter terms). The fall semester starts on the first Monday in September and lasts approximately to the end of January, while the spring semester is approximately from the beginning of February through the end of June. If you stay a single semester at Utrecht, DoGEE will work with Utrecht to avoid any problems due to possible overlaps of schedules.

Tuition and Other Fees

Provided they have paid the appropriate fees to Johns Hopkins, exchange students shall not be required to pay any fees to Universiteit Utrecht. Exchange students shall, however, be responsible for the cost of textbooks, field trips (if any) and other optional course charges as well as for their own expenses, including travel expenses, food, accommodation costs, and additional health care fees. Universiteit Utrecht will assist the exchange student in finding initial accommodation wherever necessary.

Admission and Credits

Interested students should apply to the DoGEE/UU Exchange committee for admission to the exchange program.

The application available from www.geo.uu.nl/exchange should be filled out as well. Deadlines are approximately four months before the start of studies (October 1st, as in the case of a spring semester visit). Admission to individual courses depends on whether entry requirements are met, and will be determined by the University of Utrecht.

After completion of an exchange student’s studies in Utrecht, the University of Utrecht will evaluate his or her academic performance and will provide a transcript and written evaluation to DoGEE.