



university of
 groningen

Exchange and Study Abroad



2026–2027

open academic community – since 1614

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Virtual UG

You are able to watch webinars about various subjects including student life, programme information and the application process via our online event platform – The Virtual UG.

www.rug.nl/webinars



www.rug.nl



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Founded in 1614

38,000 students

**160+ English
taught
programmes**

**over 25%
international
students from
139 countries**

**Nurtured 4 Nobel
Prize winners**

**Youngest city in
the Netherlands**

**One of the top
100 universities
in the world**

**Research-
intensive
university**

**150,000 alumni
worldwide**

11 faculties

**Exchange
partners in
50 countries**

**64th in the world
(ARWU Shanghai
ranking 2021)**



Our locations

We are one University – with most faculties based in Groningen and one, Campus Fryslân, based in nearby Leeuwarden. While each location differs in its own distinctive atmosphere, you will still experience the UG's unique character, wherever you choose to study.

Groningen

Living in the city of Groningen will place you in the heart of a historic, vibrant student city with so much on your doorstep. A year in Groningen includes festivals in our parks, numerous sporting activities and cafe concerts.

- 1 Groningen is the largest and oldest city in the Northern Netherlands with its own international airport.
- 2 The city of Groningen is the capital of the province, which also bears the same name.
- 3 Groningen is home to various festivals, including Eurosonic (Europe's largest showcase festival), which launched the career of artists such as Hozier and Bastille. Other festivals include Noorderzon, a 10 day performing arts festival and StuKafest, where student rooms are used as mini concert halls or theatres.
- 4 Groningen is a city of entrepreneurs, creating unrivaled growth in the job market thanks to many successful startups.
- 5 The city has a top-league football club, FC Groningen (first European team for Luis Suarez), basketball team (Donar) and volleyball team (Lycurgus).
- 6 There are many museums in Groningen including the Comic Museum, the Science Museum and the world famous Groninger Museum, which has hosted David Bowie, David LaChapelle and Rodin exhibitions.
- 7 With roughly 145km of bicycle lanes, it's no surprise that the city is one of the best cycling cities in the Netherlands and Europe. Around 60% of all trips happens by bike, and there are more bikes than people in Groningen (1.4 bikes for each inhabitant). It's no wonder that Groningen has some of the cleanest air in the Netherlands!
- 8 Located within the city, Oosterpoort is the largest pop music venue in the north of the Netherlands. Underground club Vera hosted bands like Nirvana, Joy Division, Pearl Jam, U2, White Stripes and Sonic Youth at the start of their careers.





Leeuwarden

Leeuwarden is where our Campus Fryslân is based and was the European Capital of Culture for 2018.

- 1 Mata Hari, accused of being the 'greatest woman spy of the century', was born in Leeuwarden in 1876 and convicted by the French for passing secrets to the enemy.
- 2 Leeuwarden is the start and finish of the world-famous eleven city ice skating tour, which connects our historic cities. With the change in climate, the tour is rarely held on ice but people have found other means to navigate the route – walking, swimming and even sailing in a solar-powered boat.
- 3 MS Escher was a famous resident of the city and created some of the most memorable images of the 20th century with his mathematical dreamscapes.
- 4 Terraces near the canals that crisscross the city centre are bustling with activity, and there are several venues for you to enjoy the latest movies, listen to upcoming bands or attend diverse cultural exhibitions and events.



More information:
www.leeuwardenstudentcity.nl



Accommodation

Whether you are coming to the Netherlands for the first time or you are relocating from within the country – finding somewhere to live can be daunting. You might be a little apprehensive about leaving what you know behind, but living in shared accommodation with fellow students can give you a great start to university life. The new friends you make in those first few weeks will often remain friends throughout your time at university and beyond.

A place to call home

The University works with SSH XL to provide accommodation for international students with residences spread throughout the city.

The University of Groningen does not provide housing for students. Finding accommodation is your own responsibility, visit the websites on this page to find housing options.

If you are planning to study in Groningen, please ensure that you have found a room before 1st August. If you decide to come to Groningen without pre-arranged housing, then you are highly likely to find yourself in hotels or hostels, if there is still space available. This will involve high costs, inconvenience, and stress. If you find accommodation outside of the city, make sure you consider the potential extra travel time and travel costs.

Websites:

www.athomeingroningen.com

Information on house-hunting and living in Groningen

www.sshxl.nl

Accommodation website for students wishing to find student housing in Groningen

www.rug.nl/accommodation

Accommodation tips

www.rug.nl/accommodationblog

Blog on how to find a home in Groningen





Life beyond study

Students at the University of Groningen have a wide variety of social and sporting opportunities for a good work and life balance. There are plenty of opportunities for you to try new things at the university, as well as develop your talents through fantastic events, sporting activities and networking opportunities.

Faculty and study associations

Most faculties have one or more study associations that allow you to socialise and network with others doing a similar programme to you. These associations are often made up of Dutch and international students and arrange presentations from professional organisations and potential employers, as well as organising social events and outings.

More information:

www.rug.nl/internationalstudentassociations

Student associations

Student-run associations offer you the opportunity to meet other students during your time in UG. Activities range from regular jazz festivals by the Groningen Student Big Band, to public speaking training offered by Nexus (Faculty of Law) and events run by the Amnesty Student group. Groningen also has a lively chapter of ESN (Erasmus Student Network), who run an introductory week for International students.

Sport

At the University of Groningen, we know how much staying fit and active can help your studies. Groningen has the ACLO as the overarching student sports organisation home to 100 sports clubs. The ACLO (founded in 1945) is the largest student sports organisation of the Netherlands and represents the Groningen students' sporting interests at a national level. For a fee of just €59.95 per year or €49.95 for a semester, you will join 19,000 others who have access to sports and activities including water polo, African dance, bouldering, basketball and rugby.

More information:

www.aclosport.nl/en

If you are studying at Campus Fryslân in Leeuwarden, you can use the sports facilities offered by Leeuwarden Stadiestad for a small yearly fee. There is a choice of different sports, including basketball, futsal, swimming and kickboxing.

More information:

<http://www.leeuwardenstudentcity.nl>

The City is our Campus

Follow us on Instagram [@universityofgroningen](https://www.instagram.com/universityofgroningen)



Sun, smiling faces and a bunch of presentations at our Bachelor's Open Day.
📷 @universityofgroningen



Welcome to the new International Alumni Ambassadors 2022-2023! 🌟
📷 @universityofgroningen



Rainy Groningen.
📷 @igotsapes



Pure pride and happiness on graduation day. Congratulations Katerina! 🎓
📷 @kat_deli_cious & @drosito_



The State of the University 2022 with the Dutch Solar Racing Team.
📷 @universityofgroningen



Ben Feringa on Tour.
📷 @universityofgroningen



UG student Xandra Velzeboer wins gold at the Olympics! 🥇
📷 @universityofgroningen



Groningen is filled with gorgeous cherry blossoms. 🌸
📷 @toerist_in_eigen_stad

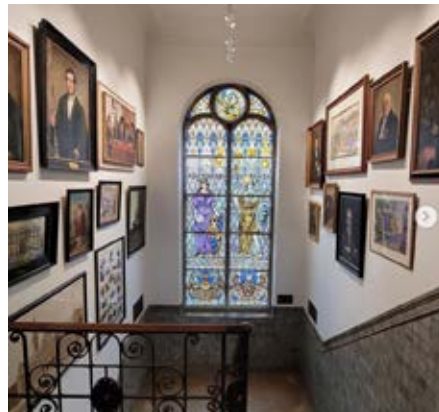


The Dutch Minister of Education Robbert Dijkgraaf visits the UG.
📷 @scienceandengineering_ug

Follow us on Instagram @universityofgroningen



Meet our social media reporters Maimoena and Avital!
 📷 @universityofgroningen



The University Museum and its beautiful stairway. ❤️
 📷 @teun.ig



Orations in the Academy Building. Congratulations Dr. Kuiper! 🎉
 📷 @elskuiper



Daffodils at Zernike campus.
 📷 @universityofgroningen



Remembrance Day at the UG.
 📷 @universityofgroningen



The lovely Martinitoren!
 @_r_x_c



Let's celebrate Valentine's Day at the UG!
 📷 @universityofgroningen 🌹



Hi Karishma, nice to meet you!
 📷 @spatial_sciences_groningen



Beautiful Leeuwarden.
 📷 @perfectlytall

Studying at the University of Groningen

By choosing to study at the University of Groningen you will be joining a well-established, globally networked community of world-class students and staff.

The University of Groningen is among Europe's top institutions in the field of academic research. The ground-breaking research undertaken by our staff is internationally renowned and contributes to all areas of society. In 2016 Ben Feringa was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on the development of molecular machines.

How will you be taught?

The University of Groningen encourages you to take the initiative. This is achieved by promoting independent study and research with guidance and supervision from tutors and support staff. Our degrees are designed to encourage you to think independently and develop your own opinions at an early stage in the programme. Active learning methods are not only more stimulating than the traditional lecturing style, but are also proven to help students develop their problem solving, critical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills, which are sought after by most employers.

With its modern study spaces, its student-oriented facilities and its extensive collection, which includes over three million books and journals, our University Library will enable you to access the information you need in the most reliable and straightforward way.

Lectures

Lectures usually last around two hours. Your lecturer will provide an overview of a specific subject or theme and will guide you through the assigned reading material. Classes can include up to 100 students, however, depending on the programme, numbers can be significantly lower.

Seminars

Seminars are highly interactive classes, involving a small group of students and facilitated by a tutor. In class you will be expected to participate in the activities and present on topics that have been covered in your lectures. Since the group is smaller, you will have the chance to ask questions and hold discussions with your fellow students and your tutor.

Self-study

Alongside lectures, seminars and group work, you will also be expected to carry out self-study activities, such as working on your assignments or doing your readings ahead of lectures or tutorials. The time you spend on independent study will depend on the programme you are enrolled in.



Free Online Dutch course

European Council research suggests that 90% of Dutch people speak at least basic English, with the Netherlands ranked first globally for English language skills. Therefore, you do not necessarily need to speak Dutch in order to study and live in Groningen. It is still a good idea, however, to try out our free online course Introduction to Dutch as a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), which runs for three weeks and will help you to learn the basics of the Dutch language.

What can I study?*

Faculty of Arts

- › Arts
- › American Studies
- › Art History
- › Arts, Culture and Media
- › Communication and Information Studies
- › English Language and Culture
- › European Languages and Cultures
- › History
- › International Relations and International Organization
- › Media Studies
- › Minorities & Multilingualism

Economics and Business

- › Econometrics and Operations Research
- › Economics and Business Economics
- › International Business

Science and Engineering

- › Astronomy, Physics and Applied Physics
- › Artificial Intelligence and Computing Science (limited places)
- › Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
- › Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
- › Pharmacy (MA only in Dutch)
- › Biology and Life Sciences (limited places)
- › Mechanical Engineering (only MA)
- › Biomedical and Industrial Engineering (limited places)

Medical Sciences

- › Medicine

Spatial Sciences

- › Human Geography & Urban and Regional Planning
- › Spatial Planning and Design

Behavioural and Social Sciences

- › Psychology
- › Sociology

Philosophy

- › Philosophy of a specific discipline

Law

- › International and European law

Theology and Religious Studies

- › Religious Studies
- › Theology

University College

- › Liberal Arts and Sciences

Campus Fryslân

- › University College Fryslân:
- › Global Responsibility & Leadership
- › Data Science & Society

*The exchange office at your university will inform you about the available courses and all necessary steps and procedures. Course catalogue: www.rug.nl/ocasys

Supporting you

Studying at university is exciting but it can also be demanding. At the University of Groningen, you will have a wide support network including mentors, study advisors and tutors who will be available to help and advise you on various aspects of your student life.

Study advisors

Each programme has one or more study advisors who you can contact for practical information. They play an important role in academic career counselling, providing confidential guidance on the following issues:

- › Analysis of your interests, talents and ambitions (personal profile and labour market).
- › Help in finding and choosing study periods abroad, committee membership, internships, etc.
- › Improving your study methods
- › Support for personal matters.

Student Service Centre

The Student Service Centre is the centre of expertise in student counseling at the University of Groningen. Student counsellors, psychologists and trainers work at the SSC to support students with their studies in various areas.

The Student Service Centre offers you support on:

- › Study skills
- › Study delay
- › Psychological problems
- › Studying with a functional impairment
- › Financial matters
- › Legislation and regulations

More information:

www.rug.nl/ssc



Practical information

If you would like to study in Groningen as an exchange student, your university needs to have an exchange agreement with the University of Groningen. The exchange office at your university will inform you about the available courses and all necessary steps and procedures.

More information:
www.rug.nl/exchange

Semester dates

Fall:

› 5th September - 4th February

Spring:

› 7th February - 14th July

ECTS and Grading

ECTS is an EU standardized system for measuring study load as a way to facilitate international mobility.

- › **1 ECTS** = 28 hours of study (incl. contact hours, reading, exam preparation, etc.)
- › **60 ECTS** = one year

Grading

The Dutch grading scale runs from 1 (lowest grade) to 10 (highest grade). As an indication, 5,5 is a passing grade. Please be aware that grades 9, 10 and all grades lower than 3 are highly exceptional and are therefore rarely given.

Visa

If you want to join a programme at the University of Groningen, you may first need a visa or a residence permit. The University of Groningen will arrange this for you at the Dutch Immigration Services (IND). We will also inform you about the procedure and the documents that are needed for the application.

Living expenses

Study costs	Textbooks, readers, photocopies	round to €65 per month on average
Housing	Rent (incl. energy and other costs, for example ISP bills, excl. administration costs and security deposit of approximately 1 month rent)	€350 to €650 per month
Telephone	(eg. Prepaid sim cards/ telephone plan)	round to €25 per month on average
Food and drinks		€150 to €250 per month
Bikes	(based on a decent second hand bike)	€80 to €110
Insurance	Health care, third-party, fire and theft insurance	€100 to €120 per month



Stay in touch online

	www.rug.nl/exchange
	@universityofgroningen
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	@univgroningen
	universityofgroningen
	UniGroningen
	@uniofgroningen

Colophon

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