

Semester Exchange at Maastricht University

School of Business and Economics

Information Sheet



The city Maastricht



Maastricht gained international fame as the host of the European Summit 1991, where the treaty of Maastricht was adopted as the formal foundation of the European Union. Situated in the heart of Europe, the city is just a short distance away from Belgium, Germany and France. A city rich in history, Maastricht has a truly international flavour and as the charming provincial capital of Limburg, it is one of the oldest and most attractive cities in the Netherlands.

Maastricht University

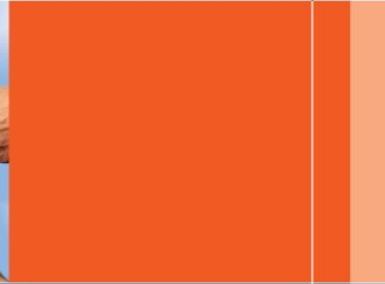
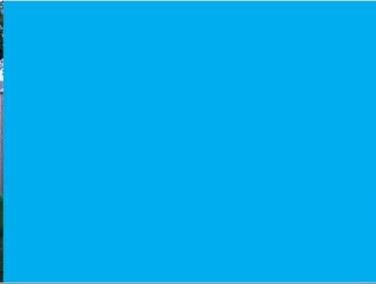
Maastricht University is highly regarded in Europe for its unique teaching style and high-quality research. For several years now, a number of national surveys have ranked consistently Maastricht University, and more specifically the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (SBE), as the best in terms of education and research. Moreover, SBE has been awarded three prestigious accreditations, resulting in the so-called Triple Crown accreditation. Only 1% of



business schools worldwide have this Triple Crown, meaning that the School is amongst a very select group of institutions such as INSEAD, Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School, London Business School and SBE's exchange partners HEC Montreal, Queen's School of Business, the University of Waikato, and EDHEC Lille/Nice.

It is a distinctly international institution with a student population consisting of over 66 nationalities. Of the total of 4150 bachelor and master students more than 1500 (40%) have a foreign background. Additionally, the School yearly welcomes about 525 exchange students from its 138 partner universities worldwide.

SBE creates a sound study environment by providing its students with modern and technical well-equipped study rooms and research facilities, a large selection of reference books, various work stations throughout the School as well as a central student services centre. An active collaborative partnership with companies in the business community complements the opportunities available at Maastricht University.



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Courses at SBE

Courses at SBE are challenging and reflect real-life challenges faced in business today. Its unique problem-based learning (PBL) system encourages students to work collaboratively to analyse cases, develop innovative approaches, and identify unique methods for seeking solutions.

Study programmes:

Exchange students can select courses out of the following programmes:

- Bachelor of Science in Economics and Business Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Econometrics
- Bachelor of Science in Fiscal Economics
- Bachelor of Science in International Business
- Master of Science in Business Research
- Master of Science in Econometrics and Operations Research
- Master of Science in Economic and Financial Research
- Master of Science in Financial Economics
- Master of Science in Fiscal Economics
- Master of Science in Human Decision Science
- Master of Science in Information and Network Economics
- Master of Science in International Business
- Master of Science in Management of Learning

Language of instruction

English

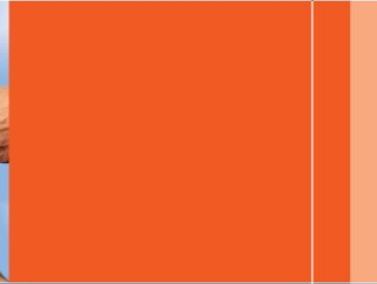
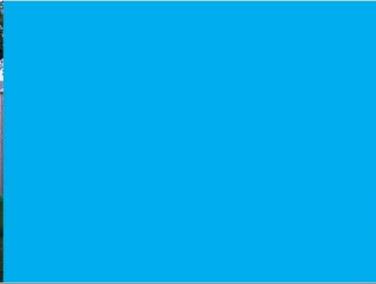
Website

General:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/sbe>

Courses:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/sbe> → Education → Exchange Programme → Incoming Students → Courses



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Learning System at the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics

The most well-known characteristic of Maastricht University and its Faculties is the "Problem-Based Learning (PBL)" system, which was adopted by Maastricht University in 1976. PBL tries to overcome the weaknesses of traditional education by giving the students an active role during lectures. Students do not spend hours listening to lectures, but attend tutorial group meetings twice a week. These meetings are the core activity of the study programme and are the driving force for learning. Within these tutorial groups, problems are presented as cases and are studied in periods of six to eight weeks. A tutorial group consists of eight to fifteen students plus a tutor (a staff member who guides the group process but who does not automatically give answers to the problems). The initiative lies with the student: the learning method is explicitly student-centred rather than teacher-centred. This way, students easily discover those areas in which their knowledge falls short. Libraries and various other learning resources that have been especially developed for this method are available for the subsequent individual learning activities. Specific information about the PBL educational system is available via:



- <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/sbe> → Education → Exchange Programme → Incoming Students → Academics → Problem Based Learning
- <http://www.umpblprep.nl/>

Semester dates 2013/2014

FALL SEMESTER

29 August & 30 August 2013:
 Compulsory Introduction Days
 02 September: start classes
 21 - 25 October: exams period 1
 16 - 20 December: exams period 2
 06 - 10 January: re-sits courses period 1
 13 - 24 January: skills training period 3 (not compulsory)

SPRING SEMESTER

30 January & 31 January 2014:
 Compulsory Introduction Days
 03 February: start classes
 31 March - 04 April: exams period 4
 07 - 11 April: re-sits courses period 2 & 3 (part fall semester)
 02 - 06 June: exams period 5
 10 - 13 June: re-sits courses period 4
 16 - 27 June: skills training period 6 (not compulsory)
 07 - 11 July: re-sits courses period 5

Please note that the academic calendar is still subject to change and will only be definite by the end of April 2013. However we do not expect any drastic changes.



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Course registration deadlines

| | Starts | Ends |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Period 1 | 01 June 2013 | 15 July 2013 |
| Period 2 | 01 June 2013 | 15 September 2013 |
| Skills 3 | 01 June 2013 | 10 November 2013 |
| Period 4 | 29 October 2013 | 24 November 2013 |
| Period 5 | 29 October 2013 | 16 February 2014 |
| Skills 6 | 29 October 2013 | 20 April 2014 |

Application deadlines 2013/2014

FALL SEMESTER

15 May 2013: on-line application as exchange student

01 June – 15 July 2013: on-line course registration period 1

SPRING SEMESTER

15 October 2013: on-line application as exchange student

29 October – 24 November 2013: on-line course registration period 4

Please note that the academic calendar is still subject to change and will only be definite by the end of April 2013. However we do not expect any drastic changes.

Cost estimate

Accommodation:

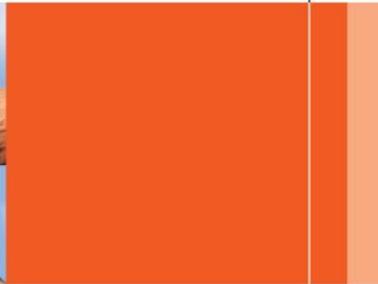
Food / meals:

Local transportation:

Academic expenses:

Other administrative fees:

- Starting at approx. €350 per month (double room)
- Food (no meal plans available): students can prepare meals in the fully equipped, shared kitchens in the UM Guesthouse.
- The Maastricht University School of Business and Economics houses a cafeteria facility (MENSA). The MENSA offers a broad assortment of food and beverages at student-friendly prices.
- Groceries: expect to pay approximately €50 per week.
- Restaurants: €10 and up (main dish)
- Bus drive with OV-chip card:
 - For more information please check: <http://www.veolia-transport.nl>
- Second hand bike €60 - €80
- About €80 - €90 per period
- No fees to be paid at SBE



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Residence permit/visa

Nationals of the following countries do not need a visa to study in The Netherlands:

Members of the EU, EEA, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea, United States of America, Vatican City State.

A visa is necessary for internationals of all other countries when staying for more than three months. All non-EU nationals need a residence permit for a stay of more than three (3) months.

Please check the webpage of our Visa Office for more information: <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/visa>

Housing

UM Guesthouse

Most exchange students end up staying at the UM Guesthouse. The buildings are located in the vicinity of the Faculties and are easily accessible by bike or on foot. Unfortunately SBE cannot guarantee that all students who apply for a room at the Guesthouse actually get a room. Applications are processed on a first-come-first-served basis, and we have no influence on that process.

Reserving a room at the UM Guesthouse is possible via the on-line reservation system at www.Maastrichthousing.com.

How to find housing on your own?

Of course exchange students are not obliged to get a room in the UM Guesthouse, even though it is the easiest option. Students can also find a room on the private market. Check the following websites for alternatives:

- www.HousingAnywhere.com: local, outgoing students sublet their room for a short period of time to incoming students.
- www.Maastrichthousing.com: acts as intermediary for the local housing corporations in the so-called “social” rent sector, and is also the portal for the UM Guesthouse.

*It may be good to realise that SBE's International Relations Office **cannot and will not** interfere on your behalf in case of legal disputes, whether with the UM Guesthouse, MaastrichtHousing, HousingAnywhere, Kamerburo, or private persons or landlords. If faced with legal problems you are advised to go to the student law agency (“Studenten Rechtsbureau”), which is an agency for all UM students, run by UM Law Students.*



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Nuffic certificate

Students with the Chinese nationality (excluding British National Overseas) are required to submit a Nuffic Certificate. This is a document issued by Nuffic (*Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education*) that provides an assessment of a student's English language proficiency and of the validity of the diplomas and degrees. Chinese students who wish to enrol in an English-taught programme at a Dutch higher education institution are required to apply for a Nuffic Certificate.

Please note that the registration for a "Nuffic Certificate" does NOT replace the regular application procedures of the Dutch universities and institutions of higher education.

The entire application procedure for the Nuffic Certificate is available on the Nuffic webpage via: <http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students> → Practical Matters → Visas and permits → Nuffic Certificate for Chinese students → Application procedure

We strongly recommend students to register for the Nuffic Certificate at least four months prior to their intended departure for the Netherlands.