

Leiden University

Study Abroad/Exchange Information Sheet Institute of Political Science

2026-2027



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

INSTITUTION

Name Institution	Universiteit Leiden
ERASMUS ID code	NL LEIDEN01
Website	www.universiteitleiden.nl (Dutch) www.universiteitleiden.nl/en (English)
Website (for exchange programme)	Study Abroad/Exchange Programmes Information for after arrival

CONTACT

Name	<u>Central:</u> Student and Educational Affairs (SEA), International Relations	<u>Faculty:</u> Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences Institute of Political Science
Postal Address (regular post)	P.O. Box 9500 NL-2300 RA Leiden The Netherlands	P.O. Box 9500 NL-2300 RA Leiden The Netherlands
Postal Address (courier services)		
Email	Admission information about applications: (Ms) Gaye Eksen, Team Lead Mobility Team: exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl University-wide Partnerships: (Mr) Hung-Wah Lam Head of International Relations internationalrelations@sea.leidenuniv.nl	All information: Bloeme Bergmann Sr Internationalisation Coordinator exchange@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

APPLICATION

Nomination periods	Fall Semester and Full Year	January 1 - March 1 Nomination processing start date: February 1
	Spring Semester	July 7 - September 15 Nomination processing start date: August 15
Application deadlines	Fall Semester and Full Year	April 1
	Spring Semester	October 15
	Important note: It's key that students have completed their application file, applied for university housing and paid the housing fee no later than 1 April for Fall and 15 October for Spring . This will increase their chances of being allocated housing significantly.	
Admission requirements	<p>A GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 and at least two years of prior academic study before arrival, unless otherwise agreed in bilateral agreements.</p> <p>Important note: Students who have completed only 1 year of studies can be accepted, but we must be notified by email at exchange@fsw.leidenuniv.nl. Please note that there are course restrictions for students in their 2nd year of studies; Year 3 courses are not available to them.</p>	
Language requirements	<p>Please refer to our Erasmus agreement whether a language test is required. If a language test is required, please see below more information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS Academic test: at least 6.5 • TOEFL test: 90 (internet-based test) • Cambridge CAE (Certificate of Advanced English): 180 • Cambridge CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English) <p>- Test results should not be older than two years. Institutional TOEFL (ITP) tests are not accepted. A few individual courses may require a higher test score. All courses at LUC require IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 100 (internet-based).</p> <p>- Please note that we do not accept the TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ and TOEFL IBT Paper Based™ for admission.</p> <p>- Current TOEFL scoring will continue to be accepted for the next two years; please contact us if you have questions about the new scoring system.</p> <p>- An English language test result is not required if students have completed their secondary education in Australia, Canada (English-taught programmes), Ireland, New Zealand, the UK or the USA, or if they have an International Baccalaureate diploma.</p> <p>- Programme specific language proficiency requirements for Master programmes can be found on our website.</p> <p>Important note: We do not require a language test result from Erasmus students, but all students studying at Leiden University must meet our language requirement</p>	

	<i>as stated on our website.</i> We can accept a statement from your home coordinator stating your English language proficiency. Please note that the English language proficiency requirement for some programmes may be higher than B2 (Master level courses for example have C1 requirement). Make sure to check which requirement applies to you.
Online nomination	Students need to be nominated by their home university coordinator via our online nomination form before they can start their application. Nominations will be processed on a rolling basis from February 1 for Fall and from August 15 for Spring. Nomination instructions will be shared separately to this document. <u>We kindly request you not to nominate your students outside of the nomination periods mentioned above.</u>
Online application and admission	<p>Once their nomination has been approved, students will receive Leiden University account details, (ULCN) and will be invited to submit their application via our online application portal uSis.</p> <p>After completing their personal details and submitting supporting documents, students are prompted to submit course requests in our online application portal.</p> <p>Once an application is complete, if the student meets the admission criteria, course requests are forwarded to the faculties for evaluation. A student must be admitted to several specific courses of min. 15 ECTS before an offer of admission can be extended. We recommend that students not book flights or make other travel plans before receiving their offer of admission. In addition to their desired courses, students should also select max. 3 alternative courses in case their first choices are not all approved.</p>
Required documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Transcript • Motivation letter • Copy of passport ID page • English Language certificate (as listed above)

PRE-DEPARTURE

Website for international students	This website with information on life in the Netherlands and practical matters such as Visa, Housing and Financial Matters will help students prepare their stay.
Housing	<p>Leiden University does not have its own dormitories; instead, students live in accommodation offered by external housing agencies and private landlords throughout Leiden and The Hague. Because housing in the Netherlands is limited and can be expensive, we strongly encourage students to begin their search well in advance and not rely solely on university-arranged options.</p> <p>Each year, the university reserves a limited number of rooms through DUWO for new international students, with priority given to short-term students, such as exchange students and one-year master's students. Although housing cannot be guaranteed, students may apply for university housing as soon as they submit their application for admission—there is no need to wait for an admission decision—and are encouraged to pay the €285 housing fee early. Once a room is reserved, DUWO will guide students through the next steps. We also advise all students to explore</p>

	<p>additional private housing options, and Leiden University is happy to provide guidance and tips during this process. Leiden University can give advice and tips. Please be informed that private housing can be expensive and is scarce.</p> <p>Please note that the housing fee is refundable as long as the student cancels before being allocated a room, or in case no room can be allocated.</p>
Visa and residence permits	<p>Holders of EU/EEA passports do not require a residence permit to study at Leiden University. Students with a non-EU nationality must have a residence permit and in many cases an entry visa as well. Once a student has been admitted to Leiden University, the International Relations Office will work with the student to apply on their behalf. Students should note that there is a fee of €243* for visas/permits and strict deadlines for submission of documents. Please note: the amount of living fee a student has to prove is €1150* p/m (for one semester is this amount €5750* and for 2 semesters €11500*). You must demonstrate proof of sufficient funds for living expenses for the duration of your exchange programme.</p> <p>*These are the current amounts and are subject to change.</p>
Insurance	<p>All students are obligated to have health insurance to cover any medical costs incurred during their stay. We strongly recommend that students ensure they have medical insurance before their arrival. Students are also highly recommended to take out liability insurance to cover any accidental damage caused to other persons or property.</p>
Estimated living expenses	<p>On average, students will need at least €968 – €1338 per month. Also see financial matters.</p> <p>Please note that public transport is not free for exchange students, but discount cards are available.</p>

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

Traveling to Leiden	<p>Students are strongly urged to read the information about preparing their stay on our website. We strongly urge your students to travel to Leiden in a sustainable way. Please feel free to share with your students the website of Leiden University Green Office for sustainable travel tips.</p>	
Orientation: Leiden and the Hague	1 st semester: *	<p>The Hague: August</p> <p>Leiden: August</p>
	2 nd semester: *	<p>Leiden: late January – begin February</p> <p>(For students studying in Leiden & The Hague)</p> <p>*for the exact dates please refer to the websites of the orientation weeks below.</p>
	<p>Leiden University organises two orientation programmes:</p> <p>Orientation Week Leiden – OWL - is the orientation programme to help new international students settle in and find their way around Leiden and the university.</p> <p>The Hague Orientation Programme – HOP - is the orientation programme organized for Dutch and international students who study in The Hague, to help them discover city life, student life and university life of our Campus in The Hague.</p>	

	<p>The orientation programme fee is €100 for participation in August and €55* for participation in January. *These fees are subject to change.</p> <p>Participation in either OWL or HOP is optional - and great fun!</p>
Residence Life Programme (RLP)	<p>Students living in university provided international accommodation in Leiden area and The Hague can rely on Resident Assistants living in their buildings. The Resident Assistants try to create a home away from home for the new tenants by organizing community building events, lending a sympathetic ear, and helping them with issues or questions they may be experiencing. They also function as a contact point, referring them to the appropriate Student Support Services, and as a liaison between DUWO, and the interests of the tenants.</p>
International Student Associations	<p>Leiden University houses several international student associations who organize cultural and social events for international and internationally-oriented students in Leiden and The Hague; a great way to make friends and get involved!</p>
Dutch language and customs	<p>Language courses are not available as regular exchange programme courses. The University's Academic Language Centre offers Dutch language courses for a fee. Please note that the grades of the language courses cannot be included in the transcript.</p> <p>However, international students can register for the free online Dutch language course Dutch & More, which has been developed for international students. Students who have completed the SPOC successfully and are enrolled at Leiden University are entitled to do the Dutch 1B course at the Academic Language Centre at a reduced rate of €85 instead of €245. For more information on this course, click here.</p>
Student life	<p>Leiden and The Hague are vibrant student cities with a rich student life and plenty of sports and cultural activities.</p>
Diversity and Inclusion at Leiden University	<p>Leiden University endorses inclusion and diversity. It is open to all those who wish to study or work here, and to develop their full potential. The University is an open community where everyone who wants to contribute to its ambitions and to all that it stands for will feel at home and have equal opportunities. Please check our website to read more about our vision on D&I and all matters related.</p>

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Support Services	<p>The student support services desk is the student information point at Plexus Student Centre in Leiden, where students can go for information about study options, study skills and any other study-related matters. In The Hague, students are welcome at Beehive Student Centre for the services provided by Student Support Services. Students can contact the student support services desk with questions about issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study programme choice • study skills • internships, careers and the job market • regulations and rights • finances
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International Exchange Coordinators	Each faculty has an international coordinator who can assist incoming exchange students with questions regarding courses in that faculty and sign the learning agreements.
Student psychologists	Our student psychologists are accessible and easy to approach. Students are welcome to arrange a consultation to discuss any problems they might be experiencing.
Disability services	Fenestra Disability Centre is Leiden University's service centre for students with a (learning) disability. Students with special needs are highly recommended to contact Fenestra before beginning their studies.
24/7 Emergency number	<p>From the Netherlands: 071 527 66 66 From abroad: +31 71 527 66 66</p> <p>For emergency services (fire, police, ambulance): 112 (can only be reached by a Dutch telephone number).</p> <p>For safety instructions please refer to our website.</p> <p>For more information on emergencies and incidents please check our website.</p>

ACADEMIC

Academic calendar	The academic year officially runs from September 1 through to August 31. All faculties follow a semester calendar: the first semester lasts from September until December/January. The second semester courses start in February.	
Recommended arrival week	1 st semester:	mid-August
	2 nd semester:	Third week of January
Semester dates	1 st semester from / to:	<p>31 August 2026 - 31 January 2027 (exams: late Dec & Jan).</p> <p>*Please note: Psychology exams typically take place in February, and this can cause problems with your university housing. Read more about this under "examinations" below and check their calendar for more information.</p> <p>*Courses in the Leiden University College (LUC) start slightly earlier, please see their calendar for more information.</p>
	2 nd semester from / to:	<p>1 February 2027 - 4 July 2027 (Final exams: May & June & early July)</p> <p>Please note that housing contracts for the Spring semester go until August.</p> <p>July and August are typically months for exam resits.</p>
Courses available to non-degree students	Students should check the Prospectus under "Exchange" for information on course content, language of instruction, pre-requisites, semester dates and assessment. Note that we offer courses in different locations in Leiden and in The Hague which may cause schedule clashes. Students can see the locations of courses on the e-prospectus.	
Languages of instruction	English and Dutch	

Credit and grading	<p>Leiden University uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Most courses carry a load of 5 or 10 EC. As is common in the Netherlands, the top grades of 9 and 10 are rarely given. A grading table will be provided on all transcript of records. Please check the website for more information on the grading table.</p>
Standard course load	<p>15-30 EC per semester for non-degree students. 30 EC is the standard full-time semester load for degree students. 1 EC equals 28 hrs of study, including contact hours and self-study.</p> <p>Important note: To be admitted as an exchange/study abroad students, students must be admitted to at least 15 EC for one semester. However, home universities will usually require that students take more credits than that. We recommend that students make sure they are admitted to a sufficient number of courses to meet their credit requirements before the application deadline!</p>
Course approval & registration	<p>Course approval occurs at the time of application to the exchange program. This process reserves students a place in the approved courses at most programmes.* Registration for approved courses in our online registration system occurs prior to the start of the semester. This process differs per faculty; students will receive further instructions close to the start of the semester.</p> <p>Questions regarding course registration after arrival should be directed to the academic coordinator at the faculty responsible for the course in question.</p> <p>*Please refer to our website for detailed information about course selection. About the course restrictions refer to the information under <i>Important faculty-specific considerations</i>.</p>
Examinations	<p>Many exams for courses that are available to international exchange students are held before the Christmas holidays so that students may return home by the end of December. There is, however, no guarantee that this will always be possible. Alternative arrangements for assessments may be possible, only at the discretion of the lecturer/department.</p> <p>Please note that the resit exams are held in January (Semester 1) and June (Semester 2); it is very common for students at Dutch institutions to not pass the first exam and need the resit. Exchange students should keep this in mind when planning their housing and travel.</p>
Transcript issuance	<p>Students can download their digitally certified transcript from the uSis application portal up to 60 days after the end of their final semester at Leiden University. After this period, transcripts can be requested via email at exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl.</p> <p>Transcripts are typically finalized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall students: mid-February to mid-March • Spring and Full-Year students: mid-June to late August <p>These are estimated timeframes, and exact dates cannot be guaranteed. Transcripts are not automatically sent to partner institutions. If you require them to be sent directly, contact exchange@sea.leidenuniv.nl. More information is available on our website.</p>