

Maastricht Summer 2009

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact *overseas@indiana.edu*.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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SSC/CES

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THE NETHERLANDS

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PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Maastricht program offers undergraduates the unique opportunity of studying the growing interdependence of American and European business at a Dutch university. The curriculum includes the study of European economics, politics and law. This curriculum is provided as a framework for understanding European business and trade policies. Special emphasis is given to the current integration taking place of the economies of the European Union countries.

All students in the program are expected to participate fully in all scheduled activities and events. Your acceptance of an invitation to join the program implies your willingness to go on all field trips and attend any special meetings or events. Your personal travel plans must not be allowed to interfere with your full participation.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the Getting Started handbook. While it contains specific program information, Getting Started contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the web: www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/maastricht.sum.pdf

The Program in Maastricht

2009 CALENDAR

- July 6 Arrival in Maastricht
July 7..... Introduction
August 14..... Check out of housing

ARRIVAL IN MAASTRICHT

Arrange your international travel so that you arrive in Maastricht between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. From Brussels or Amsterdam, take the train to the Maastricht Central Train Station. From the train station take a taxi to Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht/Teikyo, the dormitory where you will be housed. The street address is Brouwersweg 100. Report first to the Guesthouse reception (second reception on your left hand after the main entrance) to sign a contract and obtain the key to your room. CES representatives will be waiting at Annadal to welcome you and give you a map of Maastricht and a schedule of activities for the first few days.

If you arrive before July 6, 9 a.m. or after July 6, 3 p.m., contact CES to arrange your accommodation.

On the first day or two in Maastricht, Dutch student mentors will give small group tours of Maastricht and the university. Since you will still be getting acquainted with each other, recovering from jet lag, setting up your rooms, and adjusting to new customs, schedules, and language, the first few days will be intensive and demanding.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

All Maastricht program courses may be applied to the degree requirements of Business majors. Maastricht summer courses may not be taken on a pass/fail basis, nor does Indiana University permit withdrawals or incompletes for overseas study course work.

All Maastricht participants are required to take the Economics of European Integration or International Management during the first

three weeks, and one of the three options during the second three weeks. Enrollment in the optional courses will be limited to 15-20 students, so not every student can be placed in his or her first choice.

Program courses are taught in English by Universiteit Maastricht faculty. There are no Dutch students in these special classes.

Classes typically meet two or three hours a day, Monday through Thursday.

Block One:

International Management (option 1) The subject of this course is the (strategic) management of international firms, which is today organisations acting in foreign markets. As strategic management in general, this course concerns the problems of the development of strategies with respect to choice of products and markets, competitive behaviour to orient components of internationalisation and its evolution and of the focus driving the dynamics of competition in international markets. It will study the requirements resulting from the globalisation of industries and markets and from national responsiveness, the possible strategic reactions as well as the necessary conditions for their implementation. In this perspective the course will also treat aspects of the strategic management process and the methods that can be used in it.

Economics of European Integration (option 2) The aim of the course is to provide a deeper understanding of the vicissitudes of European co-operation and integration. Topics dealt with are: the history of the EU, the economic theory of custom unions and common markets, the international market program, economic and monetary union in the EU, its agricultural policy and external economic relations.

Block Two:

Intercultural Communication (option 1) This course is designed to make you aware of the variety of cultural values in today's world and help you compare your own cultural background with that

Student Advice

“Don't just blow off your classes. Many foreigners feel Americans are loud; don't play into this stereotype. Get involved with foreigners. You can learn more staying in Maastricht with new friends than traveling. Do not just stick with Americans.”

of various European cultures. The course reveals how organizational cultures can be managed effectively and outlines ways of learning intercultural communication. Simple, practical assignments called “barefoot research” provide experience and self-confidence in intercultural encounters.

European Culture: Art and History (option 2) This course will address cultural and political developments that have marked 19th and 20th-Century Europe. Most lectures will focus on highlights of European cultural history, and artifacts will be used to illustrate the wide variety of social, cultural and political developments that have influenced European history. Topics include cathedrals as political statements (Rheims, Paris, Cologne), the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, Romanticism, mid-19th-century rebuilding of urban centers, nationalism, Naturalism, turn of the century Vienna, revolutionary Russian artists, Nazi propaganda, resistance against the “Americanization” of European life after 1945, and post World War II city preservation in Maastricht.

Student Advice

“Classes aren’t a blow off like I expected; you do have to do homework. Cultural differences aren’t that bad, it only takes a while to adjust.”

Law and Politics: Current Topics in the European Union (option 3) The aim of this course is two-fold. On one hand it intends to acquaint students with the EU’s institutional architecture and legal order. On the other, it will provide them with a wider understanding of Europe – in socio-political-historical terms – which will enable them to better understand key European processes and developments. Based on the latest Brussels news, the course will bring the students up-to-date with the EU’s agenda and will point out key policy changes into making. The course is based on a multidisciplinary approach. It looks at topics such as European identity and history of European integration as well as key policies (i.e. enlargement, CFSP, ENP, CAP). Institutional and political questions will also be addressed. A complicated construction in constant flux, understanding the EU depends on having a broader knowledge and a good overview of the framework within which EU’s come into being.

This course will be assessed with a 3-hour examination consisting of essay questions. The exam will be graded on a 1–10 scale. Attendance is mandatory and 5% will be reduced from the final grade for each missed session. 15% of the final grade will be based

on participation.

*Students should meet with Tammy Orahood, Manager of Undergraduate International Programs, Kelley School of Business, in order to verify the course equivalents that will be awarded.

Dutch Instructional Style

You will find a striking difference between instructional styles in the U.S. and those in the Netherlands. Adjusting to the new academic environment will be part of the challenge of the program. The European educational tradition gives the student greater responsibility and initiative in a much less structured environment. Professors often provide an extensive bibliography, but no specific reading assignments per lecture, no study questions, no syllabi, and few quizzes. As a result, you may be lulled into feeling that the first part of a course is easy and the last few weeks unbearably intense. You should be reading throughout the term, setting a reasonable pace so you cover the recommended readings.

GRADES

Grades in Maastricht courses are normally based on a midterm and a final. CES faculty report grades on a 1-100 scale. Grades are equated to IU's A-F system based on the equivalency scale below.

CES grade	IU equivalent
90- 100	A
85-89	A-
80-84	B+
75 - 79	B
70 - 74	B-
65 - 69	C+
60 - 64	C
55 - 59	C-
50 - 54	D+
45 - 49	D
45 or below	F

LIBRARIES

Library resources are much more restricted than what you are used to at IU. Back issues of periodicals are kept only one year, and the library does not subscribe to many of the periodicals you would like access to. Library hours are also much shorter. Closing time is 5 p.m. Ten to 12 copies of each important textbook or reference book are available in open stacks in several large reading rooms in the Economics library. This departmental library has computer-assisted reference catalogs and several photocopiers, where Dutch students routinely copy important texts instead of purchasing them.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks for CES courses are included in your IU program fee.

COMPUTERS AND E-MAIL

You will be provided with an e-mail account in Maastricht. Students who submit a passport size photo and a photocopy of the passport page with their name on it to Tammy Orahod by the deadline indicated in the acceptance materials will receive their e-mail accounts shortly after arrival. Those who miss the deadline will have to wait approximately one week. There are a few computers with Internet in the CES-building. There is 24/7 computer access at the dorms if you bring a laptop.

Laptop Computer

In your room at the dormitory, there is an Internet connection for your laptop. This connection is included in your rent. In the information meeting on July 7, you will get your ID-number and password to make use of the Internet connection.

Life in Maastricht

HOUSING

The Universiteit Maastricht has no central campus, and Dutch students live in rooms all over Maastricht. All IU students will be housed together in Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht, a comfortable and spacious dormitory not far from the city center. Bedrooms are doubles and have a kitchen in the room. Every corridor has sufficient bathrooms and toilets, washing machines and dryers. Kitchens are equipped with dishes, hot plates, sinks and refrigerators. Most other international students are assigned to Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht, and the chance to meet students from all over the world is a major advantage of living there. No dormitory is perfect, and Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht has its share of problems, including echoing corridors and noise.

You will have to adjust to some differences between Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht and IU dorms. For example, you may need creative new cooking techniques to cope with the absence of ovens, freezers, toasters and microwaves.

Pillows are provided, but bedding and linens are not. Bring your own towels, washcloths, blankets, sheets and pillowcases or purchase them in Maastricht. On the day you arrive in Maastricht, Dutch student mentors will take you to a shopping mall where you can buy linens, although you may prefer to solve the problem by bringing a sleeping bag from home. If you ship bedding to Maastricht, the package should be addressed to the CES mailing address on page 3.

Damage Deposits

Housing for CES students is handled by an independent housing authority called the Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht. When you arrive, you will have to sign a housing contract (see sample in Overseas Study Information Center). On the last day of the program, you are expected to leave the room in the same condition as it was when you moved in. You don't pay a deposit, because CES guarantees this deposit on your behalf. If your room and the communal rooms (for which all students are held collectively responsible) are immaculate and all dishes and furnishings intact, everything is OK. If CES receives complaints from Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht about your

room after you have left, CES will charge you for damages. In the past the Guesthouse has been strict and unyielding in its standards.

TELEPHONES

Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht has one telephone on each corridor where you can receive incoming calls, and public telephones in the lobby where you can place outgoing calls with a calling card.

Cellular Telephone

Cell phones purchased in Maastricht are inexpensive and popular. There is no monthly service fee. You purchase a prepaid telephone card in the amount you wish and dial a special access number for the best rates.

Student Advice

“The Dutch are very open and speak their mind, so don’t be offended or surprised. Social customs are not very different from home. Europeans are friendly once you talk to them first. Everyone is nice and willing to help. Europeans dress nicely as opposed to our college look, and they don’t drink to get drunk.”

TIME

The Netherlands is six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. When it is noon in New York, it is 6 p.m. in Maastricht.

MAIL

Letters and packages should be addressed to the CES office, where you will pick up your mail.

FOOD AND GROCERY SHOPPING

You will shop for groceries and prepare you own meals at Guesthouse Universiteit Maastricht. All shops, including grocery stores and markets, are closed on Sunday and many are closed on Monday mornings as well. In general, shops are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the other days. In Dutch shops bargaining is not customary; the customer is expected to pay the price that is marked. Bring a shopping bag with you when you shop for groceries. In the supermarkets you must pack your own groceries.

The traditional Dutch diet consists primarily of bread and vegetables: bread with cheese, thinly sliced cold meat, or jam for breakfast; much the same for lunch with the addition of tomato or fruit; and for the evening meal, large quantities of potatoes and other vegetables together with fish or a small serving of meat. As you would expect, this diet is also the most economical in Holland. Vegetables especially are plentiful, of high quality, and inexpensive. Restaurants are expensive. The best bargain in dining out is a meal at one of the many Turkish Kebab restaurants.

SOCIAL CUSTOMS

The Dutch seldom fail to keep an appointment and are usually punctual. Professors expect punctuality. If you are invited to a Dutch home, it is customary to bring a small gift, most often flowers. It's the thought that counts so don't go too far with an expensive gift. It will only embarrass you and make them feel obliged to do the same if they are invited to your home. When Dutch people are out in company, everyone expects and is expected to pay their share of the costs. Tipping is not as widespread as in the U.S., but if you are satisfied with service, give a 5-10% tip to waiters and taxi drivers.

Despite being basically reserved, the Dutch speak in a manner that may startle you with its directness. They may sound abrupt, but they do not mean to be impolite. They are quite literal in their speech and like to come to the point quickly.

MEDICAL CARE

The CES Staff in Maastricht will give you the names, addresses and telephone numbers of reputable physicians. The CES staff can assist you in case of a medical emergency.

WEATHER

Summer weather in northern Europe is much like April weather in Indiana: unpredictable and variable. There will be occasional cold and drizzle as well as mild days with generous sunshine. Do not expect the heat and humidity of an Indiana summer.

PACKING

PACK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. Experienced travelers rely on coordinated mix-and-match outfits and don't worry if they are seen frequently in the same skirt or jacket. Dutch students dress conservatively and are not sloppy. They seldom wear white socks, sneakers or flip-flops.

- one or two dressy outfits or business suits
- raincoat with hood, umbrella
- windbreaker
- sweater
- good walking shoes
- warm bathrobe, shower caddy and slippers
- small knapsack for books
- larger knapsack (with zip-off bags) or weekend bag for travel
- MP3 player
- CDs/DVDs
- film and batteries (expensive in Europe)
- travel alarm clock
- sheets and pillowcases, blankets, towels and washcloths
- notebooks and classroom supplies
- laptop computer (recommended)
- a good European map
- *Let's Go: Europe*, *Lonely Planet*, *Michelin*, or other travel guides
- International Student ID card
- small English dictionary

Student Advice

“Bring notebooks, bug spray, US checkbook for writing personal checks to AmEx for travelers checks, two credit cards. Pack light (everyone wears same outfit twice a week—no big deal), bring shorts for travel after program. Bring *Let's Go: Europe*, not *Fodors*. Keep an open mind.”

Student Advice

“Don't travel EVERY weekend—take time to meet other people. Also, academics sometimes make it difficult to travel.”

- favorite recipes
- photos of family and friends
- pocket knife, small bottle opener, corkscrew for travel
- deodorant (Most European deodorant has no antiperspirant.)
- prescription medication
- typewritten copy of your prescription using generic, not brand name, terms
- first aid kit with medications for colds, headaches, stomach upset, typewritten copy of your eye prescription

Note: U.S. electrical appliances work poorly in Europe, even with converters, and small items like hair dryers can be purchased inexpensively in the Netherlands.

GUIDE BOOKS

Prepare yourself for life in Europe by reading student-oriented guide books, such as *Let's Go*, *Lonely Planet*, *On the Loose* or *Culture Shock!: The Netherlands*. Traveling will be easier if you understand in advance how to read a train schedule, identify a second class train car, change money, locate a youth hostel, etc. Take the guide book with you, as it can be difficult to obtain general European travel information in English in the Netherlands.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Trains

The public transportation is excellent in the Netherlands. The trains, especially in the western part of the country, run frequently and on time. The distances are short: Amsterdam - The Hague, 45 minutes; The Hague - Delft, 10 minutes; Delft - Rotterdam, 15 minutes; Maastricht - Amsterdam, 2 hours 30 minutes; Maastricht - Paris, 4 hours 15 minutes. Train carriages are first or second class, all nonsmoking (niet roken). A first class ticket is about 50 percent more expensive than a second class ticket and the difference in comfort is slight. Tickets must be purchased in the station. There you can also inquire about the many special bargain rates offered

by the Dutch Railways.

Schedules are posted on every spoor, or track. Trains stick to their schedules and stop only briefly at each station. You may assume the train scheduled to be on a given track is the correct one and board it whether it carries an identifying sign or not. Inside the Netherlands take advantage of the inexpensive day passes. Three persons traveling together may purchase a cheaper group ticket good after 9 a.m. on weekdays and anytime on weekends.

When traveling by train overnight, you may wish to reserve a bed (couchette) in a compartment that sleeps six passengers. These cost about \$15. Train seats may be reserved for a small fee, a good investment on crowded routes.

Traveling by train or using the cheap airlines are the best ways to see Europe. Students recommend purchasing a Eurail pass for extensive vacation travel. It gives you the freedom to roam about as you wish, without having to spend time in train stations trying to purchase tickets in a language you do not understand. Since you obtain the pass in the U.S., you won't need cash for rail fares in Europe.

Student Advice

Get 2 month/15 day Eurail. Student ID card pays off."

There are many Eurail options, all of which must be purchased in the United States. Check with STA Travel or another travel agent about the best option for you. Read carefully the instruction booklet, maps, and schedules that accompany your rail pass, but realize that cheap flights are very often a faster alternative to trains.

Buses

Outlying villages are linked by bus. At the train station you can buy a busboek, which contains a complete schedule for all the rural buses. For city buses, purchase a strippenkaart, good for multiple rides, at the post office or train station. They are cheaper and more convenient than tickets purchased individually on the bus.

The central station in each city is its transportation hub. There train, bus, taxi, and bicycle routes converge, and you will find travel information, connections, and food. Near most central stations is the office of the VVV, which offers tourist information and assistance in booking rooms in pensions or hotels (for a small charge). Do

not confuse the central station with the centrum, which is the town center.

Local bus transportation is frequent and inexpensive. Weekly or monthly passes are available. Take a passport photo the first time you buy one. Strips for three or eight rides can be purchased for about 50 cents per ride.

Bicycles

For short distances or for poking around the country roads, no form of transportation is better than the one used most by the Dutch themselves. In a country of 14 million people, there are about 10 million bicycles.

Buying a bicycle is not expensive, especially if you choose a simple model. Second-hand bicycles are readily available, and you can sell the bike before you head back to the U.S. Don't buy a flashy model. The Dutch are usually honest, and the general crime rate in the Netherlands is low, but for some reason bicycle theft is almost a sport. Invest in a stout bike lock.

Student Advice

"Pack light. Bring Nike hiking boots, raincoat, umbrella, Let's Go: Europe, good backpack for travel, lots of film, more than one pair of shorts, older clothes and one nice outfit. Get a cheap bike."

YOUTH HOSTEL CARD

Youth hostels provide clean, inexpensive, albeit spartan accommodations throughout Western Europe. You must have a hostel card in order to spend the night. Cards cost \$25 for the year and are available from American Youth Hostels (www.hiayh.org). You can also purchase memberships at any youth hostel overseas, and sometimes they are less expensive there.

The Netherlands

LAND USE

The Netherlands is extremely flat. There are a few hills in the southeast corner of the country. There are no obstacles to the wind, which is an almost constant feature. Water criss-crosses the land with perfect geometric regularity; even the fields where Holland's five million cows graze are separated not by fences, but by water. Land is very precious in the Netherlands. Through enormous efforts over the centuries thousands of hectares have been reclaimed from the sea. Creating dikes along the coast and rivers with draining polders behind them has added a great deal of land. Forty percent of the country lies below sea level.

Hardly any patch of ground is wasted. Complexes of garden allotments, called people's gardens, occupy land that cannot otherwise be used. The allotments are rented very cheaply by city dwellers who leave their flats behind on weekends to tend their vegetables and flowers.

The high value placed on land can also be seen in the careful spatial planning. Urban areas are kept within strict bounds. Extreme care in land use permits the second most densely populated country in the world (after Bangladesh) to be an exporter of food. It is possibly this attitude toward the land that has caused the Dutch to place great value on cleanliness and orderliness.

POPULATION DIVERSITY

Over 15.5 million people live in an area that is less than 37,000 square kilometers, or about 1/3 the size of Indiana. The area defined by drawing a line connecting Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht has five million inhabitants. This area, known as the West Holland conurbation, or Randstad, has a high population density.

The Netherlands is inhabited by a largely homogeneous population, but there are small minorities of Indonesians and Surinamese, testimony to Holland's former colonial role. In the 1950s and 1960s when Dutch industry was growing fast and there was a shortage of cheap unskilled labor, workers were brought in from Turkey, Italy,

Spain, Morocco, Yugoslavia and Tunisia. Many of these gastarbeiders (guest workers) brought their families to Holland and settled permanently.

The employment situation has now been reversed because of automation, more working women, population growth and economic stagnation, and unemployment is a serious problem.

The Netherlands has a wealth of different religious and political persuasions. The largest religious group is Roman Catholic (40%), followed by the various groups of Protestants (35%).

POLITICS

The Netherlands is a monarchy, whose Queen, Beatrix of Oranje Nassau, has been on the throne since 1980. But the monarch has had very little real power since the present constitution was adopted in 1848. All men and women have had the vote in the Netherlands since 1922. In order to govern, the Cabinet needs a majority in the two chambers of parliament. The first chamber, or Senate, is elected by the members of the Provincial States, the elected officials who govern the provinces. The second chamber is the main arena of Dutch politics. Its 150 members are engaged full time, unlike the 75 members of the first chamber whose positions are part-time. The first chamber reviews all proposals that have been approved by the second chamber but hardly ever presents a divergent point of view.

General elections for the second chamber must be held at least every four years. The Netherlands has a multiple-party system (and more than 20 political parties), so it relies on coalitions for governing. Arriving at a workable combination to form a cabinet can take months. The major parties are: the Labor Party, or social democrats (PvdA), the Christian Democratic Alliance (DCA), the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, or liberals (VVD), the Democrats '66, a progressive liberal party founded in 1966 (D'66).

There is probably no other country with as many protest demonstrations as the Netherlands. The orderly, often silent, demonstration or vigil has become a fairly standard form of political expression in recent years. Many demonstrations focus on the courtyard of the parliament buildings in The Hague.