



university of  
 groningen

faculty of economics  
 and business

# Exchange opportunities at the Faculty of Economics and Business



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# FEB Exchange Office

We have a valuable tradition of welcoming exchange students to the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) and connecting with partner institutions worldwide. What makes studying at the FEB an enriching experience for exchange students? This leaflet will give you an idea of what the FEB has to offer. It will look at the courses offered, the unique Dutch teaching methods, student facilities and the attractive city of Groningen.

We highlight the most essential information in this guide, but please visit our website for more detailed information about the FEB exchange programme: [www.rug.nl/feb/exchange](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange)

As staff members of the FEB Exchange Office, we hope you will enjoy reading this information and we look forward to welcoming you or your students to Groningen!



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FEB's international network:  
150 partner institutions:  
[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-partners](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-partners)

# Groningen, the Netherlands: a city made for students

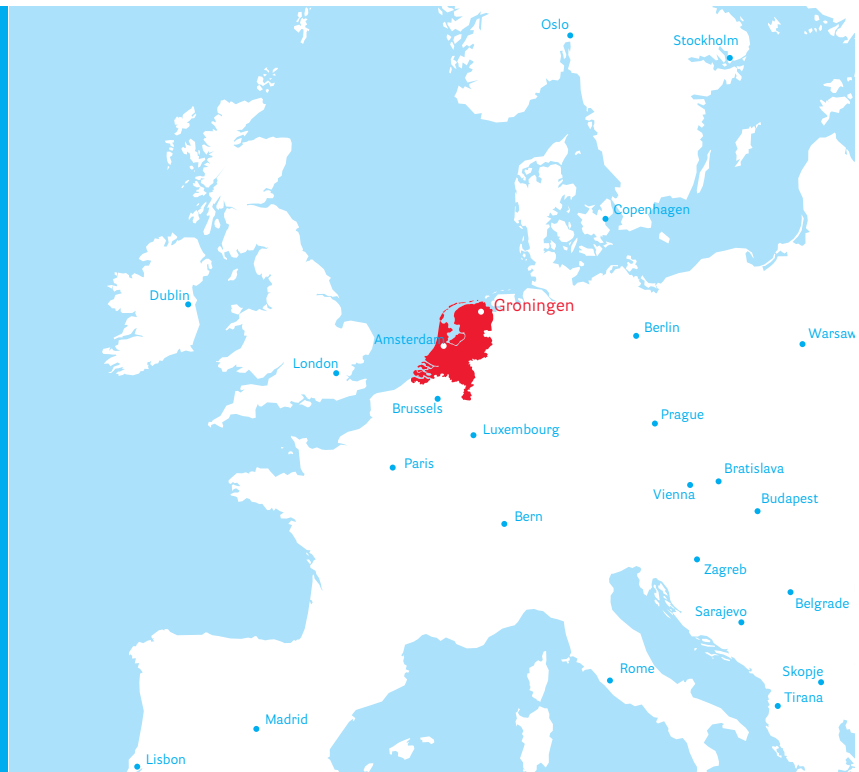
## ***The city of Groningen:***

- is an attractive destination: it has been nominated 'Best City Centre' and 'Safest City in the Netherlands' for a number of years running. A European Commission Survey ranked Groningen as the most attractive city in which to live.
- is unique and different: a colourful and compact city where everything is within walking or cycling distance. The city has an intimate, friendly and vibrant atmosphere with cinemas, restaurants, theatres, pubs, museums and pedestrianized shopping streets.
- has a relatively young population. Every fifth person in the city is a student, and over half of its 185,000 inhabitants are younger than 35. This has resulted in a wide range of facilities catering for just about every taste in sport, culture and recreation – and at a reasonable price too.
- is in the north of the Netherlands, close to the German border and the Scandinavian countries. A direct train takes only two and a half hours to reach Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

[www.rug.nl/feb/groningen](http://www.rug.nl/feb/groningen)

## **The Netherlands**

The Netherlands is small in size but has extensive international trade links and high standards of education, health care and social equality. As one of the founding members of the EU and with other European capitals only a short distance away, the Netherlands is at the heart of Europe. Our merchant past is still evident today in both the historic architecture and the international outlook of the population. Although Dutch is the main language, English is widely spoken. Our climate is characterized by moderate summers and changeable winters.



# Welcoming Ceremony: Induction and Enrolment at Groningen

We want to ensure that international students get off to a successful start at Groningen and therefore ask them to participate in the special Welcoming Ceremony and Faculty Induction and Enrolment before the start of the semester. Both events are compulsory, because we believe a good start is essential to a successful and enjoyable stay in Groningen.

## **Raluca-Georgina Vasile, exchange student from Romania:**

“The introduction programme was very helpful because it was a pleasant welcome and provided us with additional information about our stay here. It shouldn't be missed, because it is the easiest way to find out how to adjust to the new learning environment.”



## **Courses for exchange students**

FEB does not offer courses exclusively for exchange students. This means that as an exchange student you will participate in courses alongside regular degree (Bachelor of Science and Master of Science) students. This will enhance your academic learning experience and give you a wide selection of courses to choose from. However, it does mean that you need to meet entry requirements similar to those we set for our degree students, regarding both your academic qualifications and your level of English language proficiency.

The majority of courses open to exchange students are Bachelor's (undergraduate) programmes. Some Master's (graduate) courses are also open to exchange students who have completed a Bachelor's degree programme.

**For an extensive and up-to-date list of courses open to exchange students see:**

**[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-courses](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-courses)**



Welcome Ceremony 2010

# The Dutch way of teaching

Many exchange students find the educational environment here different from what they are used to. The teaching style can be described as interactive and student-centred, providing students with the attention and freedom they need to develop their own opinions and creativity whilst applying their newly acquired knowledge.

The Netherlands has won international acclaim for its groundbreaking problem-based learning system, which trains students to analyze and solve practical problems independently by placing an emphasis on self-study and self-discipline.

Interaction in class is highly appreciated. Students are expected to develop and express their own opinions. They should not be passive, but should ask questions and be critical of what lecturers or fellow students say.

For more information about our educational system please see: [www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-courses](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-courses)

In weekly tutorial meetings, students study and present textbook material as well as preparing and presenting assignments. The tutorials are supported by a limited number of lectures, some given by guest lecturers, which illustrate the course literature and explain critical views on organizational change.

## Entry requirements

- ***Educational background***

Exchange students need to have an educational background in economics and/or business. To be allowed to participate in Master's courses, exchange students need to send the FEB Exchange Office a photocopy or scan of their Bachelor's degree.

- ***English language proficiency***

Exchange students need to meet some minimum requirements concerning their English language proficiency. Please note that the requirements for participation in Master's courses are stricter than for Bachelor's courses. Students need to provide the FEB Exchange Office with proof of their level of English language proficiency.

### Accepted proof for **Bachelor's (BSc) courses** :

- TOEFL: (iBT) 80; (CBT) 213; (PBT) 550
- IELTS 6.0
- Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): grade C
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) English: B2.2

### Accepted proof for **Master's (MSc) courses** :

- TOEFL: (iBT) 92; (CBT) 237; (PBT) 580
- IELTS 6.5
- Cambridge Proficiency A, B, C and Cambridge Advanced English (CAE)
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) English: C1/C2

### Course workload

An academic year (60 ECTS credit points) consist of two semesters (30 ECTS credit points each), and a semester is divided into two blocks (15 ECTS credit points each). Exchange students are advised to choose courses worth a total of 10-15 ECTS credit points for a block and a total of 25-30 ECTS credit points for a semester. This will ensure a balanced study load.

### Learning environment

- **FEB: Strong link between research and teaching**

Although our degree programmes are strongly rooted in business practice and society, they also focus from the start on academic research. This is because students will need such knowledge in their later careers, regardless of whether they enter the academic or the business world: an independent, analytical and critical mind and problem-solving abilities are important attributes in any profession. Research will show the students how their field of study contributes to society. They will become involved in research projects right from the start and their level of involvement will continually increase. In the first year they will be introduced to current international research and undertake small-scale research. Later on, they will participate to an increasing degree in sub-projects and will end up working on larger research projects.

### Extra courses

- **Dutch Studies**

The Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen allows FEB exchange students to participate in a Dutch Studies programme. The courses offered are for those students who are interested in courses on Literature and History within a European Perspective.

- **Dutch Courses for non-native speakers**

The University Language Centre offers Dutch courses for non-native speakers at various levels. The courses are designed for people who have been in higher education. For more information about the levels/schedules and rates:

[www.rug.nl/languagecentre](http://www.rug.nl/languagecentre)



# Academic calendar

## General

The academic year is divided into two semesters, which in turn are divided into two blocks.

September		mid Februari				Mid July	
Academic Year (60 ECTS credit points)							
Semester 1 (30 ECTS)				Semester 2 (30 ECTS)			
Block 1 (15 ECTS)		Block 2 (15 ECTS)		Block 3 (15 ECTS)		Block 4 (15 ECTS)	
Courses (8 weeks)	Exams (2 or 3 weeks)	Courses (8 weeks)	Exams and resits (2 or 3 weeks)	Courses (8 weeks)	Exams (2 or 3 weeks)	Courses (8 weeks)	Exams and resits (2 or 3 weeks)

A block (a half semester) is indicated by year, semester and block number (e.g. 1.1.2 = the first academic year of a degree programme, the first semester, second block).

Courses are offered once a year, and most are either half semester courses (5 ECTS credit points) or full semester courses (10 ECTS credit points).

For the exact dates of the current academic year see:

[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange)

### Angelica Ansjory, exchange student from Indonesia

'I would say that all the courses are very academic, which I find completely different from my home university. The educational methods mostly used here are lectures and teaching in small groups. Both are very different, whereby there is more interactivity in the small groups. I have to read a lot since it is very book-based here. Nonetheless, I think it is very good as it fosters a greater responsibility in students to study independently. I have to add that Zernike has great facilities. It almost has everything you could ask for with its sport centre, library, cafe, canteen, bookshop, etc.'



# Application for exchange courses at the FEB

## Application procedure

Partner universities that have an ERASMUS or bilateral exchange agreement with the FEB can nominate student(s). The Exchange Coordinator of the home university arranges the initial application.

## 1-2-3-4 The four steps in the application and registration process

### 1. Nominations

The Exchange Coordinator of the home university nominates the candidates. The deadline by which the Coordinator must send nominations is 1 May (first semester) and 1 October (second semester).

### 2. Receiving registration information

Once we have received the nomination(s), we will send our partners the information on how their students can register online.

### 3. Meeting the deadline

The deadline for online registration is 1 June (first semester) and 1 November (second semester).

### 4. Supplying additional information

Once the student has registered online, we will require some additional information and documents to complete the application:

- Proof of English proficiency
- A photocopy of the student's Bachelor's degree certificate (in case of graduate/MSc exchange)
- A photocopy of the student's passport (ID card for EU)
- Two recent passport photos (with the student's name written on the back)
- Visa application documents (if applicable)

Once the application is completed and the entry requirements have been fulfilled, the Exchange Office sends an acceptance letter. Upon receipt of this letter, a student can register for accommodation (and we strongly advise doing so immediately). The Exchange Office will also apply for a student card for the student, and – if applicable – start the visa application.

[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-apply](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-apply)



Students registering for courses during the Faculty introduction

# Living in Groningen

## **Accommodation**

The Netherlands is one of the smallest countries in Europe. Foreign visitors are often surprised to learn how difficult it is to find housing and how expensive it is. The University of Groningen, like many other Dutch universities, does not have a campus, which means that every year thousands of new first-year students scramble to find rooms or apartments.

For international students, the Housing Office, a non-profit organization that acts as an intermediary, will help find temporary furnished housing. Housing is scarce and not cheap. Try not to be disappointed when you see what you are offered (and how much it costs). Bear in mind that local students are also paying high prices for their accommodation. In most cases, you will be housed in one of the International Student Houses that are dotted throughout the city of Groningen. You will live with other international students and will quickly feel at home in the multicultural, relaxed atmosphere of these houses. For some it might be a challenge, but for most it's the best part of your experience. All International Student Houses employ (Dutch) student managers to welcome new students and act as caretakers. As is usual for Dutch student accommodation, the facilities:

- have a private study/bedroom
- have shared kitchen and bathroom, shared living rooms
- are fully furnished (bed, desk, lamp, chair, cupboard/locker)
- have free wireless online access

[www.rug.nl/internationalstudents](http://www.rug.nl/internationalstudents)

[www.housingoffice.nl](http://www.housingoffice.nl)

## **Visa (MVV)**

If you need a visa to enter the Netherlands, the FEB Exchange Office will apply for it because you are not allowed to apply for an MVV yourself (for stays longer than three months, with the purpose of study). You will need to send a number of documents to the Exchange Office. After you have registered online we will let you know which documents are needed in your case.

## **Residence Permit (non-EU exchange students)**

A residence permit is a document that states your identity, your nationality and your right to reside in the Netherlands. A residence permit is issued with a specific purpose in mind, in your case this would be 'study'. If you are a non-EU student and will be staying in the Netherlands for longer than three months you must apply for a residence permit. You will receive information from the Exchange Office about this after you have registered online.

More information about the visa procedure and residence permit:

[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-visa](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-visa)

## Banking

You will need a current bank account to manage your day-to-day finances. You will be able to arrange this once you have arrived in Groningen to begin your studies. The university has an agreement with the Rabobank that enables all international guests of the university to open a bank account. Representatives of the bank will be present at the Welcoming Ceremonies held at the beginning of each academic semester.

## Health insurance

The Netherlands has a high standard of medical care. It is very important to be properly insured. Medical costs can be very high, especially if they include a stay in a hospital. Students at institutes of higher education are not automatically insured for medical expenses abroad. All international students in the Netherlands must have health insurance. The health insurance that applies to you depends on your country of origin, age, length of stay, etc.

More information about health insurance, additional insurance and the EU health insurance card can be found here:

[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-insurance](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange-insurance)

## Cost of living: *relatively low*

The latest Worldwide Cost of Living Survey shows that the cost of living in the Netherlands is modest compared with cities such as New York, Paris, London and Beijing. In fact, it still has one of the lowest cost-of-living rankings in Europe.

- Housing: € 260-450 per month
- Food: € 200 per month
- Spending money: € 55 per month
- Insurance: € 75-100 per month
- Language courses: € 100-450 per course
- Security deposit: € 325
- Administration costs housing: € 300
- Bicycle: € 45-110 (good quality used bicycle)
- ACLO Sports centre € 52 per year.

## Our Student Services and Facilities

Studying or working at the University of Groningen goes beyond coursework or research. The University aims to offer a wide range of services to all students and staff. They can therefore make use of state-of-the-art computer facilities, high-speed e-mail and internet access and an online support system. The university libraries have more than three million titles, over 15,000 periodicals and an online electronic library, while the Language Centre offers courses in many languages at various levels.

[www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/universityofgroningen/services](http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/universityofgroningen/services)



# Zooming in on Student Services

## Student Support Desk

FEB students who have any questions about courses and exams, personal circumstances, their stay in Groningen or anything else can visit either the FEB Student Support Desk in the Plaza of the Duisenberg building or the online FEB Student Support Desk, see:

[www.rug.nl/feb/studentsupport](http://www.rug.nl/feb/studentsupport)



## International Service Desk

The University's ISD assists and informs all international guests of the University about matters relating to studying and working at the University of Groningen. The ISD provides practical information about insurance, medical care, housing, University facilities and everyday matters. The ISD is located in the University's main building, the Academy Building.

[www.rug.nl/isd](http://www.rug.nl/isd)

## University Sports Centre

The University Sports Centre ('ACLO') is next to the FEB and is open 15 hours a day, almost every day of the year. The ACLO caters for every need and offers excellent sports facilities and a number of courses in which students can become acquainted with various sports, from aerobics and fitness to sailing and waterskiing. The ACLO was rated the best university sports facility by international students in the International Student Barometer 2007.

[www.aclosport.nl](http://www.aclosport.nl)



## International (student) associations

The international associations engage in a number of activities ranging from providing useful information and offering fun activities for international students to organizing international congresses (i.e. on a unified Europe or the United Nations). International students are also widely represented:

ESN-Groningen: [www.esn-groningen.nl](http://www.esn-groningen.nl)

Chinese Students Association Groningen: [www.acssg.nl](http://www.acssg.nl)

PPI Indonesian Students Association: [pople.ppigroningen.nl](http://pople.ppigroningen.nl)

East African Students Community: [www.easc.nl](http://www.easc.nl)

EBF: Economic and Business student Faculty association: [www.ebfg groningen.nl](http://www.ebfg groningen.nl)

International Students FEB: tips and advice from international students for (prospective) international students:

[www.feb-international.com](http://www.feb-international.com)

[www.rug.nl/feb/exchange](http://www.rug.nl/feb/exchange)



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