Liberal Arts and Sciences at UCG

open academic community – since 1614
Are you committed to addressing the complex, societal challenges of the 21st century? Do you want to develop your full potential in an international and interdisciplinary environment? Students of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) have all it takes to become thought leaders and innovators capable of executing solutions to challenges posed by our rapidly changing world.
Welcome to Groningen

Our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme offers students from all around the world an intensive and modern curriculum tailored to your own strengths and interests. Through academic teaching and projects, we motivate students to critically think about solutions to global problems.

We aim to create an inspiring community with both satisfied students and satisfied teachers and staff. Our goal is to offer a strong interdisciplinary LAS programme in which lecturers are eager to contribute to and that students feel inspired to develop themselves in all kinds of areas. We want to motivate you to explore and see what sparks your passion and interests, to get involved in what matters.

We look forward to welcoming you to Groningen!

What makes UCG unique?

- Project-based learning in all three years
- Guaranteed housing in the centre of Groningen
- Entrepreneurship Centre embedded within UCG
- Best student city in the Netherlands
- No need to declare a specialisation upon entry
- Ranked as ‘Top-Rated Programme’ for four years in a row (Keuzegids, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
- LAS faculty in top research university setting
The UCG Philosophy
– a new kind of graduate

Our mission is to challenge you, and to give you the space and support to thrive.

Our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme is designed to empower you to forge your own path, develop your own identity, and find your position in a constantly changing world.

1 Experiential Education
Students put their existing knowledge and experience to work, pulling in new knowledge when and where it is needed the most.

2 Interactive and Small-scale Learning Environment
Students integrate and further develop knowledge, rather than just store it.

3 Focus on Societal Issues
Students and teachers apply knowledge to complex, real-world situations.

4 Interdisciplinarity
Students combine knowledge from multiple disciplines because complex situations – like climate change or the refugee crisis, or the future of capitalism – cannot be addressed effectively by one discipline alone.

5 Entrepreneurial Mindset
Students develop the ability to recognise or even create opportunities, which complements Liberal Arts and Sciences skills like creative and critical thinking, clear and compelling communication and the ability to contribute to (and lead) a team.

Our vision
Our vision is to give our students both specialised expertise and a broad interdisciplinary perspective. For this, we aim to turn classrooms into laboratories: spaces where students and teachers work across disciplines to diagnose and provide solutions to complex problems.

Liberal Arts and Sciences skills give graduates the flexibility to move between careers and even create their own. Project management skills and intercultural competences, along with communication, creativity and critical analysis skills are in demand both by employers and Master programmes. Students who graduate with the LAS undergraduate degree are prepared for a broad range of Master programmes and career options.

The programmes our recent alumni are pursuing include:
- MSc Environmental Psychology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- MSc Service Systems Design at Aalborg University, Denmark
- MA Media and Business, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology and Victimology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- LLM International Human Rights Law and Global Criminal Law, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- MSc Business Administration, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- MSc Cancer, Stem Cells and Developmental Biology, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- Pre-Master Medicine, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- MA Development Studies, Governance and Public Policy, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
- MSc Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- MSc Cultural Anthropology: Sustainable Citizenship, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- MSc Biomedical Sciences, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- MSc Change Management, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- MA International Humanitarian Action, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- Research MSc Economics and Business, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- MA Conflict, Security and Development, King’s College London, United Kingdom

Patric Hansen - Class of 2021
The teaching at UCG is very different than the stereotypical University picture someone might have in mind. There are not hundreds of students packed in one lecture hall, where the individual drowns in the collective and is merely seen by the lecturer as one of the masses. I feel that the UCG student is seen as an individual, especially because of the small class sizes. This setting creates a closer relationship to the lecturer. You receive information in a different way, which is more direct and therefore more useful.

Did you know...
You will likely have 4-5 different careers in your lifetime?
You will likely pursue a career that doesn’t exist right now?
That many jobs that exist right now may no longer exist when you graduate?
LAS skills make you competitive in this quickly-changing environment!

Anne de Vries – Student of the Year 2018
What I loved most about UCG, next to its sense of community and my amazing semester in Canada, was obtaining a level of critical thinking that is widely applicable in all areas of my personal interests. The many projects were also great opportunities to do more than develop yourself, and truly contribute to society, from going to Rome to working with the Dutch Council for Refugees. I will definitely take the skills obtained from these opportunities at UCG to my upcoming MA in Journalism at the RUG.
Social Entrepreneurship

How does the Centre of Entrepreneurship enhance the UCG experience?

- Social Entrepreneurship Track for UCG students
- Extracurricular Course on Entrepreneurship
- VentureLab Weekend
- Minor in Entrepreneurship
- Internship and thesis supervision by the Centre’s academic staff

More about the centre: www.rug.nl/ugce

The UCG Community

Based in the student city of Groningen, UCG resides in the heart of a vibrant, diverse community of young people from all over the world. With students comprising one in four of the city’s 202,285 residents, Groningen is both enormously fun and a safe place to live. UCG students live and study together, forging a unique community from each other’s distinct experiences and different cultural backgrounds.

Living in Frascati

All first-year UCG students live together in our student housing Frascati. This provides an excellent opportunity to build solid friendships with an internationally diverse group of individuals who will become part of your professional network in the future.

Jona Haxhialiu – Class of 2019

Here at UCG, you truly study differently; this is how you become a multi-skilled individual. As you get to know the students and staff, UCG begins to feel like a second home.
The UCG Student Profile

Are you...
› curious and ambitious?
› interested in a variety of different subjects?
› eager to work in small-scale, culturally diverse and interactive learning settings?
› ready to work collaboratively and creatively on interdisciplinary projects?
› motivated to push your intellectual and personal boundaries?

If you answered “YES!” to these questions, University College Groningen may be your academic home!

UCG offers you a diverse international community. You will find students from...

- Canada, Finland, India, USA, Tanzania, France, Cyprus, Italy, China, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Indonesia, Poland, Panama, Romania, Spain, Paraguay, Ireland, Croatia... just to name a few!

Johannes Meyer – Class of 2021

At UCG there are a multitude of different characters from different backgrounds. Getting to know all these people was both interesting and helped me as a person to grow and get a broader view of the world.

The UCG Curriculum and Projects

In the projects in all three years you will apply your academic knowledge, develop new solutions to real-world problems and collaborate with students from all over the world as part of an active and engaged learning community.

YEAR 1

Explore a wide range of academic disciplines while you learn key academic skills (such as how to conduct interdisciplinary research) in the UCG core programme.

YEAR 2

Choose your major specialisation (or begin developing a free major) and further develop research and methodology practices appropriate to your chosen field(s).

YEAR 3

You can choose to study abroad, do an internship or pursue a minor and complete your thesis

The first-year project is highly structured to build confidence with project-based learning in an interdisciplinary framework. For instance, in the Global Migration Crisis project students studied public policy on specific aspects of global migration and then developed sustainable and equitable policy solutions at the EU or UN level.

In the second-year project the responsibility starts to shift from the supervisor to the student. At the same time students apply knowledge mastered in the second year in a more advanced project. For instance, in the Project ‘Noorderbrug: Break Out’ UCG students majoring in Health and Life Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities collaborated with students from the Art Academy Minerva and people with a disability to address spaces of in- and exclusion in Groningen.

In the final year students become project managers and assume responsibility for assembling and leading their teams. The entrepreneurial mindset allows the development and valorization of project topics of interest to future employers and masters programmes. For instance, the Ghana Project resulted in the creation of a documentary film on Fairtrade and Organic Cocoa Production.

More information about project-based learning and different types of projects can be found on the UCG website.
www.rug.nl/ucg/education/curriculum
Projects provide the context for experiential learning. Here existing and new scholarship is applied to practical situations, using collaborative problem-solving skills. Students make sense of the world and their role within it.

Johanna Paschen  - Class of 2019

At UCG you gain practical skills in addition to theoretical learning. You create and present your own ideas for projects with the support of supervisors.

In my first year I was part of the Neighbourhood Priorities project where we researched environmental sustainability, followed by my second-year project Noorderbrug – Break Out where we spend time and did research with people with disabilities and presented the results at conferences in Rotterdam and Maynooth, Ireland.

My third-year project is called Notes on Synchrony, and we are investigating the inter-brain synchrony between contemporary dancers by using EEG. The idea is that the Arts and Sciences are collaborating on research together.

We offer a number of specialisations within our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme. Reflecting our interdisciplinary ethos, these specialisations transcend conventional disciplinary boundaries. Instead, they are connected by something else: shared questions, shared concerns, or shared methods.

Furthermore, for those students who want to forge their own path, we are the only University College to also offer a free major. In collaboration with an academic member of staff, free major students are able to customise their own programme in a way that is impossible almost anywhere else in the Netherlands.

SC (Sciences)
The sciences offer three specialisations

› Smart Technologies
› Mind, Machines and Morality
› Health & Life Sciences

SS (Social Sciences)
The social sciences offer five specialisations

› Mind and Behaviour
› Societies and Cultures in Transition
› Philosophy, Politics and Economics
› International Relations & International law
› International Business & Entrepreneurship

HU (Humanities)
As the Humanities represent a broad range of disciplines, we offer one specialisation with a multitude of courses to choose from

› The Humanities – Culture and Social Change

FM (Free Major)
Combine parts of UCG specialisations with courses from other faculties of the University of Groningen to fit your specific needs. Recent Free Majors were pursued in the area of:

› Artificial Intelligence
› Peace and Conflict Studies
Exchange

Where can you go?
There are many partner countries where you can spend your semester abroad. Currently, UCG has partner universities in the following countries: USA, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Japan and Morocco.

In addition, UCG students have access to Multi-Faculty exchange (MFE) programs (with RUG’s partner universities), which even further expands your access to programmes around the world. Some popular MFE destinations are Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Canada, USA, Mexico, India and others.

For more information please go to: www.rug.nl/ucg/education/exchange-home

Josien Scholing
Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ, United States.

ASU is known for their very good PPE programme as well as their security courses. During my exchange I mostly finished my major with courses like policy-making, comparative politics and homeland security. I also followed one course for my minor, namely on the history of African-Americans in the US. This course inspired me to finish my Year 3 project in the US, researching the inherent racism in the US criminal justice system together with three students that I had met in this class. All of these courses were taught by fantastic teachers. The support I got for my project was also very good (a little inspiring too).

Double Degree programme with Ca’ Foscari in Venice

Are you interested in a career in international public policy and would you like to increase your multicultural understanding of the trends in the world economy? Then the double degree programme with the Philosophy, International and Economic studies programme from Ca’ Foscari University in Venice will suit you! This unique programme combines topics in the field of International Relations and International Political Economics and Philosophy, with a special focus on issues of economic integration and policy in a globalizing world. On top of this, you get to spend time at the historical Ca’ Foscari university in Venice: the cultural hub of Italy.

www.rug.nl/ucg/education/double-degree-ca-foscari

How to apply

We accept the following diplomas
• Netherlands: VWO diploma and HBO propaedeutic diploma
• International Baccalaureate: IB Diploma
• UK: A-Levels
• Germany: Abitur
• USA: AP tests or SAT scores

We take into account your GPA and your motivation to study at UCG. We’ll ask you to provide evidence of proficiency in English and Mathematics.

Admission

You need to apply in Studielink and complete your online application. We have 130 spots available this academic year. We review applications on a rolling basis, so we advise you to apply early to secure your place at UCG!

For more information on application deadlines, entry requirements and the admission procedure please go to: www.rug.nl/ucg/application

Tuition fees and average living costs (based on 2020/2021)*:

- **TUITION**
  - EU/EEA: € 4,249 per year
  - NON EU/EEA: € 12,600 per year

- **ACCOMMODATION**
  - € 500 per month

- **BOOKS**
  - € 60 per month

- **FOOD & DRINK**
  - € 200 per month

- **INSURANCES**
  - € 100 per month

- **OTHER LIVING COSTS**
  - € 80 per month

- **BICYCLE**
  - € 50–100 one-off

*current information can be found on our website