Diverse and dynamic

Founded in 1976, Maastricht University is the youngest university in the Netherlands, yet it has already achieved a reputation for excellence for its academic programmes and learning methods. It is the international quality of you, the exchange students, that enhances the university's vitality, diversity and energy.

A unique learning approach

Maastricht University and its faculties have become famous for their approach to learning and teaching. As a student at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, or FEBA, you will benefit from small classes of only 12 to 14 students, close working relationships with your teachers and a highly interactive way of learning.

Our approach to the learning process involves the use of real-life cases in the classroom. This method has several unique features: it brings you to academic resources actively, rather than through passively listening to lectures or reading papers. It provides you with practical, concrete examples of the academic theory you study. It allows you to interact with your peers and teachers, giving you immediate feedback on your learning process. And it means that you develop your own deeper, more personal understanding of the concepts.

While your teachers are on hand to facilitate, the responsibility for learning is yours.

'Studying abroad has been the most challenging, yet rewarding experience of my life. Education-wise, I feel I have learned a significant amount in a short period time. The perspective and cultural understanding that I have received is nothing that I could have ever imagined. The exchange program has been a rewarding experience for me and I would recommend to all who are contemplating it.'

Scott Weir
Richmond University, USA
Course selection

As an exchange student you can select courses out of the following programmes at FEBA:
- Bachelor of Science in International Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Economics and Business
  - International Economic Studies
  - Infonomics
  - International Business Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Econometrics & Operations Research
- Bachelor of Science in Fiscal Economics
- Master* of Science in International Business
- Master* of Science in Infonomics
- Master* of Science in Economic and Financial Research
- Master* of Science in International Economic Studies
- Master* of Science in Fiscal Economics
- Master* of Science in Financial Economics

*Only those exchange students holding a valid BA degree in Economics or Business can sign up for courses from our Master's programmes.

The normal workload for exchange students is 26 ECTS, equalling four courses per semester. Although not compulsory for exchange students, it is possible to take part in a skills course, adding another 4 ECTS to your curriculum and adding another month to your study period.

Internationally accredited and highly ranked

The educational quality of FEBA is also recognised internationally. Its triple AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA accreditation was only granted to 25 other business schools worldwide. AACSB represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide and is granted by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) is an international system of quality assessment and accreditation. Its fundamental objective is to raise the quality of management education. The AMBA accreditation is internationally recognised as the global standard for all Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Doctorates in Business Administration (DBA) and Masters in Business and Management (MBM) programmes.

Semester dates

Fall semester 2009/2010
- Thursday 27 August 2009: compulsory Introduction day
- Monday 31 August 2009: classes start
- The official end date of the Fall semester is 22 January 2010, yet most exchange students leave after the exams of block 2, which is in week 51 of 2009.

Spring semester 2009/2010
- Thursday 28 January 2010: compulsory introduction day
- Monday 01 February 2010: classes start
- The official end date of the Spring semester is 25 June 2010, yet most exchange students leave after the exams of block 5, which is in week 21 of 2010.

'Despite the compulsory attendance to class there was lots of time to go travelling and see Europe for which I was grateful and I fell in love with Holland.'

Allyson Courtney Porter
Australian National University
Accommodation

As an exchange student in Maastricht you do not need to worry too much about finding a place to live. Most exchange students find accommodation in the Maastricht University Guesthouse, which has 360 rooms for 1 or 2 students and 45 studios. Most of the buildings are located near FEBA and are easily accessible by bike or on foot. Prices vary depending on the type and size of the room, ranging from €260 to €735 per month. If you decide to get a room outside the Guesthouse it is best to start looking well in advance, since it is much harder to find a room on the private market (note: these rooms are not furnished!). FEBA’s location in the centre of Maastricht offers an ideal urban campus and everything you need for studying, living, keeping fit or pursuing other hobbies is within walking or biking distance. If you do not feel like cooking in the fully equipped, shared kitchens in the Guesthouse (FEBA does not offer meal plans), the university restaurant—called MENSA—is there when you need it...
Moreover, the city provides so many restaurants and bars, that you could try a different one each day and by the end of the year you would still not have seen them all.

Costs

So how much is all this going to cost you? Well, you pay tuition at your home university as per usual, and you do not pay for any of the courses you take at FEBA. However, if you have to make copies of texts or need to buy study books then this will come out of your own pocket (about €50 - €70 per block).

For housing set aside about €260 - €735 per month; groceries—depending on where you shop and how large your appetite is—go for about €60 per week. A bus ticket sets you back about €1.60 - €2.40; a second hand bike costs between €45 - €70. All in all, you have to have at the very least €800 per month handy. For a five-month stay this is about €4,000; this is excluding travel costs, health and liability insurance and possibly immigration fees.

Grants for international students

FEBA does not provide grants to exchange students. However, the Dutch government makes grants available for certain international students wishing to study in the Netherlands. You can find more information about the conditions and the application procedures at:
www.nuffic.nl
www.grantfinder.nl
Immigration issues

The Netherlands and its inhabitants are, as a rule, very easygoing and laidback. However, they do not cut any corners when it comes to non-Dutch crossing its borders. Although 9/11 did not help, immigration laws in the Netherlands have always been extremely strict.

Most of you will be studying at FEBA for more than one block period (= for more than three months), and applying for a visa or a residence permit will be all but unavoidable for many of you. If you are a member of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, however, you just need a passport that is valid for at least six months after the official end of your stay (= end semester).

If you are a national of Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea or USA, you do not need a visa to enter the Netherlands, but you do need a residence permit to legally stay and study here for more than three months. For you the permit costs €433. After you have applied as exchange student you will be approached via email by UM’s Visa Office, which deals with all immigration matters on the students’ behalf. The Visa Office will tell you what to submit and when.

Nationals from all other countries will have to apply for a special entry visa (the legal fee is €250), as well as a residence permit to stay (the legal fee is €188). Again, UM’s Visa Office will approach you in due time with regard to the procedure. For more information see also http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students/

International Relations Office

Your academic efforts will only truly pay off if you feel at home in Maastricht. That is why the International Relations Office is fully committed to your well-being. Our staff is happy to answer any of your questions or provide assistance when you need it. We have special open office hours during which you can come to the IRO Desk and ask us any question that pops into your mind. Outside open office hours you can always send us an email; we pride ourselves on having a reputation for replying very fast!
Maastricht and its university are truly international

Located on the River Meuse, we are at the crossroads of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Maastricht is just a stone's throw from cities such as Brussels (an hour and a half), Liège (25 minutes), Aachen (30 minutes), Cologne (an hour) and Düsseldorf (an hour), while Amsterdam (2,5 hours), Paris (3 hours) and London (3 hours) are all within a few hundred kilometres by high speed trains. You do not have to travel to hear foreign voices though: just stroll through its cobbled streets for ten minutes and you will hear dozens of different languages.

Unsurprisingly, our city has become synonymous with Europe and the European Union, especially following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. Maastricht University reflects that international orientation. If you choose to study here for one or two semesters as an exchange student, you will come into contact with students and professors from all over the world.

Although Maastricht's population of around 120,000 is relatively small, the city has a rich history and culture, and an active social life. Not only that, but it also offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities. In the same way that Maastricht is safe yet vibrant, the faculty offers a secure yet challenging learning environment. Take the opportunity to live, work and study in this stimulating, unique and international city, if only for a while.

Doing Europe in one day

The availability of high speed trains and cheap airlines ensures that besides your study you will also have the possibility to experience some other aspects of living in Europe. All European capitals are located within a flying distance of maximum three hours. You can reach them with low cost carriers from a variety of smaller airports nearby. Closest international airports are Düsseldorf (Germany), Brussels (Belgium) and Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

Culture and leisure time

Maastricht is known for its flamboyant lifestyle: good food, good living, and plenty joie de vivre. The city offers a home to the renowned School of Music, School of Drama, School of Arts, and boasts a large number of bars, restaurants, various theatres and cinemas. On top of that, Maastricht regularly hosts many international and cultural events, such as the world's leading fine art fair TEFAF, jazz and film festivals and the (inter)regionally much appreciated Preuvenemint (culinary event).

'Seeing the excellent performance of regular students from UM, I was encouraged to work harder, and I realized what is needed for a person to be competitive in the global business arena.'

Chih Wei Wu, National Chengchi University, College of Commerce, Taiwan
"This has absolutely been one of the best experiences in my life. I have been able to travel all around Europe, meet lifelong friends from all over the world, and not skip a beat academically. I found the school work challenging, but rewarding. When I speak to my friends studying elsewhere in Europe, they say their workload is practically non-existent. They are amazed when I say the opposite. I think that's a tribute to how good this school is and how serious the students here take their academics. Being immersed in another culture and seeing places I never dreamed of seeing before, while still making myself a better student is more than I had asked from Study Abroad. But, it's what I got. Great program, and I will definitely recommend it to the students who are serious about their academics."

Michael Edward Fredrickson
University of Richmond, USA
Based in Europe, focused on the world. Maastricht University is a stimulating environment. Where research and teaching are complementary. Where innovation is our focus. Where talent can flourish. A truly student oriented research university.

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/feba

Contact information

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Internet: www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/feba

If your home institution is part of our exchange network you too can spend a semester in Maastricht. Please turn to your International Relations/Study Abroad Office for more information on how to get selected.

Application deadlines

Mid-May 2009 for Fall 2009-2010
Early October 2009 for Spring 2009-2010