



A Travel Study Guide

Amsterdam

tips and tricks for student travelers

An in-depth guide to
inspire your study
abroad in the
Netherlands to be the
most memorable it
can be!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction to the Netherlands
2. Preparing to Study Abroad?
3. Student Experience
4. Education
5. Sustainability

Sponsored by



INTRODUCTION



This comprehensive guide will help you get the most out of your study abroad experience in the vibrant and busy city of Amsterdam, Netherlands. You've come to the perfect place if you want to learn more about the rich history and numerous traditions of this fascinating nation, discover lovely canals, go to famous locations like Vondelpark, and enjoy Dutch cuisine on a student's budget.

Not everything is smooth sailing, though. Finding moments of peace can seem difficult while dealing with the continual crowds, which can be overpowering. It can be difficult to balance your academics with your desire to visit this amazing city. But do not worry—we have you covered! This guide will give you advice on making wise plans, the ideal times to visit well-known locations, and ways to make sure that your time in Amsterdam is not just amazing but also a memorable experience. So, let's set off on this adventure together and turn your goal of studying abroad in Amsterdam become a reality!



PREPARING to study abroad?



About to leave for the Netherlands? Check out these tips for students on saving money and time on preparing for your trip to Europe!



Helpful Tip!

Don't forget to snag your tickets in advance, as spots in these historical places fill up quickly.

Some offer reduced prices for students, here are a few that I found!

Rijksmuseum
Van Gogh Museum
Anne Frank House
Stedelijk Museum
NEMO Science Museum
Amsterdam Museum
Frans Hals Museum

Research Scholarships and Grants

Budget Wisely

Applying for financial aid from both institutions is a crucial part of any student-on-a-budget's preparation. Many scholarships for studying are also offered online, so check to see if you're eligible!

Creating a comprehensive budget that accounts for meals, transportation, entertainment, and academic materials to make the most of your study abroad adventure without overspending.

Embrace Cycling Culture

Connect with LGBTQ+ Community

The Dutch have efficient public transportation system, including trams and trains, is complemented by the city's cycling culture. I plan to rent a bike from Swapfiets, and experience the city like a true local.

Amsterdam has a vibrant LGBTQ+ community, and it's difficult to ignore. By participating in local events and classroom discussions on gender and sexuality, or just by visiting Pride in August, one will get an authentic, diverse experience.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Balancing Studies and Enjoyment



Amid iconic landmarks and lively neighborhoods, Amsterdam is a postcard-perfect experience. Yet, the constant crowds can be overwhelming, making finding moments of tranquility a challenge. With smart planning and timing, you'll create an unforgettable Amsterdam adventure without the chaos.

Time Management

Establishing a structured study routine is vital to balance academics and leisure. It can be a struggle, cramming assignments on the metro right before class. Find solace in discovering quiet study spots amid the city. Seek out cozy cafes, libraries, or serene park corners for distraction-free focus. Vondelpark, public libraries, and numerous cafes offer such spaces. Embracing technology is also beneficial, with study apps and organization tools aiding in assignment reminders and study schedules.

Seek out cozy cafes, libraries, or serene park corners for distraction-free focus.

Travel

Tips

Opt for efficient modes of transportation like the metro, tram, bus, and bike lanes—affordable and versatile options. You can choose between a bike or metro card, or both! They are easily refillable at stations. For weekend getaways, consider day trips to towns like Bruges, Belgium, a short 3-hour bus ride away, offering guided tours and chocolate tasting. Train trips to Haarlem or Utrecht from the city center are also exciting and easily accessible. Maximize savings with the student museum card, granting access to museums and cultural sites across Amsterdam.

Choose between a bike or metro card, or both!

Hidden Gems

Seek out lesser-known locales like the Secret Garden, the Jordaan district, and the Albert Cuyp market for an authentic, crowd-free encounter. Engaging with local communities offers a deeper cultural immersion, with insights into traditions, cuisine, and daily life. Embrace these hidden treasures and connect with locals to enrich your study abroad adventure and forge unforgettable memories.



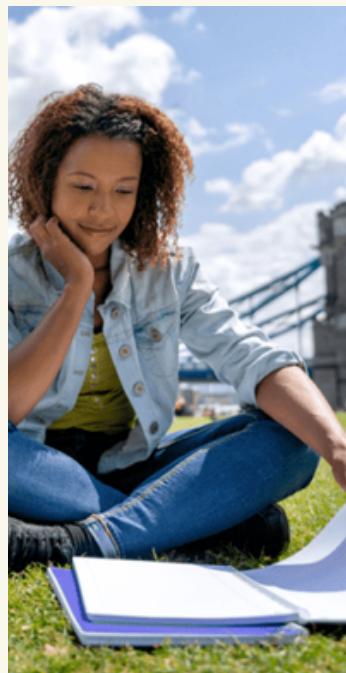
EDUCATION

If you're considering studying in Amsterdam, here's a concise guide to help you prepare for the academic experience in this vibrant city.



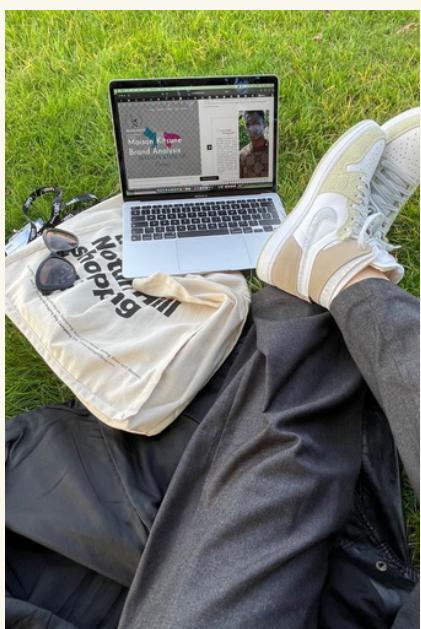
Grading System

Amsterdam uses a 1-to-10 grading scale, and it's important to understand how it corresponds to your home university's grading system. A passing grade is typically 5.5, and a 10 is rarely given. Make sure to familiarize yourself with this grading scale before arriving.



Assignment Focus

Be ready for a different approach to grading. Courses often depend heavily on just one or two assignments, which can add pressure to succeed. Even if your grade hinges on a few assignments, expect a significant workload and non-graded compulsory elements like participation.



Student Attitudes

Be aware that some students may have a more relaxed attitude towards academics. While a passing grade may be all that's required, not everyone takes this approach. You may encounter varying levels of commitment to coursework and different attitudes towards preparation.

Open Communication

The education system encourages open communication between professors and students. Professors welcome feedback and critiques, and it's not considered impolite to contest grades or express your opinions. Embrace this opportunity for direct communication and assertiveness in your academic journey.

SUSTAINABILITY

WHAT'S SO GREEN ABOUT AMSTERDAM?



Amsterdam's eco-friendly transport system, along with its extensive network of bike lanes, encourages sustainable commuting. Enjoy the walkability and efficient trains and metros, which significantly lower carbon emissions. Explore more options like boats, parks, and even beaches for a closer connection to nature and a healthier life.



They prioritize mental and physical well-being through green spaces, urban parks, and community gardens. The city's sustainable mindset extends to the workplace, with companies emphasizing green practices, energy-efficient offices, and waste reduction programs. Part-time work is common to promote work-life balance. Littering is a collective taboo, reinforcing the responsibility of protecting the natural environment. Embrace this holistic approach to sustainability during your visit to the Netherlands.



Follow Amsterdam's lead by adopting resource reuse practices. Ditch disposable water bottles for reusable ones, thanks to the city's high-quality tap water. Note the widespread use of cloth towels instead of paper in public spaces. Amsterdam's commitment to renewable energy, including solar panels and windmills, shows its dedication to sustainable living. Opt for paper over plastic, and seek out food waste composting facilities, especially near eateries.

