



Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Study Guide

1 Overall impression

My overall impression of my year at the University of Amsterdam is very good! I would definitely do it again and it was a very good decision. I could definitely improve my English (especially reading and writing) and I learnt a lot about different laws in Europe and the EU. I met great people and the city is just perfect to live abroad. There are so many things to do and it is rather easy to meet many nice people during the introduction days and also in class. Dutch people are super nice and it was as a whole a very positive experience!

2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

The application process for the University of Amsterdam was easy and everything was well-described. I could find all the information I needed and if I had some problems, the coordinators in Amsterdam were very helpful.

3 Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

For the European Private Law LLM track Candida Leone was the coordinator and answered all my emails very quickly.

4 Housing

The UvA student housing was great! The application was rather easy and I was accepted for the student accommodation I wanted. I was very happy to live in the FIZZ Spartaan building, everything was fine!

5 Arrival

The arrival was very good, there was a transport from Schiphol to the student housing organised by the Uni, and also some introduction days, registration at the municipality etc.

6 Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I bought a Vodafone prepaid sim card and every month some data bundles, this was the perfect and easiest solution.

7 Bank account

You really need a Dutch bank account for many many things. I was very happy with ING where I had a free student account. Do book an appointment (online) in advance!

8 Transport

From Switzerland I came by plane with all my luggage, but also by train it is quite convenient to travel from Amsterdam to Switzerland and back. In Amsterdam you definitely need a bike, it's not possible without and so much cheaper than public transport. And I loved my way to Uni everyday, even though it was 30min per bike ride. Only the rain in the Netherlands is a bit of a problem ;-)

9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

The UvA is quite good, even though you can definitely see some differences compared to the UZH, professors are different, but everyone is very helpful. I really liked the European Private Law track, it was very small and you knew most of the other students. Therefore, it was easy to find friends and hang out together, drink beer in the Uni bar after class or do some short-trips. I did not go to many parties, but of course in Amsterdam you have numerous possibilities to go out.

10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

I was satisfied with the teaching at the Uva. It is definitely different than in Zurich, much more school-like and people/professors know each other. But the general level of education is also lower compared to Zurich. The exams seemed to be difficult at first but in the end they were most of the time pretty easy and it was very easy to get good grades. But still I had to study a lot for certain exams. But a lot of subjects require also papers instead of exams. The semester structure of 8-8-4 (weeks) is also very different compared to Zurich, there are no breaks in between.

11 City

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

Amsterdam is a very great city and perfect to live there for one year!! The Museumkaart is a must (for 65 EUR you can visit almost all Museums in the Netherlands for free), also Swapfiets is very good (or buying your own bike). It is also perfect to do some short-trips throughout the Netherlands or to Belgium which is very close, or to visit the sea/beaches.

Date: September 2020