



# Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

## Study Guide

### 1 Overall impression

The University of Amsterdam was really helpful with providing useful and relevant information about my studies, accommodation, bank account etc.

### 2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

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### 3 Contacts/Responsibilities

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

If you have any questions regarding your studies, there is the faculty office where you can drop by and they will help you with anything or you can also contact the track coordinator.

### 4 Housing

It is quite hard to find accommodation by yourself in Amsterdam. It is rather expensive and often quite far away from the city centre. I got my apartment through the housing service of UvA. The rent was reasonable compared to other student accommodation and also not too far away from university. I would apply early for the housing service of UvA. Some of my colleagues did not get student accommodation through the university and had to find something by themselves. Be aware that the rents in Amsterdam are not cheap.

### 5 Arrival

I moved to Amsterdam by plane. However, I'd rather recommend to move by car. The university offered a great service at my arrival. I could immediately register at the municipality of Amsterdam; this was really convenient! And they handed me out some information sheets and my student card.

### 6 Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I chose Vodafone but I'd rather recommend KPN, it's far cheaper. As far as I know, all international students have a prepaid SIM-card. The best way to buy a SIM-card is in a supermarket like Albert Heijn.

## **7 Bank account**

I opened my bank account at ING. You should make an appointment already while you're still in Switzerland, because at the beginning of the term, everyone needs a bank account! The student account at ING is free, but you have to prove that you're a student (declaration of enrollment). ABN Ambro is another bank which offers student accounts and as far as I'm concerned they are also free. Some students made an account at banq, which is an online-bank. I'd not recommend that because they charge quite a lot each month.

## **8 Transport**

The easiest way to travel from Switzerland to Amsterdam is by plane. However, I can also recommend traveling by train! In Amsterdam itself it is essential that you have a bike.

## **9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life**

The Law School of the UvA is well organised. It is structured into different departments. I was part of the Public International Law department. They have some well-known scholars in the field of public international law.

## **10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty**

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

I studied Public International Law at Amsterdam Law School. Most of the classes were mandatory (such as Principles and Foundations of International Law, International Dispute Settlement, etc.). In three courses you were free to choose. I chose International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Law of Military Operation. In my view, you should choose electives that you are really interested in, but that also make sense to combine and that make sense for your future professional career. Exams were either written exams or papers/essays/written assignments, depending which electives you chose.

## **11 City**

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

Amsterdam is an amazing city! I would recommend to buy the Museumskaart, which is a subscription for all museums in the Netherlands for one year. For sports, I would have a look at the University Sports Center (USC). However, the courses there are not free. But as a student you get a discount and then the subscriptions are reasonable. I went to yoga class at least once a week and the courses were really professional. For nightlife I preferred to go to more local-oriented bars and clubs, where you could not find any tourists. It is worth while living in Amsterdam to visit other cities, like Utrecht or Leiden. In The Hague, you have a lot of institutions that play a major role in international law, like the ICJ or the ICC. If you have ever the opportunity to go to one of them, I would recommend it. You can also go to a hearing at the ICJ. In The Hague is also the renowned T.M.C. Asser Instituut situated. They organise interesting lectures and symposia. You can subscribe to their newsletter, if you wish.

Date: September 2020