

Faculty of Law, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

1. Overall impression

It was a very good experience, both for my language skills and my law skills.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

The study guide received from the Double Degree coordination helped a lot as it included the most relevant information. Also, the website of the University Maastricht is quite helpful, even though not entirely complete and actual.

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

The persons at UM are very willing to help. Thus, in general one can ask everyone. There is also a receptionist in the building of the law faculty who helps to find a specific lecture hall. For all administrative matters, one can always contact Diane Crook or Sophie Tax.

4. Housing / Finding accommodation

I found my room on the following Facebook page: Rooms/ Kamer/ Zimmer in Maastricht. Generally, I suggest to search there and to conclude contracts only with individual persons, rather than agencies. Some agencies try to rip students off.

5. Arrival

There is no direct flight to Maastricht. Thus, it is a bit annoying to go there. However, one can fly to Brussels, Düsseldorf or Amsterdam and take the train/bus from there to Maastricht. The faster and, probably, also cheaper way is to go to Brussels or Düsseldorf. Nonetheless, I personally preferred to fly to Amsterdam with KLM and then go by bus to Maastricht. The main advantage is that, if one chooses to fly with KLM, that there is already a bus included from Amsterdam to Maastricht (see https://www.klm.com/travel/nl_en/plan_and_book/timetable_and_network/busservice-mst/index.htm). Thus, there is less administration involved.

The best way to go to Maastricht, especially in the beginning is probably to go by car. It also takes only about 8 hours and one can bring all its belongings easily to Maastricht.

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I bought a SIM card with T-Mobile. The SIM card can be uploaded either via internet or in a shop. T-Mobile also offers internet subscriptions (1 GB for 1 month is around 10 €). Even though there is a lot of free Wifi in Maastricht, I would suggest to buy such an internet subscription as the Wifi is not always that good.

7. Bank account

There are free student bank accounts from ING. One should, however, note that the Swiss ID is not enough to open such an account. One needs the Swiss Passport.

8. Transport

(e.g. from Switzerland, to the University)

From Switzerland to Maastricht

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To the University

The University is located in the city centre. If you live far away, I would suggest to buy a bike. Otherwise you can easily walk.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

The teaching staff in Maastricht is not very complicated. If you have a problem, just speak with them and you will find a solution.

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

Problem Based Learning (PBL): Most professors do not really practice PBL on masters level. The biggest difference to Zurich is that the tutorial classes are smaller (only 10-15 students). However, if you do not want to actively participate, you mostly do not have to as it is also not graded most of the times.

Exams: Exams include mostly case studies and essay questions. I, personally, had some difficulties with essay questions as it was not always clear what to include in them. The good thing, however, is that you have more than enough time for the exams (always 3 hours).

Scan of exams: If you want to have a scan of your exam to check if it was graded correctly you have to request it. The request has to be done within a specific period of time after you got your results (I think, 2 weeks). The scan can be requested via this link:

<https://lawstudy.maastrichtuniversity.nl/exam/files/Index.asp>

Easy courses: As everywhere there are easy and difficult courses. Especially for the first periode I would suggest to take an elective course as you want to have time to explore the city and nightlife. I took the course «Forensic Psychopathology». However, bear in mind that you can only choose 2 elective courses (depending on your specialisation sometimes also only one elective).

Also, the course «International investment law» in periode 4 was graded very fair. A lot of students got a 8 or 9.

11. City

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

Nightlife: Maastricht is more of a bar/pub city than a club city. If you want to go clubbing go to Amsterdam.

sports: I suggest the gym «Fit For Free». It is cheap (around 220 € for 1 year), has good opening hours (7-23 on weekdays, and 9-16 on weekends).