



Faculty of Law, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

Study Guide

1 Overall impression

If I had to summarize my year in Maastricht in three words it would be demanding, instructive and unforgettable! Maastricht is a beautiful city with an incredibly international vibe due to its borders with Germany and Belgium but also because of the international environment at the University of Maastricht. The educational system is demanding and time-consuming, but thanks to the intensive engagement with the topics it is very instructive and the learning progress is consistent and not only focussed on the final exam. Overall I very much appreciated the insights into EU and international law in general and think that the program is a valuable complement to the studies in Swiss law.

2 Making preparations

The website of the University of Maastricht is well structured and provides a lot of information: <https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/>

3 Contacts/Responsibilities

There is a helpdesk at the reception of the Faculty of Law at Bouillonstraat 1-3.

4 Housing

The housing market in Maastricht is pretty competitive and therefore it is important to look for an accommodation in advance. I would recommend to start looking in March or April. Some students also live in villages near the border in Belgium such as Lanaken, from where you can reach Maastricht in 15mins by bike. There are no particular neighborhoods that are popular around students and the city feels very safe everywhere. The following homepages might be helpful:

- Student Hotel:

https://www.thestudenthotel.com/maastricht/stay/student-stay/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIys_Kz_Oz6wIVg9KyCh3_CQr_EAAYASAAEgKJ2PD_BwE

- Xior House: <https://www.xior.nl/en/rooms>

- Maastricht Housing: <https://www.maastrichthousing.com/>

- Shared apartments via Facebook groups

5 Arrival

Usually there is an introduction day in the week before the official start of the semester where you will be given more information on the program (you will get an invitation via e-mail). After your arrival you will also be informed by UM that they will have some employees from the municipality of Maastricht at UM where you can register as a resident.

6 Telephone

I can recommend the pre-paid card from T-Mobile (website is unfortunately only in Dutch): <https://www.t-mobile.nl/mobiel/prepaid/bundels>. I usually had the Combi M for € 10/month since I had WLAN at home and at the university. You can recharge online, via SMS or at certain supermarkets.

7 Bank account

Some students open an account with ING but you usually have to wait for quite a long time to get an appointment at the beginning of the semester. I decided not to open an account since it didn't make much sense for ten months so I opened an account with Revolut instead which I can really recommend!

8 Transport

Driving to Maastricht takes about 7-8 hours including breaks and makes sense if you have a lot of things to bring to the Netherlands. Otherwise you can travel by train or plane. Students usually fly to Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam or Eindhoven and then take a bus/train to Maastricht since Maastricht Airport is very small.

In Maastricht you can do everything by foot or by bike and it is not common to use public transport. I would highly recommend to buy a bike, either via Facebook or the Student Bike Shop: <https://studentbikemaastricht.nl/>.

9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

Maastricht University is incredibly international and is located in beautiful old buildings in the middle of the city. You should be prepared to spend a lot of time in the Inner City Library studying and student life does not contain as much partying as I was used to from Switzerland. There is a club called Complex and several dance bars, but if you want to go partying properly I would recommend a weekend trip to Amsterdam, Rotterdam or Cologne.

10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

The educational system in the Netherlands is rather different from the one in Switzerland and university is more guided and "verschult". The PBL system in Maastricht is very demanding since you usually have to write an assignment each week for each course. Each course lasts for seven weeks and is directly followed by an exam in the eighth week. Thanks to the intensive structure of the courses you mostly engage more and on a more consistent basis with the topics than you would in

the Swiss system, however, it is very time-consuming. On a positive note, there is no intense exam preparation (Lernphase) necessary since the system with the assignments and group discussions already prepares you for the exam.

11 City

Maastricht is a beautiful city with loads of nice restaurants and cosy coffees! It is surrounded by beautiful nature and I would definitely recommend trips to St. Pietersberg. You can do tours to the caves of St. Pietersberg or visit the Bonnefanten Museum. UM offers sport facilities, however the costs are not included in the tuition fees and it is only a little cheaper than private gyms and is located outside the city center near the MECC. Instead, I highly recommend the private gym MAC sports with amazing staff and nice facilities: <https://macmaastricht.nl/en/>. Also make sure to check out the market (especially for fruits and vegetables!) on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Markt.

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