



university of  
 groningen

faculty of behavioural  
and social sciences

# On Exchange at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences of the University of Groningen



# Exchange

open academic community - since 1614



# The Netherlands

The Netherlands may be a small country, but it definitely has a lot to offer. It is consistently listed among the best countries to live and work, offering high living standards and a great work-life balance. In general, the Dutch are open-minded, friendly and almost everyone speaks English.

From the Netherlands it is easy to explore the rest of Europe. Not only the neighbouring countries Germany and Belgium are easy to visit. Many major European capitals like Paris, London, Copenhagen, Rome or Barcelona can be reached easily.

## Groningen

Groningen is the capital city of the province Groningen. With a population of more than 200,000 inhabitants, it is the largest city in the north of the Netherlands.

Groningen is known as a young and dynamic city. With over a quarter of its population being students, the city offers many opportunities for sports and leisure, a thriving youth culture and a vibrant nightlife. Moreover, students live throughout the city, making all of Groningen their campus.

Groningen is a safe and green city with beautiful architecture, cozy day markets, charming shopping streets and plenty of lovely cafés. No wonder the city's marketing slogan is [#NothingTopsGroningen!](#)





# The University of Groningen

- Founded in 1614
- Nr. 65 of ARWU Shanghai Ranking (2019)
- Nr. 73 of THE World University Ranking (2020)
- First Dutch female student: Aletta Jacobs
- First Dutch astronaut: Wubbo Ockels
- 11 faculties
- 32.700 students (2019)
- 6.000 international students from over 120 countries
- More than 100 Master's degree programmes
- More than 50 Bachelor's degree programmes
- 9.000 research publications in 2018
- Nobel prize for Prof. Ben Feringa in 2016

Alex (UK)

What strikes me most about life in Groningen is the relationship between the students and the local people. As an international student, you feel very welcome due to the really friendly and cozy vibe that the city brings.

Zane (Latvia)

I truly loved my exchange here, it was more than I expected. I came here for the quality of the education, the challenging courses and the international environment. That is exactly what I got!



# Studying at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences (BSS)

**The Faculty of BSS is a vibrant Faculty with many international partnerships and students. As a research and knowledge hub focusing on individuals and society, the Faculty studies issues relating to human behaviour, the relationships between people, and society as a whole.**

**All three faculty departments, Pedagogical Sciences, Psychology and Sociology, warmly welcome exchange students.**

## Course offer

Exchange students participate in courses alongside regular degree students. There are no courses offered exclusively for exchange students. This enhances your learning experience and gives you a wide selection of courses to choose from. However, you need to meet entry requirements similar to those set for degree students, regarding both your academic qualifications and your level of English language proficiency.

The majority of the courses open to exchange students are Bachelor's (undergraduate) courses. Some Master's (graduate) courses are also open to exchange students who have completed a Bachelor's degree programme.

All our courses offered for exchange students can be found in the online catalogue Ocasys on the [website](#).



## Academic year

An academic year consists of two semesters. Each semester is divided into two blocks (a+b). Each block finishes with an exam period.

**Semester 1:** September – January

**Semester 2:** February – June/July

### Meltem (Belgium)

I really enjoyed the psychology programme. There is a lot of interaction with the professors. If you have an idea during class, you are free to speak your mind.



# Application procedure and important deadlines



Jana (Egypt)

I did not only grow academically, but also as a person.

	1st semester (autumn)	2nd semester (spring)
Nomination deadline	1st May	1st October
Application deadline	<b>EU/ EEA students:</b> 1st June <b>non-EU/ EEA students:</b> 15th May	<b>EU/ EEA students:</b> 1st November <b>non-EU/ EEA students:</b> 15th October

## Mobility Office

Before, during and after your exchange period you will receive support from the BSS Mobility Office. The Mobility Office team will inform you about all important aspects regarding your semester abroad (health insurance, housing, opening a bank account, bike rental, study start events etc.) and help you with signing all required documents.

Moreover, each semester a BSS Faculty introduction week is organized for new exchange students. The various informative and fun events offered during this week provide you with the perfect opportunity to get used to your new surroundings and, most of all, to get to know your fellow exchange students.



## Social life

Next to attending lectures and studying, having a well-balanced social life is essential in order to experience an awesome exchange period. When it comes to arranging your free time, Groningen offers a great variety of activities and associations that you can choose from.

Follow your passions, build on your interests and make new friends by joining one (or more) of our many student-run sports-, study- and student associations. Being part of a study association is the perfect opportunity to connect to your study programme, to gain practical insights into the field and, most importantly, to find friends and have a great time together.

## Accommodation

The University of Groningen is not a campus university and therefore does not offer campus accommodation. However, there are many (student) houses and apartments offered through third parties.

The non-profit housing corporation SSH is specialized in student accommodation and offers furnished rooms for a maximum of one year. You can choose from a single or double room or a studio, including all utilities (rent, heating, electricity, furniture, and internet access).

Once you have been nominated for an exchange semester at the BSS faculty, you will receive detailed information on how to register for a room via SSH.

Housing options can be found on the following websites:

- [www.sshxl.nl/en](http://www.sshxl.nl/en)
- [www.athomeingroningen.com](http://www.athomeingroningen.com)

### Stefano (Italy)

This was the first time that I had a chance to meet people from all over the world, for example from Australia, China, Korea or America! This was great because you got to socialize with people who have a completely different cultural background.



### ACLO Sports

With access to 49 sports clubs, offering up to 100 disciplines, ACLO is the biggest student sports association in the Netherlands.



### Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

Throughout the year there are over 150 social, cultural, integration, travel and sports events set up by ESN. Moreover, ESN organizes an introduction week where all new students have an amazing kick-off to their time in the city.



### Student Culture Centre USVA

USVA hosts student film festivals and other cultural events and offers courses in performing arts and musical performances.

## Living Expenses

The list provides you with approximate monthly costs (in Euro). Depending on your lifestyle, living expenses might be higher or lower.

- € Rent, incl. gas, water, electricity € 350 - € 500
- € Groceries € 150
- € Insurance € 100 - 120
- € Internet/Cable/Telephone € 60
- € Entertainment € 80
- € Bike rental € 14





### Contact Information

Website [www.rug.nl/gmw/exchange](http://www.rug.nl/gmw/exchange)  
Email [exchange.gmw@rug.nl](mailto:exchange.gmw@rug.nl)  
Phone +31 50 363 6559  
Facebook [/BssExchange](https://www.facebook.com/BssExchange)

### Postal address

University of Groningen  
Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences  
Grote Kruisstraat 2/1  
9721 TS Groningen