

Faculty of Law, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

1. Overall impression

Overall, my year at Maastricht University was very fulfilling, both personally and as a student. One would not expect a small, cosy city such as Maastricht to be the home of so many international students. Every nationality can be found, and I found that extremely rewarding. You will meet people you'll never forget. Coupled with a university that makes you work hard, but teaches you a lot, Maastricht is a choice for hard-working students that want an international flavor to their everyday life.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Maastricht University is well organized, even though the system is different and therefore needs some getting used to. For courses, administration is not problematic. The University also help with administrative matters such as getting registered to the city and such. I did not need a visa for this course and therefore cannot comment on this.

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

I have only been in contact with administrators sporadically and have not needed that much assistance. When needed, I only mailed the secretariat with my questions. I believe a stronger emphasis on an important contact person would be welcome.

4. Housing / Finding accomodation

I easily found an accommodation in Maastricht through FaceBook. The University also has a website where accommodations can be found. I would recommend any student considering going to Maastricht to choose accommodations close to the city center: there is no noise and central positioning is key for comfort.

5. Arrival

I arrived in Maastricht by car, but the city is also accessible by plane through Brussels Airport (and then either trains to Maastricht or Flixbus).

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I used Simple.nl, which was excellent. Very inexpensive and did not have any problems at all.

7. Bank account

I opened a student bank account at ING (it's free!). Unfortunately, a city matriculation number is necessary to open a bank account, so be sure to go to the city as soon as possible.

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

I come from Lausanne. My usual trip back and forth would include a flight between Geneva to Brussels Airport, before taking the Flixbus to Maastricht station. It is luckily very inexpensive.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

The Faculty is in the center of Maastricht, very close to everything. Student life is great with so many international students around and the different events organized by student associations. Get engaged in one or the other while you are there, it will really bring you a lot (MUN, ISN, etc.)

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

The courses at UM work very differently from those at the UZH. First of all, there are 6 periods in a year total, not two semesters. This means each period is shorter and lasts 8 weeks, during which you will follow two courses and be examined on those two courses only. This method is intense, but it also gives you discipline. Courses generally have heavy reading lists, but by working regularly, you will be able to get good grades. Basically, studying is hard but very rewarding.

11. City

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

The city of Maastricht is small, and therefore very cute. However, you'll have visited it in the first few weeks. After that, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and the other beautiful sights of the Netherlands are only a train ride away. The nightlife is nice in Maastricht, but don't expect anything incredible either. Pubs and clubs close down early, but it is the perfect city to go out in for a beer with friends. Sports are organized through the university, the choices are plenty and it is very affordable for students.