

# Faculty of Law, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

## 1. Overall impression

Maastricht University is a very international university. You will meet people with different nationalities during your stay there. Dutch is an asset but not at all necessary since everyone in Maastricht does speak English.

## 2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

I had an issue with verifying my diploma but it got sorted out very quickly due to the help of the coordinator at Maastricht University. Overall it was an easy-going process.

## 3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

If you are lost, you can always contact the coordinator. In my case she replied quickly and tried to help me where she could. You could also reach out to the Student's Service Center of the University. They will help you to figure out who you should contact with your problem.

## 4. Housing / Finding accommodation

The housing situation in Maastricht is dissatisfying since the Dutch Law is very in favour of the Landlords. Be sure to always read the contracts (even though they are most of the time in Dutch) since they often include a minimum stay requirement. Furthermore, I recommend that you stay away from agencies and try to find a recommendation through the Facebook group (Rooms / Kamer / Zimmer in Maastricht). It is possible to find a stay without visiting Maastricht prior to the beginning of your studies.

## 5. Arrival

One week before the actual start of the first period (called INKOM week) you could participate and get to know the city and other people at the University. If you have the time I would recommend you to participate there. Apart from that, there is an introduction day where you will meet people that study the same track as you.

## 6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

If you want to get a monthly contract, you will need a Dutch bank account for that. It is easier to just get a prepaid number (you don't need to register) and get internet bundles with it. For example I got my number at Vodafone and I paid 10 euros for 1 GB for 30 days. Sms cost me 15 cents and calls 20 cents per minute.

## 7. Bank account

I recommend to get a Dutch bank account since there are services where you can only pay with a dutch bank account. I made an account at ING. You can just go there and schedule an appointment. Since it is busy when studies start, the appointment will be in 2 or 3 weeks. I am not sure of the costs but it is very cheap.

## 8. Transport

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

In Maastricht everyone owns a bike. If you live in the inner city (binnenstad), you won't necessarily need a bike. Public transport there consists of buses and trains (to other cities) and the costs are comparable with the prices in Switzerland (a little less).

The journey from Zurich to Maastricht is very burdensome. The nearest Airports are Maastricht-Aachen and Eindhoven but there will probably be no flights from your starting point in Switzerland. Better look for flights to Brussels, Amsterdam or Cologne (or even Düsseldorf). From these cities it will take you 2-3 hours to get to Maastricht. If you chose a German city you can always check blablacar.de since there are a lot of German students in Maastricht. Another possibility is to take the flibus to Liege and take the train to Maastricht (only 45 min).

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

The faculty of law is not as big as it is in Zurich. Hence, the teaching system there is also different. Maastricht is a student city. So there will be student parties and more often house parties.

## 10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

You will always have lectures and tutorials. Most of the time attendance is not mandatory. But I would highly recommend you to attend the tutorials since they are of great use when figuring out the focus of the course, and hence what is relevant for the exam. During tutorials you are encouraged and expected to actively participate in the group discussion. You will not be allowed to attend if you come unprepared to the tutorials and sometimes the tutorial teacher would ask you to leave. Furthermore, there is no "beginning of the semester" since you have periods of 8 weeks. You will have to start studying from the beginning of each period since you will have the exam after 7 weeks of attending courses.

Some courses require you to hand in papers instead of (or in addition to) a written exam that takes place in the MECC. The assessment form is indicated in the course description.

## 11. City

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

Maastricht is a small city but there are a lot of tourists visiting Maastricht since it is the oldest Dutch city. You have a lot of shops and cafés (on Vrijthof or Markt) where people sit outside during anytime of the year. You can also easily make a trip to Amsterdam, Rotterdam Brussels, Aachen, Cologne or Düsseldorf on the weekend.

If you are looking for a gym, don't go with the UM gym since it is very far away from the inner city. Just go to a regular gym (e.g. fitforfree, Mac) a membership costs around 20 euros a month.

When it comes to the nightlife, there are two clubs in Maastricht open during any day of the week. Two others are only open on the weekend or special events (e.g. student parties that take place on Tuesdays).