

University of Amsterdam fall / spring / academic year ☀

anthropology / art history / communications / cultural studies / dutch language / european studies / gender studies / geography / history / international relations
literature / political science / social science / urban studies



program snapshot

- CIEE course and field trips focusing on contemporary Dutch social policy provide an insider's perspective on Amsterdam and the Netherlands
- Wide range of courses in the humanities and social sciences
- Study Dutch language and integrate into the Dutch and international student community through the International Student Network
- Live in an accessible, multicultural European capital city
- Explore other regions of the Netherlands through program excursions

what you'll learn

The Social Sciences program at the CIEE Study Center in Amsterdam provides challenging and stimulating courses in the humanities and social sciences at the University of Amsterdam, and aims to increase students' understanding of social, political, and cultural realities in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Europe.

thoughts from abroad

"I realized I missed Amsterdam when I held out my right hand to turn right in my car rather than on my bike." Statements like these exemplify the lasting impressions students have after spending a semester or year at the CIEE Study Center in Amsterdam. Not only do students miss their bike as part of their Amsterdam lifestyle, but they also miss the multicultural population and the Dutch with their innovative perspective on social issues. They miss the opportunity to live and study in Dutch society where progressive policies, culture, tolerance, and an international focus are key. Furthermore, there's the abundance of cultural activities as venues across Amsterdam host both the world's biggest pop stars as well as new talent from across the globe. Students often comment on the ability of the Dutch to preserve the old charm while making room for the new. Amsterdam is a city that draws students back, whether just for a visit, a master's program, or a job down the road.

For those wanting to experience a different approach on ideas of migration and integration, housing and urban planning, drug policies, gender and sexuality, and other contemporary social policies, this is the place for you. I hope that Amsterdam will make the same lasting impressions on you as it has me and countless others.

— Hannah Huber, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Hannah Huber comes to CIEE with a rich background in international educational exchange having studied abroad in the Netherlands, Bologna, Italy, and Norwich, England. Having first set foot in the Netherlands as a Rotary exchange student, she developed a love for the country and its people. After graduating from Dickinson College with a bachelor's degree in American Studies, she worked for the Dutch Embassy in Washington, DC. Hannah then moved to Amsterdam and received her master's degree in American Studies with a minor in Educational Policy and Management at the University of Amsterdam. Having experienced student life in Amsterdam firsthand, she is able to help and relate to CIEE students.

About the Resident Coordinator

Renee Spruit has a Master's degree from the ISHSS in track migration and ethnic studies and a bachelor's degree in communication management from Hogeschool van Utrecht. Renee studied abroad at Seneca College in Toronto, Canada. She brings a wealth of knowledge about Amsterdam and the Netherlands to CIEE students and assists the Resident Director in coordinating housing, excursions, and cultural activities.

about amsterdam

Amsterdam is full of life, day and night, with world-renowned museums, art galleries, music, opera, theater, and dance. It is a truly international and multicultural city. Amsterdammers are easy-going and welcoming to foreigners, and English is the unofficial second language. With 750,000 inhabitants, Amsterdam offers the advantages of a cosmopolitan center with a small-town feel. Because the city is so compact, bicycles are perhaps the most convenient means of transportation; in fact, bicycles outnumber the people in Amsterdam!

academics

Academic Program

The Social Sciences program at the University of Amsterdam was established in 1993. The CIEE program is based at the International School for Humanities and Social Sciences (ISHSS)/Graduate School for Social Sciences (GSSS) which offers a number of humanities and social sciences courses in English, and aims to increase students' understanding of social, political, and cultural realities in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Europe. Students can also take regular UvA courses in English if they meet the prerequisites.

Academic Culture

Most classes offered at the University of Amsterdam are small in size, consisting of 30 students or less. Most meet twice a week: once for a two-hour lecture and once for a two-hour seminar or discussion class.

Classes comprised of so many different nationalities offer a wide range of perspectives. This diversity enables students to analyze and discuss issues from multiple viewpoints. Participation in the CIEE Study Center at the University of Amsterdam not only helps students develop a better comprehension of Europe in an international comparative perspective, but also enhances their ability to communicate with people from other countries, important in light of today's globalization and increasingly international work environments. Approximately 50% of the international students at UvA are from Europe, 25% from the United States, and 25% from Canada, Australia, and countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America.

The University of Amsterdam operates on a semester calendar, with each semester consisting of two consecutive eight-week class periods, followed by a four-week period during which students study for exams or write papers. The University's fall semester runs from the end of August to the end of January, and the spring semester runs from the

beginning of February to the end of June. In order to accommodate students from the U.S. who must adhere to a different academic calendar, early assessment is arranged for CIEE participants in mid-December for the fall term and in early June for the spring term. CIEE participants are expected to complete all exams and papers by the end of the official CIEE program dates and before leaving Amsterdam.

The CIEE Study Center office is located on the Prins Hendrikkade on the eastern waterfront, several blocks from UvA International School where many classes are held and in close proximity to the UvA residences where CIEE participants are housed.

Nature of Classes

CIEE classes are with other CIEE participants only. Some UvA classes enroll Dutch and international students, while other classes are for international students only.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Dutch, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to Dutch language proficiency and understanding of Dutch society develops.

Grading System

The credit system is based on a student's overall workload, including lectures, seminars, and independent study. In general, grades are based on a combination of class participation, oral presentations, papers, and/or written or oral examinations. Unlike in the United States, grades are based on a numerical scale of 1 to 10, rather than letters. All CIEE participants receive a University of Amsterdam transcript listing course titles, level, credits earned, and final grades as well as the CIEE Academic Record which converts the grades to a U.S. grading scale.



where you'll study

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) dates from Amsterdam's heyday in the 17th century when the city was one of the world's most important ports and trading centers. The Athenaeum Illustre, which later became the University of Amsterdam, was founded in 1632. The University is spread out over various parts of the city center and is situated in old buildings and in modern high rises. UvA has an enrollment of 25,000 students and a strong commitment to international education, as reflected in its international student body and curriculum.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing is included in the program fee. Students are placed in single rooms in UvA residence halls, which have shared shower and kitchen facilities. Residence halls are all within a short commute by foot, bike, or bus to the ISHSS and the center of Amsterdam. Meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Meals may be taken at cafeterias and UvA restaurants, at restaurants throughout Amsterdam, or prepared in the residence's kitchen facilities.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Amsterdam before even leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the

program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

Each semester begins with a mandatory orientation session organized by CIEE in Amsterdam. It includes a welcome canal cruise, an academic orientation, an introduction to Amsterdam and Dutch society and culture, a 'survival' Dutch lesson, and excursions in and around Amsterdam. During the orientation, CIEE students have the chance to meet other international students in an informal setting and are introduced to Dutch student life through a variety of leisure activities. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have access to a computer room at ISHSS and other UvA computer labs spread across the city for class-related activities, and receive personal e-mail accounts upon arrival, free of charge. Wireless Internet is available in the ISHSS canteen, throughout the UvA campus, and in most of the residence halls (some require an Ethernet cable). Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops.



eligibility

- Overall GPA 3.0
- Junior status strongly recommended
- Highly qualified sophomores are accepted with UvA and CIEE approval

duration

- Fall**
16 weeks: late August–mid-December
- Spring**
16 weeks: late January–early June
- Academic Year**
38 weeks: late August–early June

costs

CIEE Fees
Fall 2009: \$15,500
Spring 2010: available 8/15/09
Academic Year 2009–10: \$27,900

The CIEE fees for 2009–10 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, pre-departure advising, comprehensive student handbook, host university identity card, Dutch immigration registration fee, a museum card, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,500
Meals	\$ 2,300
Books and Supplies	\$ 450
Local Transportation	\$ 125
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 6,725

Check our website for current fees.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The CIEE Study Center in Amsterdam aims to provide an insider's perspective that most people, both locals and tourists, never see. We do this through guided site visits relating to contemporary Dutch social policy and unique destinations within the Netherlands. Students speak with victims of human trafficking and hear testimonies of those who help people seeking asylum in the Netherlands.

Excursions include visiting the Delta Works that protect the Dutch landscape from the sea, staying on Schiermonnikoog Island, a nature reserve in the north where a local shares his biology expertise with students during a mudflat walk in the Waddenzee, visiting a family owned and operated organic cheese farm, and witnessing the new urban

plan, IJburg, where 10,000 new homes are being built in such a way that they blend into the landscape.

University Life

Students are encouraged to sign up for activities provided by the International Students Network (ISN) of the University of Amsterdam. During orientation, CIEE students join ISN evening activities, meeting hundreds of other international students with whom they can attend events throughout the semester, as well as expand their network of international and Dutch friends. The ISN develops activities which help students meet other international students and facilitate the adjustment to living in the Netherlands.

coursework

Program Requirements

Students typically take four courses chosen from the ISHSS, UvA, and CIEE Dutch language and content course offerings. While Dutch is not required, it is strongly recommended, particularly for academic year students.

Students who have had previous Dutch study can take Dutch classes at the Dutch Language Institute (INTT). Students who are fluent in Dutch, French, German, Italian, or Spanish may elect to take a UvA course taught in one of those languages for credit. Second semester students, or students with prior Dutch study who have completed the CIEE beginning Dutch course, may continue with the INTT Dutch courses (worth three U.S. credits) per semester.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15 semester/22.5 quarter hours if taking the CIEE Dutch class, or 16 semester/24 quarter hours if taking only ISHSS and UvA courses. For the academic year, total recommended credit is 31–32 semester/46.5–48 quarter hours.

Course contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 4 semester/6 quarter hours, unless otherwise indicated.

Languages of Instruction

Dutch, English

Faculty

CIEE faculty are associated with Dutch institutions of higher education. University courses are taught by University of Amsterdam faculty.



courses

CIEE Language Course

DUTC 1003 NETH

Beginning Dutch

This beginning Dutch language course focuses on everyday oral interactions and contexts, such as shopping, ordering in restaurants, asking for information, and introducing oneself. Students learn to speak, read, and write in Dutch. The focus is on Dutch culture such as typical Dutch behavior and the Dutch education system. Class activities include conversation, role-playing, excursions, quizzes, and a personal presentation about a self-chosen topic about Dutch society and culture. The class meets two times per week for 12 weeks. Contact hours: 48. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

CIEE Content Course

NLST 3002 NETH

Contemporary Dutch Social Policy

This course is comprised of specific lectures about Dutch society and culture with guest speakers from the field and guided site visits. Theory is put into practice allowing students to see their surroundings from a sociological and anthropological point of view. Students develop more general knowledge about the Netherlands and gain a better understanding of its multicultural society. This course is combined with an intercultural seminar on living and learning in Amsterdam, helping students make better contact with locals and develop their intercultural competence during their semester in Amsterdam. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours. *Instructors: Hannah Huber and Bonny Wassing*

International School for Humanities and Social Sciences and University of Amsterdam Courses

The following list of courses constitutes a representative sample of course offerings, subject to change. Prior background knowledge or permission of the instructor may be required in some cases.

Culture and Modernity

Art of the 20th Century
Color and Culture
Literature, Love, and Lust
Museology

Development and Planning

Environment and Sustainable Development
Financial Geography
Framing the Latin American City
Urban Anthropology
Urban Tourism and City Marketing

Dutch Society and Culture

Dutch Culture and Society I&II
Dutch Narrative Cinema: a search for National Identity
Regulating Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Netherlands
Social Trends, Social Problems, and Social Policies in the Netherlands

Ethnicity, Migration, and Nationalism

Ethnic Diversity and Popular Culture
Ethnicity in Europe: Diversification and Unification
Human Geography of Europe
Martyrs and Terrorists
Regulating Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Netherlands

European Art and Culture

Art History
Art of the 20th Century
Capita Selecta from the Renaissance to Impressionism
Color and Culture
Museology

European Society and Culture

Current Dilemmas of European Integration
Europe-Hollywood-Europe
European Union Law, an Introduction
A Geography of European Space
Human Geography of Europe

Gender, Sexuality, and Society

Experiencing Differences
 Gender and Islam
 Introduction to Sexual Studies
 The Local and Global Complexity of Prostitution
 The Social Meaning of Gender

International Relations and Globalization

Conflict Resolution
 Introduction to European Integration
 Politics of Corruption
 Populism and Nationalism
 Public International Law

Media, Communication, and Film

Amsterdam: A Unique Metropolis
 Communication in Conflict Situations
 Communication and Society
 International Terrorism in the News
 Popular Culture
 Representing Identity in Film and Literature

Politics, Governance, and Democracy

Introduction to Conflict Studies
 The Knowledge-Based Economy
 Policy-Making in the European Union
 Politics of Development
 Violence in Peace and War: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**a student's story**

I promised myself one thing for my college career: to study abroad. I had a colorful image of what my experience would entail. I was convinced my time away would be like living in a completely different world, alienated from the familiar with my mouth wide open in perpetual awe. More than anything, I wanted to be culturally SHOCKED. When I arrived in Amsterdam and witnessed people driving cars, walking on two feet, and looking very much like human beings, I realized perhaps I took the idea of shock too literally. However, it didn't take long for me to be surrounded by the inevitable differences of life abroad. My four months in Amsterdam and travels around Europe and Africa expanded my perception of reality, culture, and most important of all, belonging.

It wasn't until I started to question my understanding of cultural difference that the disparities started to unravel. My perception of culture was extremely flawed to begin with. I thought of culture as costume, food, music, and a homogeneous combination of traits that all members of a society shared. It wasn't until I began my course in Intercultural Communication that my understanding changed. I realized that culture is multi-layered, complicated, and diverse. Learning the nuances of "everyday culture" and "cultural logic" completely changed my perspective.

My cultural shock came to me in ways deeper than I ever could have understood. I used to think that I didn't have a culture, raised in a multi-ethnic household that often diverged from American stereotypes. However, my new perception finally includes me with all Americans. Class discussions in an international classroom illuminated how my frame of mind is fueled by my own history. It was only when I decided to see from their perspective and shed my own that I was able to accept the idea. This experience solidified the fact that in spite of many individual differences I have from some Americans, there is so much we share, for better or worse.

My time abroad gave the culture shock I was looking for, even though it came in a different form than I expected. In my desire to escape realities I disliked about my own culture, I realized how shortsighted I was in understanding others and myself. My immersion into Dutch culture was one of the most influential experiences of my life so far, and I can see that my original desire for radically new experiences, though slightly dramatic, was actually right on target.

— Elizabeth Luke, University of Southern California