

# *Exchange*

at the School of Business  
and Economics

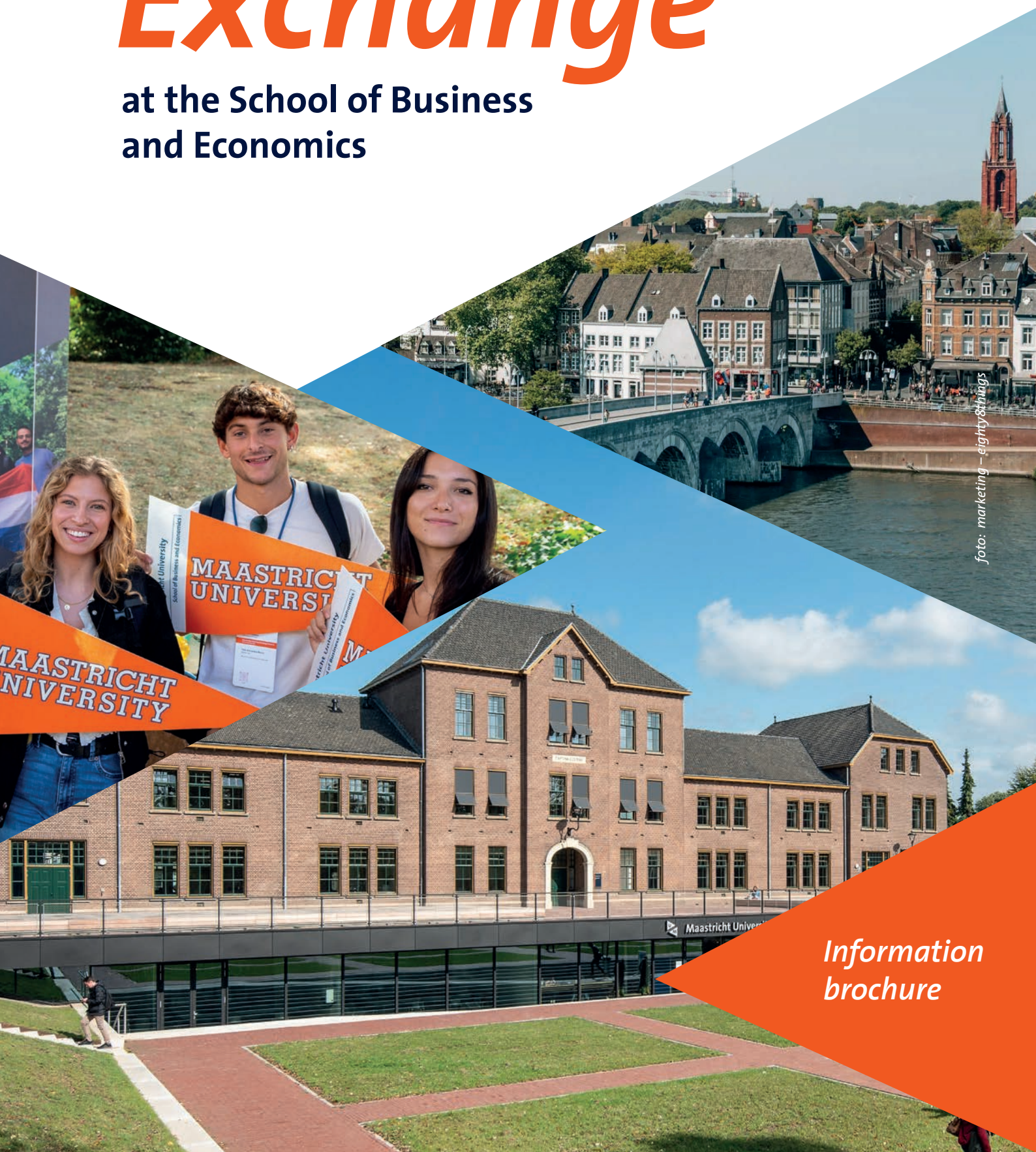


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*Information  
brochure*





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# The destination of your journey

## The Netherlands

### *The country behind the stereotypes*

If you think of the Netherlands, you probably think of tulips, clogs, windmills, and cheese - but this country has so much more to offer! Enjoy the bracing wind while walking along the coast of North and South Holland. Spot deer and wild boar during a cycling tour across national park the Veluwe. Allow the provinces of North Brabant and Limburg to charm you with their hospitality and good food. Or check out the authentic charm of the typical medieval merchant - or Hanseatic - cities in the eastern part of the country, and gaze upon the wide, flat, and uninterrupted horizons in the northern provinces of Friesland and Groningen.

The people of the Netherlands are a laid-back and warm-hearted sort but make no mistake: we do know how to party! The very best DJs in the world - think Tiësto, Martin Garrix, Armin van Buuren, and many more - hail from this little country in Europe. The oldest still existing music festival in the world, called Pinkpop, originated in Limburg. Even if you do not fancy festivals or clubs, in every city you will find plenty bars and restaurants to enjoy the evening.

## Limburg

### *The foreign part of the Netherlands*

The southern part of Limburg is unlike the rest of the Netherlands. This applies not just to the landscape, which features rolling hills that stand out against the backdrop of brightly coloured grass and even vineyards, and where the Maas meanders from nostalgic village to authentic town; nowhere else in the Netherlands do traditions, joie de vivre, and of course good food, play such an important part of daily life as here. In fact, it feels so different that many of our Dutch compatriots tell us it feels as if they are in a completely different country when they visit us. Imagine that: if you decide to do your exchange in Maastricht, you will basically get a two-for-one deal!

# Maastricht, the heart of Europe

## The most European city of the Netherlands

The international population of Maastricht is growing rapidly. Even though Dutch is the main language in this city, English is also widely spoken. Because of the proximity to Belgium and Germany, you will also find a lot of French and German speaking people in Maastricht.

Maastricht is characterised by its safe environment, historic buildings and trendy designer stores, magnificently stately churches and adventurous caves, restaurant menus full of taste sensations, many terraces brimming with happy tourists and jovial locals, vibrant festivals and high-profile exhibitions, as well as spacious squares and hidden vineyards. In short, the perfect city to have an amazing time while studying!

Maastricht is centrally located in the heart of Europe, bordering Belgium (a brisk 47 minute walk or 11 minutes of vigorous bike riding away) and Germany (only 35 minutes by car), which means that Brussels is an hour-and-a-half away, Amsterdam two, Paris and Frankfurt three, and London four-and-a-half hours.

Basically any location you might want to visit in Europe can be reached within a few hours. The plane, train, bus or rental car will take you pretty much anywhere you want to go. The three high-speed train services (Thalys, InterCity Express, and Eurostar), are the best choices for travelling through Europe. The relatively short distances between cities and the comfort of travelling (sightseeing on the go, no check-in, arrival straight in the heart of the city) makes it the quickest way of getting around. Besides that, there are several airports within an hour's travel.

**Europe is at your fingertips!**

Scan to discover  
Maastricht





# Practical matters

## Let's make Maastricht your home

### Housing

#### UM Guesthouse

Most exchange students end up staying at the UM Guesthouse, which is located in the vicinity of the School of Business and Economics. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that all students who apply will get a room at the UM Guesthouse, since applications are processed on a first-come first-served basis. Booking a room at the UM Guesthouse is only possible via their online reservation system ([www.maastrichthousing.com](http://www.maastrichthousing.com)).

#### How to find housing on your own?

Of course, you are not obliged to rent a room in the UM Guesthouse, even though it is the easiest option. You can also find a room on the private market. It is not always easy to find a room in Maastricht, so it is best to start doing so as soon as you are admitted. Maastricht Housing acts as intermediary for the local/private housing corporations in the so-called "social" rent sector. The MyHousing portal will notify you whenever new offers that meet your needs become available.

### Costs of living

Students looking to move to the Netherlands are drawn to Maastricht because the cost of living is lower than in other Dutch student cities such as Amsterdam or Rotterdam. Living in Maastricht is a good decision for those looking to stretch their budget.

Scan to find  
out more about  
living, studying  
and working in  
Maastricht



For example, living in Maastricht will save you money on the biggest monthly expense: rent. Based on the HousingAnywhere Rent Index, the rent in Maastricht in 2022 was, on average, 34% lower than the rent in Amsterdam.

The daily expenses include accommodation, insurance, books and study materials, groceries, transportation, clothing and personal care, leisure, and other expenses. Experience has shown that students living and studying in the Netherlands spend approximately €1.200 a month. For more information about the costs of living visit the UM website ([www.maastrichtuniversity.nl](http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl)).

### Visa

Nationals of the following countries do not need a long-stay visa to study in the Netherlands: Members of the EU, EEA, Switzerland, UK, Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea, USA, and Vatican City State. A longstay visa is necessary for nationals of all other countries (if you are a Chinese national, make sure you carefully read the information about the Nuffic certificate). For a stay of more than three (3) months, all non-EU nationals need a residence permit. Please check the webpage of UM's Visa Office for more information.

If applicable, the UM Visa Office will contact you regarding the visa and/or residence permit application via your UM email account.

#### → Important note

If your long-stay visa is not ready in time for your departure to the Netherlands, do not apply for a short-stay visa instead. If you do so anyway, Dutch Immigration Laws will force us to cancel your student registration and you will not be allowed to follow courses.



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Scan to watch a video  
about Maastricht  
University

# Maastricht University

The most international  
university in the Netherlands

Over half of our student population and almost half of our academic staff are international. Together, they represent more than 100 different nationalities. Especially the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics has developed a strong international orientation in pretty much all of its educational programmes, which helps prepare today's students – the professionals of tomorrow – for a successful career in a highly globalised environment. They obtain an understanding of international developments in their own field of study, as well as of social and cultural differences.

Located in the heart of Europe, we are an open and accessible community where cultures, perspectives and ideas come together. We welcome talented people from all over the world with open arms.

# Problem-Based learning



Scan to read  
more about PBL

## Teaching Method

*Problem-Based Learning (PBL) offers you a different, more interactive, way of learning compared to traditional university education.*

You will not have to spend hours listening to lectures, although there are some, usually at the start of the study period. Instead, per course you will attend a two-hour tutorial group meeting, twice a week. These meetings form the core part of the study programme and are the driving force for learning. Within the tutorial groups, problems are presented and researched as cases.

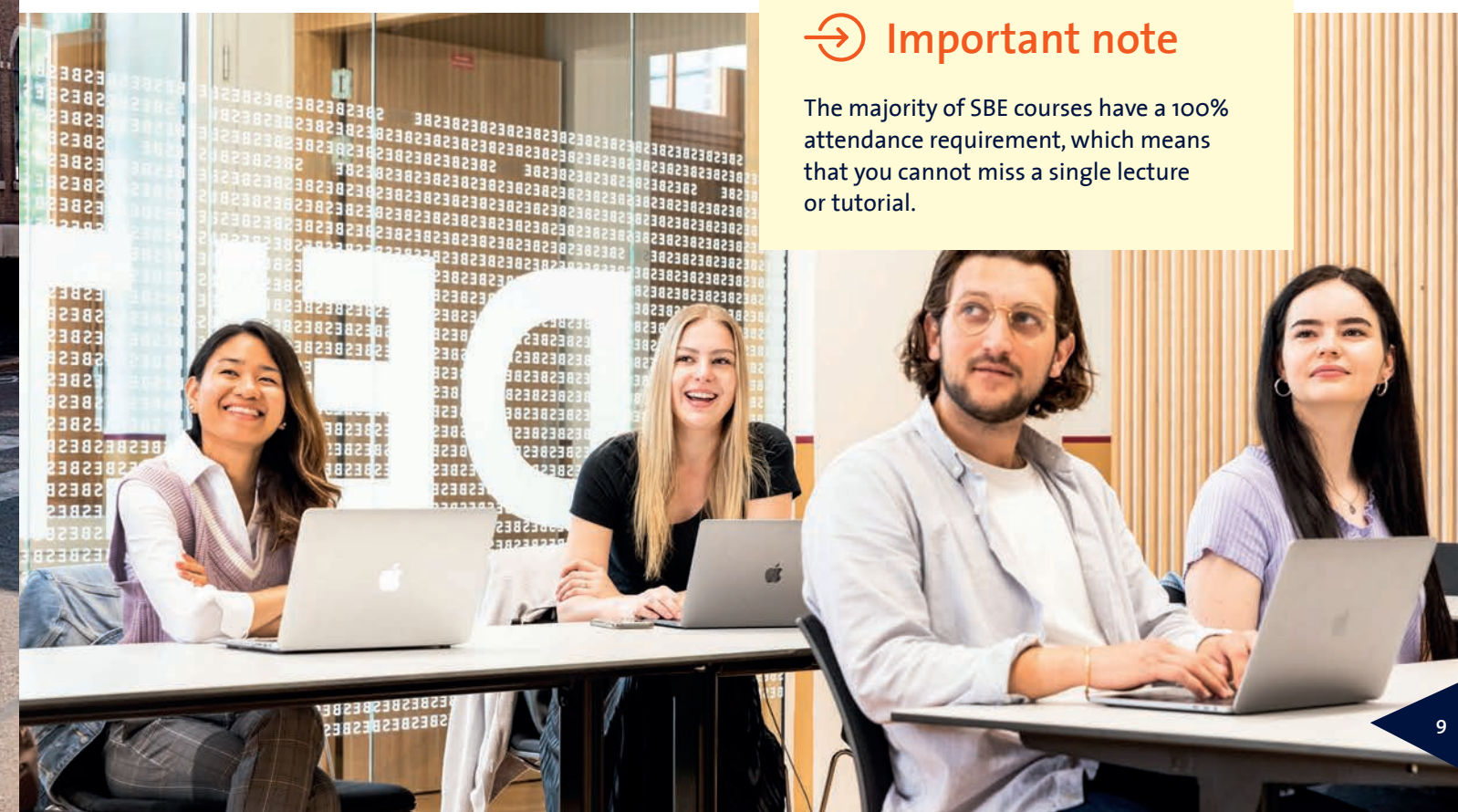
A tutorial group is composed of 8 to 15 students plus a tutor: a staff member who guides the group process but who does not automatically give answers to the problems. It is up to you to discover where your knowledge falls short and to fill in the gaps. To do so, you will have to spend a lot of time

between tutorial meetings to read articles and books, and to do research in the university library.

The international classroom- in other words, working in small tutorial groups with people from different cultural backgrounds- adds to the benefits of the PBL system. By approaching problems from a variety of perspectives, students become acquainted with different ways of seeing things and that enhances the quality of discussions. In this way, the international classroom prepares you for the rapidly globalising labour market.

## → Important note

The majority of SBE courses have a 100% attendance requirement, which means that you cannot miss a single lecture or tutorial.







Follow @maastricht\_sbe for more information about the School and student community. Check out @iro\_sbe for our student's exchange adventures.

## 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



### **Triple Crown accreditation**

Maastricht University (UM) is highly regarded in Europe for its unique teaching style and high-quality research. The School of Business and Economics received the prestigious Triple Crown accreditations by EQUIS, AMBA and AACSB. Only 1% of business schools worldwide are Triple Crown accredited.



### **Located in the heart of Europe**

Maastricht is located in the southernmost tip of the Netherlands, in the heart of Europe. Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, and London can be reached within a few hours and there are several airports within an hour's drive.



### **Personalised approach with Problem-Based learning**

At UM, you learn in small groups, which means you actively participate and gain essential skills for your future. Teachers often know you by your first name and the threshold to walk into a professor's office is low.



### **Vibrant student life**

The nights in Maastricht turn into unforgettable experiences for its inhabitants and travellers. There are numerous popular bars in Maastricht; visit the squares that are lined with pubs or dance the night away at one of the internationally renowned clubs.



### **The most international university of the Netherlands**

With 53% foreign students, 40% foreign staff and almost all programmes in English, UM is the most international university in the Netherlands. Students obtain an understanding of international developments, which helps prepare them for a successful career in a highly globalised environment.



### **Great student support**

The School of Business and Economics and related study associations are here to support and guide you in your academic journey and future career, and help you adjust to life in Maastricht.



### **One of the best young universities worldwide**

UM is ranked in the Top 10 of the Times Higher Education for Young Universities. Young in spirit, interdisciplinary and inclusive; this is how we characterise our academic community. Together with our international partners we contribute to solving societal issues.



### **UM SPORTS**

UM SPORTS offers a wide variety of sports, an extensive accommodation, generous opening hours and a good atmosphere. Whether you want to exercise for your health, to improve your fitness level, to relax, to feel more energised or to meet friends: the possibilities are endless at UM SPORTS!



### **The city of Maastricht**

Maastricht boasts beautiful historic little districts, welcoming and exceptionally good restaurants and bars, and plenty of art and attractions, a brand new sports centre and study areas on, for example, the Tapijn campus (a former military barracks). Maastricht is one of the oldest cities of the Netherlands, yet young at heart.



### **Healthiest university building**

UM meets the WELL Building Standard with its Tapijn location. In fact, it is the very first European university building to achieve this high standard. UM's commitment to health and well-being through the WELL Certification will ensure students and staff can work and learn in people-first places.



# Academic calendar

The academic calendar is divided into two semesters, a fall and a spring semester. Each semester is further divided into three different course periods:

- **Fall semester:** course periods 1, 2 and 3
- **Spring semester:** course periods 4, 5 and 6

Course periods 1, 2, 4 and 5 consist of seven education weeks and one exam week. Course periods 3 and 6 consist of two weeks of so-called skills training; these are not compulsory for exchange students.

## Fall semester

*Compulsory Introduction Days:  
late August - early September*

PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3
<b>Education</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Skills training</b>
Early September / Mid-October	Late October / Mid-December	Mid-January / Late January
<b>Exams</b>	<b>Exams</b>	
Late October	Mid-December	
<b>Resits</b>	<b>Resits</b>	
Early January	Early April	

## Spring semester

*Compulsory Introduction Days:  
early February*

PERIOD 4	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 6
<b>Education</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Skills training</b>
Early February / Late March	Mid-April / Late May	Mid-June / Late June
<b>Exams</b>	<b>Exams</b>	
Early April	Early June	
<b>Resits</b>	<b>Resits</b>	
Mid-June	Early July	

# Information on courses

Scan to browse  
SBE's course  
database (go to  
'exchange')



## Study load and skills training

### Course database

In the online course database you will find all information about the bachelor's and master's courses at the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics. This includes course coordinator(s), learning outcomes and competences, number of ECTS credits, literature and prerequisites.

If the information in the course database is not sufficient, you can contact the relevant course coordinator. The e-mail address can be found in each course description. The course database is updated in June to include the new academic year.

### Study load

As exchange student, you can only register for a maximum of two courses per period (max. 13 ECTS credits) with a minimum of one course per period (5 / 6.5 ECTS credits), and only one skills training per period (4 ECTS credits). As mentioned earlier, skills trainings are not compulsory for exchange students. At the School of Business and Economics, we consider a fulltime study load per semester to be four courses and one skills training.

### → Important note

Most courses (except for the skills trainings) are worth 6.5 ECTS credits. One ECTS credit equals 28 hours of study, which means that one regular course equals 182 hours of study, 42 of which should be considered contact hours.

### Skills training

Focusing on the mere acquisition of knowledge is not sufficient if you are a student of business and economics. You have to be able to work in all kinds of organisations, which implies that you need to develop social and communication skills. Quantitative skills (such as accounting, financial arithmetic, operations research, statistics, and mathematics) as well as computer proficiency and basic knowledge of information science, are also essential in today's employment market.

PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 6
Max. 2 courses (max. 13 ECTS credits)	Max. 2 courses (max. 13 ECTS credits)	Max. 1 skills training (max. 4 ECTS credits)	Max. 2 courses (max. 13 ECTS credits)	Max. 2 courses (max. 13 ECTS credits)	Max. 1 skills training (max. 4 ECTS credits)
Min. 1 course (5/6.5 ECTS credits)	Min. 1 course (5/6.5 ECTS credits)		Min. 1 course (5/6.5 ECTS credits)	Min. 1 course (5/6.5 ECTS credits)	

School of Business and  
Economics building for  
master's courses.

# Application journey

## A step-by-step guide

### Before you apply

#### 1. Eligibility

The Maastricht University School of Business and Economics only accepts your application if you have a major in Economics or Business (or related). If you are a bachelor's student, you need to have completed at least two semesters of relevant study before starting your exchange programme in Maastricht. If you want to take master's level courses, you need to have a valid and relevant bachelor's degree.

#### 2. English language requirement

All courses are taught in English. To successfully complete your courses, an advanced level of English is required of all exchange students. Although we do not ask proof of your language proficiency, we strongly advise you to have a level of proficiency comparable to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference.

Our Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach requires you to actively engage with the subject matter in your tutorials. To be able to participate in UM's teaching method it is essential to master an advanced level of both written and spoken English.

### How to apply

#### 3. Nomination by home university

As exchange student, you have to be officially nominated by your home university. After your home university has submitted your nomination, you will be informed about the online registration and application procedure.

#### Nomination by home university

Fall semester deadline → 15 April

Spring semester deadline → 15 September

#### 4. Online registration and application

After you have finished your online application, we will process this as soon as possible. We will send your acceptance letter by email about three months before the start of your study and stay in Maastricht. If applicable, Maastricht University's Visa Office will contact you regarding the visa and/or residence permit application.

#### Application deadline by student

Fall semester deadline → 01 May

Spring semester deadline → 01 October

# The Student Portal

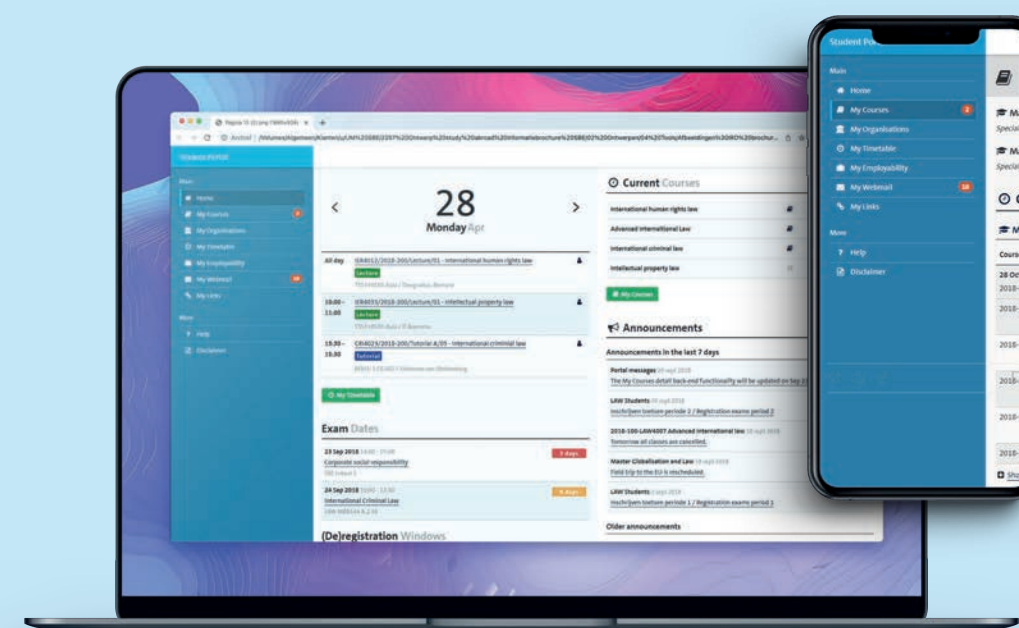
## Electronic learning environment

*The Student Portal application provides information on courses and serves as a portal for all student information. It will remain accessible until the end of your exchange at SBE. Throughout your exchange, this is where you will find your own course material (such as readers, PowerPoint presentations, assignments, and information on exams), as well as announcements, group discussions, timetables, etc. You will be introduced to the Student Portal at the start of your programme.*

#### What can you find on the Student Portal:

- information on the courses you attend (including a database with course descriptions)
- registration options for a course, exam, or resit
- education and examination schedules
- examination results

- announcements from your tutor or course coordinator
- a portal to submit your assignments
- all materials to take the course (for example literature, cases, data, PowerPoint presentations, and old exams)
- your tutors' and/or coordinators' email addresses
- access to a community that is especially designed for your tutorial group, where you can work individually on tasks and learning goals, and together with your fellow students on group assignments
- your UM e-mail account
- access to the SBE Student Intranet, where you can find information about Student and Career Counselling, the International Relations Office, the Student Council, the Code of Conduct, rights and regulations, etc.



Eligibility



English language requirement



Nomination by home university



Online registration and application





# Maastricht University

School of Business and Economics

Would you like to know more about doing an exchange at the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics? Contact our International Relations Officers if you have questions:

Email address: [iro-incoming-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:iro-incoming-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Phone number: +31 43 38 83 706



Follow us on Instagram!

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[www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/education/exchange/sbe](http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/education/exchange/sbe)