



Open Enrolment Semester Programmes

European History, Culture and Arts

For centuries, Europe has been pivotal as a centre of innovation and creativity with a rich cultural heritage. The rise and fall of civilisations, empires and shifting of borders has resulted in a complex mix of cultures, languages, religions and ethnicities. In 1992 the Maastricht Treaty led to the creation of the European Union with its motto “Unity in Diversity”, but what is European identity? This question is at the heart of European culture and society, and hinges on difficult questions about European history and conflict.

Founded by the Romans, controlled by the Spaniards, besieged by the French, and occupied by the Germans, picturesque 2000 year-old Maastricht, the Netherlands, personifies how European history has served as a prologue to the present. Final resting place of D’Artagnan and home to the world famous violinist André Rieu, the city is on the shortlist for the “European Capital of Culture 2018” with the theme ‘Rediscovering Europe’. Host to the internationally acclaimed European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), it is the perfect setting for students interested in gaining a deeper understanding of European history, culture and arts.

What do the lessons of the past teach us about society today? How do art and culture contribute towards promoting intercultural dialogue and developing a ‘European citizenship’? The *European History, Culture & Arts* programme invites you to explore Europe past, present and future and discuss important societal issues from a European perspective.

Investigate the roots of European identity and culture

European History, Culture & Arts students are directly enrolled at Maastricht University and able to take classes at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences – awarded the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for outstanding education and research on European integration - as well as the Center for European Studies (CES). Courses can also be taken at the highly selective liberal arts and sciences programme from University College Maastricht.

Courses

All *European History, Culture & Arts* students participate in the **Core Seminar**, a compulsory semester-long course that forms the backbone of the programme and combines strong academics with integrated study trips and unique hands-on experiences. Students can choose from more than **350 bachelor-level courses in English** offered at Maastricht University. Please refer to the CES website for a complete course overview. At least half the courses should be selected from the programme-related Majors below. This combination provides a solid understanding of the central subject while giving students the freedom **to build their own curriculum**.

Majors

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • Art (History) | • Literature | • Cultural Studies |
| • Media Studies | • European Studies | • Philosophy & Ethics |
| • Environmental Studies | • Religious Studies | • Film Studies |
| • Sociology | • Globalisation | • Women’s Studies |
| • History | • Urban Studies | |

Integrated study trips

The Core Seminar begins with the **European Study Trip**, which provides a vivid European context for the central programme theme. The seminar runs for the duration of the semester and includes an interactive **lecture series** and **field trips** that highlight local achievements. The *European History, Culture & Arts* programme offers greater insight into Europe’s conflicted past through visits to, for example the Berlin Wall and Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Immerse yourself in Dutch history and culture at the Rijksmuseum and the Anne Frank House. Meet with the organisation behind Maastricht’s bid for 2018 Capital of Culture or attend a roundtable discussion with local immigrants. True to Maastricht University’s philosophy of active and self-directed learning, students undertake an **independent study project** during the Core Seminar and are encouraged to pursue their own academic interests. The Core Seminar concludes with a Symposium where students present their research papers.

“Maastricht was the perfect place to study abroad. The classes I took were completely different than anything I had experienced before. In my world history class, I learned not just from the readings or the professor, but also from the cross-cultural exchange of ideas that was essential to making this course such a success.”

Marta Lucia Kupfer, TUFTS University

Academics

Credits

Maastricht University uses the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) to measure academic progress. Maastricht University courses typically have between 5-12 ECTS. How ECTS transfer depends on a student's home university or college. Generally a 5-6.5 ECTS course is the equivalent of a full semester course (3 American credit hours). CES advisors help students select classes to meet the requirements of their home university.

Programme Structure

Each CES semester is 18 weeks long and starts with an extensive 2-week introduction, followed by two 'block periods' of classes (block period 1 and 2 in Fall; block period 4 and 5 in Spring). During each 8-week block period, students take two courses of 5-6.5 ECTS or one course of 9-12 ECTS. In addition, they will participate in the mandatory Core Seminar (6 ECTS), which runs alongside the courses (see figure below). Students can earn a minimum of 24 and maximum of 33 ECTS per semester at CES. The number of hours in class varies from 12-15 hours per week; for every hour in class students are expected to spend 2-3 hours on study.

| Core Seminar (6 ECTS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|----|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Intro | | Block Period 1 | | | | | | | | Block Period 2 | | | | | | | |
| | | Course (5-6.5 ECTS) | | | | + Course (5-6.5 ECTS) | | | | Course (9-12 ECTS) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |

High academic standard

CES programmes are designed for enthusiastic and intellectually curious students dedicated to expanding their academic horizons while abroad. To ensure that students do well, CES offers extensive academic advising, workshops and regular monitoring. Maastricht University uses Problem-Based Learning (PBL), a student-centered teaching approach. Small groups of students (12-15) work on academic or practical cases prepared by their professors. Faculty act as guides to students who are in charge of their own learning and are expected to be committed, active and self-motivated.

Practical Information

Programme Dates

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Spring 2014 | 17 January - 7 June 2014 |
| Fall 2014 | 15 August - 20 December 2014 |
| Spring 2015 | 16 January - 6 June 2015 |

Introduction

The 2-week introduction offers a variety of academic and social activities, the start of the Core Seminar and the European Study Trip. The introduction includes CES services (such as airport pick up and phone rental), a tour of Maastricht and the surrounding area, Maastricht University orientation, a Problem-Based Learning seminar, Intercultural Communication workshops and integration into Dutch student life.

Tuition

The tuition fee includes registration at Maastricht University, academic advising, all courses (up to 33 ECTS), CES course materials, the Core Seminar, European Study Trip, field trips, extensive introduction and all CES services. For Spring 2014 the tuition fee is € 7600*.

Housing

Most CES students stay in single or double rooms at the International Student Guesthouse of Maastricht University. Rooms in the P-building have a private kitchen and rooms in the C-building have communal cooking facilities; in both buildings the bathroom facilities are shared. Housing costs for Spring 2014 range from € 2266 to € 3491*.

Visa & Residence Permit

Most students require a temporary Dutch residence permit (VVR) for stays longer than 90 days and some students might need a visa (MVV). CES assists students with every part of this process. For Spring 2014 the cost for a temporary residence permit is € 300*.

Insurance

Students need sufficient health care, liability and travel insurance for the duration of their stay. Most students are covered through their home university, but CES can assist students who need to purchase their own.

Application requirements

CES Open Enrolment programmes are competitive. Early application is recommended. Applicants must be in good academic standing, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must be proficient in English. Please refer to the CES website for more information and an online application form. Don't hesitate to contact CES with questions. We are happy to help!

Application Deadlines

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Spring 2014 | 15 October 2013 |
| Fall 2014 | 15 April 2014 |
| Spring 2015 | 15 October 2014 |

**For detailed and up-to-date tuition, housing and residence permit fees, please check our website. Although this brochure was made with the utmost care, no rights can be derived from it.*

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