Utrecht University

Graduate School of Teaching

Frequently asked questions about U-TEAch

This list of FAQs contains a number of specific questions prospective students may have about our U-TEAch programme, the honour's track of the teacher training programme at Utrecht University.

There are 5 parts to the FAQs:

1. Start of the programme
2. School placements
3. The programme study load
4. Course costs
5. Qualifications the programme gives

Please also check out our website for more information about:

- General information about our Master's programmes: www.uu.nl/masters (> find your programme)
- Subject specific entry requirements, please check the information for your programme here (in Dutch): www.uu.nl/masters (> find you programme > Toelating en aanmelden)
- Specific information about U-TEAch, entry requirements and selection procedure can be found here: www.uu.nl/masters (> find you programme > Studieprogramma > Extra uitdaging).

If you have any questions, ask one of our student advisors: studieadviseur.gst@uu.nl.

Part one: start of the programme

Q: Why is a good understanding required for Dutch for non-native speakers of Dutch?
A: Although the U-TEAch track is offered in English, we do require a good understanding of Dutch. You will take Subject-related Methodology (Vakdidactiek) with your Dutch peers, therefore we require a flexible attitude as some of the materials are related to the Dutch educational system and therefore the sessions and / or documents will be in Dutch. Some documents, film clips and other literature for other courses might also be in Dutch.

Q*: When does the programme start?*
A: The programme starts one week before the schools in the middle region of the Netherlands start. As we start straight away with a full time programme and we work on the course philosophy and group formation, attendance during that week is absolutely necessary and we cannot make exceptions. Please realize that this date is before the official start of the academic year. You can find the exact date of the start week on our website (scroll down to *start data*).

Q: How often does it start?
A: The U-TEAch programme starts once a year: in August!

Q: I will be doing the two year master's programme Education and Communication in Humanities, Geography or Science: how do I apply for U-TEAch?
A: When you apply for the master's programme in Education and Communication you can indicate that you want to take part in the honours programme U-TEAch. Please note that for these programmes an active understanding of Dutch (B2 level) is required.

Part two: school placements

Q: For the first internship in the Netherlands, who chooses the internship schools?
A: The U-TEAch instructors work with the Internship Office to select an appropriate placement school for each student. About half of our students do their internship at a TTO (bilingual) school and half at an international school. We use different TTO schools in the Utrecht area (e.g. CALS college in Nieuwegein, Farel College in Amersfoort, Christelijk Lyceum in Zeist) and international schools (e.g. Amsterdam International Community School, International School Hilversum, International School Utrecht). Thus we ensure we can closely cooperate with schools we know and the group gets input from both a TTO school and an international school. In some cases students may be placed at a school outside of the Utrecht area!

Q: When will I be notified about my school placement for my first internship?
A: After the formation of the U-TEAch group we use the months of June/July to finalise our placements with the various schools. We try to inform you before the summer holidays, however there could be last- minute changes, so we might only inform you about the finalized placements in August in the first week of the course.

Q: For the second internship abroad, who chooses where each student goes?
A: You will be asked to give your preference for specific countries at the start of the programme, but we will allocate the students to the various schools. It is always a challenging puzzle that needs solving each year (for example, if we send one historian to one country, we usually cannot send a second one there as well) so there is no guarantee that you will get to go to your first choice destination.

Q: Will I go abroad on my own?
A: As we want you to learn from each other and work together as professionals, we always send you off in pairs, groups of three or four to the school/institution.

Q: Is the internship abroad mandatory?
A: Yes, it is. We value this internship as an educational and intercultural encounter and experience which is vital to your training programme.

Q: Which countries/schools are available?
A: We currently partner with schools in Sint Maarten (Milton Pieters college), Latvia (International school Riga), Poland (Wroclaw Liceum V), and Pretoria, South Africa (The Glen, Pretoria High for Girls). Locations may change or be added/removed per year, based on availability.

Q: When does this second internship take place?
A: The internship abroad takes place in the second semester and lasts for about 12-14 weeks. It runs from around mid-March till mid-June.

Q: Are there exceptions for not doing the second internship abroad?
A: If you are doing the in-service stream ('baanvariant') or if you have familial obligations or if you have done your own secondary education at a school outside the Netherlands, you may be exempted from a second internship abroad. In this case you will do the second internship in the Netherlands. This will be discussed with you during the selection interview and will be confirmed in the acceptance letter.

Q: Do we get paid for the internships?
A: Yes! For all internships in the Netherlands you get a small stipend. This depends on your days at school, and prior schooling/certifications. Please see the VO CAO for an indication. For internships abroad you do not get paid however you can apply for an Erasmus+ bursary for internships in the European Union.

Q: I work as a teacher at an international school or TTO school. Can I use my job for the internships?
A: Yes, you can, but only if your job meets various requirements, e.g. your job has a maximum of 0,5 fte, you have fixed classes teaching your school subject, you teach middle and upper level. The adequacy of your job will be discussed during the selection interview.

Part three: study load

Q: How full time is full-time?
A: As the programme is an honours track, this is a full-time programme. The course offers extra contents as you will do an extended Practice Based Research. Teaching in English both in the Netherlands and teaching in a foreign country can be quite demanding. Furthermore, because of the internship abroad, some of the contents of semester 2 will be dealt with in semester 1 as well as in person sessions for the elective courses *Content and Language Integrated Learning*, *International and Cross Cultural Education* and *Internationalize Your Classroom*. This means an extra study load in semester 1. This makes the programme more than full time! For students doing the in-service stream, please keep in mind that the programme requires a study load of 20 clock hours aside your teaching hours at school.

Q: When do have to be present for sessions at the university?
A: In semester one, you will attend university sessions on Mondays. In semester two, before going abroad and immediately after returning, you will attend sessions on Tuesdays. Outside of these university days, you are expected to be at your placement school. Please note that in Jan/Feb there are a few days you have to be at university on both the Monday and the Tuesday.

Q: Can I take a part-time job whilst studying on U-TEAch?
A: We strongly recommend you don't. The course is demanding.

Q: Can I take the U-TEAch programme as a part time track?
A: Yes, if you have a job. Please indicate if you would like to do the course part-time, which means the full course in two years instead of one. This is ideal and recommended for those with a job. You would have to ensure your job can support you in the following:

- Maximum 0,8 fte with classes in your subject (maximum of 0,7 fte is strongly advised)
- 50% of the lessons in English (TTO schools)
- You need to be available to attend university courses on Mondays in year 1 and in semester 1 of year 2; in semester 2 of year 2 you need to be available to attend university courses on Tuesdays, with the flexibility in January/February to attend classes on both Mondays and Tuesdays.
- You have a mentor at school who supports you, can observe lessons occasionally, give feedback and evaluate your internship.
- In year two you teach upper level courses (4-6th grades in TTO or MYP5-DP2 in an international school).

Part four: course costs

Q: Is there an extra tuition fee for the programme?
A: No *extra* tuition fees will be charged. You can find information on tuition fees on the website of Utrecht University: https://students.uu.nl/en/practical-information/financial-matters/tuition-fees

Q: What are the costs for the internship abroad?
A: It depends very much on the country you are going to and your own standard of living. However, most students do sublet their room and hand in their 'OV-jaarkaart' for a few months in order to help with the costs.

Q: Are there any bursaries available to help with the cost of the internship abroad?
A: For the internships abroad in European countries students can apply for an Erasmus + grant. Outside of the EU students can search for their own bursaries or seek help from the International Office.

Q: What are the regular fees for the programme?
A: Please refer to our website for this.

Part five: qualifications that the programme gives

Q: Which qualifications do I get at the end of the U-TEAch programme?
A: You will get your Dutch ('eerstegraads') teaching qualification which allows you to teach at all levels in the Dutch secondary education system. Moreover, you will receive an additional U-TEAch honours certificate from the Centre for Education and Learning stating that you are competent in teaching in CLIL and International settings.

Q: Do I get a certificate/diploma to teach at international schools and or abroad?
A: No, there is no internationally recognized standard diploma for teaching abroad. Each country has its own standards and one needs to have the Dutch diploma validated. In most countries in which former U- TEAch students have applied this was not a problem, although sometimes there was a certain amount of red tape involved. For more information about how to get your teaching qualification recognized for teaching at an international school abroad check the website of the International Baccalaureate Organization (www.ibo.org).

Q: Am I qualified to teach at Dutch TTO (bilingual) schools?
A: Yes, your Dutch diploma allows you to teach there. Most Dutch TTO schools do value the U- TEAch diploma, but teaching in TTO does not require a special qualification.

Q: Do I get the Cambridge Certificate for bilingual teaching?
A: No, unfortunately, we cannot offer the Cambridge Certificate.