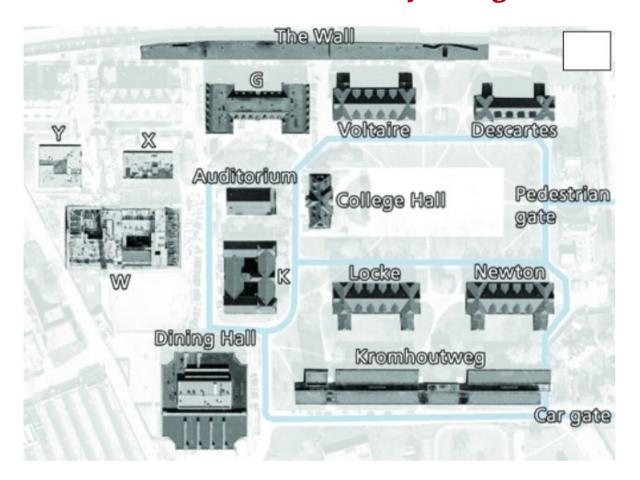


Self-Guided Tour of University College Utrecht



Welcome to University College Utrecht

We're happy that you are interested in our college and would love to help you see our campus and tell you about UCU. Before we show you the campus, let's start with some information about the curriculum and what happens *inside* these buildings.

The curriculum

At UCU, students work closely with their personal tutor who helps guide them in devising a unique curriculum that is their own. The academic year is split into two semesters of fifteen weeks each: the fall semester, which begins in the final week of August, and the spring semester, which begins in the last week of January. Each semester, students take four courses. Every course has two classes per week, both lasting one hour and 45 minutes with a break in the middle. UCU also offers two-week courses during the winter break and five-week courses during the summer term. The summer term is from mid-May to the end of June. Science students complete laboratory requirements during the winter and summer. The maximum number of students in one class is 28, allowing for an interactive learning environment.

At the end of their first year, students declare their major and start specializing in their field of interest. Majors at UCU are multi-disciplinary; students combine at least two different subjects from humanities, science, or social science. In their final year, students complete a research thesis in their subject of choice. Aside from our standard curriculum, some students opt to complete the Double Degree in Dutch Law and LAS (4 years), the Double Degree in Physics and LAS (4 years), or the Pre-medical science programme. Please note that for the last, students must have a sufficient level of Dutch in order to continue to a medical programme in the Netherlands.

UCU also offers a variety of curriculum enrichment programmes. Firstly, students are welcome to take off-campus courses at Utrecht University. Additionally, many students choose to go on exchange at partner universities. UCU has contracts with over 50 universities around the globe and offers exchange destinations from South Korea to Peru to Canada to Australia. In addition, students can opt to go to one of the 500 Utrecht University destinations.

We also have many additional programmes in which UCU students show great interest. In the UCU in Africa programme, students complete a course and then spend time in Africa completing an internship in their field of choice. Some students use this opportunity to research a topic for their thesis. The Aruba Field programme is a cooperation with the University of Aruba. Students complete a course in Caribbean studies then together with a team of students from the University of Aruba, spend a semester in Aruba and complete fieldwork for their thesis. Lastly, the Cultural Heritage Internship Programme allows students to complete an internship in a various museums, such as the Netherlands Open Air Museum, the Tropenmuseum, the British Museum, and the Natural History Museum of London. You can read more about these programmes on our website under curricular options.

Campus tour

To begin the tour, please stand with your back towards College Hall, turn right, and walk along the road that surrounds the quad (gravel area). College Hall, by the way, is the building where the management and the support staff (the housing office, the student life office¹, the admissions office, the exchange office, etc.) are located.

On your left, you will see the Humanities academic building called Voltaire. Voltaire is one of three buildings where classes take place. On the ground floor, there are four classrooms with a capacity for 28 students and various faculty offices. On the first floor, there is a quiet study area that students can make use of 24/7. In all three academic buildings, the top floor is composed of two living units. Behind Voltaire, you can see one of our residential buildings: The Wall.

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¹ The student life office is a point of contact for all students to discuss any personal matter with a counsellor. The topics can cover issues such as health, workload, new campus initiatives, planning, family circumstances, effective decision making, or simply putting things into perspective and making it through the next semester. All meetings are confidential (unless disclosure is agreed with the student), and there is no topic off limits.

As you walk further along the road surrounding our quad, you will walk past our pedestrian gate. Walk past the clock tower and turn right. On your left side, you will see the Science academic building Newton. Similar to Voltaire, the ground floor of Newton consists of classrooms and faculty offices. On the first floor, there are more classrooms and offices. In addition, there is a computer area for student use during and outside of class time.

After Newton, you will see the Social Science academic building Locke. If you peek in between Newton and Locke, you will see one of the student residential complexes, Kromhout. Other residential buildings include G, K, W, X, and Y. UCU tries to make the living units as mixed as possible. Every unit is comprised of 4-11 students of mixed genders, nationalities, and ages. Students are assigned a single room, although a limited number of shared rooms are available upon request. The residential buildings come furnished: student rooms have a standard bed, desk, chair, wardrobe and lamp. In addition, some units have a sink or a balcony. Living rooms include a few couches and comfortable chairs, and a kitchen with a fridge, freezer, micro-oven and hot plates. At the end of every spring semester, students can sign up to either live with two friends or in a specific building.

As you walk past Locke, take a left turn and an immediate right. The grey building on your left is our Dining Hall. Outside Dining Hall you can also see our sports field. UCU students are also welcome to use all Utrecht University facilities, including the large gym Olympos. Dining Hall houses not only our cafeteria, but also study spaces, a gym, drama room, music room and a student-led bar. These are all places where students come together for social activities. In Dining Hall, you can also find the offices of our two main student bodies: the University College Student Association (UCSA) and the University College Student Council (UCSC). The UCSA represents the social aspect of campus and is the head of 38 committees, such as DanceCo, BarCo, PoliticsCo, MedCo, GymCo, GameCo, and the Musical Team². UCSC is an elected student body that represents student interest in all *academic matters*. They consult with dean Susan te Pas, other members of the Management Team, and faculty members in order to provide a bridge between students and staff, with the purpose to improve courses and curriculum.

Opposite Dining Hall in building W there is a so-called meditation room set up for students of all major religions. Students can access this room 24/7.

We hope you enjoyed this tour! On the next page you can find the answers to frequently asked questions. If you have any remaining questions, please send us an email to ucu.administration@uu.nl.

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² For a current overview: https://ucu.community/ucsa/committees-2/

Frequently asked questions

What are the differences between the different University Colleges (UC's) in the Netherlands? When comparing different university colleges, look at:

- 1) Curriculum. Different colleges offer different subjects. Also the way the curriculum is structured differs. At UCU you would have complete freedom to compose your own curriculum combining whatever you want to combine. You can read more about it here: https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/university-college-utrecht/your-study/curriculum
- 2) Housing: UCU offers an American-style campus, a little village where the dorms are right next to the academic buildings. Other university colleges offer a different set-up.
- 3) The city. Utrecht is a great student city with a vibrant city centre and good connections to all parts of the Netherlands and abroad.
- 4) The type of student and atmosphere. Hard to capture in words but talk to our students, explore social media and movies to find out more!

What kind of diploma do I need to meet the entrance requirements?

Please look at our website for a list of admissible diplomas.

What are UCU's tuition fees?

At UCU, students pay both a tuition fee and a campus fee. UCU's tuition fees fluctuate per year, therefore it is advisable to visit our website, which is continuously updated with the most recent costs.

uu.nl/ucu