



university of
 groningen

faculty of spatial sciences

Information guide for visiting exchange students



Exchange to the Faculty of Spatial Sciences (FSS) of the University of Groningen

Are you interested in visiting the Faculty of Spatial Sciences as an international exchange student?

In this flyer, you can find more information about the Faculty, the courses we offer to exchange students, how you can apply and much more information about an exchange to our Faculty.

The University of Groningen

The [University of Groningen](#) is a research university with a global outlook, deeply rooted in Groningen, City of Talent. Quality has had top priority for four hundred years, and with success: the University is currently in the global top 100 on several influential ranking lists.



The Faculty of Spatial Sciences

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen offers 2 bachelor and 6 master programmes and 10 double degree programmes within the fields of geography, demography and spatial design and spatial planning. All courses are taught in English.

As the only independent Faculty of Spatial Sciences in the Netherlands, our focus is entirely spatial. Our mission is to educate future-placemakers to improve neighborhoods, cities, regions and countries. Our motto is: 'making places better together'.

Visit the [FSS website](#) for more information and follow [FSS on social media](#).

International students

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences is an internationally-oriented community of almost 100 academics, 1100 students and support staff. The staff members operate within extensive international research and educational networks. Each year, the Faculty of Spatial Sciences welcomes many international students:

- degree-seeking students enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's or Double Degree Programme
- PhD students
- exchange students, participating in a course offered exclusively to exchange students and in regular courses
- students that participate in one of our [summer schools](#)

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences offers a challenging, friendly and flexible academic environment for foreign students.

Student exchange programmes

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences welcomes exchange students at the bachelor (undergraduate) level, master level and PhD level. As an exchange student, you will not achieve your bachelor, master or PhD degree at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences; you will stay enrolled as a degree-seeking student at your home university and you will be temporarily enrolled as a visiting exchange student at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen. Therefore, you do not need to pay tuition or university registration fees at the University of Groningen.

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences has established over 50 student exchange programmes with [partner universities across the world](#). Also, the Faculty of Spatial Sciences participates in the [Multi Faculty Exchange Programme](#) of the University of Groningen.

Next to exchange students from partner universities, each year a restricted number of [exchange students from non-partner universities](#) are welcomed.



Courses for exchange students

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences offers a unique and much appreciated course exclusively for visiting exchange students: [Spatial Problems and Spatial Policies: The Dutch Experience](#). This course gives an academic introduction to the culture, geography and demography of the Netherlands, with an emphasis on urban and environmental planning policies. The course includes many excursions. It also introduces visiting exchange students to the working formats (lectures, paper assignments and so on) that are typical for the University of Groningen / Faculty of Spatial Sciences. All exchange students registered at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences are required to take this course.

As an exchange student, you can also participate in the regular courses that the Faculty of Spatial Sciences offers in the subject areas of Human Geography, Urban and Regional Planning, Spatial Design, Environmental and Infrastructure Planning and Demography.



All courses in the two Bachelor's programmes and the six Master's programmes are fully delivered in English. Some courses have entry requirements or capacity restrictions and some courses at the Master's level are only opened for degree-seeking students.

Sometimes, it is possible to take a limited number of courses at other Faculties of the University of Groningen, but usually content-specific entry requirements, capacity limits or other restrictions apply.

The UG Language Centre offers language courses in various languages and at various levels.

The '[Courses](#)' section of our website provides more information about the course options and explanation on how to select your courses.

Academic calendar

The academic year consists of two semesters:

- Semester 1: Early September to late January
- Semester 2: Early February to late June

Attendance of the 'Welcome and Acquaintance session' of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences on the Friday preceding the start of the semester is compulsory. The exact dates can be found on our website under '[Practical information & dates](#)'.

Application

Would you like to apply for exchange to the Faculty of Spatial Sciences? Then please check if you meet the [application requirements](#) and contact the International Office or study abroad coordinator at your home university. If you have been selected for an exchange to Groningen by your home university, the international coordinator/exchange officer of your university will inform us of your [nomination](#).

Accepted students

Students that are accepted as inbound exchange students by the Faculty of Spatial Sciences will receive an email with further information. They are requested to complete the steps of our [pre-arrival checklist](#) before the indicated deadlines or - if no specific deadline is indicated - before they travel to Groningen.

Groningen

A popular saying in Dutch culture is "Er gaat niets boven [Groningen](#)", which translates to "Nothing tops Groningen". Ask any of the 70.000 students studying in Groningen and they will have countless stories about Groningen and its many lovely spots. Chosen as one of the happiest cities in Europe, Groningen offers a great combination of historical architecture, bustling nightlife and interesting cultural events. When you are in Groningen, you will immediately notice that there are [bicycles](#) everywhere.



Student housing

The University of Groningen is not a campus university and does not offer campus accommodation. Accepted exchange students have the possibility to apply for temporary, furnished housing in one of the International Student Houses of [SSH](#) (a company not affiliated with the University of Groningen) in the city of Groningen. It is very important that you

arrange for housing in time. Students that want to apply for housing at SSH are urgently advised to register (step 1) and book a room (step 2) as soon as the registration window and booking window open (in April or May for first semester exchanges and in October or early November for second semester exchanges).

A lot of information on the student housing market in Groningen can be found on the website of '[At home in Groningen](#)'. In general, the supply of student rooms and private housing in the City of Groningen is very limited, while at the same time the demand for housing from the tens of thousands of students studying at the University of Groningen and the Hanze University of Applied Sciences is very high. Although some students are successful in arranging their own accommodation, most visiting exchange students register for housing in an international student house of SSH.

Study start events

Upon your arrival in Groningen, there will be various events that provide a great opportunity to find your way around the university and the city, to meet fellow students and to get practical information about living and studying in Groningen.

- [Kei-Week](#) (in August only)
- University of Groningen [Welcoming Ceremony](#)
- Faculty of Spatial Sciences Welcome and Acquaintance session (compulsory)
- [ESN Introduction week](#)

Overview of web links

Exchange

Courses
Application
Pre-arrival checklist
Practical information & dates
During your stay
International Office
Information for
partner universities

www.rug.nl/frw/education/international/exchange-students

Faculty of Spatial Sciences

FSS website
FSS on social media
Summer schools

www.rug.nl/frw

<https://www.rug.nl/frw/organization/profile/spatial-sciences-social-media>

www.rug.nl/frw/education/international/shortcourses

University of Groningen

About us
Welcoming Ceremony

Multi Faculty Exchange

www.rug.nl/about-ug

www.rug.nl/education/bachelor/international-students/study-in-the-netherlands-groningen/welcoming-ceremony

www.rug.nl/education/exchange/multi-faculty-exchange-agreements?lang=en

Living and studying in Groningen

SSH
At home in Groningen
GroningenLife
Biking in Groningen

www.sshxl.nl/en/cities/groningen

www.athomeingroningen.com

www.groningenlife.nl/en

<https://groningen.nl/internationals/articles/pretty-much-all-you-need-to-know-about-biking-in-groningen>

www.keiweek.nl/en

www.esn-groningen.nl

International Office FSS

Coordinator international cooperation
Chris Diederiks

Mobility officer incoming and outgoing exchange
Esther de Vries

Website

[www.rug.nl/frw/education/
international/exchange-students](http://www.rug.nl/frw/education/international/exchange-students)

Email

exchange.fss@rug.nl (for student exchanges)

iofss@rug.nl (international office)

Telephone

+31 (0)50 363 3389 (Esther de Vries)

+31 (0)6 3198 4811 (Chris Diederiks)

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