

Registering for study abroad 2026-2027 for Social Sciences

December 2025
International Office Social Sciences

**This powerpoint presentation will be available online on
www.ru.nl/ioss**

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**Appointments via
*this link***

December 2025

International Office Social Sciences

REGISTERING FOR STUDY ABROAD 2026-2027
WHY SHOULD YOU GO ABROAD

Go Global!

- **You don't have to pay tuition fees abroad.**
 - So, studying in the USA, UK, Australia **won't cost** you \$40,000, £19,920 or A\$53,500 per year, but only the regular tuition fee of RU.
- You will get a new view on the world and appreciate your home country better
- **You will always get a grant from us.** (We are the only university in NL to do so)
- **Must-have on your CV**
- You will make international friends for life (Be sure to join the introduction!)
- It is *mostly* possible to go abroad and still finish your bachelor's in 3 years
- **It is now or never**
- It is definitely more challenging, exciting and adventurous than staying at home



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AVAILABLE GRANTS



Erasmus+

- For EU, Norway, Iceland, Türkiye and UK **only**.
- Grant amount: €11–13 per day. (UK maximum is €1300)
 - + travel allowance
 - + top up for students from families with lower income
 - or for students with disabilities that may hinder their exchange.

Individual Travel Grant

- For all other countries.
- €300 per month, maximum of €1200

NL Scholarship

- For Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore or the United States.
 - Awarded by lottery.
 - €2500
- If you are not selected, you will receive the Individual Travel Grant instead.

Important note

A funding calculator is shared among students
It can give overly optimistic results—don't use it to avoid disappointment.

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WHEN CAN YOU GO ON EXCHANGE?

Bachelor

Most Bachelor's programmes have a **mobility window**: a period when you can go abroad without delaying your studies.

Master programmes do not have a mobility window.

There is also **no mobility window** for **Psychology** students who plan to do the **Gezondheidszorgmaster**, or for **PWPO** or **ALPO** students.

This means those students cannot go abroad for courses without a study delay. They can go abroad in year 4.

Mobility Windows at Social Sciences:

AI: both first and second semester are possible

CAOS: first semester of the 3rd year.

All other Bachelor's programmes:

Second semester of the 3rd year (full semester, also for PWO).

If you are completing your Bachelor's in 4 years, another semester might work better than the official mobility window.

Discuss with your student advisor which semester is best for you.



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EXCHANGE IN THE 2ND SEMESTER

Advantage

- Some partners prefer an even spread of incoming exchange students across both semesters.
- Less competition → higher chance of getting a place.

Disadvantage

- At several partners, the first semester starts around 5 January.
- This clashes with Radboud's January exams → check semester dates carefully.
- Preferably choose a destination where the semester starts in February or later.

Possible Solutions

- Extra opportunities for compulsory Year-3 courses (Psychology & Communication Science).
- Taking an [exam abroad](#) is possible if:
 1. It concerns **compulsory** Year-3 courses only
 2. The partner university agrees
 3. The exam takes place at the same time as in Nijmegen
 4. Be aware: the first weeks abroad are intensive, so this exam will be harder

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR GOING ON EXCHANGE?

- At Social Sciences, you may go on exchange only from your third year onwards.

- Completion of both B1 and B2 is a formal requirement.

- **Missing B1/B2 courses?**

You may still go abroad *with explicit permission from your programme*.

In such cases:

- You must create a realistic study plan to avoid delays.
- Always consult your study advisor before applying.

- **While on exchange:**

- You **cannot** take [exams abroad](#) for exams of year 1 and 2, nor for electives
- However, you could return to Nijmegen to sit those exams.



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WHERE CAN I GO?

Destinations for Radboud Students

1. Select a partner

🔍 Search for a country/city in the upper left corner of the map, or
📍 Zoom in and select a university to see a list of available study subjects.



Faculty
Social Sciences

Country
United States of America (t...

Course level
(Alias)

Cal Poly Humboldt State University

2. Select a study subject



3. Details

(Deselect and select study subject if no details are shown)

Courses available at: Bachelor level

GPA requirements: 5,75

Language requirements:

- Fully english taught program
- Statement by study advisor
- Statement by Radboud into Languages
- Bilingual high school certificate
- Native language (based on passport)

Additional information:

None provided

Student reports

Fact sheet

Last updated: Monday, 25 Oct 2025

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WHERE CAN I GO?

Student experiences abroad


Results of your search:








[illegible]

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WHERE CAN I GO?


SL

Student Life and International Mobility - Fact sheets 

 Bewerken in rasterweergave  Delen  Koppeling kopiëren  Snelkoppeling toevoegen naar OneDrive  Downloaden  Exporteren naar Excel 

Documenten > Fact sheets > Fact sheets

 Naam ▾		Gewijzigd ▾
 Facultaire sessies		24 oktober
 Joint Faculty Agreements		21 september 2023
 University-wide partners		5 oktober 2023

 In the fact sheets you will generally find relevant information about semester dates, course selection, housing, living costs, visa details and similar practical matters.

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WHERE CAN I GO?

As the world map does not provide all the relevant information, you can also consult the [contracts page](#). This includes, among other things, which universities will be available in the coming academic year.

Partner universities with a University-wide agreement

At these universities, students from all faculties can study for an exchange period (if selected). → you generally can choose at which faculty you want to study

Partner universities with a joint faculty agreement

At these universities, only students from the faculties listed in the exchange agreement can study. → you generally can choose at which participating faculty you want to study

Partner universities with a single faculty agreement

Only the students of the one faculty with which the exchange agreement is signed can study at these universities. → you will be studying at Social Sciences.

On [this page](#) you will find the contracts of Social Sciences. Please note that this page will disappear and therefore won't be updated anymore.

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WHERE CAN I GO?

Argentina

- Universidad Nacional de la Plata
- Universidad Del Salvador

Australia

- Australian National University
- Australian Catholic University - *Momentarily no places available*
- Curtin University - *For this university there is a minimum chance of being selected*
- Deakin University - *For this university there is a minimum chance of being selected*
- Macquarie University - *Momentarily no places available*
- University of Tasmania
- Queensland University of Technology
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Wollongong

FOR THIS UNIVERSITY THERE IS A MINIMUM CHANCE OF BEING SELECTED

For this university there is a minimum chance of being selected

- This means that there are **always** more candidates than spots.
- Several students who have this university as their 1st choice will not be selected, so it is no use choosing it as your 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice. You can always try of course, but please be aware that the likelihood of selection is close to zero.

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WHERE CAN I GO? – EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

All Erasmus+ contracts are linked to a study programs (e.g. Sociology). Students of that programme have priority over other students.

RU does not have a Gender programme, so for those contracts everybody has the same chance of getting selected.

2 FSW means: this university is interesting for all programs. There are 2 places available, and no program has priority.

If your exchange is based on a Sociology contract, you will have to take Sociology courses abroad. Is it based on Psychology, then you will have to take Psychology courses et cetera

Do you want to take courses from other programmes?

Please contact the International Office of your preferred HOST University to ask if that is possible. Mention this in your motivation letter.

B1 ES or B1 EN or B1 BASQUE. You don't have to speak all these languages but always check if there are enough interesting courses available in a language you speak.

B1 EN means they do/did offer courses in English, but not that they offer *interesting* courses in English. Perhaps only Statistics 2.

Slovenia	Ljubljana	University of Ljubljana	2	B2 EN
Spain	La Laguna	Universidad de la Laguna	1x bachelor + 1x master	B1 ES
Spain	Bilbao	University of Deusto	2	B1 ES or B1 EN or B1 BASQUE
Spain	Granada	University of Granada	2	B1 EN or B1 ES
Sweden	Uppsala	Uppsala University	2	For this university, there is limited chance of selection B2 EN

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Psychology

Country	City	University	Nr. of places	Language level / Remarks
Austria	Graz	Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz	2	B2 DE
Austria	Vienna	Sigmund Freud University	3	B2 DE

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WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A DESTINATION

- Semester dates: does the second semester start in February or later?
- Always check if there are enough interesting courses in a language you speak
Erasmus+ rules require that all exchange courses also must have an English title, even if the course is Spanish, French, Finnish et cetera.
 - **So ALWAYS double-check the language of instruction when you find a list in English**
- Generally, there are more English taught master's courses than English taught bachelor's courses. If you are interested in master's courses always contact the International Office of the foreign university to request permission to take those.
 - **Mention this permission in your motivation letter**
- Always check if the course you want to take is open to exchange. When in doubt, contact the International Office of the university abroad.
- If they don't offer courses in a language you speak, do they offer a language and culture programme that you would like to take?
- Do you like big cities or nature?
- Can you stand the heat or the cold?
- Cost of living. If you have a tight budget Eastern Europe could be an excellent choice

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IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Read about the country, the climate, the political and economic situation and safety
2. Read the [student reports](#) to find out more about the universities
3. For more info regarding non-EU universities, please check the [Fact Sheets](#)
4. Even though you don't have to pay tuition fee abroad, some universities have additional costs. For most Australian universities, an Australian health insurance is mandatory. Some partners charge Exchange Administrative Fees
5. Generally South American and some Spanish universities do not offer courses in English. You need a good command of Spanish or Portuguese to study there. It takes about 1,5 years of study to reach an appropriate level
6. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and USA are expensive destinations
7. Bear in mind that you will have extra costs when choosing a destination outside Europe, because you will probably need vaccinations and a visa. Some host universities require pricy health certificates as part of the application process.
8. A lot of non-European countries are not as safe as NL. You learn to deal with this, for example by always taking a taxi in the evening. Use your common sense and don't ignore your gut feeling.

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REGISTERING FOR STUDY ABROAD 2026-2027 NEW SELECTION PROCEDURE

Please write a **short motivation** (max. 5 sentences / 70 words) explaining why you are enthusiastic about this university. Focus on why **this particular university** (your first choice) appeals to you. What are your personal motivations or learning goals?

Rule of thumb: could this motivation letter be used for any other university in the same city or country? Yes? → rewrite.

This is not a job application, so there's no need to highlight your strengths. Instead, show us what the university offers that makes it a good fit for you.

Check Career Service on Brightspace for tips and advice.

How to Write a Motivation Letter?



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HOW NOT TO WRITE A MOTIVATION LETTER

How not to write a motivation letter

✗ This university appeals to me because of its innovative and interdisciplinary approach to education, which aligns perfectly with my desire to combine knowledge with practical applications. Its vision sets it apart and creates an inspiring learning environment. I am excited about the opportunity to learn from leading lecturers and researchers. Moreover, I am drawn to the vibrant academic community, where diversity and critical thinking are encouraged. This university offers the ideal context for deepening my intellectual curiosity and contributing to meaningful projects.

Do Not
Copy

✗ It would be a unique opportunity for me to grow both academically and personally. The courses offered in closely match my interests, and I look forward to gaining new insights and perspectives. I also see great value in studying within an international and intellectually stimulating environment, meeting new people, and challenging myself by living and learning in a different culture.

Do Not
Copy

These are devoid of any real substance

REGISTERING FOR STUDY ABROAD 2026-2027
HOW TO WRITE A *GOOD* MOTIVATION LETTER

A good motivation letter is an individual and original text that clearly shows, in your **own** words, why this university genuinely appeals to you.

Because this is something personal, you need to write it yourself. ChatGPT and other LLMs are never original and often produce generic, bland texts, which you should avoid.

It's not a good idea to copy example letters or to take sentences from the "Why study with us?" page of your preferred university.



STUDENTS WHO WENT TO THEIR FIRST-CHOICE INSTITUTION WROTE THIS:

- ✓ The Finnish education system is internationally acclaimed for its high quality. Its pedagogical approach was developed in Jyväskylä, and as a student of Educational Sciences, I am particularly interested in learning more about this system, preferably in the same place where it originated. That is why my first choice is the University of Jyväskylä

- ✓ I would like to study at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield because I suffer from anxiety and am sensitive to sensory stimuli. Hatfield is a small and quite boring town, with little distraction, which I believe will help me feel safe and at ease more quickly. The university is relatively small as well, and offers small-scale classes, which I hope will help feel me safe too. If still overwhelmed, I can reach a family friend within 25 minutes for support.

- ✓ I did Spanish back in secondary school, but I've forgotten a lot of it, and I reckon academic Spanish will be harder anyway. Next to courses about conspiracy theories and radicalisation, this university offers an intensive language course before the semester begins, which will help me feel better prepared for my exchange.

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GUIDELINES MOTIVATION LETTER

- Please start your motivation letter with your **student number - motivation letter name university** (first choice) → for example *s123456 – motivation letter University of Trento*.
- Also save your document under that name (preferably as pdf)
- **DO NOT MENTION YOUR NAME NOR SEX/GENDER IN YOUR LETTER.** This is to minimize bias.
- This motivation letter is **for internal use only**.
- You can write in Dutch, German or English. Use your native language. Yes, we understand German.
- **A MAXIMUM OF 70 WORDS.** This is a strict requirement, not a guideline
- **Only for your first choice.**
- Take care of correct spelling and grammar. A letter with mistakes doesn't make a good first impression

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HOW NOT TO WRITE A MOTIVATION LETTER

DO NOT:

1. introduce yourself. The motivation letter is anonymous. We have your student number to identify you later.
2. use clichés like 'I want to step out of my comfort zone'.
3. sum up a list of all the courses you want to take.
4. use more than 70 words.

DO:

Remember to stand out. For Valencia (psychology) there are 20 applicants and only 2 spots. University of Sydney only has 1 spot for the whole RU.

'I am curious about the Spanish perspective on psychology' or 'I really want to experience the laid-back culture of Australia' won't get you selected.

REGISTERING FOR STUDY ABROAD 2026-2027
WHY SHOULD YOU GO ABROAD

Committing to Study Abroad: withdrawal is not allowed

If you are not yet certain that you want to go on exchange, you should not apply! Registering for study abroad is a binding commitment. If you are allocated a place, you are expected to attend. Many students will have been disappointed not to have secured your spot. It is therefore unfair to cancel, as the spot will not be refilled.



Even after the main selection round, there are still plenty of attractive destinations to choose from. If you decide to go after all, you can request a list of destinations with remaining places from the IOSS at ioss@ru.nl.

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HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN EXCHANGE

For help you can go to this page:

<https://osiris.tutorials.ru.nl/a/652761-how-to-apply-for-a-stay-abroad>

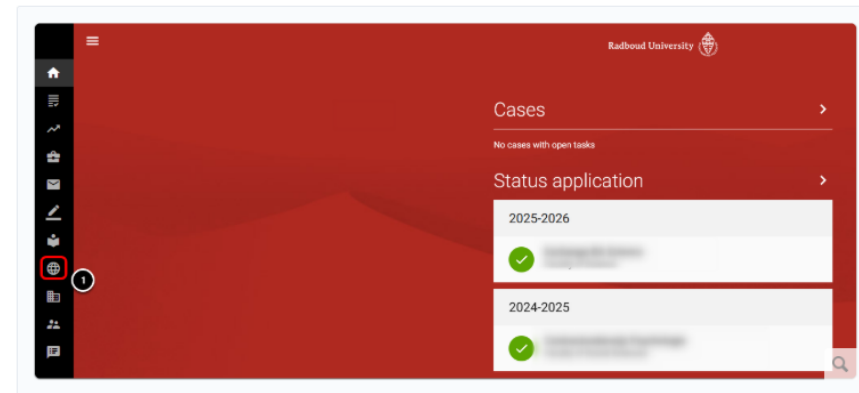
Osiris / Osiris Student (EN) / Stay abroad

How to apply for a stay abroad

Updated on Oct 03, 2025

For orientation on your stay abroad: Contact the [international office of your faculty](#) or your internationalisation coordinator to explore your options.

Your stay abroad requests in Osiris



1. Navigate to the 'stay abroad requests' tab, by either clicking on the globe icon (1) in the menu

Starting a new request

2. Read the information carefully and click on the + button to start a new request.

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HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN EXCHANGE

An exchange lasts for **one semester**.

You should therefore not enter a full academic year in Osiris. **If you do wish to go for a full year, you must first make an appointment with IOSS to discuss the possibilities.**

For popular destinations, spending a full year is not possible. However, at destinations where semester places remain available, it is often allowed. The UK is complicated due to visa requirements.



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THE SELECTION

Selection Process for Social Sciences destinations:

- **If demand \leq available spots:** All applicants are accepted.
- **If demand $>$ spots:** Selection is based on motivation. If motivations are equally strong, grades decide.

Allocation Steps:

- First, we check your **first choice**. If unavailable, you're placed on hold.
- After all first choices are processed, we check your **second choice** (which may be someone else's first). If full, you're placed on hold again.
- Same for your **third choice** and **fourth** choice.

Non-European Exchanges:

- **Social Sciences destinations:** procedure as above
- **RBP & JFA contracts:** IOSS submits a top-3 to central IO for final decision.

Note: This system can feel unfair: weak motivations may get first choices, while strong ones might end up with lower preferences or no spot. Popular destinations are especially competitive.

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FINANCIAL MATTERS



You will always get a grant from Radboud University. We are the only higher education institution in NL to give all students a grant. Around the end of April/beginning of May you will receive a link to request this grant. This applies to both semesters.

Additional sources of money

Studiefinanciering (uitwonend) / Bafög / Study grant from your home country

Restitution for OV-studentenkaart: about 115 euro a month

Subletting your room. Tick the box in the application form and Housing will contact you about the procedure

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IMPORTANT POINTS 2

- You don't have to pay tuition fees at the university abroad. As you need to be registered as a student of RU you will have to pay tuition fee (collegegeld) during you stay abroad
- Normally you don't need a language certificate like TOEFL or IELTS. We will give you a statement that your English is good enough for academic purposes. Unless mentioned in the comments most universities accept this test.
- Most universities organise an introduction. Be sure to participate, because you will quickly get to know new people, the university and the city.
- Most universities offer housing and if they don't: finding a room abroad isn't easier than here in NL.

REGISTERING FOR STUDY ABROAD 2026-2027
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE TOTAL PROCEDURE

1. Register in Osiris

Submit **2–4 destination preferences**.

- **Deadline for non-European destinations:** *14 January*
- **Deadline for European destinations:** *28 February*

2. Placement decision

About **one month later**, you will be informed **whether and where** you have been placed.

3. Nomination to the host university

We will nominate you to your host institution.

This takes place in:

- **April–May** (if you go in Semester 1), or
- **September–November** (if you go in Semester 2)
Exact timing depends on the host university's procedures.

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GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE TOTAL PROCEDURE

4. Host university contacts you

They will send you information about:

- application steps
- course selection
- housing
- visa arrangements
- expected costs

5. Application & acceptance

You follow the host university's application procedure and await **official acceptance**.

6. Ready to go!

Prepare for your **exchange adventure**.

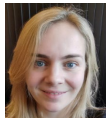
FOR PROGRAMME-RELATED QUESTIONS YOU CAN CONTACT THE PROGRAMME MOBILITY COORDINATORS



AI: [Paul Hömke](#) (study planning & restricted electives)



Communication Science: [Daniëlle Bleize](#) and [Roel Boumans](#)



Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology: [Eefje Derix](#)



Psychology: [Lieke van Lieshout](#) (approval domain electives) or student advisors (study planning)



Pedagogical and Educational Sciences: [Elske Gros](#)



Sociology: [Marijn van Klingereren](#)