

FOREIGN STUDENTS AT THE AMSTERDAM ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTURE

INFORMATION LEAFLET

The Amsterdam Academy of Architecture offers 3 *Master* courses:

1) **Architecture**, 2) **Urbanism** and 3) **Landscape architecture**

For Non-Dutch students there are three ways to study at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture:

1) as a **DIPLOMA STUDENT**

Non-Dutch students are welcome to apply for the 4-year diploma course, as long as they are qualified (at least a relevant bachelor degree) *and* have sufficient control of the Dutch language at the beginning of the course: level B2 according to the European Framework of Reference (see for instance http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Portfolio/documents/assessment_grid_english.doc). This is a very strict demand. Students *must have* proof of their control of Dutch, *before* the first day of the course.

For further information, see the **Study Guide**. It is compulsory for diploma students to work for at least 20 hrs per week in a relevant position! The Academy does not offer job vacancies; it is up to the student to find a relevant tenure.

2) as an **EXCHANGE STUDENT**

Exchange students are students from schools which have an exchange contract with the Academy of Architecture. (New exchange contracts with other institutes will only be considered if the academy is invited by the institute. The academy, however, is not actively seeking for new partners at the moment.)

The 3rd year of the 4-year diploma course is partly in English and therefore open to Exchange students. These students may take part in the program for one or two semesters, as long as they are qualified.

Which projects are taught in English, and how many, will be announced not sooner than in the month preceding the start of the course. Only the general description and the theme with which all projects will comply, can be found in the study guide.

In addition, exchange students will need a letter of recommendation from their home institution. The student then uses the application forms on the website, fills them out completely and send them, together with the documents asked on page 4 of the application form, to the Academy. After the Academy has received the application, the board of the Academy will assess the student's portfolio. After this assessment the board decides whether a student can be admitted to the Academy.

Erasmus/Socrates program of the European Union (only for EU schools with a Socrates contract).

The study programme for Socrates/Erasmus exchange students comprises the English parts of the programme of the 3rd year.

3) as a GUEST STUDENT

The 3rd year of the four-year diploma course is partly in English and open to Guest students ('free movers'). These students may take part in the program for one or two semesters provided that their level matches the required standard. The tuition fees for guest students is considerably higher than for diploma students (see below).

Which projects are taught in English, and how many, will be announced not sooner than the month preceding the start of the course. Only the general description and the theme with which all projects will comply, can be found in the study guide.

Program

You can read about the general program in the study guide, which can be downloaded from the English section on our website (www.academyofarchitecture.nl), or from the main page.

In the study guide you can find the *general* descriptions of the projects, exercises, etcetera. It depends on this year's professors how these descriptions are interpreted and therefore how their projects will look in detail. (We find our tutors in practice, like we do every semester over again.) The detailing of the course program will come to a conclusion not sooner than the summer time.

Language of instruction (for guest- and exchange students)

Applicants from non-English countries who want to apply as a guest- or an exchange student *must* have sufficient control of the English language according to the *IELTS -International English Language Testing System (with a minimum grade of 6)*, or level B2

Work in practice (external curriculum)

Diploma students must have a relevant job for at least 20 hours per week. *Guest- and Exchange students* are NOT obliged to work in practice during their stay at the Academy, but they are strongly recommended to do so. This work in practice is also rewarded with credits. To learn all about this, read the **External Curriculum**. At the end of their stay they will receive an assessment survey with an international credits list according to the system of European Credits.

Students who need to have a job for their practice are supposed to find one themselves. The Academy of Architecture does not have job vacancies.

Tuition fees

- The tuition fees for non-EER *diploma* students in 2010/2011 is 2.500 Euro per year

- The tuition fees for *guest* students (European and non-European) in 2010/2011 are: 2.650 Euro per *semester*(!) and 5.300 Euro per *year*.

- The tuition fees for *exchange* students are subject to the conditions in the exchange contract between the home institution and the Academy of Architecture.

The tuition fees for students from countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA)* will increase significantly in the next few years. The reason for this is that the Amsterdam School of the Arts will receive less government funding for these students.

All institutes for higher education in the Netherlands receive a fixed amount of money for each student enrolled in a regular, full-time and so-called government-funded study programme. The tuition fees for those students are therefore established by law.

This however does not apply to students from countries outside the European Economic Area. For those students, as well as for students from study programmes that are not funded by the government, the Amsterdam School of the Arts (AHK) determines the rates itself. With the decrease of government funding in the next few years, the AHK will have to raise the tuition fees in order to meet the costs of education.

Current AHK students who will continue their studies next year, will be charged a transitional fee. This also applies to students from preliminary courses who enrol in a bachelor's programme in the academic year 2010-2011.

Students starting their studies at the AHK in September 2010 will be charged the full rate.

**The European Economic Area consists of all European Union member states plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. Students from Switzerland or Surinam and UAF refugee student are also considered as EEA students.*

Extra costs

Every student (first to third year) is obliged to pay ± €50 for course materials.

Compulsory for first year:

Introductory excursion in October, for 1st year students: ± €225

Holland Tour in June, for 1st year students: ± €225

Optional excursion for 2nd/3rd year students: ± €700

Optional project abroad: ± €500

Application procedure

The *application form* must be filled out completely and send in before May 1st, together with the supplements that we ask on page 4 of the application form.

Exchange / Guest students who want to apply for the *second* semester of the English program in the third year must send in the application form before November 1st of the preceding calendar year.

Selection

Admission to the courses is restricted to those who have previously obtained *a relevant bachelor's degree* in architecture, building engineering, urban planning and design or landscape design and engineering.

- Degrees obtained at a foreign institute of higher education or university are compared with the admission requirements for each discipline by the NUFFIC, the Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation for Higher Education (www.nuffic.nl).
- The board of study assesses the portfolio and motivation of the applicant.
- If necessary, this will be followed by an appointment for an interview by telephone with our study advisor.
- A test of English as a foreign language may be part of the selection procedure.
- The board's decision will be communicated to the applicant as soon as possible after May 1st (application deadline).

NOTE:

- This **Information leaflet**, the **Study Guide**, the **Application form** and information on **practical matters** can be downloaded from the Academy's website:

www.academyofarchitecture.nl

- The Amsterdam Academy of Architecture has NO scholarships available. For possible grants, see: <http://www.grantfinder.nl/content/index.asp>

- The Amsterdam Academy of Architecture does not provide housing! Tips and information on how to find housing can be found under 'practical matters' on the English part of the website. Start looking early!

- If you are from a non-European Community country, you may need an authorisation for provisional permit (MVV), and a residence permit (VTV). Before coming to the Netherlands make sure whether you need a MVV and/or VTV. The Enrollment Office of the Amsterdam School of the Arts (of which the Academy of Architecture is a faculty) can help you with the application of your visa: bi@ahk.nl.

- To apply for a Dutch bank account, also contact the Enrollment Office: bi@ahk.nl.

- For insurance, check: <http://www.ace-ips-nl.com/> or <https://www.students-insurance.eu/>

For more information on the visa procedure, insurance , and financial matters, see:
<http://www.english.ahk.nl/en/practical-matters/>

January 2010

Amsterdam Academy of Architecture