



Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Study Guide

1 Overall impression

Overall I had a good impression. The program (European Competition Law) was very interesting and there were often engaging discussions in class. Although some organizational matters at the university didn't go as smoothly as I had wished. For example, some of the study materials and readers often got published too late, and there was some confusion and conflicting information on whether or not self-printed readers would be allowed at the exams.

2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

It is fairly easy to get all the necessary information, as you will find most of it on the website of the university. I never had any problems with administrative matters, they are usually very helpful and quick to respond to requests.

3 Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

You will be assigned a "student mentor" (usually a student from a previous year) who will help you if you have questions about the program.

4 Housing

Saying that the housing situation in Amsterdam is challenging, would be an understatement. It is really hard to find appropriate accommodation and it is advisable to start looking a few months in advance. I was lucky enough to get student housing, but there are only enough units for about half of the students. Also housing in Amsterdam is very expensive, even for Swiss standards.

5 Arrival

Upon arrival you will have to get an appointment at the municipality to register and get a BSN (citizen service number). Although it can take a few weeks before you'll get an appointment.

6 Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I kept using my Swiss number, as my phone plan included enough data for Europe. Thus I was able to avoid high roaming costs.

7 Bank account

A good solution for students is bunq, because they don't require you to give the citizen service number up front as most other banks do. It usually takes a few weeks to get an appointment at the municipality and to get registered and you may need a Dutch bank account and debit card before that. With bunq you can immediately use the account and the debit card and submit the information later.

8 Transport

To move there, I took the car so I could bring my stuff. But it is also easy and usually not too expensive to take the plane or train to go back to Switzerland (for example for visits).

By far the best way to get around Amsterdam is by bike. You can buy a used one, or get a monthly subscription (Swapfiets). Public transport is also very good, but a little expensive.

9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

The facilities at the faculty are excellent and very modern. The library is well equipped and the access to online resources is excellent. During exam periods it can be challenging to find study spaces, but you also have the option of booking rooms at the university.

10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

Courses usually have a lecture part and a tutorial. The lectures are mostly used for general discussion and are often not directly relevant to the exams. You are expected to have read the assigned materials and that's where you will find most of the information relevant to the exam. In my opinion, it is essential that you attend the tutorials, as this is where most of the stuff relevant for the exams will be discussed. Exams usually consist of 5 to 10 essay-type questions or cases. I had the impression that the grading was slightly stricter than at Swiss Universities. The work load is appropriate although a little higher than I was used to.

11 City

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

Amsterdam (and the Netherlands in general) is a great location for students and young people. It is very open and international. There are a lot of museums, and there are plenty of restaurants from all over the world to choose from. The university offers plenty of extra-curricular activities and sports as well.

Date: August 2022