

To whom it may concern

*Executive Board*

*your reference*

*our reference*

*direct line*

*Maastricht*

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21 April 2021

*Subject: Update regarding Maastricht University's exchange and internship policy in the fall 2021 semester*

Dear Partner,

As outlined in my previous letters to you, Maastricht University (UM) continues to work tirelessly to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its core processes, including those in education, research and service to society.

Seeing the resilience of universities across the globe, I remain optimistic that by cooperating and sharing best practices, we can use the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic to foster innovation in terms of (hybrid) learning, teaching and research.

This letter serves to inform you of the UM regulations for incoming and outgoing exchange and internship programmes in the fall 2021 semester. Based on lessons learnt, the positive feedback of our students regarding our current spring 2021 policy and our consultations with experts, the UM Executive Board has decided to continue incoming and outgoing exchange and internship programmes in the fall 2021 semester, starting 30 August 2021, where possible.

Below you will find an overview of the rules and regulations of the UM fall 2021 incoming and outgoing exchange and internship policy, as well as information regarding the safety measures applied at UM. I kindly ask you to share this information with your staff dealing with internationalisation and your students that are planning an exchange or internship at UM, in order to enable them to take a well-considered decision. I also kindly ask your staff to inform their counterparts at UM about the rules and regulations in place at your university.

I wish you and your students a safe and successful continuation of the academic year and I look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
on behalf of the Executive Board  
of Maastricht University,



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## **Incoming exchange and internship programmes at UM in the fall 2021 semester:**

### Travel and accommodation:

Incoming exchange and internship programmes at UM will continue, in line with the applicable Dutch [government regulations](#). These include a possible quarantine requirement upon arrival in the Netherlands and, for non-EU students, the requirement to obtain a letter of notification from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) prior to entering the country. Students of UM partner universities can travel to Maastricht freely if they are allowed to do so by their home university, as the Dutch government exempts students from incoming national travel restrictions. More information on traveling to the Netherlands from abroad can be found on the [website](#) of the Dutch government.

Upon request, voluntary and mandatory quarantine housing facilities are available in the [UM Guesthouse](#). The costs for using the voluntary quarantine housing facilities in the UM Guesthouse amount to € 100 per 10 days (excl. meals). Students testing positive for COVID-19 while already renting a room in the UM Guesthouse can make use of the mandatory quarantine units without additional cost. Students can make an online reservation for the UM Guesthouse via the Maastricht Housing [website](#). In addition to the UM Guesthouse, there is a vast offer of private rentals available in the city.

### Education at UM:

UM's education is based on the small scale Problem-Based Learning (PBL) model, which brings together students from all over the world to discuss and solve problems in an international classroom.

Education at UM in the fall 2021 semester will be on campus if possible and online only when necessary. UM has successfully developed a model in which a large proportion of classes will take place in a blended format, combining physical and online education. This implies that, where possible, students are expected to physically come to Maastricht for their exchange or internship programme.

In order to get an idea what education at UM will look like, or to take part in a virtual campus tour, please visit the following [website](#). Faculty introduction days, where students are acquainted with their studies, the digital learning environment and fellow students, will also continue in a blended format.

Access to research facilities and the university library will be possible. *Please note, however, that a change of government regulations might result in a switch to online-only education.*

### Extracurricular activities:

It is the intention to, where possible, have social activities and events take place physically in the fall 2021 semester, where necessary while adhering to the 1.5 meters social distancing regulations. The wearing of a mouth mask may be compulsory in certain situations. Shops, restaurants and sport facilities are expected to be open. *Please note that these measures can be subject to (last-minute) changes in line with government regulations.*

For further information regarding extracurricular activities, please visit the one-stop information platform for students [My Maastricht](#).

#### Safety measures at UM in the fall 2021 semester:

Across the university, strict security and hygiene protocols will remain in place to protect the UM community and accessible COVID-19 testing facilities will be available.

UM student doctors will facilitate easy 24/7 access to (mental) health care and there is an academic hospital next to UM's faculties of Psychology and Neuroscience and Health, Medicine and Life Sciences. With Maastricht being a compact city, allowing one to get around on foot or by bike, there is no need to rely on public transport.

In addition, even when adhering to the social distancing, a wide range of student and staff support services are available, consisting of faculty study advisors, career coaches, student and staff counsellors and psychologists. In acute crisis situations, a helpdesk is available 24 hours a day for assistance outside of office hours.

Further information regarding on-campus safety measures can be found [here](#).

The contact details of UM faculty exchange and internship officers can be found [here](#).

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for incoming students can be found [here](#).

#### **Outgoing exchange and internship programmes to UM partner universities and organisations in the fall 2021 semester:**

Within Europe, UM students are allowed to participate in an exchange or internship programme in the EU, Erasmus+ programme countries and Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Vatican City, if these are classified with a safety color green, yellow or orange [travel advice](#) by the Dutch government.

Please note that if the exchange or internship programme takes place in a region classified with a safety color orange travel advice, the host university or internship provider needs to confirm in advance that the exchange or internship is offered fully or at least substantially on-campus. UM students are not allowed to travel to a code orange region if the exchange or internship takes place fully online. UM students are only allowed to participate in an online exchange or internship programme from Maastricht or their home country if they are already residing there.

UM students are allowed to participate in exchange and internship programmes outside of Europe, provided that these are offered fully or substantially in-person and the destination is included in the (regularly updated) [EU List of Epidemiologically Safe Countries Amid COVID-19](#). Exemptions may be granted by the respective Faculty Board if the exchange or internship forms an essential component of the study programme and no alternatives are available.

#### Contact information:

If you have additional questions about UM's central internationalisation policy, please contact r. Jan Hupkens, senior policy advisor internationalisation, via: [jan.hupkens@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:jan.hupkens@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

Questions regarding student matters and other exchange or internship matters can be posed to the UM exchange and internship officers listed above.