CGIS: Social Sciences in Amsterdam
Winter 2018

Student Program Supplement

University of Michigan
Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS)
Congratulations on your participation in the University of Michigan’s program at the Undergraduate Program in Central European Studies in Prague, Czech Republic (CIEE). This information explains how the program will work for you as a U-M student and should be read in conjunction with CIEE academic handbook and pre-departure information, given to you by CIEE upon your admittance into the program.

As a U-M student in Amsterdam, you will take courses organized specifically for the Social Sciences in Amsterdam. Classes are made up of American and other European students. This integration guarantees students take their courses in an international, multicultural environment. Students will also take courses at the CIEE Study Center.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As a U-M student in Amsterdam, you will take courses organized specifically for the Social Sciences in Amsterdam (CIEE). Classes are made up of American, Czech and other European students. The European segment comes from both students of the University of Amsterdam students studying abroad in Prague. This integration guarantees students take their courses in an international, multicultural environment. Students will also take courses at the CIEE Study Center.

More detailed information on courses, program dates, arrival and on-site orientation is available at the CIEE student portal.

Enter, rank, and submit your courses in your Course Selection task at http://my.ciee.org and you will earn 16 credits total. Information about CIEE classes (including course syllabi) can be found at: http://syllabi.ciee.org/Pages/default.aspx.

At CIEE, U-M students are required to take 4 courses. At the same term you are participating in classes in the Czech Republic, you will be registered at U-M as a full time student. Please register for STDABRD 400 (15 credits) for the term you are abroad. CGIS will automatically receive a transcript for each U-M student upon completion of your coursework there and then we will update your transcript with the correct number of credits that you earned on the program.

Please note that it generally takes at least 2 months from the completion of your program until we receive your transcript from CIEE. Then at least one more month is required for CGIS to process your transcript and get the credits/grades to appear on U-M transcripts.

Grades and credits will be taken directly from your CIEE transcript without conversion.

LSA students will earn in-residence credit for your work in the program. The grades you received for your classes will appear on your U-M transcript and the grades will be calculated into your U-M cumulative GPA.

Non-LSA students must check with their college or school to determine its policy on CGIS credits, grades, and if these grades will be calculated into your cumulative U-M GPA.

Most foreign universities is the level of specialization of degree seeking students. Few, if any, universities abroad require students to spend the first two years fulfilling distribution requirements. Students are expected to have acquired foreign language competency and other skills at the secondary level and are admitted to a university to study a single subject such as engineering, philosophy, or economics. Within these departments the program of study is highly structured, with a set curriculum for each year’s students, and with the second-year program drawing on what has been taught in the first year, etc.

To a far greater extent than at U-M, you will find your academic success is your responsibility. Professors may not take attendance in lecture classes, or monitor your progress from week to week. If you are having problems with a class, or do not understand its requirements, it is up to you to seek assistance—either from the professor. (Ask for help from your fellow students—they can be good resources and are likely to be very
helpful.) You should do this as soon as you realize the need for guidance—don’t wait until late in the term. In some instances, you may find that it is possible to arrange for extra tutoring in a class or classes.

IMPORTANT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

At the beginning of each semester, CIEE organizes an orientation for newly arrived students. The CIEE orientation is mandatory and all students must attend.

Among other things, the orientation will explain CIEE academic policies, services offered, and other useful information. It is also a good time to meet fellow international students.

HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

ELECTRICITY

In the Netherlands and throughout Europe, the current from wall outlets is 220, 50 cycles (Hz), rather than the 110 you may be familiar with at home. The outlets or plugs might also be different. Hence, in order to use electric razors, hair dryers, radio etc, you may have to use an adapter and/or converter or purchase these items when you are on-site.

BEFORE YOU GO: TRAVEL, MONEY, AND VISAS

TRAVEL

CGIS does not arrange travel for students participating in the programs. You will be responsible for booking your own travel arrangements to and from the Netherlands. We recommend that you arrive in time for the Information sessions and CIEE Orientation. You must follow the academic calendar of the University of Amsterdam and CIEE. You are expected to complete all exams on your host campus. Since you will not know your exam schedule ahead of time, plan to be on campus through the end of the exam period. Please note the exam dates are final and non-negotiable. CGIS will not arrange make-up exams for students who return to the U.S. before the end of the stated exam period.

MONEY

Before you leave, consider purchasing $100 in local currency from your bank or through a travel agent. This will give you a small amount of money for any immediate, incidental needs when you first arrive.

Another way to access funds is with an ATM card on your U.S. bank account. Verify that your card type (ie. Visa, Mastercard, etc.) will work in the country and any additional counties you are visiting.

Also notify your credit card company in advance that you will be abroad, including arrival and departure dates, so that your charges will be honored and your card will not be frozen.

FEES AND BILLING

Billed by U-M Student Financial Services to student account on Wolverine Access. Fee includes an automatic 5% discount for U-M students. U-M students are also eligible for additional CIEE scholarships that may be applied to the Program Fee; please see http://www.ciee.org/study/scholarships/ for details. Program fee includes an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local and regional excursions, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits. For more information, please see current budget sheet on the CIEE Prague brochure page in Mcompass
VISAS

IMPORTANT-PLEASE READ: Obtaining a visa (or residency permit) and following the correct procedure is ultimately the responsibility of each student who is applying. CGIS and our host university will try to provide assistance in the process, but the Dutch Consulate makes the final decisions regarding the issuance of these documents and whether or not you have followed the proper procedure. You are encouraged to read the general guidelines that have been provided to you by CGIS and CIEE and to carefully review the official Consulate website (relevant to you) to be certain you are following the procedures and requirements that the Dutch government has given to applicants. CGIS is not responsible if the following information differs from the Dutch Consulate requirements.

Whether students are required to obtain a visa or a residence permit depends on:
1) the purpose of your stay
2) the length of your stay
3) your nationality.

Currently, citizens of the U.S. do not need a visa to study in the Netherlands. Instead, they are required to apply for a residence permit. The CIEE will assist you with the process and there is information on their website about the process and fees involved. The University’s International Office will apply for the residence permit on your behalf, provided that you have met the requirements, paid required fees and submitted the proper forms by their deadline.

American Citizen Services:

When you arrive in the host country, also register with the nearest American consulate or embassy. It is important they know where to reach you in an emergency. Check the website of the U.S. Embassy in your host country to see whether it is possible to register before you leave or use the U.S Smart Traveler website: https://step.state.gov/step/

The following link is for the Embassy of the United States in The Hague. http://thehague.usembassy.gov/index.html

Netherlands The Embassy of the United States of America
Lange Voorhout 102
2514 EJ The Hague.
Phone: +31(0)70 310 2209

CONTACT AND VISITING INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Only the Consulate General in Amsterdam provides Consular information and services.

American Citizen Services
U.S. Consulate General
Museumplein 19
1071 DJ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E-mail: USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov
Fax: (31)(0)20-575 5330
Tel.: (31)(0)20-575 5309
Before going to the consulate or embassy, you may want to call ahead to check office hours devoted to providing services to U.S. citizens, usually limited to two or three hours a day. This information is often available from U.S. Embassy websites which are accessible at http://usembassy.state.gov/, the State Department Embassy links page. Don’t forget to take your passport with you when you go.

A FINAL WORD

Enjoy your time abroad. You’ll find you have more independence than at Michigan, and this can enable you to pursue interests and take advantage of opportunities that might not present themselves here. If there is anything our office can do to make your stay easier, please let us know.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency on-site, immediately call local emergency services. You should know your local address and the 911 equivalent number in your host country and carry that number with you at all times.

Contact your local program director/on-site staff immediately if you are the victim of crime or need emergency assistance. Please also contact the University of Michigan Department of Public Safety, which has the following 24 hour number: (734) 763-1131. They will then contact the necessary on-campus offices, including the Center for Global and Intercultural Study, to respond to your situation. You may provide this same 24 hour number to your parents should they experience an emergency and need to get a hold of you while you are abroad and are unable to contact you directly.

To contact GEOBlue Worldwide in the event of an emergency or regarding insurance questions call 1.800.257.4823 or collect +1.610.254.5304 or https://www.geo-blue.com/