



GUIDELINES FOR SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW
300D LEGAL RESEARCH
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The University of Michigan Law School has a cooperative semester study abroad opportunity with Leiden University Law School in the Netherlands. The opportunity allows for up to ten Michigan students per academic year, either in the fall term or winter term, to pursue a semester of law study at Leiden. Michigan students first attended Leiden in 1991, and since that time, 63 students have studied there for one term.

Study at Leiden University offers several advantages: education in a civil law system and a comparative perspective of the U.S. and European approaches both to domestic and international law, and exposure to European Community law. Classes are conducted in English at Leiden, and they cover three major themes: Foreign and Comparative Law, International and European Community Law, and Legal History. Classes are comprised of students from all over Europe and of Dutch students. It is the experience of attending a foreign law school with students from other countries that we hope will be most valuable in developing a comparative understanding of legal systems.

Interested students must comply with the General Guidelines for Semester Legal Studies Abroad, available in the Center for International and Comparative Law, 300D Legal Research, or on the Law School web site at: <http://www.law.umich.edu/curriculum/studyabroad/index.htm>. Please consult the General Guidelines along with this document. They contain important information, including how to apply.

Course Offerings/Selection and Requirements

Students who attend Leiden University will take a full course load consisting of approximately three or four courses. Leiden University uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) to describe the weight of a particular course. Michigan students may transfer 9 credits of "pass" to their University of Michigan J.D. transcript if they satisfactorily complete 30 ECTS, and 12 credits of "pass" if they satisfactorily complete 40 or more ECTS (units).

A student's course selection at Leiden must be approved by the University of Michigan Law School prior to the student's departure for Leiden. Any subsequent requested changes must be approved in advance by Assistant Dean Virginia Gordan (vgordan@umich.edu; TEL: 734-764-5269). The acceptance of any credit or grade for any course taken in the Leiden University program is subject to determination by the University of Michigan Law School.

A listing of course offerings from Leiden for the fall 2006 and spring (our winter) 2007 are available at the following web site: <http://www.leiden.edu/studyabroadinLeiden/> - Click on "Courses", and then on

“Leiden Law Courses”.

Because tentative course schedules for the Leiden fall 2007 and spring (our winter) 2008 are not yet available, students may have to modify some of their course selections to meet the required criteria such as the minimum number of teaching hours and the required 13 weeks of class work. Please note that any changes in course schedules must be approved in advance by Assistant Dean Virginia Gordan.

In addition to the course requirements at Leiden, students are responsible for fulfilling all the requirements for the transfer of credit described in the General Guidelines for Semester Legal Studies Abroad (available in the Center for International and Comparative Law.)

Please note the following:

1. The Leiden Faculty reserves the right to cancel or alter courses. Because of the staggered nature of the course offerings during the term, offerings may change during the term. If possible, Leiden University will inform students in advance if a course is canceled. However, past J.D. students recommended registering for and attending more than the minimum required classes at Leiden. If a course which begins later in the term is canceled, students will not find themselves scrambling to find a substitute if they are already taking an "extra" course.
2. The Socratic method is not typically used in Leiden. Students are responsible for learning a body of information pertaining to the subject area. The information is primarily conveyed through readings and lectures. The lectures often review and expand upon the assigned reading. Past J.D. students attending Leiden have suggested that it is useful to form study groups, and, if possible, include students from several countries in your group. For further information about the structure of courses at Leiden, please refer to the Leiden University Leiden Law Courses brochure.

Tuition

Michigan students must pay full tuition and fees to the University of Michigan Law School as described in the General Guidelines for Semester Legal Studies Abroad. Leiden University charges tuition and fees to Michigan students. The Leiden tuition per semester for 2006-07 is 3,800 Euros. The University of Michigan Law School will be invoiced for the tuition for each student by Leiden and will remit payment directly to Leiden. Please note the tuition structure and amount are subject to change at any time.

Dates of Term

The fall semester generally runs from the beginning of September through the middle or end of December. This year the International Student Orientation Days are August 31 and September 1, 2006. In addition, special information sessions will be held for study abroad students on September 4 and 5, 2006. Classes begin September 4, 2006. Leiden's spring 2007 (our winter) semester runs from early February through June 2007. Classes for the spring 2007 (our winter) semester begin February 5, 2007. Students should confirm the exact dates with the Center for International and Comparative Law. International Student Orientation Days for the spring (our winter) 2007 semester are February 1 and 2, 2007. The dates for the information sessions for the spring 2007 semester are to be announced.

The Academic Calendar for 2006-07 on Leiden web site may be found at:

<http://www.leiden.edu/studyabroadinLeiden/>. Click on “Academic Information”, then “Academic Calendar”

Application to Leiden University

Students who receive approval from the Law School's Graduate Program & Foreign Affiliations Committee to study abroad at Leiden will then be required to promptly complete the Universiteit Leiden Study Abroad/Exchange Programmes Application for Admission, which will be supplied to the student by the Center for International & Comparative Law staff. The Center staff will then send your completed application along with all supporting documents to Leiden.

Housing

Leiden University will do its best in helping to find accommodation for students who meet the required deadlines for applying.

Please refer to the International Student Housing web site: <http://www.leiden.edu/studenthousing/>
It is here where you will learn of the housing application procedure (click on Application Procedure); housing options and prices; and finding housing yourself (without assistance from Leiden University).

Professors at Leiden University

Past J.D. students report that professors at Leiden have been fairly accessible. They are willing to talk to students after class and also in their offices. It is not always easy to find their offices because of the lack of a clear directory. However, students stated that "friendliness and persistence pay off in seeking academic guidance."

Research

Past J.D. students have recommended that students do some library research for the required three-credit independent research paper at the University of Michigan before leaving or after returning from Leiden University. Students should consult with your University of Michigan law faculty supervisor about the deadline for submitting their research paper.

In addition to the library facilities at Leiden University, the U.N. Peace Palace, which is located in the Hague, contains a very good library.

Contacts – Leiden University Administration

The program is coordinated on site by Mrs. Birgid Zaaijer, LL.M., Director, International Law Programmes.

Professor Piet-Jan Slot is the on-site Law faculty director, and may be contacted at p.j.slot@law.leidenuniv.nl.

Mrs. Zaaijer and her administrative staff comprise the Office for International Law Programmes located at:

Leiden University
Office for International Law Programmes
Kamerlingh Onnes Gebouw
Steenschuur 25
Room C003
2311 ES Leiden
The Netherlands

The front office of the Office for International Law Programmes has rather limited office hours compared to those at U.S. law schools. This is considered normal in European universities and may require some adjustments for U.S. students. Opening hours for students are from 10.00-12.30 and 13.30-16.00 hrs, five days a week.

In the first instance, questions or concerns about registration, course availability, and academic counseling issues should be addressed to Ms. Mai Berry Dahl, International Programmes Officer, Leiden University International Office, as well as questions about student life and any other aspects of the study experience at Leiden. If required, Ms. Berry Dahl will direct the students to the proper authorities. Students may consult with Mrs. Birgid Zaaijer (exchange@law.leidenuniv.nl) at the Leiden University Office for International Law Programs for additional academic advice.

Contact details for Ms. Mai Berry Dahl are:

Leiden University
International Office
Gravensteen
Pieterskerkhof 6
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands
Ph +31 71 527 72 87
Fax +31 71 527 72 98
E-mail: StudyAbroad@IO.leidenuniv.nl

For Further Information about Leiden University

Students should read the Student Study Abroad Reports available at the Center for International and Comparative Law. These reports chronicle the experience of past Michigan participants in the Leiden program. They identify the pluses and minuses of the students' study abroad experience and what aspects they enjoyed and what they found problematic.

Please consult the Leiden web site at: <http://www.leiden.edu/studyabroadinLeiden/> for detailed information regarding before and after arrival details, visa/residence permit, etc.

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