

Call for Course Proposals

VU Amsterdam Summer School



Final deadline to submit proposals:
7 September 2026 (23:59)



VU Amsterdam Summer School 2027

International Mobility of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is now preparing the new edition of VU Amsterdam Summer School that will take place between 3 July to 31 July 2027. The course catalogue offers intensive short programmes for all academic levels (introductory, advanced Bachelor's, Master's, PhD/Practitioners). The programme is fully on campus!

The selection of courses is wide and focusing on 5 pillars that embody the values of the Vrije Universiteit. Namely, Sustainability & Innovation, Entrepreneurship in an international setting, Society & Governance, Health & Wellbeing, Peacebuilding.

The aims of the VU Amsterdam Summer School are to:

The main goal of the programme is to:

- Profile VU Amsterdam internationally
- Promote short-term mobility, international academic collaboration, and societal positioning of VU Amsterdam
- Offer national and international students the opportunity to gain extra-curriculum knowledge in short, on-campus courses alongside an immersive local cultural experience
- Provide more opportunities to VU teaching staff to design new courses, experiment with innovative teaching methods and work in collaboration with other (international) colleagues
- Generate income for VU academic staff

Deadline for submitting a course proposal -> Monday 24 August 2026.

In this document you will find more information about:

1. Reasons to offer a course
2. Framework of the VU Amsterdam Summer School
3. Financial model
4. Timeline
5. Form for course proposal

A photograph of three young women walking and talking in front of a brick building. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a pink shirt and a backpack. The woman in the middle has brown hair and is wearing an orange patterned top. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a blue shirt. They are all smiling and looking at each other. The background is a brick building with large windows.

1. Reasons to offer a course

- Profile your department and/or field of study internationally
- Present current VU students with the possibility of attending an exciting course, equivalent to 2 or 3 ECTS
- Recruit Master's applicants
- Generate additional income for your department
- Design a course specifically in your own field of interest/research
- Work with a highly motivated and diverse group of students
- Initiate or strengthen collaborations with an international colleague and/or university
- Experiment with innovative teaching methods



2.1 Framework VU Amsterdam Summer School

Dates, courses, and applicants

VU Amsterdam Summer School 2027 will run from 3 July to 31 July 2027 and it offers courses in consecutive 2-week sessions. In Session 1 it is possible to offer a one-week course in the first week and this session is called 1B.

For summer 2027 the dates are:

- Session 1: 3 July to 17 July 2027, course runs from Monday 5 July – Friday 16 July
- Session 1b: 3 July to 10 July 2027, course runs from Monday 5 July - Friday 9 July
- Session 2A: 18 July to 31 July 2027, course runs from Monday 19 July – Friday 30 July

Courses run on weekdays from Monday to Friday.

2.2 Framework VU Amsterdam Summer School

Thematic pillars and target groups

The selection of courses offered by the VU Amsterdam Summer School is wide and focusing on 5 pillars that embody the values of the Vrije Universiteit. Potential course organisers are encouraged to offer courses on the following themes. Namely:

- Sustainability & Innovation/Technology
- Entrepreneurship in an international setting
- Society & Governance
- Health & Wellbeing
- Peacebuilding/Science Diplomacy

The courses need to be prepared in a way that cater to applicants currently enrolled in a Bachelor's programme, Master's programme, working on a PhD or practitioners, both national and international. Students expect a high work-load and intensive "nine-to-five" course days.

Minimum course participants

The minimum number of participants per course is 8, and the maximum is 25/30 students. The course will proceed if there are at least 8 participants. You are also allowed to run the course with less than 8 students. If you would like to exceed the maximum, then this is allowed if personal contact is guaranteed. The course should ensure personal attention for each student, interaction with fellow course members and in-depth educational focus.

2.3 Framework VU Amsterdam Summer School

Division of responsibilities

The VU Amsterdam Summer School team's tasks:

- Marketing of the programme through website, partners, online paid campaigns (Google + social media) and study portals
- Recruitment, administration and handling payments of students
- Student support and online information sessions
- Offering (limited) accommodation options for students
- Welcome, goodbye and optional social programme activities
- Reservation of classrooms, preparation of course Canvas page, arrangement of VUnetIDs
- General computer rooms without specific software can be reserved by the Summer School organisation
- Registering courses and grades, sending certificates of attendance

*You are free to plan the course as you wish, however, the organisation will ask to keep certain times (weekends included) in the course schedule free for side-programme activities.

The course organiser's tasks:

- Design of the course and focus on the academic content
- Recruitment of students through your own network
- Ensure personal attention with the participants, interaction between course members and in-depth educational focus

*In case specific computer software or equipment needs to be arranged, this is the responsibility of the course organiser, as well as guest lecturers expenses.

2.4 Framework VU Amsterdam Summer School

ECTS

All 2-week courses (English taught) are equivalent to 3 ECTS/84 workload hours, including course excursions and self-study. All 1-week courses can only be equivalent to 2 ECTS/56 workload hours.

The courses are NOT credit-bearing. The ECTS estimation is used as a guideline to assess the course and assist in quality control and will not be used in external communication. You can choose between:

- 3 ECTS (28*3 hours workload)
- 2 ECTS (28*2 hours workload)

Students need to be assessed individually and obtain a 1-10 scale grade at the end of the course. Individual assessment is mandatory and it needs to reflect 60% of the final grade. Examples of modes of assessment are: a presentation, group assignment, multiple-choice exam or a short (one-page) paper.

Course levels

All courses must have a defined course level:

- 200: Course is introductory in nature. Participants completed one year of university
- 300: Advanced level course. Participants completes at least 2 years of bachelor's study
- 400: Specialised course. Participants completed a bachelor's degree
- 500: Research-oriented course. Participants currently studied or have completed a Master's degree

3. Financial Model

Course organisers are reimbursed on the basis of applications. Costs related to the course content, such as reading materials, excursions and/or guest lecturers need to be paid from the course organisers' share of the payment.

The final payment will be transferred to the department from which the course is offered.

The reimbursement model is (paid to the course organiser's department):

2-week course: €570 per certified participant

For example: The course has 15 participants. The reimbursement would be
 $15 \times 570 = \text{€}8,550$

1-week course: €350 per certified participant

For example: The course has 15 participants. The reimbursement would be
 $15 \times 350 = \text{€}5,250$

The rest of the tuition fees paid by the participants will cover:

- Staff and organisational costs for student contact management, administration, IT-costs and the additional social programme
- Scholarships and various discounts
- Marketing costs (website, online campaigns, study portals), and several discounts (such as an early bird discount, exchange partner university discount and VU-student/employee discount)

***DISCLAIMER:** The VU Amsterdam Summer School team has no influence in how these funds are distributed to the course organisers. We recommend course organisers to make an agreement about this with the financial controller/supervisor of their department in advance.

A low-angle photograph of a rainbow flag flying from a tall pole against a blue sky with light clouds. In the background, the corner of a building with a large blue 'E' logo is visible.

4. Timeline

*subject to slight changes

- 8 May: Info session
- 11 June: Info session
- 24 August: deadline to submit course proposals
- 31 August: initial feedback from summer school team
- 7 September: deadline to submit adjusted proposals, based on feedback
- 8-19 October: Course revision week after the assessment of the quality board
- 5 November: course organisers are informed about the selection of their course based on the advice of the Quality Board. After approval, the link to the final form is shared with course organisers
- 16 November: deadline to submit final website/promotion form
- 3 December: Website content updated for new summer school courses
- Beginning of January: open for applications and website goes live
- 1 March: deadline for preliminary course syllabus
- 1 May: decide if the course will run based on number of participants
- June: students are enrolled in course Canvas page
- July: courses run
- August: submit grades to summer school team
- October: course organiser payment

5. Course Proposal Form

VU Amsterdam Summer School 2027

Access the [Course Proposal Checklist](#) for a detailed view of course prerequisites.

Submit proposals by
7 September 2026 (23:59 CET)
[via this](#)
[online form.](#)

If you have a question or would like to schedule a meeting, don't hesitate to contact us by email or via +31 (0)20 5986429.

Kind regards,
Team VU Amsterdam Summer School, International Mobility {SOZ}

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