

Course Catalogue

Viaa Exchange 2026

Viaa Christian University of Applied Sciences
Zwolle, the Netherlands

Introduction

Viaa Exchange offers several courses during the Spring semester (Last week of January – End of May). These courses are designed to offer international students the opportunity to study abroad and explore Dutch culture, while developing new skills and gaining knowledge in their respective fields.

In general, students who sign up will complete a program that consists of a core, a track and one or more electives. Most students aim to complete 24-30 ECTS (12-15 American credits).

For more information and to sign up, please contact Marlinde Lieffijn at internationaloffice@viaa.nl



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Intercultural Explorations

CODE: EXCH100
TYPE: COURSE
YEAR OF STUDY: 2-4
PART OF: VIAA EXCHANGE
ECTS: 12 (6 AMERICAN CREDITS)
TAUGHT IN: ENGLISH

REQUIRED LITERATURE

Intercultural Sensitivity
Nunez & Nunez-Mahdi
ISBN: 9789023256885

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Vaa International Office at
internationaloffice@viaa.nl

Prerequisites

The course is open to students from all majors.

Course Content

The course focuses on Dutch and European culture through lectures, excursions, and reflection meetings. Themes as cultural history, politics, religion, education, sustainability, and humanity connect the history of the Netherlands with our modern age. Through exploration of art, society, and cultural signposts you will learn to reflect on Dutch culture, but also on your own culture, while comparing and contrasting the two. You will also critically look at your own perception of the world and reflect on this.

Learning Outcomes

You will learn to look at culture in a new way, discussing and reflecting on all aspects of culture. You will broaden your horizon on displays of culture through art, architecture, public institutions, and personal experiences.

You will learn various ways of personal reflection to increase your self-awareness in a global society.

Teaching And Assessment Outcomes

You will create a portfolio consisting of your experiences and learning outcomes throughout the programme. At the end of the course, you will be assessed based on your portfolio and through a criterium-based interview.

International Business

CODE: EXCH201
TYPE: COURSE
YEAR OF STUDY: 2-4
PART OF: VIAA EXCHANGE
ECTS: 12 (6 AMERICAN CREDITS)
TAUGHT IN: ENGLISH

REQUIRED LITERATURE

TBC

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Vaa International Office at
internationaloffice@viaa.nl

Prerequisites

Although not necessary, a background as a business major is preferable.

Course Content

This course is organized as an exploration and practicum in international business with focus on (international) marketing. This course will help you to understand international business and marketing from different perspectives. You will learn more about the areas an international marketing context. During the course you will meet businesspeople from different countries and have the opportunity to learn from their international business experience. You will also visit several companies in the Netherlands, Germany, and Romania. The core of the course is that you and your business team will be consulting a German company and a Romanian company which both are facing international marketing challenges. During the course you will be trained in presentation and communication skills.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of this course, you will know how to conduct (international) marketing research; you will understand the different types of marketing, the challenges of global entrepreneurship, the basics of project management, and you will know how to develop a business case. You will be able to communicate effectively in an (international) business context. You can present yourself and your team in a business situation.

Teaching And Assessment Outcomes

Learning activities include class lectures, guest lectures, company visits, consultancy assignments. Assessment is done through attendance and participation, consultancy assignments, and a final individual paper.

Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Care

CODE: EXCH204
TYPE: COURSE
YEAR OF STUDY: 2-4
PART OF: VIAA EXCHANGE
ECTS: 12 (6 AMERICAN CREDITS)
TAUGHT IN: ENGLISH

REQUIRED LITERATURE

Intercultural Sensitivity
Nunez & Nunez-Mahdi
ISBN: 9789023256885

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Viaa International Office at
internationaloffice@viaa.nl

Prerequisites

Although not necessary, it can be useful to have had some classes within the human sciences field.

Course Content

'The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes' (Marcel Proust)

This track brings together professionals from social work, health care and education, to discuss and explore the realm of transcultural care. In each work field we come across young people from a widely diverse background. It is important to acknowledge this cultural diversity, and to act appropriately from a professional perspective. There is also a need in society for a more holistic approach to care: how do social workers, health care professionals and pedagogues provide a safe environment in which a young person can develop well? What can we learn from each other when we look at the individuals that we work with? What do we know about their daily lives, and what they are faced with when they are not with us?

Learning Outcomes

During this course, the setup, assignments, and final tests work towards the development of your culture competencies, as listed below:

1. Sociological Imagination
2. Getting to know yourself
3. Creating Connections
4. Culturally Sensitive Care
5. Leadership
6. Social Justice
7. Life-Long Learning

Teaching And Assessment Outcomes

You will create a portfolio based on a case that will be presented to you in class. The portfolio will also contain your personal reflections and experiences on the course.

Dutch as a Foreign Language

CODE: EXCH301
TYPE: COURSE
YEAR OF STUDY: 2-4
PART OF: VIAA EXCHANGE
ECTS: 6 (3 AMERICAN CREDITS)
TAUGHT IN: ENGLISH/DUTCH

REQUIRED LITERATURE

TBC

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Viaa International Office at
internationaloffice@viaa.nl

Prerequisites

No level of Dutch is required to enter this course, although some basic studying ahead can greatly improve the experience.

Course Content

This course is a language course to immerse you in the Dutch language. Through class-learning and individual assignments, you will learn to express yourself in a basic way. Practical activities are part of the learning process.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of this course, students should be able to understand the Dutch as spoken in specific daily contexts and different topics, pronounce and identify the basic sounds of the Dutch alphabet, speak Dutch imitating the stress patterns, intonation, rhythm and linking of a native speaker, and carry out conversations in Dutch about certain topics. We will assess you at A1 level of the CEF.

Teaching And Assessment Outcomes

Learning activities include lectures, pair work, learning and reading, peer-to-peer presentations and conversations.

Assessment will be done through written and oral exams.

Practical Theology (The Calling of the Church)

CODE: EXCH302
TYPE: COURSE
YEAR OF STUDY: 2-4
PART OF: VIAA EXCHANGE
ECTS: 6 (3 AMERICAN CREDITS)
TAUGHT IN: ENGLISH

REQUIRED LITERATURE

Pilgrims and Priests: Christian Mission in a Post-Christian Society
Stefan Paas
ISBN: 9780334058779

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Viaa International Office at

Prerequisites

The course is open to students of all kinds of majors. Some basic knowledge of theology and/or philosophy is recommended.

Course Content

This course explores what it means to be a 'church' in our postmodern society of the 21st century. The course introduces theological perspectives on the calling of the church, and it explores how different theological perspectives on being a church influences what church life looks like in practice. The course studies how churches and Christian communities attempt in various ways to serve God and to build the Kingdom within and beyond the walls of the church. The course evaluates and discusses these developments from a Reformed perspective. During excursions you will be introduced to old and new expressions of 'being' a church.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- understand how different theological perspectives on being a church influences what church life looks like in practice.
- to evaluate and reflect critically on different 'types' of churches or Christian communities.
- identify challenges and opportunities for the church in the 21st century.
- Conduct minor research on a church or Christian community.

Teaching And Assessment Outcomes

Lectures, discussion, reading of articles, group work, preparation for fieldwork, two visits to a church or Christian community, small research project.

Assessment: Reflection paper, two tests and a final paper which presents the outcome of the small research project. The main points of this final paper will also be presented and discussed in class.

Research Assignment

CODE: EXCH305
TYPE: COURSE
YEAR OF STUDY: 2-4
PART OF: VIAA EXCHANGE
ECTS: 6 (3 AMERICAN CREDITS)
TAUGHT IN: ENGLISH

REQUIRED LITERATURE

TBC

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Vaa International Office at
internationaloffice@viaa.nl

Prerequisites

The course is open to students of all kinds of majors.

Course Content

This course provides you with the opportunity to join the team of researchers at Vaa University and collaborate on running projects.

Learning Outcomes

Depending on your research topic, you will conduct in collaboration with peers and the researchers. This can be executed in many different ways and will have to be discussed with your assigned professor. You will work towards a final presentation of your research findings.

Teaching And Assessment Outcomes

At the end you will be assessed based on your research findings and presentation.