



HANZE UNIVERSITY GRONINGEN, UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

“Nice to know and need to know”

**Name of university:** Hanze University Groningen, University of Applied Sciences.

**Country:** The Netherlands (population: 17 million)

**City:** Groningen (population: 190.000)

**Website:** [www.hanzeuniversity.eu](http://www.hanzeuniversity.eu)

## About the Netherlands

### **High living below sea level**

The Netherlands is a small country in Western Europe, often called Holland. Strictly speaking, North and South Holland are only a part of the Netherlands; there are eleven other provinces, of which Groningen (where the main town is also called Groningen) is one. With 16 million inhabitants on 41,000 square kilometers, the Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. The Dutch society is multi-cultural. Groups of people with Dutch backgrounds have been living in Holland for decades as a result of historical ties with other parts of the world. There is also a huge religious diversity.

The official language is Dutch, however, most Dutch have a relatively good command of English. The majority of the Dutch population speaks English. Therefore, English may be seen as the second language in the Netherlands.

Holland was the first non-English-speaking country to offer courses in English. The Dutch higher educational institutions together offer 1,300 international study programmes and courses which are taught entirely in English.

Part of the country is below sea level, protected by dikes. Dikes were already built by monks in the early middle ages. Thus the saying goes that God created the world, but that the Dutch created the Netherlands. Water has not only given the Dutch trouble, it has also brought them wealth through commerce. Part of this prosperity is founded on the transit trade, but the Netherlands also export more home-produced dairy products than any other country in the world. Another spin-off of its watery location is that the Netherlands are foremost in hydraulic engineering.

From the middle ages onwards, the country has been part of the cultural mainstream of Western Europe. This has left an enormous heritage, not only in painting (Rembrandt, Van Gogh), but also in old architecture. The flowering of the arts has always gone hand in hand with a vivid interest in the sciences. Today, Dutch society is well-educated, open, egalitarian, tolerant and not afraid of unorthodox solutions. And young graduates

are capable of dealing with new developments and novel problems. So it is not surprising that its higher education has a good name abroad.

The country is a constitutional monarchy. It is politically stable and always has coalition governments.

All this have given the Dutch the name of a forward-looking, dynamic small nation, with its own way of tackling problems. And due to affluence and social stability, the Dutch way of life might very well be called a case of "high living below sea level."

## **About Groningen**

### **A memorable experience**

What makes studying in Groningen such a memorable experience? Is it because half of the population is under 35 years of age? Is it the city's marvelous blend of historical buildings and modern architecture? Is it the many pubs, discotheques and low-budget restaurants, catering to a dynamic student community?

Perhaps it is because not many student towns combine a bustling city life with a unique countryside.

Within easy reach of Groningen there are the wide open spaces and striking cloud formations for which the Netherlands are so famous. And a bit to the east you have the woods of Drenthe, with roe deer, foxes and sleepy villages. Yet most remarkable of all is the Wadden Sea, with its wildlife of seals and birds. At low tide, parts of these shallow wetlands fall dry. Then one can even reach a few islands on foot. However, this is a tricky business, so don't do it without a guide.

Imagine yourself spending your leisure time amidst this tremendous scenic beauty, and relaxing afterwards at an outdoor café on the Grote Markt or at a pop concert. Imagine skating at Kardinge sports centre, or playing squash there, and then going on to the Groninger Museum to see a sensational exhibition.

Groningen has facilities for every taste, being the cultural heart of the Northern Netherlands. But what most foreigners do not realize is that, from Groningen, the rest of the country is easily accessible. For instance, a train will take you to Amsterdam in about two hours. So come to Groningen and see it all. You'll never be bored!



## 25 facts about Groningen

### What you should know about Groningen

#### *Awards:*

1. Second best student city in the Netherlands (after Amsterdam, according to survey October 2007);
2. Safest City in the Netherlands 2004;
3. Best liked by its inhabitants in a comparable Survey from the EU, July 2007, among inhabitants of 75 cities in the EU, on aspects such as amenities, facilities, safety, pleasant people living there, clean air. (1. Groningen, 2. Leipzig 2. and 3. Krakow);
4. Best downtown in the Netherlands 2006;
5. Best bike city in the world 2002 (57% of all transportation within the city is by bike).

#### *History:*

1. The first major settlement in Groningen has been traced back to the third century AD;
2. During medieval times, the city steadily became an important trade centre in Northern Europe;
3. The most famous eye-catcher, the Martinitower, was the highest building in Europe for a while in the fifteenth century;
4. Many old buildings in the centre still show Groningen's great history.

#### *Population:*

1. Groningen has a population of 185,000;
2. Every fifth person in Groningen is a student;
3. Fifty percent of the population is younger than 35.

#### *Culture:*

1. Because Groningen is the urban centre of the north of the Netherlands and has such a large student population, its cultural scene is remarkably big and diverse;
2. It has a vibrant and famous nightlife, dominated by students. Bars in the centre are allowed to stay open 24 hours a day;
3. Underground pop club Vera has a great reputation among alternative music lovers all over the world. Bands like Nirvana, U2, White Stripes and Sonic Youth performed here in the early days of their career;
4. The most important museum is the Groninger Museum. It has a great collection of modern art, but is mostly famous for its controversial construction designed by Alessandro Mendini;
5. Other museums in Groningen include a comics museum, tobacco museum, and science museum.

### ***Economy:***

1. Economic capital of the north of the Netherlands;
2. Largest natural gas-field in Western Europe;
3. World's largest sugar factory;
4. One of the Netherlands' largest shipbuilding centres.

### ***Transport:***

1. The centre of Groningen is partly closed off for cars, so it is a very safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians and bikers;
2. Only two hours away from Utrecht, two-and-a-half from Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport, and three hours from The Hague and Rotterdam;
3. Groningen is located very close to the German border. It's only two hours away from Bremen, and three hours from Hamburg;
4. There are direct buses between Groningen and Bremen airport, run by Public express ([www.publicexpress.de](http://www.publicexpress.de)). From Bremen Airport you can fly with Ryanair to many destinations in Europe at a very low price (Milan, Malaga, Barcelona, London, Oslo, Stockholm)



## **About Hanze University Groningen, University of Applied Sciences:**

Hanze University Groningen is a university of applied sciences with more than 2,500 employees and over 25,000 Dutch and foreign students who have enrolled in one of the seventy degree programmes in the fields of economics, technology, health care, education and teacher training, social work, labour relations, fine arts, and music. Hanze University Groningen is one of the largest and most all-round universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands. Hanze University Groningen currently has about 2.200 foreign students attending either a Bachelor, Master or exchange programme.

Hanze University Groningen consists of 19 “schools”:

International Business School

Hanze Institute of Technology

Academy Minerva

Prince Claus Conservatoire

Institute for Life Science & Technology

School of Architecture, Built Environment & Civil Engineering

School of Health Care Studies

School of Social Studies

School of Nursing

School of Business Management

School of Communication & Media

School of Engineering

School of Financial and Economic Management

School of Facility Management

School of Computer Science

School of Marketing and Management

School of Law

School of Sports Studies

School of Education

Hanze University Groningen offers many exchange programs taught in English and has cooperation agreements with a large number of universities around the world. Students from one of our partner institutes may apply for one of our exchange programs, generally at undergraduate (Bachelor) level. They can attend an exchange semester at one of the Hanze School with which their home institution has an exchange agreement. Exchange students are accepted on the basis of a nomination by the partner institution.

**Semester duration:**

First semester: Early September until late January

Second semester: Early February until late June

**Course Load per semester and Credits:** 30 EC's

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Additional Course Information:**

Our exchange programmes are fixed. This means students cannot choose courses from different exchange programmes.

## **Application information:**

Students need to fill out our application form online. After your student has completed the online application, he/she needs to print and sign it and send your application with the supporting documents to the ISO at our postal address. The list of supporting documents and our postal address are mentioned on the online application form.

**Application requirements:**

- Printed application form
- Gradeslist
- Copy of passport / ID-card (front and back)
- Two passport-size pictures

**Postal Address:**

Hanze University Groningen, University of Applied Science  
International Student Office  
P.O. Box 3037  
9701 DA Groningen  
The Netherlands

**Application deadlines:**

First semester:

Students needing a visa\*: **1 June**

Students not needing a visa: **1 July**

Second semester:

Students needing a visa\*: **1 November**

Students not needing a visa: **1 December**

To enter the Netherlands for study purposes, nationals of most non-EU countries need a visa. The International Student Office will apply for the students' visa and residence permit. Please visit our website [www.hanzeuniversity.eu](http://www.hanzeuniversity.eu) to read about the procedures.

### **Confirmation and acceptance:**

Students will receive an e-mail confirming the receipt of their application and will also be contacted by e-mail about their acceptance and additional information such as housing and introduction schedule.

### **Housing:**

After students have been accepted for an exchange program, they can apply for housing at [www.housingoffice.nl](http://www.housingoffice.nl)

The accommodation offered by the Housing Office is furnished and the rent is generally all-inclusive (covering water, electricity, gas, heating, municipal taxes and levies and some basic service facilities). In most types of student accommodation, you will have shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.

If you are looking for a room, you should expect to pay a monthly rent of approx. Euro 350. Private apartments and flats cost around Euro 350 – 550 per month.

### **Housing reservation costs / deposit**

When you apply for a room with the Housing Office, you will be required to transfer reservation costs for the amount of Euro 625 (300 administration costs, 325 deposit). Once the Housing Office has received this payment they will offer you a room. If you accept the room, they will transfer your reservation costs in a housing deposit. From this deposit an amount of Euro 325 is refundable and will be returned to you when you check out of your room, providing that the room has been left in good order.

### **Pick-up service:**

Students coming to study at Hanze University Groningen can be picked up from Schiphol Airport if they wish. Students can apply for this “pick-up service” by sending an e-mail (at least one week before departure) to [iso@org.hanze.nl](mailto:iso@org.hanze.nl) with subject PICK-UP and stating:

- their name (if they travel with fellow prospective students, their names as well);
- place and country of residence;
- date, place and time of departure;
- in case of stop-over, the exact time, place and flight number;
- date and time of arrival in the Netherlands;
- flight number and company,
- address of your accommodation in Groningen,
- telephone number.

### **Costs of the Journey?**

The train ticket to Groningen costs approx €30, while the bus within the city of Groningen is €1,-. In case you want to make use of a Taxi, prices are between €8,- and €15,-. The train trip lasts approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes.

## **Contact Information:**

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Exchange students for the following schools:

- School of Health Care Studies
- School of Communication and Media
- School of Facility Management
- School of Marketing & Management



### **Afke Staats**

E-mail: [a.staats@pl.hanze.nl](mailto:a.staats@pl.hanze.nl)

Phone: +31 - (0)50 - 595 4748

Exchange students for the following schools:

- School of Engineering
- School of Computer Science
- Institute for Life Science & Technology
- School of Facility Management
- School of Financial Economic Management



### **Corine Venema**

E-mail: [c.d.venema@pl.hanze.nl](mailto:c.d.venema@pl.hanze.nl)

Phone: +31 - (0)50- 595 4033

Exchange and Double Degree students for:

- International Business School



### **Caspar Kraaijpoel**

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- School of Architecture, Built Environment & Civil Engineering
- Academy Minerva
- Prince Clause Conservatoire
- School of Business Management
- School of Social Studies
- School of Nursing
- School of Sports Studies
- School of Education



### **Our address is:**

Hanze University Groningen  
International Student Office  
P.O. box 3037  
9701 DA Groningen  
The Netherlands

### **Courier address:**

Zernikeplein 11  
9747 AS Groningen  
Fax: +31 - (0)50- 595 7115

