

Tips, Information & Suggestions for Students Studying in The Hague, Netherlands Summer 2008



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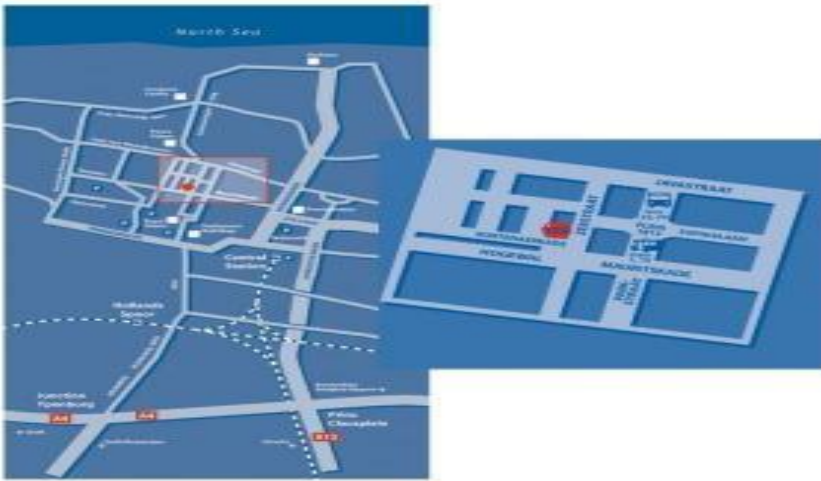
The information is provided to assist students in making their plans for attending and participating in the study abroad program in The Hague in Summer 2008. Stetson University College of Law is not responsible for changes in rates, schedules, dates or other facts contained herein or on websites listed.



Stetson Summer Institute in International and Comparative Law The Hague, Netherlands Program

Note: Please refer to the Freiburg Important Arrival Information document regarding the third and fourth weeks of the program.

HOW TO REACH THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES (ISS)



Public Transportation:

From Central Station (CS):

Tram 10* or Bus 22 and 24

Stop: Mauritskade

*Tram 10 operates between 7:30 – 9:20am and 4:00 – 6:00pm only.

From Hollands Spoor (HS):

Tram: 1

Stop: Mauritskade

Walking distance to ISS from Central Station is approximately 30 minutes.

(Note: While public transportation in Europe is excellent, it may be a bit confusing at first. You might consider using a taxi to travel to the ISS, and then familiarize yourself with the tram and bus service)

By car:

Follow the Utrechtsebaan until the traffic lights at the end and turn left on to Zuid Hollandlaan. At the next set of lights, choose the lane to MCH Westeinde (hospital), turn right onto Koningskade and immediately left onto Dr. Kuyperstraat/Mauritskade. After the third set of lights, take the next right onto Zeestraat and immediately left onto Kortenaerkade. The ISS is the first building on your right.

Directions to Institute of Social Studies Dorm

If you are facing the front of the ISS building, the dorm is just off to the left. **Please note:** You MUST arrive by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 6, or you will need to arrange for alternate accommodations that night. The ISS office closes at 5:00 p.m., so if you want to get your room key, you must arrive before that time. You may arrange for a friend to pick up your key, provided that you inform the Resident Director, Stephanie Vaughan, in advance.

TRANSPORTATION

Train

There is a direct connection from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to The Hague. Even at night, a train leaves every hour and travels between Utrecht, Amsterdam, Schiphol, The Hague and Rotterdam. Almost every hour, from almost all big cities in the Netherlands, one train or more leaves in the direction of The Hague.

The Nederlandse Spoorwegen or 'NS' (Netherlands Railways) connects the big cities with Intercity IC-trains that only stop at the larger railway stations. Besides two international and well-equipped train stations (The Hague Central Station and The Hague Hollands Spoor), The Hague also has a few local stations (Station Moerwijk, Station Laan van Nieuw Oost Indië, Station 't Loo, Station Rijswijk, Station Voorburg, Station Leidschendam/Voorburg en Station Mariahoeve).

In the table below, you will find direct connections from The Hague to Amsterdam Central, Schiphol, Rotterdam and Utrecht. These trains leave every half hour. Please remember that in rush hours trains are usually overcrowded.

The Hague Central Station to:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
Amsterdam Central	45
Rotterdam	15
Schiphol	30
Utrecht	40

NS (Netherlands Railways)

For more specific information about the hour of arrival and time of departure of trains from and to The Hague, you could call (+31) (0) 900 92 92 [Euro (€) 0.50 p/m] or check out the website of the 'NS' at <http://www.ns.nl>

Taxi

Fares are calculated on a basic rate, which is Euro (€) 2.08 plus a fixed rate for each kilometer travelled. No special night rates apply in The Hague. It is possible to hail a taxi in the street but you will also find special taxi stands at the train stations and throughout the city. Alternatively, order a taxi by telephone. Make sure that the Taxi has a meter and the Taxi driver uses it. There are lots of people who may attempt to scam tourists by charging an unreasonable amount. If you get caught in a Taxi without a meter or if you feel the Taxi driver is taking advantage of you ask for a receipt and the car's license number BEFORE you agree to pay. In some countries the police will refund your money if you have a receipt and the car's license number.

HCT City Taxi
Tel.: (+31) (0)70 383 08 30

Rijswijkse Taxi Centrale
Tel.: (+31) (0)70 390 62 62

Hofstad Taxi
Tel.: (+31) (0)70 346 26 26

Taxi Hegro
Tel.: (+31) (0)70 386 02 02

HTMC
Tel.: (+31) (0)70 390 77 22

Public Transportation

Nationale 'Strippenkaart'

Tickets containing 2 and 3 strips are available from the driver, but it is much cheaper to buy a 15- or 45-strip card before you board a bus or tram. The 'Strippenkaart' is on sale at the The Hague and Scheveningen Tourist Information Offices, all post offices, most tobacconists and bookshops and at reception desks in a large number of hotels in The Hague. The 'Strippenkaart' is valid throughout the Netherlands, and includes traveling on regional buses and local trains.

How do you use the 'Strippenkaart'?

The Hague is divided into zones. The basic fare for every journey is two strips. Add one strip for every zone you cross. Example: from the centre of The Hague to Scheveningen promenade is 2 zones. Your fare will therefore be three strips.

Day pass

This handy pass allows you unlimited travel for 24 hours without having to worry about the number of zones you cross or strips you need. The pass is valid in The Hague, Scheveningen, Rijswijk, Voorburg and Leidschendam and, at a slightly higher charge, also in Wateringen and Delft. The day pass is available from the The Hague and Scheveningen Tourist Information Offices, from the reception desks of a large number of hotels in The Hague and from the HTM customer service desks.

Night bus

The HTM operates a Friday and Saturday night service. Tickets to the night service, which departs from the Buitenhof and travels five different routes, are available from the bus driver only.

Information

For information about public transport in The Hague, for example routes and timetables, please visit the various HTM advance sales addresses: Wagenstraat 35 and at the departure halls of The Hague Central Station and Station Hollands Spoor, or phone the HTM consumer service on (+31) (0)70 384 86 66.

For questions (or traveling advice) about public transport (domestic) you could also call (+31) (0)900 9292 [€ 0.50 p/m].

Note: Students are responsible for their own transportation and accommodations for the time period between classes in The Hague and Freiburg. Students will have to check-out of the ISS dorms on Thursday, July 17 and can check-in at the Gasthaus Shutzen on Sunday, July 20, 2008.

While Students can make arrangements with the Shutzen to check in early (please see the Freiburg Arrival document for contact information) most students travel in groups and explore Europe during that weekend. There is no airport in Freiburg, Germany, and most students prefer for take the train to Freiburg. Eurail passes are the most economical but can only be bought while in the United States from the Eurail website (<http://www.eurail.com/>). Otherwise, a train ticket must be purchased from a train station while in Europe. If you are traveling by train it is a good practice to purchase your return ticket or reserve a seat on the next train you are going to take while still at the station. Most students travel over the weekends and trains may book quickly, leaving travelers delayed or even worse stranded. Plan ahead as much as possible. Try to have someone else's phone number that is in or going to Freiburg if you are traveling the weekend in between the Hague and Freiburg. If you are having complications traveling and you get into Freiburg too late you will not be able to get into your room.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Culture Shock

While you are no doubt prepared for Europe to be different from the U.S., you may not be aware that Americans do often suffer what is called "culture shock" on arrival. Europe differs greatly from the U.S. in such areas as class structure, attitudes to service, and standard of living. Therefore, the quality of accommodation(s), gender attitudes, etc. is quite different than in the U.S., so it is essential that you prepare yourself mentally for the fact that you are going to a foreign country, and not just a smaller version of the U.S. The way to deal with these differences is to be prepared for them, learn about them, and to try to be as open minded as possible about everything you encounter. It will help you to read about the Netherlands and Germany before you leave. Familiarize yourself with the geography and the population statistics. Unfortunately, everywhere you travel there are going to be people who will take advantage of foreigners. Europe is no different. Be alert and pay attention when strangers approach. There are a lot of pick-pockets in crowded. "Touristy" areas. Many of the people committing these crimes are children. Be careful!

Home Bank & Credit Cards

Banks and credit card issuers will commonly cancel debit or credit cards that are being used in foreign countries without advanced notification. Therefore, if you plan on using your ATM/debit card abroad, you should inform your bank of the dates and countries you will be traveling to. Likewise, if you plan on using your credit card(s), you also need to notify your credit card companies with the same information. Even if you contact your credit card company make sure that you have a toll-free number you may reach them with, since many times they will still cancel or freeze your credit card as you go from country to country. Finally, ask your credit card company how to report the loss of your card from abroad. "1-800" numbers do not work from abroad, but your company should have a toll-free number that you can call while you are overseas.

Tipping

Contrary to what you may have heard Europeans do tip. The difference is that most times there is a tax already included into your bill that covers the tip. Look for a service tax on your

bill or something comparable. If you do not see the tax or charge and you feel that the service was worthy of a tip, it is not an insult to leave one.

Clothing

One of the nice things about Holland is that the Dutch are relaxed about clothes. You wear what you feel good in - particularly in Amsterdam when an opera audience happily turns up in jeans and t-shirts (which is not to say you cannot wear a dress or suit if you want to). Men should bring a tie and women a skirt or dress if you plan on dining up-market. Otherwise feel free to dress in casual attire. Many museums require that patrons dress conservatively. This is especially true when visiting churches. Men should avoid wearing shorts and women should wear jeans/long skirts and cover their shoulders.

Useful Dutch Phrases

Goedendag:	Good Day
Bedankt:	Thank You
Tot Ziens:	Goodbye
Spreekt u Engels?:	Do you speak English?

Business Hours

Shops:

Most shops are open from Tuesday to Friday between 9 am and 6 pm, on Saturdays between 9 am and 5 pm. On Monday, many shops are closed in the mornings and open sometime between 11 am and 1 pm and close by 6 pm. Most cities have late-night shopping (until 9 pm) on Thursdays or Fridays. In the main cities, many shops are open on Sunday from 12 noon to 5 pm. In most tourist resorts, many shops are open at night too. For business hours on Sundays or late night shopping, please call a local tourist information office in the city of your destination.

Specific Hours in The Hague for Sunday: every week from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. (city centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin)

Late night shopping: every Thursday until 9 p.m. (city centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin)

Banks:

Business hours differ between banks. Most banks are open from Tuesday to Friday between 9 am and 4 pm. On Mondays business hours start mainly at 1 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays banks are closed. GWK offices are open 7 days a week.

Post Offices:

Regular post offices are open from Monday to Friday, between 9 am and 5 pm. Bigger ones are also open on Saturdays between 9 am and 12 noon/12:30 p.m.

Pharmacies

Regular business hours are Monday to Friday between 8/9 am and 5:30/6 pm. On nights and weekends, pharmacies are open on a rotation schedule.

Restaurants:

Business hours vary, but usually restaurants are open for lunch from 11 am to 2:30/3 pm and for dinner from 5:30-10/11 pm.

Museums:

Business hours vary; however, most museums are open from 10 am until 5 pm every day of the week, except Mondays.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General emergency: 112

Police (other): (+31) (0)900 88 44

Medical assistance (night duty): (+31) (0)70 346 96 69

Chemist (evening & night): (+31) (0)70 345 10 00

Animal medical assistance: (+31) (0)70 311 03 07

Information (domestic): (+31) (0)900 80 08 [€ 0.90 per call]

Information (international): (+31) (0)900 84 18

ANWB road service: (+31) (0)800 08 88

ANWB traffic information: (+31) (0)900 96 22 [€ 0.35 p/m]

Public transport (domestic): (+31) (0)900 92 92 [€ 0.50 p/m]

Public transport (international): (+31) (0)900 92 96

WHAT TO PACK

Try not to over pack. Check with your airline for your luggage weight limit, as it is expensive to pay for excess baggage. There are nearby laundry services and Laundromats available. **Additionally, attempting to ride on a bus or a tram with lots of luggage can be difficult and stressful. Bring clothes that have multiple purposes. The difference in weather between the Netherlands and Germany may be surprisingly dramatic.**

Battery-operated alarm clock to get you up for class!

Business attire. You will visit courtrooms and meet local attorneys.

Casual clothes to wear in the classroom.

Classroom supplies (legal pads, pens, pencils, highlighters, etc.)

Comfortable walking shoes. You will be doing much more walking in The Hague and Freiburg than you do at home. Waterproof or leather shoes are best.

Copies of your passport and plane ticket and kept separately in a safe place.

Electric adapter, converter, transformer, and/or batteries to power your electric appliances.

Glasses and/or contacts and a spare pair and/or your prescription in case you need to replace them.

International Student ID Card (ISIC) card and Emergency Contact card.

Light jacket/raincoat, or ideally a raincoat with a zip out lining.

Light sweater. The weather can get chilly (60 – 70F daily highs in The Hague and Freiburg).

Medications – bring all your medications and carry all medication in your carry on luggage.

Money belt or waist bag for your money and valuables.

Pack a change of clothes in carry on luggage in case of luggage delay.

Phone card. Make sure it is an international phone card that can be used abroad to call the United States.

Pocket calculator for quick currency conversions.

Small umbrella (or wait and buy one when you get there).

Toiletries. If you pack your toiletries in your carry-on baggage, the airport requires that you pack them in no larger than 3 oz. plastic containers. You can buy more in The Hague and Freiburg, but make sure that you bring enough for at least the first day, as you may not be able to get to the store your first evening.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Stetson University College of Law

Office of Graduate & Int'l Programs
Associate Dean John Cooper

Address: 1401 61st Street South
Gulfport, Fl 33707

Phone: (727) 562-7849 or (727) 562-7857

Fax: (727) 231-0723

E-mail: cooper@law.stetson.edu
international@law.stetson.edu

Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Address: Kortenaerkade 12
2518 AX The Hague

Phone: 011 + (31)(70) 4260-460
Fax: 011 + (31)(70) 4260-799

U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam

Address: Museumplein 19
1071 DJ Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Phone: (31) (0)20-575 5309
(31) (0)70-310 2209 (after hours duty officer)
Fax: (31) (0)20-575 5330

E-mail: USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov
Web: <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/>

Opening times: Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
The Consulate is closed in the afternoons and on U.S. and Dutch Holidays.

USEFUL WEBSITES

General information about traveling to The Netherlands:

- U.S. Department of Education *Traveling Abroad*:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/international/edlite-going-abroad.html>
- U.S. Department of State *The Netherlands*:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_982.html

Facts about The Hague:

- The Hague: <http://www2.holland.com/denhaag/gb/>

Traveling in Europe:

- Eurail (information, tickets, prices, etc.): <http://www.eurail.com/>
- Rick Steve's Europe (packing tips, information, etc.): <http://www.ricksteves.com/>