

Tips, Information & Suggestions For Students Studying in The Hague, Netherlands Summer 2018



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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 2018. 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: Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from The Hague.

BASIC INFORMATION BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Register Your Trip

The United States State Department requests that U.S. citizens register their trip online with the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). Registration provides an added level of security to your trip in case something unexpected happens to you while abroad, or the area you are visiting experiences civil unrest. To register you will need to know your passport number, the countries you are traveling to, the dates traveling, and your emergency contact information.

Currency/Banks

Upon arrival, you should **immediately** change some U.S. currency into the local currency or consider acquiring some Euros before leaving the U.S. Both air and train stations have currency conversion desks. The Euro (€) is the official currency of the Netherlands. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2, 1, .50, .20, .10, .05, .02 and .01. To view the current currency conversion rates, visit www.xe.com or <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency>.

Banks are usually open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 2:00 p.m.

Another option would be to order Euros from your U.S. bank before you depart. You would need to place your order with your bank and allow approximately one week (depending on your bank) before your Euros are available to be picked up.

Home Bank & Credit Cards

If you plan to use a credit card in The Hague, you will fare much better if you have a “**Chip & PIN**” card. Not all American credit card issuers provide these, but some do. Some vendors in Europe will not accept Chip & Signature cards or our usual, signature only cards. Please inquire with your credit card issuer as to the availability of a Chip & PIN card prior to your trip. Having one of these will save you a lot of uncertainty.

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 or credit card abroad, you should inform your bank of the dates and countries in which you will be traveling. Even if you contact your credit card company make sure that you have a toll-free number you may reach them with, since they may still cancel or freeze your credit card as you move 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. Most foreign ATMs only accept four digit pin numbers. If you have more than four digits you should consider changing your pin with your bank prior to departure.

***Note:** In the past, students have had problems using their credit cards at some locations in The Hague, so do try to bring some cash and your debit card just in case.

ARRIVAL IN THE HAGUE

It is suggested that you book your flight to Schiphol International Airport in Amsterdam and take the train to The Hague. The train trip should take around thirty minutes. Instructions on how to purchase a train ticket follow.

Please note: You MUST arrive by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 8th, or you will need to arrange for alternative accommodations that night. You need to be checked in and ready to attend the mandatory orientation at 6:00 p.m.

More information about Schiphol International Airport can be found at:
<http://www.schiphol.com/Travellers/ToFromSchiphol.htm>

Getting from SCHIPHOL AIRPORT to The Hague by train:

There is a direct connection from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to The Hague (also known as Den Haag). Even at night, a train leaves every hour and travels between Utrecht, Amsterdam, Schiphol, The Hague, and Rotterdam. There are two train stations in The Hague. There is The Hague Central Station (CS) and Holland Spoor (HS). You can easily find your way to the Institute for Social Studies (ISS) from either station.



Train tickets: Train tickets are available from the yellow ticket machines near the platforms at Schiphol Plaza. You can purchase tickets from the machines with cash or credit card (**but only the Chip & PIN credit cards are accepted at the kiosks as well as at the ticket counters**). Tickets are also available from the ticket offices, which are situated near the red/white-checked cube at Schiphol Plaza. Staff at the ticket offices will also be able to provide you with train departure information.



Our housing and classrooms are located at the Institute for Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague.



The address and contact information for the ISS is:

Institute of Social Studies (ISS)	
Address: Kortenaerkade 12 2518 AX The Hague	Phone: 011 + (31)(70) 4260-460
http://www.iss.nl	Fax: 011 + (31)(70) 4260-799

How to reach the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) from each train station in The Hague:

➔ **Public Transportation:**

- From The Hague 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 Taxi:**

As you will have your luggage with you on arrival, you should consider taking a taxi to the ISS. Most taxi drivers in The Hague speak English. Ask the driver to take you to the Institute for Social Studies (ISS) at Kortenaerkade 12. Taxi fares are calculated on a basic rate, which is Euro (€) 2.08 plus a fixed rate for each kilometer travelled. The total cost should be €12 – €15 depending upon which train station you arrive.

Directions to Housing from the (ISS):

If you are facing the front of the ISS building, the student housing is to the left. However, the main entrance to the dorm does not face Kortenaerkade Street. It faces the courtyard shared with other buildings. **Please note: You MUST arrive by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 2nd.** You must be checked in and ready to attend the mandatory orientation at 6:00 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

Train

Aside from the direct connection from Schipol Airport to The Hague, 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>

Information about train travel

The journey planner on the NS website will provide you with information on the fastest and shortest route for your trip. [Netherlands Railways \(Nederlandse Spoorwegen\)](#) The website also contains the latest travel information, including details of temporary timetable changes.

Taxi

In The Hague, 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, you can 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

The summer rates for an HCT City Taxi from Amsterdam Schiphol to The Hague varies between €58 – €67. The less expensive option would be to take the train from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport to either The Hague Central Station or Hollands Spoor Station. Once at one of the train stations in The Hague, then you can take a €12 – €15 taxi ride to the Institute of Social Studies. Alternatively, instead of taking a taxi to the ISS, you could utilize the tram system outlined below.

Uber is also currently available in The Hague.

Public Transportation

OV-Chipkaart (OV-chipcard)

It is highly recommended that students purchase an OV-Chipkaart upon arrival in Amsterdam. The Ov-Chipkaart costs €7.50 and can be bought at the service desk at the train station or at a machine. Remember this is only the cost of the card, so you must add credit to travel. **YOU MAY NOT ADD MONEY TO YOUR OV-CHIPKAARD USING A CREDIT CARD** (you can only use debit or cash (recommended)). These cards are valid throughout all of the Netherlands and work on the bus, tram, metro, and train. If you wish to use your Ov-Chipkaart on the train (highly recommended) you must remember to activate it to perform this function. The card can be activated at an NS Ticket Station or a service station **(remember to tell the person to add this to the card when you purchase the card, if you are buying it from a teller)**. Also note that you need a €20 balance on the card before boarding the train (this doesn't apply to the metro, tram, or buses). It is strongly encouraged that you purchase one of these - it is incredibly useful and cost-effective as it gets very expensive to buy individual tickets for all forms of travel.

For more information on how to use the card, activate the card, and purchase the card; please see this website: <http://www.holland.com/us/tourism/transport/getting-around-in-holland/ov-chip-card-5.htm>

It is possible to buy bus, metro, and tram tickets from the driver, if needed. However, this will cost you more money than using the OV-chipkaart.

Information

For information about public transport in The Hague, for example routes, timetables, and ticket options, 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].

Staying in The Hague, The Netherlands

Culture Shock

While you are no doubt prepared for Europe to be different from the United States, you may not be aware that Americans do often suffer what is called "culture shock" on arrival. Europe differs greatly from the United States in such areas as class structure, attitudes to service, and standard of living. Therefore, the quality of accommodation(s), gender attitudes, etc. are quite different than in the United States, 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 United States. 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 before you leave. 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 may be pickpockets in crowded “touristy” areas. Many of the people committing these crimes are children. Be careful!

Computers

Students should bring computers for their studies. However, this is a personal decision on each student’s part. The pros and cons of bringing laptops are discussed in the FAQs page of the program website. Some students who want to have a constant digital companion, but find their laptops bulky, opt to bring smaller Wi-Fi enabled devices like iPods, iPads, and smart-phones whose service can be switched from cellular to Wi-Fi. A limited number of power strips will be available in the classroom for your use. However, you will need to provide an adapter to use with the power strips.

Please note that you will need a computer in order to take the final exams. The exams will be sent via e-mail on the Monday following the last day of class, and you will have until the next Monday (approximately eight days) to take and upload your exams. **The exams are administered via ExamSoft, so you must use your own computer to accomplish this as you will not be able to download the software and templates to public computers or tablets.**

Dress

Dress for class, and social events, is casual. For court visits you will be expected to wear professional attire. For males this means a business suit and tie (jackets are not required), as well as suitable/comfortable (no athletic shoes) footwear. Females should wear a business suit—pants or skirts are appropriate (jackets are not required). The skirt should touch the knee, and the shirt should be appropriately cut. Comfortable/professional shoes (not flip-flops, strappy sandals, or tennis shoes) should be worn as you will be expected to walk. For non-court visits organized by the program, business casual clothing is appropriate. Business casual does not include shorts, jeans, t-shirts, tank tops or baseball caps. It does include comfortable shoes, but not flip-flops or tennis shoes.

Electric Appliances

Electricity in the Netherlands is supplied at 220 or 225 volts and a frequency of 50Hz. The U.S. electrical system is based on 110 or 120 volts. You may want to bring plug adapters, transformers, or converters and batteries to operate your equipment. While U.S.-purchased hair dryers will operate in the Netherlands, they frequently “burn-out” or “trip” electrical breakers. You are encouraged to purchase a 220-volt hair dryer when you arrive in the Netherlands. It may also be possible to find a dual-voltage hair dryer in the U.S.

Housing and Laundry

All the rooms in The Hague are single rooms with private baths and have been recently renovated. The rooms are not air-conditioned, but all rooms have functional windows for temperature control. You will be provided bed linens upon arrival. Wireless access is available in the rooms. The building houses students from all over the world. Every 4-5 rooms share a common kitchen. Laundry facilities (4 washers, 4 dryers) are provided without charge

at the housing, but you will need to provide your own detergent. The classroom building is across the street from the housing.

Fitness Center/Gym

Caeser Sports is located near the ISS, and monthly memberships (tickets) are available, however, it is extremely pricey.

Internet

Wireless access is available throughout the ISS and the housing. No additional charge is assessed for access to the wireless network. With your Stetson University College of Law e-mail account, you will have access to the eduroam network which is used at the ISS.

Meals

As part of the housing arrangement, you are provided breakfast and lunch at the ISS cafeteria Monday through Friday. It is served in a buffet/cafeteria arrangement.

On-Line Courses Discouraged

As internet access overseas is frequently less dependable than in the U.S., we discourage students from enrolling in on-line academic classes while studying abroad. It is not impossible, but we want students to understand the limitations they may encounter.

Shopping:



Most shops are open from Tuesday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. On Monday, many shops are closed in the mornings and open between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and close by 6:00 p.m. Most cities have late-night shopping (until 9:00 p.m.) on Thursdays or Fridays. In the main cities, many shops are open on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (city centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin)

Late night shopping: every Thursday until 9:00 p.m. (city centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin)

Banks:

Business hours differ between banks. Most banks are open from Tuesday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. On Mondays business hours start mainly at 1:00 p.m. 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 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bigger ones are also open on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00/12:30 p.m.

Pharmacies

Regular business hours are Monday to Friday between 8/9:00 a.m. and 5:30/6:00 p.m. On nights and weekends, pharmacies are open on a rotation schedule.

Restaurants:

Business hours vary, but usually restaurants are open for lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30/3:00 p.m. and for dinner from 5:30-10/11:00 p.m.

Museums:

Business hours vary; however, most museums are open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. every day of the week, except Monday.

International and Local Calling

Please check with your cell phone provider regarding international plans and options.

You may also consider the option of purchasing a pay-as-you-go phone in The Hague for the month that you are in country, though in choosing this option, understand that you will not be able to “call” your American friends on their U.S. phones. The pay-as-you-go phones are better used for GPS guidance around the city and for social media.

Country code:	31	The Hague area code:	70
Outgoing international code:	00		

Another option is Skype, the free computer program that lets you communicate with other computers that have the program. For more information go to: www.skype.com.

Google Voice is also a free computer program that allows very cheap calls to foreign phones. For more information go to www.google.com/voice.

Tipping

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.

Useful Dutch Phrases

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

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. Also, don't forget a light jacket because summer in Holland can be cool and rainy.

- **Business professional attire (see page 8) for court/legal institution visits**
- **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 than you do at home. Waterproof or leather shoes are best.
- Copies of your passport and plane ticket, 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.
- Chartis/AIG insurance 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).
- Medications – bring all your medications and carry all medication in your carry-on luggage.
- **Pack a change of clothes in carry-on luggage in case of luggage delay.**
- 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 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.
 - **NOTE: The local grocery store in Holland is called ALBERT HEIJN (It is like a Dutch Publix) and there are few nearby the ISS residence if you need groceries, toiletries, etc.**

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

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Stetson University College of Law	
Office of International Programs	International Programs Department
Address: 1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL 33707	Phone: (727) 562-7849
	Fax: (727) 231-0723
E-mail: kcohen@law.stetson.edu or swanegan@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

Embassy of the United States, The Hague	
Lange Voorhout 102 2514 EJ The Hague	Telephone: (31) (70) 310-2209
	Facsimile: (31) (70) 310-2207
http://thehague.usembassy.gov/	

Consulate General of the United States, Amsterdam	
Museumplein 19 1071 DJ Amsterdam	Telephone: (31) (20) 575-5309
	Emergency after-hours telephone: (31) (70) 310-2209
	Facsimile: (31) (20) 575-5330
http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/	

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/>
- www.eurail.com
 - The Eurail Pass:
 - Eurail Global Pass Youth- provides travel throughout 18 countries for 15 non-consecutive days of travel usable within 2 months. From \$439.
 - Eurail Select Pass- provides travel in 3, 4, or 5 bordering countries for 5, 6, 8, or 10 days. From \$279.
 - According to the Eurail website you should buy the Eurail pass in the U.S. before you go, because the same packages are not available there.
- www.ryanair.com
- www.easyjet.com
 - Europe has inexpensive airfare; you just have to be diligent in checking the websites for deals. The flights will be on time, however, there are no amenities. If you require in-flight services like food and drink please be ready to pay for them separately. Pack a bag that you can either store overhead or under the seat as checking bags usually costs more than the ticket itself.