



university of
groningen

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groningen

2024 entry

BA/BSc

Liberal Arts and
Sciences at UCG

open academic community – since 1614

Liberal Arts and Sciences at UCG

Groningen, The Netherlands

Are you committed to addressing the complex, societal challenges of the 21st century?
Do you want to develop your full potential in an international and interdisciplinary environment? Students of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) have all it takes to become thought leaders and innovators capable of executing solutions to challenges posed by our rapidly changing world.



Welcome to Groningen

Our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme offers students from all around the world an intensive and modern curriculum tailored to your own strengths and interests. Through academic teaching and interdisciplinary projects, we motivate students to critically think about solutions to global problems.

We aim to create an inspiring community with both satisfied students and satisfied teachers and staff. Our goal is to offer a strong interdisciplinary LAS programme in which lecturers are eager to contribute, and students feel inspired to develop themselves in all kinds of areas. We want to motivate you to explore and see what sparks your passion and interests, to get involved in what matters.

We look forward to welcoming you to Groningen!

What makes UCG unique?

Freedom to create your own interdisciplinary major

Guaranteed housing in the best student city: Groningen

Small-scale education in an internationally diverse classroom

LAS faculty in top research university setting

The UCG Philosophy

– a new kind of graduate

Our mission is to challenge you, and to give you the space and support to thrive.

Our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme is designed to empower you to forge your own path, develop your own identity, and find your position in a constantly changing world.

1 Experiential Education

Students put their existing knowledge and experience to work, pulling in new knowledge when and where it is needed the most.

2 Interactive and Small-scale Learning Environment

Students integrate and further develop knowledge, rather than just store it.

3 Focus on Societal Issues

Students and lecturers apply knowledge to complex, real-world situations.

4 Interdisciplinarity

Students combine knowledge from multiple disciplines because complex situations – like climate change or the refugee crisis, or the future of capitalism – cannot be addressed effectively by one discipline alone.

5 Resilient & Resourceful

Students develop the ability to recognise or even create opportunities, which complements Liberal Arts and Sciences skills like creative and critical thinking, clear and compelling communication and the ability to contribute to (and lead) a team.

Our vision

Our vision is to give our students both specialised expertise and a broad interdisciplinary perspective. For this, we aim to turn classrooms into laboratories: spaces where students and lecturers work across disciplines to diagnose and provide solutions to complex problems.

Patric Hansen – Class of 2021

The teaching at UCG is very different than the stereotypical University picture someone might have in mind. There are not hundreds of students packed in one lecture hall, where the individual drowns in the collective and is merely seen by the lecturer as one of the masses. I feel that the UCG student is seen as an individual, especially because of the small class sizes. This setting creates a closer relationship to the lecturer. You receive information in a different way, which is more direct and therefore more useful.



Create your own career!

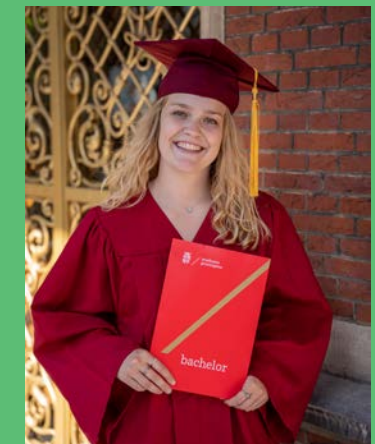
Liberal Arts and Sciences skills give graduates the flexibility to move between careers and even create their own. Project management skills and intercultural competences, along with communication, creativity and critical analysis skills are in demand both by employers and Master programmes. Students who graduate with the LAS undergraduate degree are prepared for a broad range of Master programmes and career options.

The programmes our recent alumni are pursuing include:

- › MSc Environmental Psychology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › MSc Service Systems Design at Aalborg University, Denmark
- › MA Media and Business, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- › MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology and Victimology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › LLM International Human Rights Law and Global Criminal Law, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › MSc Business Administration, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › MSc Cancer, Stem Cells and Developmental Biology, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- › Pre-Master Medicine, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › MA Development Studies, Governance and Public Policy, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
- › MSc Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- › MSc Cultural Anthropology: Sustainable Citizenship, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- › MSc Biomedical Sciences, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- › MSc Change Management, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › MA International Humanitarian Action, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › Research MSc Economics and Business, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- › MA Conflict, Security and Development, King's College London, United Kingdom

Nienke Visser – Class of 2021

Before studying Liberal Arts and Sciences I would have not been able to have such deep and meaningful conversations in the way I am able to now. The focus at UCG is on professional and social interactions between peers. Since we were all brought together in UCG's student housing in our first year, and we had to work together in a highly international group of students, we learned how to interact efficiently. I have grown as a person. I am able to have critical discussions and I can honestly listen to others and take their opinions into consideration. To me, these lessons are extremely valuable.



Did you know...

You will likely have 4–5 different careers in your lifetime?

You will likely pursue a career that doesn't exist right now?

That many jobs that exist right now may no longer exist when you graduate?

LAS skills make you competitive in this quickly-changing environment!

Guidance at UCG

Personal Support

The UCG Personal Support Advisor is available for specialised assistance for a wide range of issues that can affect students' study progress.

Some examples of things we can help you with are exam provisions, studying with a disability, time management, burn-out prevention or financial support. In addition to this we offer helpful workshops on well-being and study skills that are valuable for every student.

Academic Advice

All students are assigned an Academic Advisor. The top priority of the Academic Advisor is to support a students' decision-making processes and to construct their curricula in line with their interests and future academic goals.

Students receive counsel about determining priorities, keeping performances in line with their goals and about academic options, also outside of the UCG curriculum.



Career Guidance

The main objective of the UCG Career team is to help students envision their future and to help students become employability ready at the end of their bachelor degree. We support this goal by organising networking events, offering career advice sessions and by hosting various workshops and trainings.



Sybe van den Top – Class of 2023

I've always had very broad interests, ranging from economics to philosophy and psychology. I did not want to limit myself to only studying one discipline, and when I heard that at University College Groningen (UCG) I did not have to, I was sold. Studying at UCG means frequently working together in interdisciplinary group-projects, an element that I really enjoy. Coming from a small town in the Netherlands, I was looking to broaden my horizon after high school. This is what attracted me to the culturally diverse environment at UCG. After experiencing an international and welcoming community first-hand during an open day, I knew that this was the place for me! Living together in the student housing creates a very tight-knit group of students; everyone knows each other, which is a lot of fun. I can't imagine any other university that makes me feel this at home.



The UCG Community

Based in the student city of Groningen, UCG resides in the heart of a vibrant, diverse community of young people from all over the world. With students comprising one in four of the city's 232.652 residents, Groningen is both enormously fun and a safe place to live. UCG students have the opportunity to live and study together, forging a unique community from each other's distinct experiences and different cultural backgrounds.



Left to right Gina Pinas, Eva Smidt, Sonia Mascarell, Diana te Braake and Jaclyn Connolly



The UCG Student Profile

Are you...

- > curious and ambitious?
- > interested in a variety of different subjects?
- > eager to work in small-scale, culturally diverse and interactive learning settings?
- > ready to work collaboratively and creatively on interdisciplinary projects?
- > motivated to push your intellectual and personal boundaries?

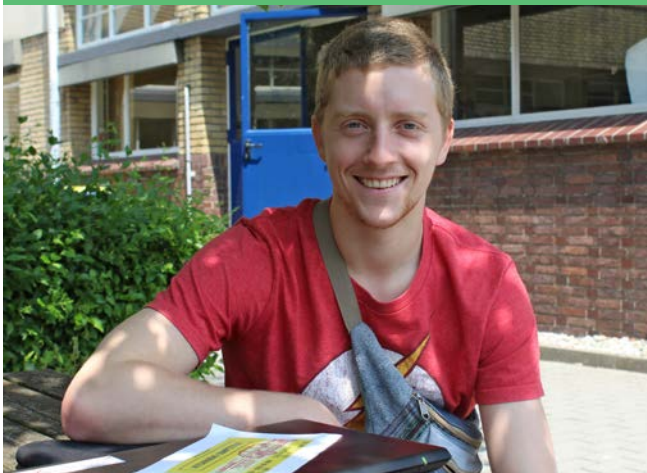
If you answered **"YES!"** to these questions, University College Groningen may be your academic home!

UCG offers you a diverse international community. You will find students from...

Canada, Finland, India, USA, Tanzania, France, Cyprus, Italy, China, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Indonesia, Poland, Panama, Romania, Spain, Paraguay, Ireland, Croatia... just to name a few!

Johannes Meyer – Class of 2021

At UCG there are a multitude of different characters from different backgrounds. Getting to know all these people was both interesting and helped me as a person to grow and get a broader view of the world.



The UCG Curriculum and Projects

In the projects in all three years you will apply your academic knowledge, develop new solutions to real-world problems and collaborate with students from all over the world as part of an active and engaged learning community.

YEAR 1 Explore a wide range of academic disciplines while you learn key academic skills (such as how to conduct interdisciplinary research) in the UCG core programme.

The first-year project is highly structured to build confidence with project-based learning in an interdisciplinary framework. For instance, in the Global Migration Crisis project students studied public policy on specific aspects of global migration and then developed sustainable and equitable policy solutions at the EU or UN level.

YEAR 2 Choose your major specialisation (or begin developing a free major) and further develop research and methodology practices appropriate to your chosen field(s).

In the second-year project the responsibility starts to shift from the supervisor to the student. At the same time students apply knowledge mastered in the second year in a more advanced project. For instance, in the Project 'Noorderbrug 'Break Out,' UCG students majoring in Health and Life Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities collaborated with students from the Art Academy Minerva and people with a disability to address spaces of in-and exclusion in Groningen.

YEAR 3 You can choose to study abroad, do an internship or pursue a minor and complete your thesis

In the final year students become project managers and assume responsibility for assembling and leading their teams. The entrepreneurial mindset allows the development and valorization of project topics of interest to future employers and masters programmes. For instance, the Ghana Project resulted in the creation of a documentary film on Fairtrade and Organic Cocoa Production.

More information about project-based learning and different types of projects can be found on the UCG website. www.rug.nl/ucg/education/

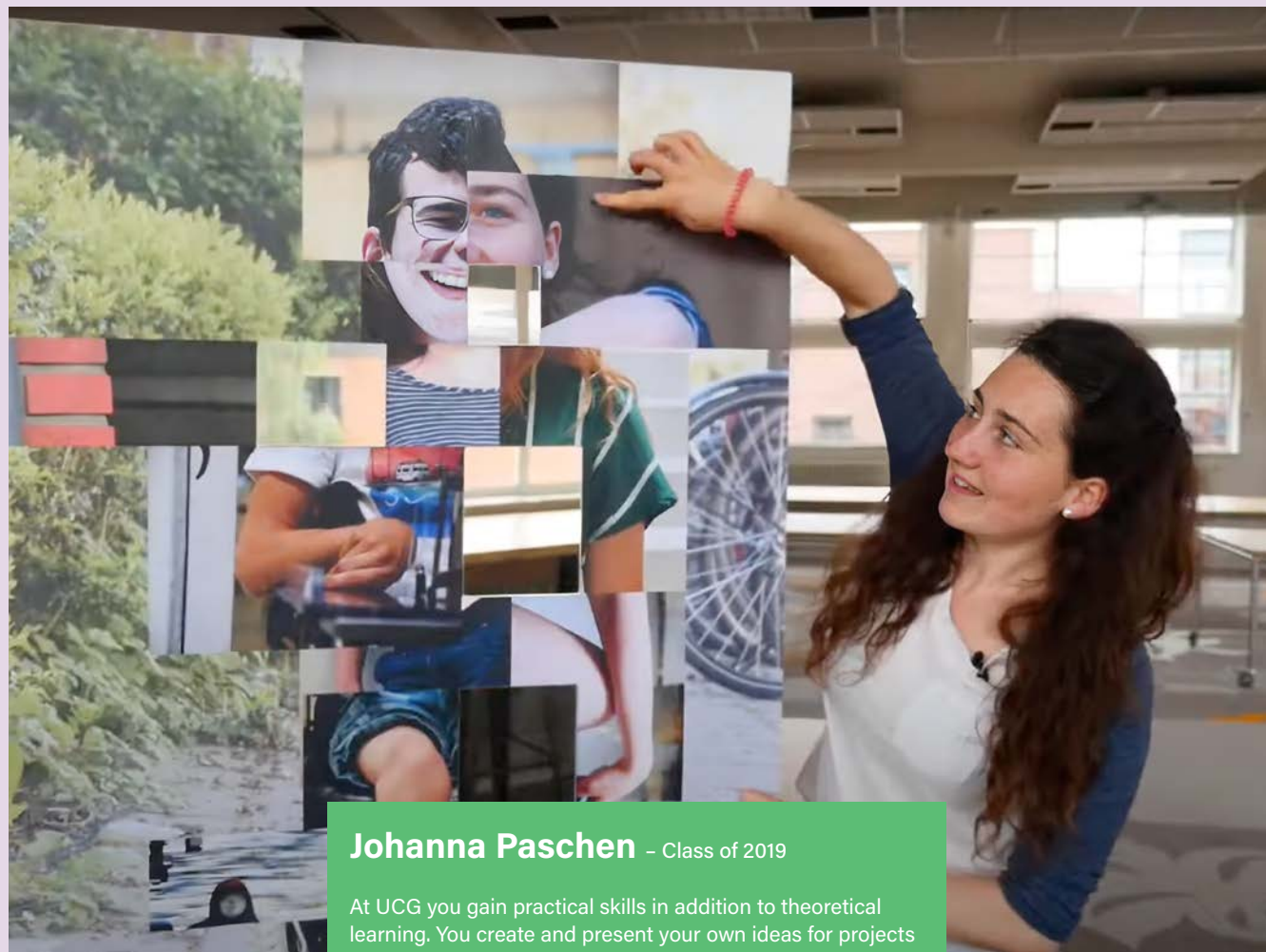


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Project-based education at UCG

Projects provide the context for experiential learning. Here existing and new scholarship is applied to practical situations, using collaborative problem-solving skills. Students make sense of the world and their role within it.



Johanna Paschen – Class of 2019

At UCG you gain practical skills in addition to theoretical learning. You create and present your own ideas for projects with the support of supervisors.

In my first year I was part of the Neighbourhood Priorities project where we researched environmental sustainability, followed by my second-year project Noorderbrug – Break Out where we spend time and did research with people with disabilities and presented the results at conferences in Rotterdam and Maynooth, Ireland.

My third-year project is called Notes on Synchrony, and we are investigating the inter-brain synchrony between contemporary dancers by using EEG. The idea is that the Arts and Sciences are collaborating on research together.

Areas of Expertise

We offer a number of focus areas within our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme. Reflecting our interdisciplinary ethos, these areas transcend conventional disciplinary boundaries. Instead, they are connected by something else: shared questions, shared themes, or shared methods.

Furthermore, for those students who want to forge their own path, we are the only University College to also offer a free major. Free major students are able to customise their own programme in a way that is impossible almost anywhere else in the Netherlands.

Sciences

- > Smart Technologies
- > Mind, Machines and Morality
- > Health & Life Sciences

Social Sciences

- > Mind and Behaviour
- > Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- > International Relations & International law
- > International Business & Entrepreneurship

Humanities

- > Arts & Philosophy

Free Major

Customise your own programme by combining courses from the Humanities, Social Sciences and/or Sciences.

For an overview of the courses we offer within these areas of expertise, please check out the course catalogue on: www.rug.nl/ucg/education



Study Abroad



Josien Scholing

Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ, United States

ASU is known for their very good PPE programme as well as their security courses. During my exchange I mostly finished my major with courses like policy-making, comparative politics and homeland security. I also followed one course for my minor, namely on the history of African-Americans in the US. This course inspired me to finish my Year 3 project in the US, researching the inherent racism in the US criminal justice system together with three students that I had met in this class. All of these courses were taught by fantastic teachers. The support I got for my project was also very good (a little inspiring too).

Where can you go?

There are many partner countries where you can spend your semester abroad. Currently, UCG has partner universities in the following countries: USA, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Japan and Morocco

In addition, UCG students have access to Multi-Faculty exchange (MFE) programs (with RUG's partner universities), which even further expands your access to programmes around the world. Some popular MFE destinations are Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Canada, USA, Mexico, India and others.



Double Degree programme with Ca' Foscari in Venice

Are you interested in a career in international public policy and would you like to increase your multicultural understanding of the trends in the world economy? Then the double degree programme with the Philosophy, International and Economic studies programme from Ca' Foscari University in Venice will suit you! This unique programme combines topics in the field of International Relations and (International) Political Economics and Philosophy, with a special focus on issues of economic integration and policy in a globalizing world. On top of this, you get to spend time at the historical Ca' Foscari University in Venice: the cultural hub of Italy. This Double Degree programme is for students interested in the Philosophy, Politics and Economics specialisation.



How to apply

We accept the following diplomas

- Netherlands: VWO diploma and HBO propaedeutic diploma
- International Baccalaureate: IB Diploma
- UK: A-Levels
- Germany: Abitur
- USA: AP tests or SAT scores

We take into account your GPA and your motivation to study at UCG. We'll ask you to provide evidence of proficiency in English and Mathematics.







Admission

You need to apply in Studielink and complete your online application. We have 150 spots available this academic year. We review applications on a rolling basis, so we advise you to apply early to secure your place at UCG!

For more information on application deadlines, entry requirements and the admission procedure please go to: www.rug.nl/ucg/application



Tuition fees and average living costs*

 TUITION - EU/EEA € 4,380 year	 ACCOMMO- DATION € 500 month	 STUDY ITEMS € 80 month	 FOOD & DRINK € 200 month
 TUITION - NON EU/EEA € 13,093 year	 INSURANCES € 100 month	 OTHER LIVING COSTS € 80 month	 BICYCLE € 50-100 one-off

*current information can be found on our website










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Meet us in Groningen!

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