

Western Kentucky University

Economics / Sociology
Amsterdam Study Abroad
Student Handbook



2015

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Welcome Letter

Students:

You are about to undertake what we expect to be one of the highlights of your academic career. This document is a guide to help you with your study abroad experience as part of **the Economics / Sociology Summer 2015 Amsterdam Study Abroad Program**.

We have planned an exciting itinerary for the program. You will be exposed to a new culture, have a significant exposure to history, and will be able to see some of the most wonderful works of art in the world.

The success of the program requires your complete participation. The expectations of the courses are outlined by the individual professors in materials available to you.

The culture in the countries you will be visiting is significantly different than that you have experienced at home. The Low Countries take a *tolerant* attitude toward many social issues, including sex and drugs, relying on individual freedom to make an informed choice. That does not mean that the majority of the inhabitants support such activities, but they support the individual's right to make a choice. Please be respectful of this when interacting with locals. Remember we are guests, and please act accordingly.

You should familiarize yourself with the WKU Study Abroad expectations as outlined at <http://www.wku.edu/studyabroad> and the program expectations outlined in the application, the course website (<http://people.wku.edu/dan.myers/amsterdam2015>), and on the Blackboard sites set up for this program. Failure to comply with the requirements may result in your dismissal from the program.

Sit back. Relax. Learn.

Matt Pruitt

Dan Myers

Student Expectations

Students participating in this program are under the same rules and regulations as students who are taking courses on campus. Please review the Code of Student Conduct which can be found in the WKU Student Handbook at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>. We expect students to participate in all program activities, assignments, and classes and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Should your behavior be deemed disruptive to the program, the directors reserve the right to dismiss you from both the program and the housing for the program and arrange for your immediate return to the US without refund. Any additional costs associated with dismissal will be the responsibility of the student.

Safety

Please visit the website <http://travel.state.gov> and click on the “country specific information” link, then select “Netherlands, The” for information concerning safety and health.

- Please be careful.
- Whenever possible, travel in groups.
- Do not behave in a manner that brings attention to you.
- Avoid demonstrations.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back.
- Do not invite strangers back to your room.

See http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html

See <http://www.studentsabroad.com> for tips regarding your trip.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, contact Dr. Myers or Dr. Pruitt. They will have their cell phones with them at all times. Upon arrival in Amsterdam (perhaps before) they will provide you with a local telephone number to reach them. To dial the US, press 001 or hold down the + key on your cell phone.

Here is a list of important phone numbers:

Dr. Myers	270-320-0210
Dr. Pruitt	615-397-0955
WKU Study Abroad (in BG)	270-745-6398 (Study Abroad Office)
WKU Police	270-745-2548
Amsterdam 9-1-1	1-1-2

Registration with US Department of State

WKU will register you for your trip to the Netherlands and Belgium. If you plan to take additional trips, please go to <http://travel.state.gov> and register your trip under the “Registration with Embassies” link. This provides the U.S. State Department with information that will enable them to more easily assist you should the need arise.

Travel Information

Flight Itinerary

July 15

Meet at the benches across from the United counter at 10:00 a.m. SHARP.

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

- Nashville (BNA) – Washington, Dulles (IAD)
- United 3400, 1:10 p.m. – 4:56 p.m.
 - Embraer RJ145
 - snack
- Washington (IAD) – Amsterdam, Schiphol (AMS)
- United 946, 5:20 p.m. – 7:15 a.m. (Thursday, July 11, 1:15 a.m. CDT)
 - Boeing 767 – 300
 - Dinner, snack, breakfast

Friday, August 7, 2015

- Amsterdam, Schiphol (AMS) – Houston International Airport (IAH)
- United 59, 11:10 a.m. (4:10 a.m. CDT) – 2:25 p.m. (1:25 p.m. CDT)
 - Boeing 777 – 200
 - Lunch, snack
- Houston International Airport (IAH) - BNA
- United 4210, 7:05 p.m. – 8:57 p.m.
 - Embraer RJ145
 - snack

Baggage Information

Visit <http://www.united.com>, click the “travel information” tab, then click the “baggage information” tab for regulations concerning checked and carry-on baggage. Note some airports outside of the US have additional restrictions regarding the number of carry-on bags.

Frequent Flyer

The United Mileage Plus frequent flyer program is a member of the Star Alliance. Other members include: U.S. Air and numerous other international carriers. If you do not have a frequent flyer number from one of the partner airlines, go to <http://www.united.com> and click the “Mileage Plus” tab and

enroll. Please send your frequent flyer number to Dr. Myers (dan.myers@wku.edu), and we will include it in your reservation. The trip will result in more than 8,000 miles toward the program.

In the Air

The transatlantic flights are both on Boeing 767 aircraft. There are personal inflight entertainment options for you at each seat at no additional charge. You may view the movies currently available by going to <http://www.united.com> under the section “travel information” then “inflight services” then under “inflight entertainment”. TO Amsterdam is eastbound. FROM Amsterdam is westbound.

You will be served one (probably two) meals on the flights between Washington and Amsterdam. If you have any special dietary restrictions, please see the information at <http://www.united.com> under the section “travel information” then “inflight services” then under “special meals”. Please send a message to Dr. Myers no later than June 1 if you need special meals. You will also be served snacks and beverages.

Nashville to Amsterdam

We will check in as a group. You will need to have your passport readily available. Once we check in at the Nashville airport, you will need to show both your passport and your boarding pass to clear security. Please check <http://www.tsa.gov> for regulations regarding things you can and cannot take onboard the aircraft. Be prepared to remove your shoes (and belt), and to remove your laptop from your carry-on bags when going through security.

In DC, you will be asked to show your passport at the gate prior to beginning the boarding process. Other than that, there are no additional screenings in DC, unless you choose to leave the secure area. Please make sure you are at the appropriate gate at least one hour prior to departure. Check the screens in the terminal, as gate assignments may change.

When we arrive in Amsterdam, we will pass through both immigration and customs. At immigration, you will present your passport and the entry forms that are passed out on the plane and should be completed on the plane. Once you pass immigration, you will collect your bags, and you will then proceed through customs. You may be selected for additional screening. Following customs, you will exit the secure area into Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

Amsterdam to Nashville

Leaving Amsterdam entails a more detailed screening and check in process. Have your passport and boarding pass readily available. They will ask you several security questions prior to going through the security screening area. Once you pass the security screening area, there are numerous duty free shops, restaurants, and other stores. There will probably be an additional screening when you reach the gate, at which time they will want to see your passport and your boarding pass.

When you arrive in Houston, you will first pass through Immigration then through customs. On the plane you will receive an I-94 form (customs declaration). Fill it out completely and have it ready to show at immigration, along with your passport. There are two immigration areas, one for US citizens and one for visitors. If you are traveling on US travel documents, use the US Citizens line. Once you

complete the immigration process you will go to the baggage claim area and get your bags. Carts are available free of charge. Take your bags to customs, hand the customs person your customs declaration form, and they will either tell you to go for additional screening or tell you to just continue on. If your luggage does not arrive, see an agent in the baggage area.

Once you complete the customs screening, you will take your bags and recheck them for the flight to Nashville. You will then be required to show your passport and boarding pass and go through the security checkpoint the same as in Nashville, including the x-ray, removing your laptop, etc. Check the screens for your gate and proceed to your gate.

The layover in DC is scheduled for slightly under three hours. This should allow plenty of time for you to clear immigration and customs and security. You should be at the gate ready to board no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Check the airport screens for the departure gate.

In Amsterdam

Amsterdam has a reputation for petty theft. Upon landing, it is not uncommon for there to be an announcement on the plane warning you to not leave your bags unattended and to beware of pickpockets. **BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS.** Be careful to not leave your backpacks, carry-on bags, purses, cameras, laptops, etc. unattended.

When we have cleared customs and immigration, there is a meeting point outside the security area. Everyone should move away from the doors and gather immediately across from the security doors. When everyone has come through the secure area, we will take a few minutes to stop at the ATM, use the restroom, grab a snack, and realize that you are now in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

We will take a train from the Airport to Amsterdam Centraal Station. Upon arrival at Centraal Station, we will leave the train and proceed to the street level where there is a GVB (public transportation) ticket office. There are elevators available. At that point, we will get your Amsterdam GVB Identification cards and your first week's transportation pass. If you lose your weekly pass, it is your responsibility to get it replaced.

We will then take the Metro (subway) to Weesperplein or the number 26 tram to the **Rietlandpark** stop and change to the number 10 tram to your residence. Your stop is **Korte's-Gravesandestraat**. You will have to walk a few blocks with your luggage, so it is advisable to take wheeled luggage.

You will receive your keys and go to your rooms and get settled. Once the students are situated, Drs. Pruitt and Myers will check into their rooms, and we will meet about an hour later to go grab some lunch, do some grocery shopping, and explore Amsterdam.

Your home in Amsterdam

As of now, your residence in Amsterdam is Sarphatistraat 145 – 157. It is located near the Artis Zoo, and is convenient to shopping and restaurants, and is easily accessible via public transportation. There is a grocery store in your building which is open daily from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. (from 10:00 a.m. on Sunday (Zondag)).

The group will be housed mostly in double rooms. You will share a kitchen, living room, and bathroom facilities with one other WKU student. There may be one room with up to four students. There is a bathroom (with shower, no tub) and a kitchen in each apartment. Dr. Pruitt and Dr. Myers will be in the same building as you. Should there be more students than originally planned, overflow housing may be located about a block away at Plantage Muidergracht 20. Your residence has washers and dryers available at no charge. You will need to supply your detergent. This is a public area shared by all residents in the building, so please be courteous.

You will have wired Internet access in your residence. You should plan to bring an Ethernet cable and/or wireless router for your room.

Some of these others in the building may be Dutch students and/or exchange students at the University von Amsterdam. Please be good citizens by cleaning up after yourselves in the public areas as well as behaving and keeping the noise level to a minimum.

Transportation in Amsterdam

Public transportation in Amsterdam consists of a combination of trams, buses, and a subway system. There is also a night bus service. Your transportation pass allows you to travel within the Centrum district on any of these during the day. Public transportation runs from 6:00 a.m. until midnight. The night busses are available from midnight until 6:00 a.m.

To and from your residences to the Centrum, Rembrandtplein, Dam, and Spui. Your stop is Plantage Badlaan.

Walk from your residence to Plantage Badlaan and take Trams 9 and 14

From town

- Tram 9 direction Diemen (from Centraal Station)
- Tram 14 direction Flevopark
- To town
 - Tram 9 direction Centraal Station
 - Tram 14 direction Sloterpark
- The Metro (subway) system has been under construction for the past few summers. However, it appears it will be operational when we are there. You may take any Metro train from Centraal Station and exit the third stop which is Weesperplein. Your apartment is about 2 blocks from this station.

To and from your residences to Leideseplein and take either Tram 7 or Tram 10. Your stop is **Korte's-Gravesandestraat**.

- To Leideseplein
 - Tram 10 direction Van Hallstraat
 - Tram 7 direction Westergasfabriek
- From Leideseplein
 - Tram 10 direction Azartplein
 - Tram 7 direction Flevopark

Night bus system

There is a system of night busses available after midnight. If you are using the night bus system, you want to catch bus 357 from Centraal Station in the direction of Gaasperplas. You will get off the bus at Plantage Badlaan. On weeknights the bus runs every hour from Centraal Station at 12:53, 1:53, 2:53, 3:53, 4:53, and 5:53. This bus stops at the following popular stops: Dam, Spui, Muntplein, Rembrandtplein, and Waterlooplein on its way from Centraal Station to Plantage Badlaan.

If you are returning from a place that is not on route 357, take any bus to Centraal Station or one of the stops mentioned above, and transfer to the 357.

Useful Information

Electricity

The current throughout Europe is 240 volts. In the US it is 120. Your electrical appliance will not fit into the plugs. It is necessary to have an adapter and/or current converter. These should be purchased prior to the trip and taken with you. They are available at Target, Walmart, Radio Shack, AAA, and other retail outlets. The stores in Europe do not usually stock converters or adapters for US to European, and when you can find them they are expensive. Note, the plugs in England are different from those in Northern Europe.

Check the electrical appliances you plan to take. If they have a converter (laptops, cell phones, etc.) there should be a sticker listing the current that is safe to use. My laptop and cell phone both list "100 – 240 volts" so all I will need for that is an adapter, so the US plug will fit into the Northern Europe plug. If your appliance lists something less than 220/240 or does not have a sticker on it, then assume it will work only with 120 volts and make sure you use a converter that changes the current from 240 to 120. Otherwise you are likely to fry your iPod or your hairdryer.

Money

Work out a budget prior to leaving and stick to it as closely as possible. Remember to plan for gifts, souvenirs, entertainment, meals, and independent travel.

The currency in the Netherlands and much of Europe is the euro (€). On January 15, 2015 the exchange rate was \$1.16 meaning it will cost you \$1.16 for each €. If you find an item that costs 10€, the cost is US dollars is $10\text{€} \times 1.16 \text{\$/€} = \$11.60$.

The most convenient way to exchange money is to use your credit and debit cards. They will work in most ATM machines throughout Europe. When you receive money, it is in euro, so if you press 100€ on the ATM it will cost you \$116.00 (with the exchange rate above) plus bank fees.

Please notify your bank(s) that you will be using your card(s) in Europe. Ask if they belong to a network in the Netherlands. You will need a 4 digit pin for your card to work. Most US cards operate on the 4 digit pin system and on networks throughout Europe.

You may exchange cash and travelers checks at money exchange locations located in the Central Business District. This is a more costly and difficult way to get euro than using a debit or credit card. In addition, you will face a much less favorable exchange rate.

In emergency situations you will be able to receive wire transfers of money at several locations in Amsterdam.

Commas and decimals

Commas and decimals are reversed from the US convention in most of Europe. For example, one thousand in the US is printed as 1,000 while in the Netherlands it is 1.000. In the US you would write 1.54€ while in the Netherlands it would be 1,54€.

Telephones

To make an international call (back to the US, for example), you must dial 00 then the country code (for the US, that is a 1). If you wish to call the Gordon Ford College of Business, you would dial 00 1 270 745 6311. If you are using a cell phone to call home, you could press the "+" sign instead of 00.

The country code for The Netherlands is 31 and the city code is 20. Someone calling from the US would dial 011 31 20 then the number.

You should check with your local provider to see if your cell phone (complete with text messaging) will work in The Netherlands. You may need to pay an international access fee (monthly charge) to activate this service. In addition, you may be charged roaming fees and long distance fees to make calls. Check with your local provider for charges that will apply. This option could result in hefty charges when you return.

Some students opt to pick up a local sim card for their cell phones or purchase a cheap phone and pre-paid plan locally. These provide you with a local (Amsterdam) telephone number and low cost international calling rates. This would allow you to use your cell phone but have your friends pick up the cost of the international call. Your phone may need to be unlocked to allow the use of another sim card. You should check with your local provider prior to departure and ask them to unlock your phone. Others have purchased a phone while in the Netherlands.

Another method of making phone calls is to use an international calling card. These can be purchased in Amsterdam.

You may also use your long distance services (ATT, MCI, etc) to make calls back to the US. Please check with your long distance carrier to obtain local (Amsterdam) access numbers to use and inform them you may be using your calling cards in Europe.

Time

The Netherlands is on Central Europe Time (CET) which is 7 hours ahead of the Central Time Zone. Thus, at 1:00 p.m. in Bowling Green, it is 8:00 p.m. in Amsterdam. To find the time at home, subtract 7 hours. Thus, at 11:00 in Amsterdam it is 4:00 in the US.

Time in Europe is often stated in 24 hour clock, or military time. Thus, 3:45 p.m. is 3:45 + 12 hours, or 15:45.

Weather

The average high in July is around 71 degrees. The average low is around 53 degrees. These are averages, and it is known to get much warmer and much cooler.

What to bring

A rule of thumb is to put everything out you plan to bring, then put half of it back in the closet and drawers. You will have laundry facilities in your residence, and nobody in the group will think badly of you for wearing the same outfit two or three times.

Clothes

You will mostly need casual clothes. Perhaps one dress shirt and pants for the men and one nice outfit for the women. The evenings can be cool, so bring a light jacket and/or sweater. The days can be warm, so shorts and jeans are suggested.

Shoes

Amsterdam is a walking and biking town. Be prepared to walk long distances. Bring comfortable shoes. Some places (i.e. some dance clubs) frown on tennis shoes, so you should pack one pair of nicer leather shoes.

Linens

Bedding will be provided, including a pillow. You should bring a towel and washcloth or plan to purchase those upon arrival. If you need your own pillow, bring it with you.

Toiletries

Quality toiletries are available. A three week supply of shampoo and conditioner may be heavy, so perhaps you would want to bring a small amount and purchase more on site.

You should bring a supply of any prescription drugs you need to last the entire trip. These should be carried in the original container.

Ethernet cable and/or wireless router. Adapters and converters for electrical equipment.

What not to bring

You should not bring valuables.

Drugs

While Amsterdam is somewhat more tolerant than other places regarding the use of “soft drugs” the possession and distribution of drugs is a crime. You should become familiar with the laws.

From <http://www.amsterdam.info/drugs/>

Below is a posting from the U.S. State Department regarding drugs. See http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html.

Special Warning About Drug Offenses Abroad

Every year, several hundred Americans are arrested abroad on drug charges. Persons caught with illegal drugs in a foreign country are subject to the drug laws of that country, not those of the U.S.; as always, ignorance of the law is no excuse. In many countries, the burden of proof is on the accused to show that he or she is innocent of the charges.

Some Americans take advantage of an offer of an all-expenses-paid vacation abroad in exchange for carrying a small package in the luggage. When, to their surprise, they are caught, the fact that they did not know that there were drugs in that package will not reduce the charges against them.

Every aspect of a drug arrest abroad can be different from U.S. practice. For instance:

- few countries provide a jury trial
- many countries do not permit pre-trial release on bail
- pre-trial detention, often in solitary confinement, can last several months
- prisons may lack even minimal comforts, such as beds, toilets, and washbasins
- diets are often inadequate and require supplements from relatives and friends
- officials may not speak English
- physical abuse, confiscation of property, degrading treatment and extortion are possible.
- persons convicted may face sentences ranging from fines and jail time, to years of hard labor, and even the death penalty
- penalties for drug possession and for drug trafficking are often the same abroad, so possession of one ounce of marijuana could result in years in a foreign jail

Check the following sites for information regarding drugs in Amsterdam.

<http://www.amsterdam.info/drugs/>

<http://www.thesite.org/travelandfreetime/travel/beingthere/amsterdamdruglaws>

<http://www.world66.com/europe/netherlands/amsterdam/drugs>

Amsterdam Facts and Figures

Inhabitants:	820,000
Inhabitants Greater Amsterdam:	1.5 million+-
Nationalities:	173
Bicycles:	600.000
Parks:	28
City trams:	232
Ferryboats:	9
Markets:	21
Flower Market:	1
Shops:	10.334
Antique shops:	165
Diamond polishing factories:	24
Canals:	165
Bridges:	1.281
Houseboats:	2.500
16th, 17th and 18th century buildings:	6.800
Gablestones:	654
Windmills:	6
Museums:	51
Art galleries:	141
Paintings of Rembrandt:	22
Nightwatch:	1
Paintings of Van Gogh:	206
Wax statues at Madame Tussaud's:	140
Animals at the Artis Zoo:	6.100
Cafés and bars:	1.402
Discotheques:	36
Restaurants:	755

Source: <http://www.amsterdam.info/basics/figures/>

The Netherlands Facts and Figures

- Name: Kingdom of the Netherlands
- In Dutch: Koninkrijk der Nederlanden
- Area slightly less than twice the size of New Jersey
- Borders Germany, Belgium, North Sea
- Constitutional monarchy
 - Declared independence from Spain 1579
 - Recognized by Spain 1648
 - Belgium seceded in 1830
- Capital – Amsterdam
- Seat of Government – The Hague (Den Haag)
- Languages
 - Dutch (official), Frisian (official)
- Population 16,887,351
- King Willem-Alexander since April 30, 2015. He succeeded Queen Beatrix, his mother.

- Prime Minister Mark Rutte (Appointed by Queen Beatrix in 2010)
- 12 provinces (Amsterdam is in Nord Holland)
- Economy
 - 76% services
 - 3% agriculture
 - 25% industry

Source: <http://www.cia.gov>

Belgium Facts and Figures

- Name: Kingdom of Belgium
- In French/Dutch/German: Royaume de Belgique (French)/Koninkrijk België (Dutch)/Koenigreich Belgien (German)
- Area slightly less than twice the size of Maryland
- Borders France, the Netherlands, North Sea
- Federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy
 - Declared independence from the Netherlands in 1830
- Capital and seat of government – Brussels
- Languages (official)
 - French, Dutch, and German
- Population 10,449,361
- King Philippe since 2013. He succeeded his father.
- Prime Minister Elio del Rupo (Appointed 2011)
- Three regions: French, Brussels (Capital), and Flemish
- Economy
 - 76% services
 - 0.8% agriculture
 - 22.6% industry

Source: <http://www.cia.gov>

Amsterdam 2015

Tentative Itinerary

Week One

Wednesday, July 15

- Depart Nashville

Thursday, July 16

- Arrive Amsterdam Schiphol Airport
- Train from Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam Centraal Station
- Procure transportation passes
- Tram/Subway to apartments
- Check-in at apartments
- Exploration of area surrounding apartments
 - Review of expectations and emergency plan
- Tram tour of Amsterdam
- Group dinner at Saturnino
- Walking tour of Wallen

Friday, July 17

- Shopping (morning)
- Flea market
- Bike tour of Amsterdam (confirmed 15:30)
 - Lecture on economic, social, and cultural history of Amsterdam and the Netherlands

Saturday, July 18

- Shopping (morning)
- Canal tour of Amsterdam
 - Lecture on economic, social, and cultural history of Amsterdam and the Netherlands

Sunday, July 19

- Explore Amsterdam
- Vondelpark

Amsterdam 2015
Tentative Itinerary
Week Two

Monday, July 20

- Class in morning
- Projects in afternoon

Tuesday, July 21

- Rijksmuseum
- Prostitution Information Center (6:30 p.m. scheduled)
 - Lecture
 - Guided tour

Wednesday, July 22

- Class in morning

Thursday, July 23

- Dutch Resistance Museum (afternoon)
- Anne Frank House (9:00 appointment confirmed)

Friday, July 24

- Class in morning
- Free from noon until Monday Morning

Saturday – Sunday, July 25– 26

- Free weekend for travel or to explore Amsterdam

Amsterdam 2015
Tentative Itinerary
Week Three

Monday, July 27

- Class in morning
- Hash, Hemp, and Marijuana Museum

Tuesday, July 28

- Travel to Brussels
- Lecture at European Commission (3:00)
- Explore Brussels
- Ibis Hotel off Grand Place
 - Grasmarkt 100
Rue du Marché aux Herbes 100
1000 - BRUSSELSBELGIUM
 - (+32)2/6200427 Fax :(+32)2/5145067

Wednesday, July 29

- Travel to Bruges
- Explore Bruges
- Travel to Amsterdam

Thursday, July 30

- Van Gough Museum
- Heroin Clinic and lecture (subject to change)

Friday, July 31

- Class in morning
- Free from noon until Monday Morning

Saturday – Sunday, August 1—August 2

- Free weekend for travel or to explore Amsterdam
- Amsterdam Gay Pride (<http://www.amsterdamgaypride.nl/>)

Amsterdam 2015
Tentative Itinerary
Week Four

Monday, August 2

- Class in morning

Tuesday, August 3

- Flower Auction (EARLY morning departure; tour at 7:15 a.m.)
- Our Lord in the Attic (afternoon)

Wednesday, August 4

- Class

Thursday, August 5

- Rembrandt House
- Group lunch
- Pack for return to US

Friday, August 6

- Out of rooms and in front of residence at 7:00 a.m.
- Travel from Amsterdam to Nashville

Note: on class days and on field trip days, students will be expected to also be working on assignments. More specific information regarding how the field trips tie into the individual courses will be provided in the course information.

Amsterdam 2015
General Information and Links

Field Trips

- [The Van Gogh museum](#). See original paintings of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Manet, Monet, Toulouse La-Lautrec, others.
- [The Rijksmuseum](#). Contains twenty Rembrandts and works of other Dutch Masters.
- [The Anne Frank House](#). Visit the house where the Frank family hid from the Nazis during World War II. Special tour and lecture.
- [Rembrandt House Museum](#). Housed in the home of Rembrandt van Rijn, the Rembrandt House Museum recently celebrated the 400th birthday of the noted painter. The museum contains an extensive collection of Rembrandt's etchings along with the works of many of his contemporaries.
- [Bike Tour of Amsterdam](#), including highlights on the history of Amsterdam, and important sociological and economic facts.
- [Prostitution Information Center](#). Founded in 1994 by a former prostitute, the PIC provides information and advice about prostitution to anyone who has questions. The visit will include a lecture and guided tour of the red light district.
- Heroin clinic and lecture.
- [Hash, Marijuana, and Hemp Museum](#).
- European Union Headquarters. A trip, including an overnight stay, is planned to Brussels, Belgium, the home of the European Union. A lecture is planned by the staff of the EU.
- [Flower Auction](#). The Aalsmeer Flower Auction accounts for over forty-four percent of the world's flower and plant sales and sets the price of flowers and plants daily. The auction is housed in the largest commercial building in the world. The visit includes a guided tour of the flower auction and a lecture.
- [Our Lord in the Attic](#). Our Lord in the Attic is a canal house built in the 17th century that was transformed into a hidden Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation when Catholics were forbidden from holding public services.

Other links

- US State Department
 - [Trips for Travelling Abroad](#)
 - [The Netherlands](#)
 - [Belgium](#)
 - [Legal information](#)
- [IAMsterdam](#)
 - [Transportation](#)

Checklist

Passport

- Get/renew your passport. Expiration date should be at least 6 months after the scheduled date of return.
- Make copies of the data page (w/your picture and passport number).
 - Leave a copy with someone at home.
 - Pack a copy in your luggage, and keep it somewhere other than where you store your passport.
 - Email a copy to Dr. Myers and Pruitt.
 - Scan a copy and email it to study.abroad@wku.edu

Credit Cards

- Contact your bank/credit/debit card issuer and inform them you will be traveling abroad.
- Make sure your cards will work on networks in Europe.
- Make copies of your credit card numbers and the “lost or stolen” contact numbers. Leave a copy with someone at home and take a copy with you.

Medications

- Take an adequate supply of prescription medications with you ***in the bottles from the pharmacy.***

Cell phones

- Check with your provider to see if
 - Your handset will work in the Netherlands
 - You have a plan that allows international calling
 - Your handset needs to be unlocked to allow additional simcards.

Carry On Bags

- Passport
- Medications
- Check the TSA website for regulations
- Check United web site for regulations
- You may want to use a carry on that you can use for the trip to Belgium and any other independent travel you plan.

Checked baggage

- Check United web site for regulations regarding number of bags, size, and weight restrictions.
- Remember you will have laundry facilities, and you will need to carry your bags for several blocks, so pack accordingly.

Things to bring

- Towel(s) and washcloth(s)
- Camera
 - rechargeable batteries (and charger) recommended

- Pens and pencils
- Casual clothes
- One “nice” outfit for EC and Flower Auction
- Comfortable shoes
- One pair of “nice” shoes
- Ethernet cable and/or wireless router (coordinate with your roommates)
- Shower curtain for your room (coordinate with your roommates; there may or may not be one there when you arrive)

Budget

- Make a budget
- Update your budget daily, make adjustments as necessary
- Remember you will be there for three weeks and do not need to experience everything the first week