**Groningen, The Netherlands**  
*University of Groningen*

USC’s exchange program in Groningen is designed to provide American students with first-hand knowledge of Dutch life and culture. Situated in the northern part of the country, Groningen (pop. 180,000) is approximately a 2 ½ hour train ride from Amsterdam. As the economic and cultural capital of the region, the city enjoys a bustling reputation while retaining a safe community character. Full of restaurants, pubs, art galleries, theatres, museums and bookshops, Groningen is suited to its youthful population and its inner-city markets and wide variety of shops attract a great number of regional and German visitors every day. Students will attend the University of Groningen which was founded in 1614. The University enjoys an international reputation as a leading research university but also offers various opportunities for indoor and outdoor extracurricular activities where students can meet and socialize with like-minded people.

Students attending the University of Groningen on exchange may choose from a variety of courses in the humanities, business and social sciences. All courses that are open to exchange students are taught in English. Students attend classes with Dutch and international students. Currently, the University of Groningen has 2,200 international students from over 95 countries.

As a prerequisite, students must have attained at least sophomore standing prior to attending the University of Groningen. The academic program is very rigorous, designed for students who enjoy a challenging and independent academic environment that requires significant self-motivation. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required to apply.

**Courses and Credits**

Students typically earn 15 credit hours per semester. The University is ranked in the top 3 of European Research Universities in the fields of Ecology, Material Sciences, Chemistry and Astronomy. Other strong research groups are in Nanoscience, Molecular Biology, Medical Sciences, Neurosciences, Sociology, Philosophy, Theology, Archeology and Arts. Listed below are a few examples of subjects offered in English. A full list of courses can be found at [http://www.rug.nl/ocasys/let](http://www.rug.nl/ocasys/let). Please note that courses at Groningen are typically more self-taught and self-driven than those in the U.S.

**Sample Subject Offerings:**

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<tr>
<th>American Studies</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>International Relations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>Dutch Studies</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Arts, Culture and Media</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>English Language and Culture</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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Living Arrangements
Students will have to secure their own accommodation in town. Assistance is provided through the Housing Office. The Housing Office offers furnished rooms in International Student Houses and Dutch Student Houses. www.housingoffice.nl. Housing costs vary based on what type of accommodation is chosen. For more information, please go to the link above and look at the different options.

Budgeting
Holland uses the Euro as their form of currency and the Euro is currently stronger than the US dollar. Students should use the link above to estimate their housing fees and other costs for day-to-day activity with this exchange rate in mind. Students will also need to show evidence of €800/month for their time at Groningen. Participants on this program will pay in-state tuition and fees to USC. For more information, please visit the Exchange Student Guide:

Master Calendar
Spring semester begins in early February and goes through early July. Students studying for the full Academic Year will arrive in late August and return in early July. Exact dates can be found in the Exchange Student Guide: http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/exchanges_shortprogrammes/exchangeGuide.pdf

Insurance
International students in the Netherlands are required by law to have adequate health insurance. More information is provided in the Exchange Student Guide referenced above. As per university policy, all USC students will be charged emergency medical, evacuation and repatriation insurance for their time abroad. Contact the Study Abroad Office for more details.

Orientation
Students will attend an orientation session prior to the start of classes in Groningen. They will learn important information about the campus and local area at this orientation. For more information, visit http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/information/uponArrival/introductoryProgrammes.

Excursions
This program does not offer organized excursions. Students do have the opportunity for individual travel.

Visa
Exchange students who are US citizens do not need a visa to enter the country. All students who stay longer than 90 days need to apply for a residence permit. A residence permit is a document that states your identity, your nationality, and your right to reside in the Netherlands. For more information, please visit http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/information/visaImmigration.

Social and cultural activities
ESN-Groningen (Erasmus Student Network) organizes social and cultural activities for international students. http://www.esn-groningen.nl. In addition, the ACLO (The ACLO is the student-sports association) offers a broad range of sports. http://www.rug.nl/studenten/verenigingen/sport.

Footnotes
USC students can attend the University of Groningen on exchange for the academic year or spring semester. Visit the University of Groningen website at http://www.rug.nl/corporate/index. For more information on the exchange program, please visit http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/Exchanges_shortprogrammes/exchangesShortProgrammes.