

CIEE Study Center

dutch studies / environmental studies / geography / spatial planning / water management



program snapshot

- Study contemporary Dutch social policy and/or gain a greater understanding of the innovative ways in which the Dutch approach their environment
- Live in the practical, environmentally conscious country of The Netherlands
- Partake in frequent outings that provide a behind-the-scenes look at sites most tourists never see
- Participate in cultural and educational activities related to the courses

what you'll learn

Students learn about contemporary Dutch social policy and/or spatial planning, studying their surroundings from a variety of perspectives. In the Social Policy course, held in Amsterdam, they take a sociological and anthropological view and examine where policy and practice are and are not successful. In the Dutch Experience course, held in Groningen, students develop an understanding of how The Netherlands deals with economic, environmental, and settlement challenges within the context of globalization, climate change, and sustainability.

thoughts from abroad

The Netherlands is the perfect place for students to examine social and environmental challenges with a critical lens.

The CIEE summer program offers the opportunity to study in two locations, Groningen in the north and Amsterdam in the west, allowing for a view of how Dutch policies play out in real life. Students use Amsterdam as a laboratory to explore Dutch policy surrounding prostitution, drugs, housing, abortion, euthanasia, and migration. Guided site visits to places like a drug safe house and the prostitution information center provide students with a behind the scenes look at Dutch social policy in practice.

In Groningen, the student-centered capital of the north, challenges are placed in the context of globalization, the effects of climate change on water management, as well as sustainability concerns—all of which impact the population of one of the most densely populated countries of the world. Students explore why, despite its population density, that no less than 90% of the Dutch population lives on 10% of the land. Students will also look at how a ‘compact city policy’ is used as a successful instrument to counteract urban sprawl.

I invite you to expand your understanding of Dutch policies and practices in one or both of these captivating cities as it could change the way you see the world. In short, a life changing summer awaits you!

— Hannah Huber, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Hannah Huber comes to CIEE with a rich background in international educational exchange, having studied abroad in The Netherlands, Bologna, Italy, and England. Since she first set foot in The Netherlands as a Rotary exchange student, she has developed a love for the country and its people. After graduating from Dickinson College with a B.A. in American Studies, she worked for the Dutch Embassy in Washington, DC. Hannah then moved to Amsterdam and received her M.A. in American Studies with a minor in Educational Policy and Management from the University of Amsterdam.

About the Resident Coordinator

Renee Spruit, Resident Coordinator, has a M.A. from the ISHSS in track migration and ethnic studies and a B.A. in communication management from Hogeschool van Utrecht. Renee studied abroad as an undergraduate at Seneca College in Toronto, Canada. Renee assists the Resident Director in coordinating housing, course registration, excursions, and cultural activities.

about amsterdam and groningen

Amsterdam, with world-renowned museums, art galleries, music, opera, and theater is a truly international and multicultural city. Amsterdam offers the advantages of a cosmopolitan city with a small-town feel. Because it is so compact, bicycles are the most convenient means of transportation; in fact, bicycles outnumber the people in Amsterdam! Located in the north, Groningen is an ideal, safe city with a flourishing student life and many social and cultural activities. Founded in 1614, the University of Groningen, with an international reputation as a research university, is the second oldest university in the Netherlands.

academics

Academic Program

The CIEE Study Center in Amsterdam was established in 1993; the summer program began in 2007. The summer program includes two three-week sessions. The Society, Environment, Transportation, and Space: The Dutch Experience session takes place in Groningen, while the Contemporary Dutch Social Policy session takes place entirely in Amsterdam.

Contemporary Netherlands Studies is ideal for students interested in social policy or environmental studies. It allows students to develop a better understanding of Dutch social policies and the country's interest in sustainable living. In addition to a classroom component, the program also involves guided site visits and excursions.

Academic Culture

Courses include a combination of lectures, active participation, guest speakers, and guided site visits. Students visit organizations related to the themes covered in the course and are asked to give a presentation of their findings. Students are evaluated based on active participation, a presentation, and a final 15-page paper on one of the themes discussed in the course.

Nature of Classes

CIEE classes are with other CIEE participants only.

Grading System

Grades are based on a combination of class participation, oral presentations, and papers. Grades are based on a numerical scale of 1 to 10, rather than on letters.



where you'll study

In Amsterdam, students study at the CIEE Study Center, located on the Prins Hendrikkade on the eastern waterfront, steps from Amsterdam's Central Station and in close proximity to the University of Amsterdam. During the session in Groningen, students study at the International School of Spatial Policy Studies at the University of Groningen. Students can take part in a rich academic tradition, while enjoying the student-centered city.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing is included in the program fee. Students are placed in single rooms in residence halls with shared shower and kitchen facilities. Residence halls are within a short commute by foot, bike, or bus to the CIEE Study Center. Meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Meals may be taken at affordable restaurants, in the University cafeteria, or prepared in the residence's kitchen facilities.

Orientation

At the beginning of the program, a mandatory orientation organized by CIEE staff is held to introduce students to Dutch culture and to the academic program, as well as to provide practical information about living in The Netherlands. Ongoing support is provided on a group and individual basis throughout the program.

Internet

Internet cafés are available throughout The Netherlands. The residence halls offer wireless access and students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

In addition to numerous day trips and activities associated with each course, one overnight excursion is offered during each three-week session. Students participating in the Society, Environment, Transportation, and Space: The Dutch Experience program in Groningen visit Amsterdam, the multicultural center of The Netherlands.

Students participating in the Dutch Social Policy program in Amsterdam venture into the Dutch countryside, which offers them insight into typical Dutch rural life as an alternative to the city. By participating in both sessions, students are exposed to the various landscapes and people living throughout The Netherlands.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75

duration

Session I

3 weeks: mid-June–early July

Session II

3 weeks: early July–late July

Sessions I + II

6 weeks: mid-June–late July

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2009 (Session I or II): \$3,100
Summer 2009 (Sessions I & II): \$6,100
Summer 2010: available 12/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2010 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, one overnight excursion during each session, a comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,250
Personal Expenses	\$ 600
Meals	\$ 400
Books and Supplies	\$ 75
Local Transportation (includes bike rental)	\$ 150
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 2,475

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

All students take the required course during each session, Economy, Environment, and Space: The Dutch Experience in Session I or Contemporary Dutch Social Policy in Session II.

Credit

Total recommended credit for each session is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours. Each course has 45 contact hours.

Language of Instruction

English

Faculty

Qualified lecturers from various institutes of higher learning in The Netherlands teach the two required CIEE courses.

courses

Required CIEE Courses

Session I

ENVI 3003 NETU

Society, Environment, Transportation, and Space: The Dutch Experience

The aim of this course is to help students develop an understanding of the ways that The Netherlands deals with economic, environmental, and settlement challenges. These challenges are placed in the context of increasing levels of globalization, the expected effects of the changing climate on water management and flood protection systems, as well as sustainability concerns related to increasing levels of mobility in general—all of which seem to have an even stronger impact on the population of one of the most densely populated countries of the world. At the same time, the course aims to challenge participants to reflect on economic, environmental, and planning issues in their home country by exposing them to Dutch spatial-economic problems and the Dutch experiences of planning policies implemented to deal with those problems. Students explore “planning” in an economic sense (including regional economic development), spatial planning (including housing, settlement planning, and transportation planning), and environmental planning (including water management). Special attention is devoted to the Dutch history, successes, failures, and future challenges of water management (flood protection and water quality), specifically in the light of the expected consequences of rising sea levels and changing annual precipitation distributions for The Netherlands. A second focus is on intensive land-use planning or the “compact city policy” as a successful instrument to counteract sprawl. This course takes place in Groningen with an overnight excursion to Amsterdam. *Instructor: Paul van Steen*

Session II

NLST 3001 NETU

Contemporary Dutch Social Policy

The goal of this course is to help students gain a greater understanding of The Netherlands and to increase their social awareness of the Amsterdam community in which they are studying. The course seeks to accomplish this through lectures combined with guided site visits within organizations that deal with the social policy topics and issues covered in the lectures. Through an examination of social policy theory and practice, students are challenged to “see” their surroundings from a sociological and anthropological point of view, and to examine where policy and practice are working well and where they may be less successful. In the lectures, social and legal policy is studied as it affects certain groups, e.g., prostitutes, drug addicts, and immigrants. Through the guided site visits, students have the opportunity to form their own opinions about the effectiveness of the implementation and practice of these social policies and to ask staff working in the organization questions about the policies themselves. A general historical overview of The Netherlands is given in order to establish a framework for themes on social policy. This is followed by lectures on tolerance covering such issues as drugs, prostitution policy, abortion, and euthanasia. Multiculturalism is also addressed. This course takes place in Amsterdam. *Instructor: Bonny Wassing*

a student's story

Everyone has a general idea of what the city of Amsterdam is like, but not so many know what to expect when it comes to Groningen. I have found the city to be absolutely wonderful. Residents and students in Groningen seem happy that you are here visiting their wonderful city. The city is very well planned and at first may seem a little dense, but then you find the parks or the market, or the other wonderful things that makes Groningen beautiful. There are lakes and recreation centers, as well as libraries for you to study in. The international and national student populations are friendly and are eager to learn more about you and your origins. In the classroom, we learn about the planning that goes into the Netherlands and Groningen, the water infrastructure, and the bicycle planning. The bicycling is great in Groningen—you can travel anywhere in the city by bike—but make sure to get a good one, because you will be on it a lot.

— Stephanie Parker, Louisiana Tech University

