

CHID Amsterdam: Visualizing the Invisible: Design and Creative Culture in the Netherlands
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Program Terms: Summer Quarter

Homepage: [Click to visit](#)

Dates / Deadlines:

There are currently no active application cycles for this program.

Fact Sheet:

Primary Language(s) of Instruction:	English	Foreign Language Required:	None
Courses available in English?:	Yes	Field of Interest:	Architecture, Design & Urban Planning, Art History, Environmental Studies, Humanities, Performing & Visual Arts, Social Sciences

Affiliated Department: CHID

Program Description:

CHID Amsterdam: Visualizing the Invisible: Design and Creative Culture in the Netherlands

Location: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Department: Comparative History of Ideas

Estimated Program Dates: June 23 – August 22, 2014

Estimated Program Fee: \$6,950

Credits: 15

Program Director: Stacey Moran (CHID); Adam Nocek (CHID)

UW Study Abroad Advisor: Katherine Kroeger kroegk@uw.edu

Application Deadline: **EXTENDED: January 31, 2014**

Information Session(s): Contact Program Director for more information.



Program Description

The Netherlands is a country, literally, by design. Located below sea level on the stormy North Sea, the Dutch have been forced to defend themselves against threatening floods for centuries. Engineering technology of the twentieth century combined with Dutch design ingenuity produced one of the largest construction efforts in human history, the Zuiderzee Works. Out of this massive redesign project, not only did 580 square miles of fresh land emerge, but also the redesign of villagers' identities in former fishing villages, the integration of a new province into the country, and all the building and urban planning projects a new province requires. Design is intimately entangled with geography, identity, and politics in the Netherlands.

For the Dutch, most things connect to some sort of design mentality, and Dutch designers are motivated by

the constant demand for creativity in facing complex social, economic and cultural problems. Intimately engaged with its surroundings, the Dutch design sensibility tends to "remix" existing elements to produce sustainable hybrids and craft a particular quality of life. In the last three decades, Dutch design has emerged as an internationally recognized force. Its influence and appeal stems from a unique combination of its experimental and innovative qualities, its numerous prestigious design academies (Eindhoven, Gerrit Reitveld Academy, Utrecht School of the Arts), its strong governmental support for new designers, and a rigorous marketing plan. The Netherlands thus provides a unique landscape on which to explore innovation and creativity on multiple scales: geography, architecture, urban planning, furniture, fashion, food and agriculture, communication, products and typography.

Following the Dutch model, our study in Amsterdam engages with design at multiple levels. Working with local artists and designers, students will visit galleries, studios and museums; they will study the history and witness the contexts, materials, concepts, and applications of Dutch design. Students will attend local lectures and events at Foam Lab and Hotel Droog, and enter the contemporary discussions on design. Students will then use this design experience as a lens for thinking about other fields that incorporate design such as philosophy, literature, science, and technology. Reflecting on the role of humans as designers, students will be encouraged to locate themselves within a design mentality and to engage with design as knowledge. Finally, students will wrap up their immersive experience in Amsterdam by creating their own design projects. These projects will be tied to specific designed spaces in and around the city of Amsterdam and will creatively reframe those spaces in order to address a specific design problem.

Field trips:

Rotterdam

- Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI)
- Mothership (Art Production Company)
- TENT (platform for contemporary art)

Utrecht

- Utrecht Centraal Museum and Reitveld Schröder House

Amsterdam Site Visits:

- Rijksmuseum Museum
- Stedelijk Museum
- EYE Film Institute Netherlands
- NEMO (Science Museum)
- Droog Hôtel, Frozen Fountain
- Amsterdam Fashion Week
- Canal Museum
- Begijnhof

Location

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Sites

Rotterdam & Utrecht, Netherlands

Housing

Students will begin the program by rooming together in a Hostel in Amsterdam Centre. For one week, students will be able to easily walk, bike, bus, and tram around central Amsterdam, getting to know the city and the university environs as they become accustomed to their new surroundings. Subsequently, students will move to University of Amsterdam student housing. Dorms are single or double occupancy, lightly furnished with a shared kitchen and bathroom. Single rooms are available for students over age 30 at extra cost. Student rooms are not on campus, but are a short walk or tram ride into Amsterdam Centre. Students will be provided with a transit pass for transportation between university and student housing.

Academics

Pre-Requisites/Language Requirements/Physical Components

This program is geared toward matriculated undergraduate students from any discipline. The ideal students for the program are those interested in art, the artist's role in society, creativity and design; architecture,

urban planning and the built environment; ecology, environment and sustainability; and/or critical theory, philosophy and cultural critique. Ideal students would also be those who are interested in interdisciplinary education, an immersive experience, and who are able to adapt to and appreciate the different norms of a foreign country. Participants will be able to receive I&S, NW or VLPA credit to meet their general requirements. In addition, CHID students can receive Gateways and 390 credit.

Amsterdam is an old city, and as such, few older buildings provide universal access. Students might want to use the preferred mode of transportation in Amsterdam, a bicycle. For tours, students will be expected to walk 2-5 kilometers throughout the day. There are no language requirements; most Dutch people in Amsterdam are fluent in English.

Credits

15 Credits

Courses

CHID 471: Design Ecologies (5 credits)

What is the nature of design? Who is a designer? What are the objects of design? Who decides? These are simple questions with far from simple answers. In this course we explore how the concept of design is an amorphous range of histories, meanings, and uses that resists any easy classification in the Netherlands. We look at how design functions in fields as diverse as architecture and synthetic biology, food art/design and in-vitro meat production, sustainable agriculture and genetically modified foods. The students will use these rich contexts as frameworks for thinking about design not only as something that is irreducible to a set of questions and answers (e.g., what is the criteria for design?), but also as a powerful tool for negotiating the relations between information and communication, nature and artifice, cognition and lived experience, science and aesthetics, ethics and politics.

Students will read materials from fields as diverse as philosophy, design and communication theory, science and technology studies, art history, and science fiction. They will also have the opportunity to have on-site visits and lectures by scholars, artists, and practitioners of design in the Netherlands.

CHID 390: Colloquium in the History of Ideas (5 credits)

CHID 390 investigates the politics of knowledge production. The old French meaning of the word "design" means "to relook." What otherwise had been too clumsy, too severe or too bare was designed -- that is, made different -- to satisfy a new taste. This old way of thinking about design separates form from function: the chair is always made for sitting (function), but can be (re)designed according to a fashion that is contemporary or traditional, modern or baroque (form). In conforming to the dichotomy between form and function, the old sense of design produces a separation between the thing (the chair) and its appearance (the design).

This kind of separation has a long history in the discipline of philosophy as well. In the western tradition, philosophy acts as a watchdog for the other, more important disciplines like science, art, and politics. Philosophy simply answers questions on their behalf: for art, "What is beauty?"; for science, "What is real?"; for politics, "What is right"? Limited to providing mere descriptions of reality, philosophy --like design --has a history of splitting "the world itself" from human perceptions of it. This view has limited philosophy's ability to engage with the world.

Herein lies the convergence between philosophy and design that this course investigates: two disciplines with dualistic tendencies and two disciplines that might be brought together under new conditions. This course investigates the various ways we might consider philosophy and design as engagements with the world, rather than as explanations of or decorations on the world.

CHID 471: Study Abroad (5 credits)

As a survey of Dutch Design today, this course will introduce students to a variety of applications and contemporary design practices. We will analyze the contexts of Dutch Design and uncover the unique approaches to the study of material culture specific to the Dutch designers. The goal is to gain insight in the creation and development of Dutch Design as a constructed concept, mediated by designers, institutions, technology and technological applications. Through exploration of design history and theory, a series of conceptual exercises and site visits to studios and cultural institutions, students will discover the unique canon of Dutch Design. Previous experience in design or art classes is NOT required.

Program Directors & Staff

Stacey Moran, CHID, Program Co-Director

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Adam Nocek, CHID, Program Co-Director

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Program Expenses

Cost:

Estimated Program Fee of \$6,950, the UW Study Abroad Fee (\$300), airfare, food (about \$42/day), UW Study Abroad Insurance (\$40/month), other health expenses/immunizations and personal spending money.

Average Airplane Ticket Price:

\$1,400 – 1,600* roundtrip

*Subject to when & where you buy your ticket.

Payment Schedule:

Program fees will be posted to your MyUW student account and can be paid the same way that you pay tuition and other fees. Check your MyUW Account periodically for due dates.

Payment Type	Payment Amount	Payment Due Date
CHID Fee	\$300	July 11, 2014
Non-Refundable UW Study Abroad Fee	\$300	July 11, 2014
Program Fee Balance	\$6,650	July 11, 2014
TOTAL FEES CHARGED	\$7,250	-

Orientation

To be eligible to study abroad, all program participants must attend an in-person pre-departure orientation facilitated by the UW Study Abroad Office. You are also required to attend all program-specific orientations offered by your Program Directors.

You must register for orientation through your online study abroad account in order to attend a scheduled session. You can visit the [orientation section](#) of our website to view the current orientation schedule.

Orientation must be completed prior to the enrollment deadline for the quarter that you are studying abroad.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Most forms of financial aid can be applied to study abroad. You can verify that your financial aid award will apply to your program costs by contacting the [Financial Aid Office](#). Financial aid or scholarships awarded as tuition waivers or tuition exemptions might not apply so you will need to verify that these funds are eligible for use with study abroad by contacting the funding office.

Financial aid and most scholarships are disbursed according to the UW academic calendar (at the beginning of the quarter). If your program starts before the start of the UW quarter, your financial aid will not be available to you prior to your departure. If your program starts after the first day of the quarter, your financial aid will be disbursed at the start of the program. In either of these cases, you will have to finance any upfront costs such as airfare, health insurance and the start of your time abroad on your own. Please take this into consideration when you are making plans.

Revision Request

In some instances you may qualify for an increase in your financial aid award (typically in loan funds). Check with the [Financial Aid Office](#) about your options. To request a revision in your aid, you will need to submit the following paperwork to the Financial Aid Office:

1. [Revision Request Form](#)
2. [Summer Application for Financial Aid](#)
3. Budget of student expenses for your program: The UW Study Abroad Office will upload this budget to your study abroad account after a signed contract has been submitted to the UW Study Abroad Office. You can request an unofficial copy of this budget by emailing ipe@uw.edu.

Visit the [Finances section](#) of our website to learn more about disbursement, revising your aid package, short-term loans and scholarships.

Application Process

The application includes a Personal Statement, three short answer questions, two faculty recommendations, and electronic signature documents related to UW policies and expectations for study abroad. Following the on-line application process students may be contacted by the Program Director for an in-person interview. Once an admission decision has been made regarding your application, you will be notified by the study abroad system via email.

Disability Accommodations

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, and education for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation for this program, contact Disability Resources for Students at least 8 weeks in advance of your departure date. Contact info at [Disability Resources for Students](#).

Withdrawals

\$350 of the total program fee and the \$300 UW Study Abroad Fee are **non-refundable and non-revocable** once a contract has been submitted, even if you withdraw from the program. Students withdrawing from a program are responsible for paying a percentage of the program fee depending on the date of withdrawal. More details about the withdrawal policy are included in your payment contract. No part of the program fee is refundable once the program has begun. The date of withdrawal is considered the date (business day) a withdrawal form is received by the UW Study Abroad Office. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be made in writing by completing the following steps:

1. Provide notice in writing to the Program Director that you will no longer be participating in the program for which you have signed a contract and accepted a slot.
2. Submit a signed withdrawal form to the UW Study Abroad Office, 459 Schmitz Hall.

Visit the [Withdrawals section](#) of our website for more information.

Please see the CHID website for information on the CHID Fee withdrawal policy:
<http://chid.washington.edu/study-abroad-fees-financing-and-withdrawal>.

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