

Studying theology in The Netherlands

Brochure for Theological University of Kampen/Theological University of Apeldoorn

Introduction

This booklet contains an introduction to two Dutch theological universities, one in Apeldoorn and one in Kampen. Graduates of these universities are currently employed as ministers and lecturers in various countries worldwide. Both foreign as well as Dutch students find the experience of studying at these universities to be enriching and worthwhile.

Foreign students must be prepared to invest in a long-term stay in the Netherlands. A major reason that theological students choose to study at the Theological University of Apeldoorn or Kampen is the reformed tradition in the Netherlands and the scholarly content of the study programs.

This leaflet is intended as a source of information for those interested in studying at one of these universities. In compiling the information, we have aimed to be as clear as possible about what students can expect from these programs and what is expected of a student.

You are welcome to study here, provided that ...

As a large number of foreign students show interest in the study programs and, because the combination of reformed tradition with academic level studies are held in high regard, this folder also contains information related to this. Both universities only accept motivated and *qualified* students, in order to avoid disappointment on both sides. Students who choose to study in Apeldoorn or Kampen can expect to receive excellent guidance and support. A range of theological subjects are taught seriously and by expert lecturers at both universities. For this reason, all applications are evaluated individually to make sure there is enough "capacity" to provide the graduate or doctoral student with guidance in specific disciplines. Essential to this is the question whether the applicant primarily intends to serve "his or her" church, as the study possibilities in Apeldoorn and Kampen are oriented towards such intentions and not **towards** personal ambition. If such is the case, we are very happy to inform you about how you can enrol for an advanced study in Apeldoorn or Kampen.

Theology in Apeldoorn

Since 1894 the Theological University of Apeldoorn has been fulfilling its historical mission to educate ministers for the Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. The university has developed into an institute for theological studies and research, which also benefits those outside the Christian Reformed Church, both in the Netherlands and abroad. The philosophy of the university is based on the authority of God's Word, and the university strives to combine the Reformation and the Reformed confession with the realities of church and society in the 21st century.

The university numbers more than 100 students, in addition to 6 professors, 9 lecturers, and a support staff of 8. The growth of the university has necessitated larger accommodations, which are currently being sought. The university is affiliated with the Institute for Reformation Research.

Theology in Kampen

The Theological University of Kampen endeavours to carry out its work according to the Word of God and the Reformed confession. In doing so the university takes changes in a religious and social context into account. The university is affiliated with the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated).

The university numbers around 90 students and has a staff of 28: 7 professors, 7 lecturers, 4 teaching assistants (doctoral research students) and a support staff of 10.

The university library is housed in an historical building and contains more than 115,000 volumes. A digital infrastructure (e-mail and Internet) is available to staff members and students alike.

Co-operation

Both universities enjoy the increasing co-operation with each other and with the Gereformeerde Hogeschool Zwolle (Reformed College of Higher Vocational Training in Zwolle). The universities also maintain good relations with affiliated institutes abroad.

Bachelor's – Master's Program

Both universities offer a bachelor's and master's program as part of their curriculum, both of which are three-year programs. The bachelor's phase is a broad study program which focuses on the most important academic skills. This phase also covers biblical languages and Latin. The master's phase offers the possibility to specialize in a specific area of theology. In addition, both phases include vocational elements.

Enrolment Procedure

If you wish to enrol as a foreign student, you will need to submit the following:

1. An application which includes the following:
 - A letter showing your motivation for wanting to study in Apeldoorn or Kampen
 - A declaration of agreement with the Reformed confession
 - Information on your theological education (when and where)
 - Information on how you plan to meet your financial obligations in the Netherlands
 - Information on your family situation
 - A declaration of agreement with the conditions laid down by the universities

2. A declaration from the university or seminary where you have studied which explains:
 - Why the church in your homeland, or the institute where you are currently studying, feels it is important for you to study in Apeldoorn or Kampen
 - Your study results in the past and how you did function personally during your studies

Once you have satisfied the above requirements, the Entrance Board will admit you as a student for one year. All students must re-enrol every year. In determining whether to admit a student for the following academic year, the re-enrolment application will be evaluated on the basis of his progress. Re-enrolment is at the discretion of the university concerned.

Enrolment and Language Requirements

Prior to commencing their studies, all students must master the Dutch language. An NTT 2 certificate is required for admission to the universities ('Dutch for advanced learners'; James Boswell Instituut Utrecht, P.O. Box 80148, 3508 TC UTRECHT, Netherlands, james.boswell@jbi.uu.nl).

As a rule, students majoring in church history or dogmatics must have a sufficient knowledge of Latin. An adequate knowledge of English and German is expected of all students, in order to be able to read theological books in these languages.

Please keep in mind that a transition to life in the Netherlands, including adaptation to the Dutch culture and mastering the Dutch language, requires considerable time and effort.

Most foreign students adhere to the following timeline:

- Arrival in January, followed by a period in which the student becomes familiar with the Netherlands and the Dutch language. This phase usually ends with obtaining the NTT 2 diploma.
- In consultation with the professor of the intended major program a selection is made of classes and activities in which he participates as part of the 'settling down' process in the university community
- During the first year – following a proposal from the professor of the intended major– the teaching staff will determine which additional requirements the student must meet, if any, before he can take part in the general study program. It is essential that students majoring in Old or New Testament studies have a good command of biblical Hebrew or New Testament Greek.
- The progress of the student's studies is reviewed annually.

More Information

The student himself is responsible for financing his studies and finding suitable accommodation. Neither university has the possibility to offer financial support or to assist in finding accommodation.

Addresses:

Theologische Universiteit van de Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland

Wilhelminapark 4

7316 BT APELDOORN

The Netherlands

Phone: + 31 (0) 55 577 5700

Fax: + 31 (0) 55 522 6339

E-mail: secretariaat.tua@planet.nl

Website : www.tua.nl

Theologische Universiteit van de Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland

Broederweg 15

8261 GS KAMPEN

The Netherlands

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 5026

8260 GA KAMPEN

The Netherlands

Phone: + 31 (0) 38 331 2878

Fax: + 31 (0) 38 333 0270

E-mail: secretariaat@tukampen.nl

Website : www.tukampen.nl