



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Science Communication for Researchers

Course Code	AB_470185
Credits	6
Period	P5
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Science
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. J.E.W. Broerse
Examiner	prof. dr. J.E.W. Broerse
Teaching Staff	K. Dold, L.M. Molenaar, dr. ir. M.G. van der Meij
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Study Group

Course Objective

This course has six learning objectives:

1. Classify forms of science communication by indicating the elements that belong to the models on science, communication and science communication that are taught in the course.
2. Creating science communication products that are applicable to new developments in or social issues related to science or technology.
3. Explain choices in target group / sender (or participants), content, style and tone with the science communication products that the student develops during the course.
4. Understanding the importance of societal engagement and participation in the development of science and technology.
5. Recognize and explain your own perspective on the role of science communication in the relationship between science and society.
6. Making connections between ideas and perspectives of different disciplines in the creation of a science communication product.

Course Content

Scientific research and technological development have far-reaching impacts on society, especially if they comprise of highly innovative and (potentially) controversial activities (e.g. synthetic biology, neuroscience, nanotechnology, smart cities, reproductive technologies, etc.). How does society actually look at these research efforts and tech developments? Societal visions have a major influence on the direction that scientific research and technology development take in the near future. That is why communication products and processes about and related to science and technology are crucial.

In this course you become familiar with a number of science communication models, concepts and theories, and you will learn to recognise their application in practice. Through individual and group assignments you become familiar with the practical side of science communication, varying from science journalism to facilitating societal dialogues about science and technology.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

This is a part-time course of eight weeks (6 ECTS). The total study time is 168 hours. The different components take the following amount of time:

- Lectures/seminars: 30 hours
- Self-study: 30 hours
- Assignment work: 106 hours

Method of Assessment

Assessment consists of:

- Group assignments (40%)
- Individual assignments (60%)

All parts must be closed with a pass.

Literature

The literature is announced on Canvas a month before the start of the course.

Additional Information Target Audience

Optional course for second year and third year BSc Biomedical Sciences and Biology and second year BSc Health and Life, specialization Biomedical Sciences or Health Sciences. Also to follow for the BSc within Earth Sciences and Exact Sciences. Specially recommended for students considering the C variant (science communication) or M variant (policy and management) of the Master MPA. This one course is also a challenging practical, yet theory-based supplement to the Health Communication course.

Additional Information

It is advisable to combine this course with just one other parttime course because of the group work that should be scheduled and performed outside the formal lecture and seminar times.

Explanation Canvas

All communication for this course is through Canvas.