



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](#).

Real Estate and Urban Planning

Course Code	E_MFRE_REUP
Credits	6
Period	P1
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	School of Business and Economics
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. J. Rouwendal
Examiner	prof. dr. J. Rouwendal
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. J. Rouwendal
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Study Group

Course Objective

The course focuses on the way urban planners and economists think about urban development, why there points of view sometimes differ and how they can fruitfully cooperate.

After taking this course students:

- know the basic forces that determine the value of land in cities;
- can explain the crucial role of the labour market in the functioning of cities;
- understand the importance of job accessibility in urban areas;
- can explain the importance and limitations of spatial planning;
- can analyse the interaction between economic forces and planning measures;
- know the essentials of real estate and urban land valuation;
- understand why affordability of housing is often problematic in cities and are able to analyse the various measures take to address this issue;
- understand the determinants of real estate development at specific locations.

Course Content

Cities have been described as the main human invention and their role in social and economic life is still expanding. To a large extend, cities 'are' real estate. A large part of the national capital stock consists of urban real estate. Within cities there is a concentration in a small number of centers and subcenters. The built environment is extremely durable, it will often remain in place for decades or even centuries. Investment decisions with respect to real estate are often taken by private actors, but planners often impose strong restrictions, The central theme of the course is that planners and market forces both have an important role to play in creating a productive and attractive urban environment. Their interaction can be synergetic, but this outcome is not guaranteed. In the course you learn why good intentions do not automatically deliver good outcomes and how behaviour of self-interested actors can have a detrimental impact on others. The course considers developed as well as developing countries.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

(Online) Lectures and Tutorials

Method of Assessment

Written exam, 4 assignments on economic principles and an assignment on land use development.

Literature

Alain Bertaud, 'Order without design', MIT Press

Additional Information Target Audience

The course is part of the minor 'Real Estate Economics and Finance'

Recommended background knowledge

Basic knowledge of (micro-)economics is helpful.