



Information Note

ITU and UNU-MERIT/Maastricht University

Title	Summer School on catalyzing the Digital Future: Digital transformation for sustainability
Dates	01/07/2024 - 05/07/2024
Location	Maastricht, the Netherlands

1. TRAINING COURSE VENUE

The Summer School will be held at the UNU-MERIT Building on Boschstraat 24, Maastricht, the Netherlands: <https://www.merit.unu.edu/>

The United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) is a research and training institute of United Nations University. The institute is also part of Maastricht University, based in the southeast Netherlands. The institute's research mission is to provide new insights into the economic, social and political aspects of growth and development in local and international contexts.

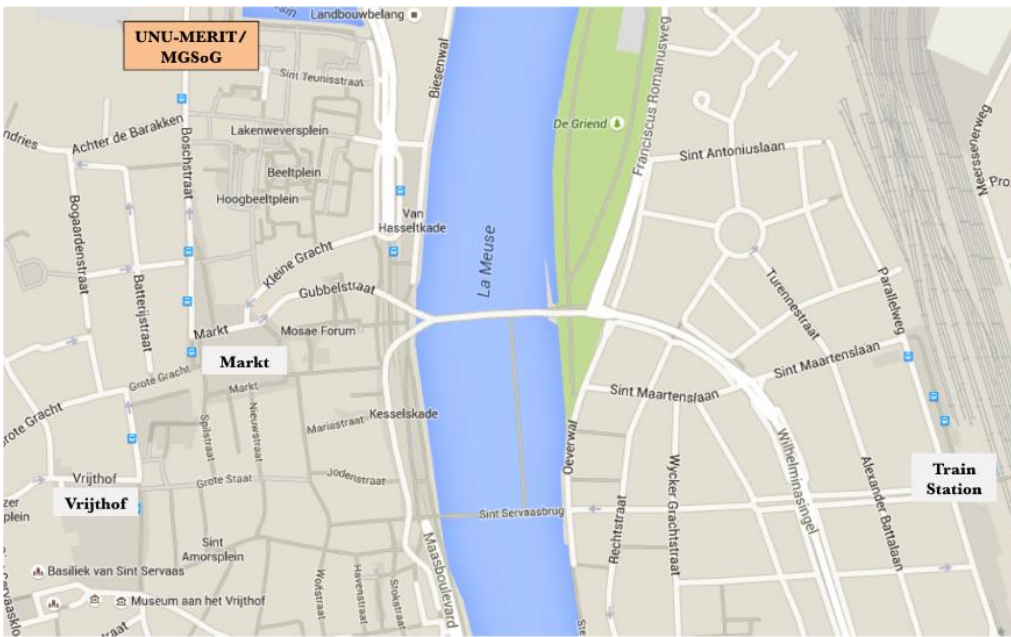
Its research and training programmes address a broad range of questions including the economics of technology and innovation, national and international governance, intellectual property protection, social protection policy, knowledge creation and diffusion, and migration.

Researchers at UNU-MERIT are internationally recognised for their contributions to the understanding of the economic, political, social and philosophical foundations of the processes of technical change. UNU-MERIT has a history of project implementation for various international institutions including the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO and national governments, focusing on social policy and migration developments. The institute also participates in research projects for international organisations, governments, businesses, and foundations throughout the world. Beyond working with and for other UN bodies, the institute has a long history of conducting applied research for organisations such as the European Commission, the International Development Research Centre, and numerous national governments.

More information about the UNU-MERIT can be obtained on our website <https://www.merit.unu.edu>.

UNU-MERIT is located within walking distance from the central areas of Maastricht. Buses are also available throughout Maastricht at a low cost. A single trip or day pass can be bought from the bus driver only via card payment. Below is a map to give you an idea about the distances between a few central locations and UNU-MERIT.

- The walking distance between the Train Station and UNU-MERIT is ca: 20 minutes
- Buses (1, 2, 5, 6, 10 and 66) from the Train Station to UNU-MERIT take ca: 8 minutes
- The walking distance between Markt and UNU-MERIT is ca: 5 minutes



Google Maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/187frs6Au2Vfwexr8>

2. DETAILS OF ARRIVAL AND LOCAL TRANSPORT

Maastricht is located in the most southern part of the Netherlands, approximately 220 km from Amsterdam (Schiphol) Airport and 120 km from Brussels Airport (Belgium). Maastricht is also 10 km away from Maastricht Airport and 115km from Brussels South Charleroi Airport.

Maastricht is the capital of the province of Limburg. A small city with just over 120,000 inhabitants, the city is situated on both sides of the river Maas in the south-eastern corner of the Netherlands, bordering Belgium and Germany. Maastricht was the first Dutch city with medieval city rights, making it the oldest city in the Netherlands. The city's rich history is reflected in the old city centre, which has many Roman-style buildings and squares. More information about Maastricht can be found on:

<http://www.vvmaastricht.nl/home.html?lang=2> or

<http://www.maastrichtportal.nl/home.html?lang=2>.

Arriving from Amsterdam / Schiphol Airport (≈220km):

The least expensive is to take a train from Schiphol/Amsterdam Airport to Maastricht Central Station. The price for a one-way ticket is approximately € 28.00 and can be purchased at train stations or online at <http://www.ns.nl/en/travellers/home>. The journey takes about 2h 40min with one change at Utrecht Centraal, or two changes at Amsterdam Zuid and Utrecht Centraal. For more information on traveling within the Netherlands, see the journey planner at <http://journeyplanner.9292.nl/>

Arriving from Eindhoven Airport (≈90km)

Travelers arriving via Eindhoven Airport can catch a bus which costs about €2.00 and departs from the airport every 10 minutes—to the city's central train station, then go from there to Maastricht on a Dutch Railways train. Bus lines 400 and 401 (direction: Eindhoven Station) stop just outside the airport terminal. From Eindhoven Station, there is a direct connection to Maastricht Central Station via Dutch Railways (NS). The Intercity train from Eindhoven Centraal takes an hour to reach Maastricht Centraal. The price for a one-

way ticket is approximately € 18.00 and can be purchased at the train station or online at <http://www.ns.nl/en/travellers/home>.

Arriving from Brussels Airport - Zaventem (≈110km)

If you decide to fly to Brussels, you can take a train to Maastricht. The costs for a one-way ticket are about € 25-30. The itinerary varies greatly. Trains from Zaventem to Brussels North run every 10 to 15 minutes and take about 15 minutes to arrive. From Brussels North, there is a train connection to Maastricht Centraal with a change in Liège. The duration of the trip is 1h40min and costs about €20. The tickets can be purchased at the train station ticket desk or online via the Belgium planner website <http://www.b-rail.be>.

Arriving from Brussels South Charleroi Airport (≈120km)

If you decide to fly to Charleroi the only possibility traveling to Maastricht would be by train. You will first have to take a bus (line A40) to Charleroi-Sud train station. From Charleroi-Sud there is a train connection to Maastricht with one change in Liège. The duration of the journey is about 3h, the costs for a one-way ticket is about € 25-30. A travel planner for Belgium is available online at <http://www.b-rail.be>.

Arriving from airport "Düsseldorf International" in Germany (≈110km)

If you decide to fly to Düsseldorf, you can take a train to Maastricht. To get to the Düsseldorf Airport train station take the sky-train from Terminal C. The SkyTrain commutes every 3-7 min between the terminal and the Airport railway station. The the journey from Dusseldorf Airport to Maastricht takes about 2h30m with several changes. The cost of a one-way ticket is about € 20 and can be purchased online via Deutsche Bahn trip planner (<https://www.bahn.de/>) or at the train station from a Ticket Terminal.

Another travel option from Dusseldorf to Maastricht is by FlixBus. The bus runs twice a day, mornings and afternoons. The tickets are relatively cheap and vary from €6-20 euros; the duration of the trip is 1h25min without traffic. FlixBus bus station is next to Dusseldorf Central station. There is a direct bus departing from Airport Terminal A/B/C and arriving at Düsseldorf Hbf (line 721). Services depart every 15 minutes and operate every day. The journey takes approximately 27 min.

LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Train Transportation

Public transport in the Netherlands is well organized. The best way to travel on long distances is via trains, which usually depart every 30 minutes during the day and evening from and to Maastricht Central Station. There are two train stations in Maastricht; Maastricht Central Station (Stations Plein, 6221 Maastricht) and Maastricht Randwyck Station (Joseph Bechlaan 100, 6229GR Maastricht).

You can purchase a ticket in three ways:

At the automated dispensing machines; however these charge an additional fee (€1). You have to pay using your credit card. Automated ticket machines have an English language option.

At one of the station's sales offices at any train station, you can purchase your ticket in advance or directly on the same day. You can pay in cash.

You can purchase your ticket online where you have to pay using your credit card, this can be done via the app or via the NS website. Please visit this page to learn how to buy an e-ticket: <https://www.ns.nl/en/travel-information/ns-on-your-mobile/mobile-tickets.html>

When buying a ticket, you can choose between first and second class, date of travel, and single or return ticket. Travellers, who cannot present a (valid)ticket when checked, can expect a large fine. Please note: Tickets are not available on the train itself!

Once you arrive at your destination, you can continue your trip by bus, tram, metro or taxi (depending on the city).

Note that fast trains ('sneltrein', 'intercity') travel between cities, from there you may need to transfer to a slow train ('stoptrein'), which will take you to the smaller towns on that track. You can visit the national train company on this website Dutch Railways (NS).

Bus Transportation

The bus service is provided by Arriva Transport. Arriva is a public transport company that provides bus and train services within the Limburg region. Bus terminals are usually located at the train station and connect city centre with nearby villages. Busses within Maastricht usually run several times per hour. You cannot pay your fare in cash when traveling by bus in Maastricht, but you can pay with a debit card (Maestro Card)/ credit card or buy a ticket prior to your trip from the automated dispensing machines (which are not positioned at all bus stops).

If you are a regular traveller, you should consider buying an "OV Chipkaart" or pay on the bus with a Dutch bank Card, debit card (Maestro Card) or credit card.

You can look at the Arriva website (or application), Google Maps, or 9292.nl (or 9292 application) to find the timetable for the bus you need.

Taxis

Official taxis have a blue number plate and often will not accept short fares. For local companies, check Google. Taxis are not a common form of transport and are very expensive. There are only a few taxi islands in the city, and it is quite normal to find no taxi waiting. It is forbidden to flag a taxi down if you see one driving along. You are either required to go to a taxi rank or call and book a taxi. However, some drivers will overlook this rule.

Taxis use standard meters, and they all charge roughly the same rates. Taxis will always start with a small standard balance, to ensure a minimum fare. It is common to leave the taxi driver a small tip.

Taxis in Maastricht:

Avantax:

Phone: 0031 (0)43 4506464

Taxi Centrale Frenske:

Phone: 0031 (0)43 363 6362

Taxi Brull Maastricht:

Phone: 0031 (0)43 343 0000

3. ONSITE REGISTRATION

On the first day of the programme, please come to the reception of UNU-MERIT (Boschstraat 24) in order to obtain your badge. You will not need to show forms of authentication. The timing for registration will be indicated in the summer School programme.

3. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Please realise that residents of some countries will need a visa to enter the Netherlands.

Further

<https://ind.nl/en/study/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://ind.nl/en/short-stay/Pages/default.aspx>

Find your Dutch Embassy: <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/contact>

information:

Checklist for entering or returning to the Netherlands from abroad:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/checklist-entry>

In case you need a visa invitation, please contact Ms. Cristina Mancigotti at cdo@merit.unu.edu as soon as possible

4. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

All participants will be accommodated free of charge at Bastion Hotel Maastricht Centrum from 30 June to 4 July, included (five nights in total). The hotel is just across UNU-Merit. Participants will check out on 5 July and can store their luggage at the hotel reception before their departure after lunch on 5 July, when the program of the summer school officially ends.

All meals are also included free of charge:

- ✓ Five breakfasts in Bastion Hotel Maastricht Centrum.
- ✓ Five lunches during the summer school program.
- ✓ First Dinner will be provided on 30 June in hotel Bastion after check-in.
- ✓ Rest of dinners are part of the summer school.

5. CURRENCY

The local currency is EURO.

Credit cards are not as widely accepted as in other countries, particularly in supermarkets. Cards must have a “chip” and pin to be used in the country. The card widely used is Maestro Card, but if you do not have one of those your best bet is Master Card or Visa. American Express is less well known.

Banks

Bank hours are generally from Monday to Friday from 09:00 – 17:00

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) give you access to money with a CIRRUS, Master Card or Visa with a personal code. Banks located within 5-minute walking distance from Boschstraat 24 (UNU-MERIT) are ING Bank and ABN AMRO bank.

Traveller's checks

Traveller's checks are accepted widely.

6. ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The country code for the Netherlands is 0031; the city code for Maastricht is (0)43.

When calling within the Netherlands add a zero before the city code.

When calling abroad from the Netherlands to any other country in the world, dial 00 before the country code.

Mobile SIM cards ...

For more information about the sim card registration process and requirements please visit the following sites:

In the Netherlands and Europe, the electricity is 220 volts. Moreover, the plug has two round legs. You will therefore need an adaptor. Please allow for these differences if you want to use electrical appliances from home.



7. LANGUAGES

The training course will be held in English. The languages spoken in the Netherlands is Dutch, but English is widely spoken in the country.

8. SECURITY

The Netherlands is in general a safe country. However, foreign diplomatic missions can be found on google and the internet. We recommend printing or downloading in advance on personal responsibility such information.

9. MEDICAL AND HEALTH

Everyone in the Netherlands must have an insurance for medical expenses. Which type of healthcare insurance you need depends on your personal situation. Please see the following website for more information: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/insurance/healthcare-insurance>.

Family Doctor ('huisarts')

If you need medical assistance, the 'huisarts' (the family doctor) is normally the first person you go to:

Huisartsenr praktijk Ceramique
Dr. Bastiaens
Avenue Céramique 155
6221 KX Maastricht
043 3216268

If you need to see a doctor between 17:00 and 08:00 (when the family doctors are no longer available), please call 0031 (0)43 387 7777. You can make an appointment and go to the first aid department of the hospital.

Important:

Always call first to make an appointment.

Take a proof of your Health Insurance with you when you go to see a doctor.

Take money with you to pay for the consultation. Always make sure you get a receipt of payment. You can retrieve the payment from your insurance afterwards.

Pharmacy ('apotheek')

The 'huisarts' can recommend medication and give you a prescription ('receipt'). Prescription drugs are bought at a pharmacy. Besides this, pharmacies also sell over-the-counter (non-prescription) drugs, vitamins, medical supplies etc.

(in the city centre)

Apotheek Schoepp Centrum Apotheek Schoepp Centrum:

Grote Gracht 24

6211 SW Maastricht

Routebeschrijving

Phone: 0031 (0)43 321 2964

<https://www.apotheekschoeppmosaeforum.nl/>

(24-hour pharmacy for emergency cases only)

Apotheek Straver

Akersteenweg 88

Maastricht

Phone: 0031 (0)43-3612829

<https://www.mumc.nl/patient-bezoeker/praktisch/apotheek>

Hospital

Visiting Address:

Academic Hospital Maastricht (AZM)

Debeyelaan 25

6229 HX Maastricht

Phone: 0031 (0) 387 6543

<https://www.mumc.nl/en>

Emergency

If you need an ambulance, the police or the fire brigade, call 112

This is the national emergency number.

In case you need the police but it is not an emergency, please call: 0900-8844

Visiting Address Police:

Politie Limburg-Zuid

Prins Bisschopsingel 53

6212 AB Maastricht

Dentist ('tandarts')

In case of dental problems, you can contact one of the following dentists.

(Near the central station)

Menger O.T.
Stationsstraat 46
6221 BR Maastricht
Phone: 0043 (0) 321 3476

(near the University)

Tandartsenpraktijk van Nouhuys
Hertogsingel 89B
6211 NE Maastricht
Phone: 0031 (0)43 321 1736
www.de-tandarts.net

Important:

You have to make an appointment first.

Note, not all medical insurances cover dental costs, so please check this with your health insurance before you make an appointment.

10. WEATHER

Maastricht is located in the most southern part of the Netherlands in the Limburg province. Limburg is, on average, warmer during the summer months and colder during the winter months compared to averages in the Netherlands. You can check the weather forecast for Maastricht daily, using the weather application on your smart phone. You can check the weather forecast on the following website as well:

<http://www.weather-forecast.com/locations/Maastricht/forecasts/latest>

The Netherlands is in Central European Summer Time (CEST).

11. TRAINING COURSE COORDINATION

Course coordinator	ITU coordinator
Contact for general questions: Ms. Cristina Mancigotti cdo@merit.unu.edu Name: Dr. Mindel van de Laar Title: Head Capacity Development Office Email address: Mindel.vandelaar@maastrichtuniversity.nl	Name: Mr. Angel Draev Title: Senior Project Manager Email address: ituacademy@itu.int