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A Guide for MoL Students
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1 Introduction

This text is based on a document written in 2004 by Henrik Nordmark and Reut Tsarfaty who were Master of Logic students at the time. The text has been updated during the past years with the help of Inés Crespo, David Fiske, Lisa Fulford, Malvin Gattinger, Johannes Emerich, Tanja Kassenaar, Frederik Lauridsen, Niels Molenaar, Peter van Ormondt, Almudena Colacito, Christopher Badura, Sirin Ozturk and Pablo Marquez. It should give answers or referrals to questions new Master of Logic students might have when they are trying to make themselves familiar with a new university, city and country.

When you are trying to find an answer to a question, the first places to look are the websites listed below:

- MoL@ILLC: http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/
- UvA Students: http://student.uva.nl/en
- UvA Students A–Z: http://student.uva.nl/log/az

The second thing you could try is:

- ask your question at the Digital Student Service Desk: http://student.uva.nl/en/contact/digital-student-service-desk
- or ask your fellow students in the MoL gang on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/102399849805512/.

2 Emergencies

2.1 General emergency phone number

The general emergency phonenumber in The Netherlands is:

112

Ambulance, Firefighters and the Police can be reached through this number in case of an emergency. This emergency number is valid in all European Union countries.

2.2 Police

Central Police Station
Elandsgracht 117
phone: 0900 8844 (28ct/min)
from outside the Netherlands: +31 343 57 8844
http://www.politie.nl/
2.3 Health

In case of life-threatening emergencies, one should go to a hospital emergency room immediately.

Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis Emergency Room
Oosterpark 9
phone: 020 599 9111
informatie@olvg.nl
The entrance of the Emergency room is on Ruyschstraat in front of the police office which is on ’s Gravesandeplein.

3 Health and Welfare

For general information about and contact details of UvA’s doctors, psychologists, dentists, counselors, confidants and chaplaincy please consult the Student Welfare website:

http://student.uva.nl/en/az/content/health-and-welfare/

3.1 University Doctors

University doctors are available for all students enrolled at UvA. Walk-in visiting hours are Monday to Friday, 9 – 9.45 a.m, and you are guaranteed to see a doctor that day. The university doctors can also refer you to a specialist if needed. Do not forget to take your health insurance card with you.

3.2 University Dentists

Dental care is available at the Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam: ACTA. University dental students, supervised by qualified dentists, are the ones conducting the dental treatment. This takes slightly more time because several students may carry out treatment, but the cost is lower (about 65% of the normal rate). However, they will only take you on when you are an interesting case. If your teeth are not interesting enough, you can also go to Studentist. Please have a look here:

http://www.studentist.nl/contact/amsterdam

3.3 University Psychologists

Should you experience any personal problems, a lack of motivation or concentration, or suffer from depression, anxiety, psychosomatic complaints or culture
shock you may consult the University Psychologist. Consulting the psychologist is free of charge. All psychological consultations are, of course, strictly confidential. If necessary, the psychologist can find you a therapist who speaks your native language.

3.4 Student Counselors (Studentendecanen)

In case you need to take a break from your studies due to health issues or urgent family matters it is wise to contact the student counselors. They can help you with the official de-registration, breaking off your tuition fee and lease payment, and maybe postponing your scholarship.

3.5 Tanja Kassenaar

If you feel the step towards psychologists or counselors is too big, or your troubles, worries and/or problems seem too small, and you don’t want to bother your academic mentor with it, you can also contact Tanja Kassenaar for a confidential talk. She can either help you herself or point you in the right direction.

| Tanja Kassenaar  
| Master of Logic  
| Science Park 107, room F1.46  
| phone: 020-525 8849  
| t.kassenaar@uva.nl |

4 Student Status at UvA and Immigration Status in the Netherlands

Any questions you may have about your official registration as a student of the University of Amsterdam, your residence permit, your visa, traveling outside the Schengen area, your legal status in the Netherlands, getting a BSN-number, or your right to work in the Netherlands, first try:

- UvA Students A–Z: http://student.uva.nl/log/az, or
- ask your question at the Digital Student Service Desk: http://student.uva.nl/en/contact/digital-student-service-desk

If they can’t answer or do not answer in a satisfactory manner, then you can also contact Mr. Niels Molenaar of the International Team of the Faculty of Science.
You may also attempt to contact someone directly at the Dutch Immigration Office known as the IND:
phone: 088 0430 430 (10ct/min) (weekdays 9 p.m. - 5 a.m.)
https://ind.nl/en

5 Housing

5.1 Ending your lease early

Ending your lease early is in principle only possible when you end your student-status, meaning when you quit your studies. However, sometimes there are exceptions.

Please, first carefully read your lease contract and if you are left with questions, please contact the housing department of the Faculty of Science at:

housing-science@uva.nl

5.2 How to find housing on your own

The first thing you should when looking for an apartment do is ask friends, colleagues, PhD students, acquaintances etc. By far one of the best ways of finding a new place to live is by word of mouth.

There is also an active Facebook group with posts about housing:

- https://www.facebook.com/groups/Amsterdampartmentrentals/

Another good start is:


Here you will find some advice on how to go about finding a place to live on your own.

In general, it is important to beware of scams! Both on the websites and the Facebook groups. If you are in doubt, ask a second year student or your student mentor.
6 Academic Matters

6.1 Contacting the Master of Logic Programme

If, after reading the information that follows, you are unsure who to contact regarding an academic matter, please use the general email address for the MoL:

Master of Logic Programme
mol-illc@uva.nl

Email sent to this address is processed by Tanja Kassenaar and Maria Aloni.

6.2 Examinations Board

The Examinations Board (examencommissie or BoE) is the most important board or committee in the Master of Logic. It makes the final decisions regarding your admission, as well as regarding your graduation. It is responsible for the quality of the students that leave the programme with a diploma. Therefore you have to request the approval from the BoE for your admission (by means of your application form), for transfer credits you might want from other universities and programmes, for being exempted from taking certain obligatory elements, and for the final list of courses that you want to graduate with. One of the members of the BoE must be the chair of your thesis defense committee. For any special academic regulations or exceptions to the regular curriculum of the MoL, you should seek the approval from the BoE, through its secretary.

The Examinations Board also has to approve of the examinations of all the courses within the MoL. If you have complaints on any of these subjects, or complaints about your grades, or the amount of credits you got for a course, please contact the Examinations Board, through its secretaty.

Examinations Board Master of Logic
Secretary: Tanja Kassenaar
mol-illc@uva.nl

Email sent to mol-illc@uva.nl is read by Benedikt Löwe, Tanja Kassenaar and Maria Aloni. If you wish to make a request or complaint to the BoE without Maria Aloni being able to read it, you can send an email to the personal email address of Tanja Kassenaar t.kassenaar@uva.nl.
The Examinations Board currently consists of:

- Prof. dr. Benedikt Löwe, chair
- Dr. Alexandru Baltag
- Dr. Floris Roelofsen
- Dr. Jakub Szymanik
- Prof. dr. Ronald de Wolf

6.3 General Information: Courses, Tracks, etc.

Information regarding courses, course descriptions, tracks and their requirements and the graduation procedure can be found on the following websites:

- http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/
- http://studiegids.uva.nl/

6.4 Academic mentors

Your academic mentor is intended to guide you in all academic matters at the ILLC. The mentor is there to help you and discuss with you the following issues:

- the courses you are going to take,
- projects you want to do, and,
- finding a thesis topic and thesis supervisor.

Your mentor may also be able to help you with career advice matters. It is strongly advised that you meet with him/her in person before the beginning of each semester and then maintain email contact throughout the semester. You can of course meet with your mentor more frequently if that seems beneficial. Do not hesitate to contact him/her in case you have questions that are of an academic nature.

Mentors are assigned before your arrival. It might be that your mentor doesn’t match very well with your background or interests and is not fully up to date with the courses in that specific area. That should not be a huge problem. He/she can also refer you to another staff member of the ILLC to discuss some of the courses with you. If you are still unhappy about your mentor assignment, please feel free to discuss this with Tanja Kassenaar. Note that your academic mentor is not necessarily your thesis supervisor!

- Dr. Maria Aloni
- Dr. Alexandru Baltag
- Dr. Benno van den Berg
- Dr. Nick Bezhanishvili
- Dr. Ulle Endriss
- Dr. Raquel Fernández
- Prof. dr. Dick de Jongh
6.5 Choosing which classes to take

You should check the course list, course descriptions, and timetables on the web:

- [http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/current-students/courses/](http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/current-students/courses/)
- [http://studiegids.uva.nl/](http://studiegids.uva.nl/)
- [http://datanose.nl](http://datanose.nl)

You should discuss your choices in relation to your background with your academic mentor and make these decisions together. Your mentor and you should make sure that you take all the required classes you need for your track and to make sure you take enough credits so that you can graduate in a timely fashion.

6.5.1 Workload

Beware not to underestimate the workload of ILLC classes. The relationship of 1 EC = 28 hours of work is accurate. This simply means that taking much more than 30 EC of courses per semester (or more than 12 EC in one of the 8-week blocks) will probably be too much work. Concretely, for a typical 6 EC course running over a period of 8 weeks, you should plan for an average of 20 hours of work per week. Classes tend to start slow, especially in the first semester, which can only mean they end in full speed. Please be aware of this when you are planning your semester.

6.5.2 Classes outside the Master of Logic

If you are interested in a subject that is not taught within the MoL, you can also talk to your academic mentor. He or she might be able to advise you on how to go about finding a course at another Dutch university, or to find a staff member that might be willing to do an individual project with you in the field of your interest. Please send an email to:

mol-illc@uva.nl

if you need further assistance with the formal requirements to take such classes and receive EC’s for completing them.
6.6 Registration for classes

First-year students will not register for courses in their first semester through SIS, as they cannot meet the deadlines. Please instead check this website:

http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/current-students/courses/registration.html

Registering for courses can be rather complicated within the MoL, so please put this webpage in your favorites or bookmark it. Every time you encounter problems with registration for classes, please start by reading this page (again).

6.6.1 Deregistration for classes

If you, at some point, decide to drop a course, please try to deregister and inform the lecturer.

If you don’t these dropped courses will be registered as ‘failed’, and although failed courses will never appear on official transcripts or your diploma supplement, they do cloud the number of resits you took. Besides, for the administration of the course, the lecturer and the evaluations it is much clearer if only students are registered who are actually taking the course.

Like registration, deregistration can be complicated.

First try SIS:

http://www.sis.nl

If that doesn’t work because the deadline for deregistration has passed, contact the educational institute that organizes the course:

- Faculty of Science: vakaanmelding-fnwi@uva.nl
- Faculty of Humanities: info-otm-fgw@uva.nl

6.7 Research projects

Because the MoL is a research-oriented programme, a research project for 6 EC is obligatory for all tracks. In fact, you are encouraged to do more than one project. It is advisable to complete your first project well before starting preparations for your Master thesis and not to wait until too late.

There are different possibilities to find projects:

- The MoL offers projects in the project period at the end of each semester, in January and June. Descriptions of these projects are published around 1 month before they are offered at

  http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/current-students/courses/projects.html

- You can also propose an independent project, individual or in a group, and this project can take place either in the project period (January and June) or during the semester. For this, you should contact an ILLC staff member. Although they are not obliged to accept your proposal, most staff members will if the proposal is realistic.
You can also contact someone from outside the ILLC who works on the subject of your interest. He or she might be willing to do an individual project with you. For this, however, you should consult your academic mentor, and do not forget that the project has to be approved by the Examinations Board. Please send an email to mol-illc@uva.nl to make formal arrangements.

- Registration for June and January projects is done by contacting the teacher(s).
- Registration of independent projects is done by the teacher.

6.8 Research training outside of courses

Research training outside of courses is of great importance, because this will bring you in touch with trends in research and allow you to make new contacts. This includes conferences and workshops in Amsterdam and nearby, seminar and colloquia at the ILLC and other institutions, and reading groups that you might want to organize yourself.

The ILLC organizes many colloquia and lectures. In order to start MSc thesis research, a student in the Master of Logic has to attend at least ten lectures outside of his or her course programme. Students are of course very welcome to attend more than ten of these lectures. These events will be announced via ILLC News, which is sent out weekly, and on the ILLC website:

http://www.illc.uva.nl/NewsandEvents/

7 Other support

7.1 grades, transcripts and diploma

If there is something wrong with a grade in SIS or DataNose, or it takes too long before a grade is registered there, please contact the lecturer of the course first. If the lecturer cannot help you, contact Tanja Kassenaar at t.kassenaar@uva.nl.

If you need a list of courses you have taken, you can get one at the Education Service Centre (ESC) of the Faculty of Science (see the box below). If you need an official international transcript, for instance for PhD applications, you can contact Tanja Kassenaar at t.kassenaar@uva.nl.

(Exchange students should ask exchange officer at studex-science@uva.nl.)

Applying for your diploma, after you defended your thesis, and questions about your diploma, is also done at the desk of the ESC.

Education Service Center (ESC), Faculty of Science
Science Park 904, first floor, middle desk
postal address:
PO Box 64214
1090 GE Amsterdam
phone: 020 525 7100
servicedesk-esc-science@uva.nl
office hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
7.2 Exchange semester abroad

It may not be the first thing that comes to mind if you just arrived from another country, but who knows, you might get interested in doing an exchange semester abroad. For Dutch students this might be a more obvious choice.

If you are interested please contact the Exchange Officer of the Faculty of Science:

studex-science@uva.nl

It is also advisable to contact the Examinations Board (see Section 6.2) beforehand to ask permission to use the courses you intend to take during your exchange period within your MoL programme. Afterwards you should hand in an official transcript to the BoE, to get these courses and credits registered at the UvA.

8 Protection of your interests, problems and complaints

In case you are not satisfied with the MoL programme, the facilities, the people surrounding you, then there are several ways to try to do something about it.

8.1 MoL room committee

The MoL room committee is a committee of Logic students, who act as a contact between students and staff in matters concerning the MoL room. These can be very practical issues such as printer or computer problems, moving around the furniture. But it also includes organizing social or scholarly events to take place there. In the past there have been Sinterklaas evenings, and informal workshops and presentations. These events are all led by student initiatives and vary from year to year depending on what the students wish to create for themselves if anything at all.

Currently the MoL room committee members are:

• Bas Cornelissen bjmcornelissen@gmail.com
• Stephen Pastan stpasta@gmail.com

You can contact them for suggestions and complaints about practical matters in the MoL room and about events you would like to organize.

The standard number of members is four. When a current member graduates, the space has to be filled in. There are currently two places to be filled, one of these may be you!!

8.2 Opleidingscommissie

The Opleidingscommissie, or MSc Committee also known as the OC, is in charge of evaluating the ongoing quality of the Master of Logic programme. This includes the quality of all the classes, the content of the classes, the academic mentor system, the student mentor system, the MoL Room and more generally the overall quality of the programme as a whole.

Both staff members and students are represented in this committee. In a nutshell, the committee keeps an eye on every aspect of the programme and formulates suggestions for improvement to the director of the Master of Logic.
The current members of the OC are as follows:

- Dr. Paul Dekker (chair), staff
- Bas Cornelissen, student
- Stephen Pastan, student
- Dr. Alexandru Baltag, staff
- Dr. Nick Bezhanishvili staff
- Dr. Christian Schaffner, staff

Secretary: Tanja Kassenaar

These people can be contacted in case the OC should discuss any complaints or suggestions you might have. Before every OC meeting the student members will write an email to all students and will call on them to come with complaints, proposals or any other suggestions they might have.

8.3 Examinations Board

If you have complaints about examinations, your grades, or the amount of credits you got for a course, please contact the Examinations Board (see Section 6.2).

8.4 Other problems and complaints

There are a number of additional resources at your disposal to go about solving any complaints or dissatisfaction you may have with your experience of the programme.

8.4.1 Maria Aloni & Tanja Kassenaar

If you have personal problems with your instructors, mentor or thesis supervisor, or other matters concerning the programme itself that are not in the scope of the MoL room committee or the OC you can contact either:

- Maria Aloni at m.d.aloni@uva.nl
- Tanja Kassenaar at: t.kassenaar@uva.nl

For less confidential matters, it is better if you use the general address

- mol-illc@uva.nl

8.4.2 Confidential Advisor (Vertrouwenspersoon)

If you feel intimidated, sexually harassed, or discriminated against by a fellow-student, teacher or staff member, and you trust nobody else to go to, you can always approach one of the confidential advisors of the University of Amsterdam.
For students of the Master of Logic this is:

Ms. Iris Hettelingh  
Science Park 904  
phone: 020 525 5864  
I.Hettelingh@uva.nl

Iris Hettelingh doesn’t have any connections to the Master of Logic.

8.4.3 University Counselors (Studentendecanen)

University counselors can be contacted at the Service & Information Centre (see Section 3.4). They can be consulted by phone from Tuesday till Friday 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (phone 020 525 8080). If you wish to make an appointment then please phone them after these phone consultation hours (consultation is not possible without an appointment).

8.4.4 More information on complaints, objections and appeals (link)

For more information on how to act if you have a complaint, an objection or you want to appeal against a decision, please have a look on this website.


9 MoL Community

9.1 Mail

All MoL students can choose to receive some or all of their mail at the MoL mailbox at the ILLC, near room F1.02. Please make sure all your mail is clearly addressed to you to avoid any confusion:

Universiteit van Amsterdam  
ILLC  
‘Your own name’  
MoL student  
P.O. Box 94242  
1090 GE Amsterdam  
The Netherlands
9.2 MoL Room

9.2.1 Intention

The idea behind the MoL room is to have a space in which all the MoL students with all their differing academic and cultural backgrounds can come together, exchange ideas, work together, socialize and bond with each other. The ILLC maintains this special area with access to desk space, computing facilities, a group work area, and other amenities for exclusive use of the MSc in Logic students. Note: The MoL Room is a privilege unique to the Master of Logic programme. There are no other Master programmes at UvA that have their own area for their students. For this reason, we recommend that you have a great deal of respect for this space and take full advantage of it.

9.2.2 Beverages

When you use any cup, plate, spoon or any other dish or kitchen utensil, please put them in the dish-washer and turn the machine on if its full.

9.2.3 Access and Leaving after Office Hours

You can enter Science Park 107 and the MoL room 24 hours a day, every day of the week, except for on a handful of special holidays when the building is completely closed. These days will be announced by the ILLC Office a few days in advance.

Note that the gates of the terrain where the ILLC is located are closed on weekends and after 19:00 on working days. If you are outside, you can always enter with your access key. If you want to leave Science Park 107 after 19:00 on a weekday, you should notify security by emailing wcw-security@vancis.nl sometime between 17:00 and 19:00, informing them of both your intentions and the last four digits printed on your access key. In practice, this will also work if you forget to send your email by 19:00, as long as you leave some time between your email and your departure (say, half an hour).

Please do not use any tricks to circumvent this door procedure. It is in place for your own safety, so the security people know you are in the building in case of an emergency, like a fire.

9.2.4 Special Events at the MoL Room

From time to time, MoL students have organized presentations, reading groups, rehearsals for MSc Logic thesis defenses and parties. Any group of MoL students is welcome to take the initiative to organize such an event. If you have questions or wish to have some assistance organizing something please contact the MoL Room Committee.

9.2.5 Feedback, Suggestions & Complaints

All feedback can be given to the MoL Room Committee (see Section 8.1).

9.2.6 ILLC on Facebook

Anyone associated with the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation is welcome to join this group. This includes but is not limited to current students, former students, PhD students, postdocs, faculty members, etc.
Specifically for prospective, active and former MoL student, there is also the facebook group The MoL Gang. You are also very welcome to join this group.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/102399849805512/

10 General information on live in Amsterdam

In general, if you have questions about living in Amsterdam, sports, bikes, shops, bars etc., please search the Internet, ask your fellow students, your student mentor, or check the Facebook groups.

11 If you still don’t know whom to contact

If you still cannot find an answer to your question you can always contact the GPiL Programme:

Tanja Kassenaar  
Master of Logic  
Science Park 107, room F1.46  
phone: 020-525 8849  
t.kassenaar@uva.nl
Appendix Important websites

- **main MoL website**: the best start to search for almost all information:
  http://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic

- **Studielink**: for registration and deregistration as a student at the UvA, and to change your contact details:
  https://app.studielink.nl/front-office/

- **SIS**: for course registration from your second semester onwards, and for deregistration, and to check your results:
  https://www.sis.uva.nl

- **DataNose**: for schedules, to check which courses you have been registered for, to check your results, and for courses organized by the Faculty of Science also late-registration:
  https://datanose.nl

- **Course Catalogue**: to find out which courses there are, course descriptions, course catalogue numbers, which Faculty of educational institute organizes the courses, etc:
  http://studiegids.uva.nl

- **UvA schedules**: as DataNose only gives the schedules for programmes and courses organized at the Faculty of Science, the UvA schedules can help for all other programmes and courses
  https://rooster.uva.nl

- **Blackboard**: for course specific information, like the planning of classes, set-up of content, manner of examination, reading material, (homework) assignments, etc:
  https://blackboard.ic.uva.nl

- **A-Z list**: a starting point when looking for non MoL specific, UvA related matters:
  http://student.uva.nl/log/az

- **Digital Student Service Desk**: for questions related to registration at the UvA, tuition fee payments, the municipality, visa and residence permits, legal status in the Netherlands, etc:

- **ILLC**: for announcements and events, staff members and their research, PhD candidates and their research and other ILLC related matters:
  http://www.illc.uva.nl