Declaration of Intent 2020

The Faculty of Religion and Theology of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam) and the Protestant Theological University (PThU) in Amsterdam, in collaboration with and under the auspices of a number of religious bodies, started the project Bridging Gaps. The aim of the project is to create opportunities for theology students from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East to spend part of their course of study in the Netherlands, during a predetermined stay of three months. Infrastructure, supervision and fees will all be provided by the VU Amsterdam and the PThU and the other organisations involved. It is important to realise that the project funds are generally provided by local churches and missionary committees, and have been gathered with great effort.

In order for the project to be successful, it is essential that the applicant should be in absolute agreement with the project objectives. For this reason, an agreement is drawn up between the two parties involved in which the commitment of both parties to the project’s success is expressed.

The inviting organisation is expected to:
- Do everything in its power to allow the participant to derive maximum benefit from his or her stay at the VU Amsterdam and PThU.
- Provide the participant with proper academic supervision.
- Provide the sending institute with an evaluation of the participant’s stay in time.
- Provide the sending institute with the participant’s results (credits) awarded by the VU Amsterdam and the PThU.

The participant is expected to:
- Do everything in their power to derive maximum benefit from their stay at the VU Amsterdam and PThU.
- Return home to their home country after the agreed three-month period.
- Give priority to the realisation and execution of the study project during their stay.
- Be willing to participate in Dutch church life and be involved in other religious activities on request.
- Be willing to give an account of their stay to the financing organisations in the Netherlands as well as to their own sending institute.
- Actively participate in the academic programme which has been drawn up.
- Apply the results of their stay in the Netherlands to the benefit of the academic community, church and society in their own country.

Signature Bridging Gaps programme

Signature applicant

Complete applications should be sent to Kirsten van der Ham, who can also be contacted for further information.
Kirsten van der Ham (Coordinator of the Bridging Gaps programme), kvander.ham@student.vu.nl.
See the brochure of Bridging Gaps for which documents are needed to complete the application.