

## Grading System VU Amsterdam Summer School

### *An explanation of the two-part grading system for the VU Amsterdam Summer School Equal Access Scholarship*

In order to create a fair grading system that will allow the VU Amsterdam Summer School Team to pick the best scholarship applicants, a two-part grading system will be used. In the [Equal Access Scholarship form](#), you will have to answer four questions. Please bear in mind that your answers must be 150 words maximum per question.

With the aim of being as transparent as possible, this document is being shared with everyone. However, as you will read later, originality will be valued. Feel free to think outside the box.

#### ***1st Round***

Maximum of 12 points

- The points awarded in the 1<sup>st</sup> round come from the scoring of each of the questions. Each question is worth a maximum of 3 points, and there are a total of 4 questions. Therefore, 12 points is the total available in this section.
- The scoring criteria for each question can be found in the table below and will be used to guide the scholarship reviewer on how many points to give each answer.

#### ***2nd Round***

Maximum of 8 points

The points gained in the second round are calculated based on the four scoring categories found in the table below that evaluate the overall questions. As aforementioned, there are 4 categories that the scholarship reviewers will consider, and will give either 0, 1 or 2 points for each category.

Therefore, the application will be scored out of 20 points in total, which will add together the scores in the 1st and 2nd rounds.

**Grading: 1<sup>st</sup> Round**

Question No.	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
1. Why are you interested in joining VU Amsterdam Summer School?	A basic answer is given that does not fully or at all address the question or that does not make sense given the context of the question. Character limit not used wisely.	A strong lack of interest or enthusiasm, limited explanation of interest that is not convincing. Considerably goes over the character limit.	A more convincing answer that discusses the applicant's interest but is not as in-depth as it could be. Potentially providing examples but these are limited. Slightly goes over the character limit.	A fully fledged out answer that leaves the 'marker' with no doubt that the applicant is interested in joining the summer school. Potentially providing examples, giving an in-depth + clear explanation of their interest. Sticks to character limit.
2. What's your motivation for selecting this course?	A basic answer is given that does not fully or at all address the question or that does not make sense given the context of the question. Character limit not used wisely.	Gives reasons and does not provide a full explanation for them. It is clear that not much time or thought has been put into the answer. Considerably goes over the character limit.	Mentioning skills/ knowledge/ experience and providing explanations of what their motivation is. Explanations are good but potentially limited/could be more in-depth or clear. Nothing that makes the application particularly stand out. Slightly goes over the character limit.	An answer that stands out and makes it explicitly clear why does the participant want to join. Discussing multiple benefits with fully fledged answers. Potentially introducing a unique idea/ skill/ knowledge etc (this is not explicitly necessary to get 3 points). Sticks to character limit.
3. How will you use the knowledge you acquired to make a positive impact for both yourself and	A basic answer given that does not fully or at all address the question or that does not make sense given the context of the question. Character	Lack of proper explanation. They identify the impact they will make but it is not deep enough/ the answer is not clear. Considerably	The answer is clear, although it lacks an in-depth examination of how the course will help him/her to make a positive impact.	A fully fledged answer that demonstrates the applicant took some time to reflect on this (does not need to

your community?	limit not used wisely. Character limit not used wisely.	goes over the character limit.	Slightly goes over the character limit.	be complex). An answer that is fully explained and well thought through. Sticks to character limit.
4. Why do you deserve this scholarship?	A basic answer given that does not fully or at all address the question or that does not make sense given the context of the question. Character limit not used wisely.	Listing skills or ideas with no explanation of why they deserve to be given the scholarship. Character limit not used wisely. Considerably goes over the character limit.	Addressing the question with shorter explanation. No skill/idea/explanation that makes the application stand out <i>i.e.</i> , sticking to quite basic skills then not fully expanding these or showing their relevance. Slightly goes over the character limit.	A fully fledged out answer that explains each skill/idea stated clearly and its relevance to the summer school/course. Potentially introducing a unique idea/skill or introducing something that is different but still relevant. Sticks to character limit.

### Grading: 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

Category	Guiding Questions + Notes	Maximum Points
Enthusiasm	Does the applicant seem excited about the summer school? Is their motivation clear throughout their application?	2
Potential	Is it clear that the applicant will benefit from attending? Will they be able to get a lot out of the summer school?	2
Originality	Is the applicant showing some of their own thoughts and ideas in their answers? Are the answers going beyond the basic/simple ideas that could easily be given? Are they creative with the answers they give?	2
Overall Suitability	Does the applicant seem well suited to both their chosen course and the summer school?	2