



SCHOOL OF
BIBLICAL STUDIES
Y W A M A M S T E R D A M

The School of Biblical Studies 2023-2024

Hello there,

Thank you so much for your interest in our school. We are excited to hear that you want to know more about what we do and that you are looking into deepening your relationship with God by studying His amazing words. We have written this short manual to give you an idea of what you might expect if you join our amazing SBS in Amsterdam and we also want to answer most of the questions you might already have.

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About the SBS:

The School of Biblical Studies, or SBS for short, is a nine-month program for students who want to deepen their understanding of the Bible and who want to discover what it means to apply God's truths from this ancient collection of books to our present-day society.

During the course we will teach the inductive method as our main tool to interpret the Bible as we look at the overarching story told by different authors and told in different writing styles. Our approach will be to imagine ourselves as the original readers and from this understanding, look at a modern application. As a school we will go through the entire Bible more than five times, and you will discover for yourself what shapes our beliefs as followers of Christ. We will start by reading each book out loud, observing the style of writing, researching the author, the audience and the cultural background of the text. The next step is interpreting the text chapter by chapter and then ending each book with a practical application that will help us to create bridges to our society and impact our personal faith.

The school comes in three individually accredited semesters for the University of the Nations, and after finishing the school, you will have a comprehensive understanding of both the Old and the New Testament. With this study, you can use the skills and knowledge to deepen your own understanding of God's living Word and be equipped to impact your city.

* <https://www.ywamamsterdam.com/sbs>

About the Amsterdam SBS:

With the SBS in Amsterdam we are focussed on taking the students deep into the Bible and our hope for each student is to grow their understanding of God's character. We have a big focus on discipleship and as a team we are intentional in walking alongside the students throughout their studies. Our goal is to create excitement for God's Word, equip students with tools on how to interpret God's Word, but also to see how we can put the things we learn to practise in our own lives.

Along with your personal studies, we will try to equip you with tools on how to share what you have learned with others (e.g. teaching or preparing for a small group) and we will also join the city ministries in Amsterdam some weeks during the school to live out the Living Word that we study.

School overview - SBS 2023/2024

The SBS program takes roughly 9 months and is divided into 3 quarters with two short breaks in between them. Your housing and meals during the breaks are included in your lecture fees, so feel free to stay on the base, but your breaks are a great opportunity to visit your friends and family, or to explore the Netherlands and/or Europe.

Arrival day is on the 20th of September. We as a school will start on the 21st of September.

Quarter I: **13 weeks** **20 September - 22 December**

During the first quarter we will study the New Testament as we teach you how to use and apply the Inductive Study Method. We start with the book of Philemon and work our way through the gospels and epistles of the New Testament.

Christmas break **2 weeks** **23 December - 7 January**

Quarter II: **12 weeks** **8 January - 29 March**

In the second quarter we will study the historical books of the Old Testament and open with Genesis. During these weeks we will teach and guide you as you learn how to interpret the amazing narratives found in the first books of the Bible. We will also be studying the book of Hebrews in this quarter for us to look at Jesus, and how great he is, seeing how the Old Testament is pointing to him.

Spring break **1 week** **30 March - 7 April**

Quarter III: **13 weeks** **8 April - 5 July**

In our third and final quarter we will study the deep and meaningful prophets, whose words are often emphasised through poetry. Over a third of the Bible is written in poetic language and we will learn to love and to interpret these beautifully written books. The final quarter ends with the Gospel of Matthew and the book of Revelation. By now we will have studied every book of our Bible and have seen and read the overarching story that points us to Jesus Christ who challenges us to radically follow Him in our everyday lives.

An average SBS week:

In an average week during the SBS, you will spend your mornings in class receiving lectures from a range of speakers (International speakers as well as speakers from the Biblical team in the Netherlands) who will help you explore and understand the Bible. But the heart of the SBS is for you to explore the Bible for yourself, and unpack its relevance to your own life. For this, you will have 25-35 hours per week, mostly in the afternoons, to study and discover God's words for yourself. You will also be involved in the community life of our base, taking part in prayer, worship, group interactions and times of feedback with your mentor.

Even though we offer an intense schedule, it will be up to you to manage your own times of studying, setting goals and finishing assignments; in this we encourage you to live a healthy life where you can

enjoy your breaks, interact with the community and most importantly to continue to love and explore God's amazing words.

Living in Amsterdam during your SBS

Living conditions:

You will be living in De Poort during your SBS. It is likely that you will be staying in dorms during your school. We will provide you a bed, sink and cupboards and invite you to make your room more homey. There are showers and toilets on each floor and we provide facilities to wash, dry and iron your clothes.

De Poort:



We have a big family room, a small library and a nice YWAM cafe, called 'The Anchor' where you can grab your favourite drink and read, talk, study or play some games. For our meals we gather in the dining hall or if the weather permits we'll eat in our courtyard.

Living in the heart of Amsterdam

We live right in the centre of Amsterdam and you can easily walk to our historical city heart and will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the nearby new city library, The Tabernacle (YWAM Amsterdam's prayer house) and over 75 unique art and cultural museums as well as some wonderful cafés.

Our address is Kadijksplein 18,, 1018 AC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, if you want to take a look on Google maps to get an impression of the surroundings.

School fees:

There are many costs involved in running our school, most of this will be your housing, food and facility costs. Our staff are all volunteers, but we do compensate your speakers for their travelling costs, provide you with a Bible, dictionaries, etc. Despite all these costs, we are very proud to be able to run our school for only €8.100 total, or €2.700 per quarter.

We recommend paying your fees per quarter so you won't have to start the school with all your fees in hand. It might be helpful to use your time before the school to save up and even start raising monthly support, by asking friends, family and your church to support you both financially and through prayer as you invest in your relationship with God.

Permit application:

As we already stated previously, the SBS runs for a little over nine months, this means that a lot of our students will have to apply for a permit, before being able to come to the Netherlands. These permit requirements are dependent on your nation's relationship with our government and will vary from nation to nation.

Frontdesk, our applications department, will be able to help you in figuring out what the permit requirements for your nationality are. Once you have applied to the school, we will be helping you in your application process and guide you as best as we can. We believe that God is able to provide a way and trust that He will guide you wherever you need to be.

If you have questions about whether you need a visa, or what visa you should apply for, feel free to contact us at Frontdesk@ywam.nl

Final word:

Thank you so much for your time, reading through this manual. We hope that we will have answered most of your questions and given you more of an idea of what you might expect from our school. We look forward to hearing from you, and bless you as you consider and prepare for our SBS.

You can find a lot more information on the SBS's international website right here:

<http://sbsinternational.org>, or on YWAM Amsterdam's website right here:

<https://www.ywamamsterdam.com/sbs>

Please feel free to ask us any questions you might still have, you can reach out to us by mailing to:

SBS.Amsterdam@ywam.nl

Many blessings,

David Teel, Sander and Julia Breman on behalf of the SBS team