



iGEM Europe Jamboree, Amsterdam 2011

Travel information

Venue

The iGEM Jamboree takes place in the Main Building (Hoofdgebouw) of the VU University. Address: De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam.

Travel directions

Travel directions, as well as other tourist information, can be found on wikitravel.org/en/Amsterdam. Directions to the VU University can be found on the website of the university: www.vu.nl/en. Below we give a description.

Getting to Amsterdam

By Airplane

Amsterdam can be reached by plane through Schiphol Airport (www.schiphol.nl), with connections to all main airports in the world. There are very frequent and direct train connections from the airport to:

1. *Amsterdam Zuid* railway station (7 minutes), the railway station to reach VU University.
2. *Amsterdam Centraal Station* (Central Station, 15-20 minutes), the railway station to reach the city center.

Train tickets can be bought at Schiphol airport from the yellow ticket machines near the platforms at Schiphol Plaza. Tickets are also available from the ticket offices, which are situated close to the red/white-checked cube at Schiphol Plaza. Staff at the ticket offices will also be able to provide you with train departure information.

Watch out *Be careful when going by taxi to and from Schiphol. Some drivers do not like to make short trips. Our experience with taxis from Connexxion is generally positive. This company also runs a hotel shuttle service (www.schipholhotelshuttle.nl).*

By Train

Amsterdam Central Station has intercity and high speed connections to mainland European cities and to London. Planning trips in the Netherlands can be done through the website of the Netherlands Railway Company (**NS**) at www.ns.nl/en/.

By Car

By far the best option to reach Amsterdam by car is to use the so-called "Park and Ride" [P+R] facilities, i.e. drive to a secured parking site in the outskirts of Amsterdam and travel by public transport to your hotel or campus. [P+R] Parking costs are € 8 per 24 h and include free public transport (with some limitations). See "Park + Ride" at www.iamsterdam.com/en.

Watch out *Except for parking at the [P+R] facilities, parking anywhere else in Amsterdam is surprisingly expensive! And parking violations have very annoying and expensive consequences: fines are high and your car may be towed away, costing additionally € 150.*

Getting around in Amsterdam

You can get around Amsterdam by public transport, or by using a rented bike. Public transport and bikes are the main and quickest means of transport in Amsterdam.

Public transport

Public transport in Amsterdam is run by a company called **GVB**. Several types of tickets are available. For example, a ticket valid for 48 hours, giving unlimited access to public transport (tram, metro and bus) in Amsterdam, costs € 11.50 (August 2011). Prices and places to buy these tickets can be found on the **GVB** website: www.gvb.nl/english. You can plan trips on the journey planner website: journeyplanner.9292.nl.

Bikes

Biking is the most flexible way of getting around in Amsterdam. Your hotel should be able to give you information about the nearest bike-rental shops.

Getting to the VU University

VU University Amsterdam (De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam, [Google maps location](#)) is accessible by different means of transport. At the end of this document you can find a few maps to help you orient.

From Amsterdam Central Station

- **Metro-tram 51**, direction *Amstelveen Westwijk* (16 minutes). Get off at: **De Boelelaan/VU**
- **Tram 5**, direction *Amstelveen Binnenhof* (25 minutes). Get off at: **De Boelelaan/VU**
- **Tram 16** or **24**, direction *VUmc* (VU medical center). Get off at final stop: **VUmc**

From Amsterdam Zuid railway station

- It is a 10 min. walk to the VU University Main Building. To get your bearings correct: when you are on the railway platforms facing South you will see buildings with signs “Boekel de Nerée” and “Baker & McKenzie”, as well as a remarkable edgy black-and-grey office building called “The Rock” (see map with picture at the end of this document). Determine where the West is, and walk all the way to the West end of platform, even past “The Rock”. There is a well-hidden exit. Descend the stairs and turn left. After leaving the station through the swing doors turn right and cross the road and tram railways (watch out for traffic!). Across the street turn left (to the South). After a 5 minutes walk along a little bushy area you will see the VU buildings.

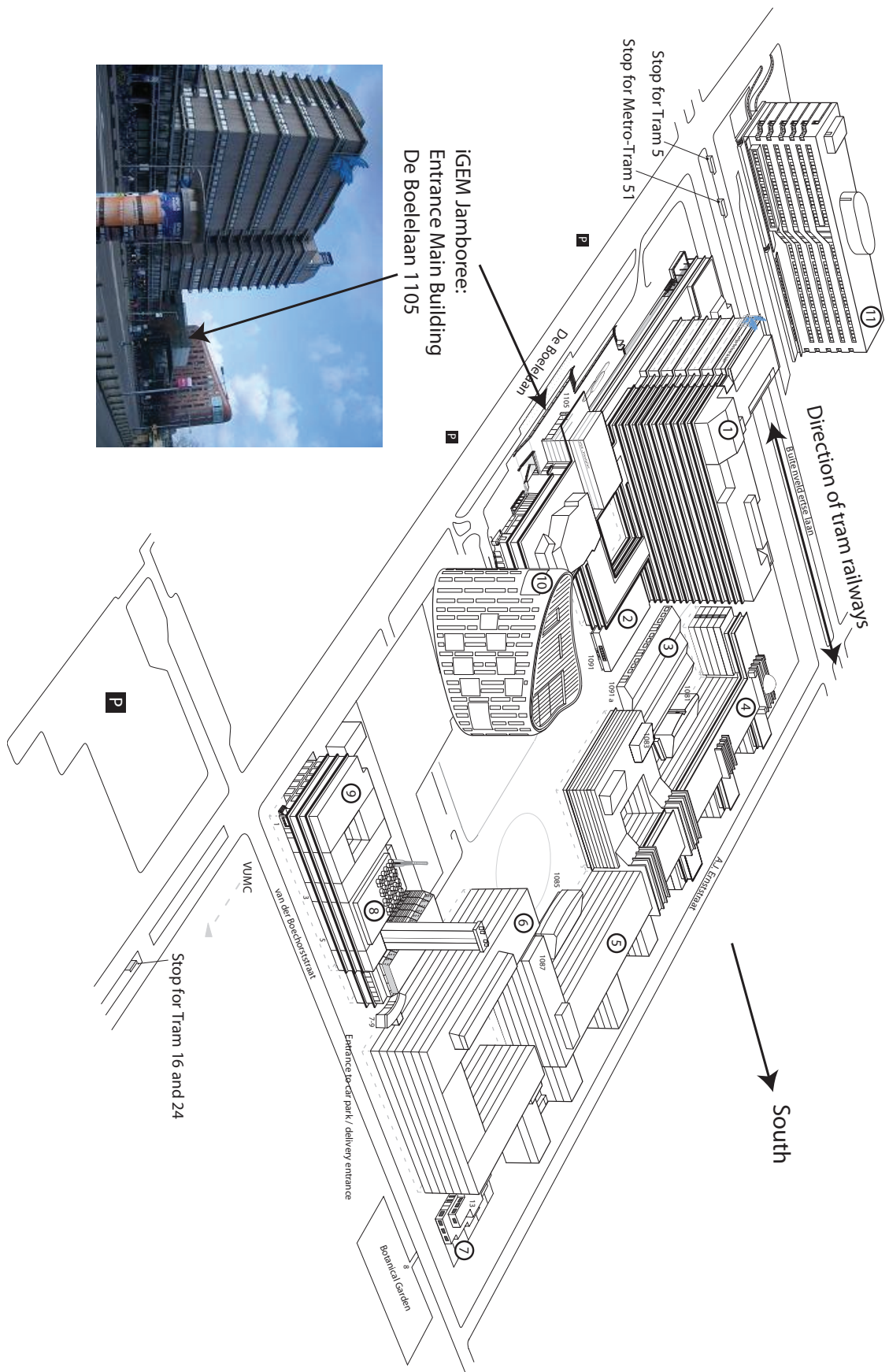
Alternatively, you can use public transport:

- **Metro-tram 51** (1 minute), direction *Amstelveen Westwijk*. Get off at: **De Boelelaan/VU**
- **Tram 5** (1 minute), direction *Amstelveen Binnenhof*. Get off at: **De Boelelaan/VU**

By car

The A-10 Amsterdam ring road can be reached from all directions. Follow the A-10 to the Zuid / Amstelveen exit S 108. Turn left at the end of the slip road onto Amstelveenseweg: after about three hundred yards (at the VU University hospital building) turn left again onto De Boelelaan. VU University Amsterdam can be reached via city routes S 108 and S 109.

Parking There is a limited amount of parking space around VU University in *De Boelelaan*, which has parking bays, and also in *Karel Lotsyalaan*. There is paid parking on VU parking lot to the right of the Hospital Outpatient Clinic. There is even more parking space on the east side of *Buitenveldertselaan* at the junction with *Willem van Weldammelaan*, within 5 minutes walking distance of the VU. A number of parking places for the handicapped are reserved in front of the VU Main Building and within its grounds. Parking at the inner campus area of the VU is expensive: € 3 per hour, also during the weekend! Strangely though, on Fridays after 19:00 h. and on Saturdays and Sundays parking is free in immediate vicinity South and East of the VU campus. But to avoid nasty surprises, be sure to check the signs and parking ticket machines! Also see the City of Amsterdam [map of parking rates](#) (upper link: “Plattegrond tariefgebieden (4 MB)”).



iGEM Jamboree:
Entrance Main Building
De Boelelaan 1105

