

Living in Amsterdam

Useful Information for nationals & internationals



1. Registration in Amsterdam

If you relocate to Amsterdam from a different Dutch city or abroad, you need to register as a resident here. You must register in person and will receive a Citizen Service Number (BSN). You need a Citizen Service Number for all communication with the City and national government. You can find all information here:
<https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/civil-affairs/first-registration/>

Registering for the first time

If you move to Amsterdam from a different country and have not lived in the Netherlands before, you will need to register with the municipal authorities.

- Anyone who wants to register must contact the municipal authorities within 5 days of arrival to *schedule an appointment*. For an appointment call the City of Amsterdam's information line:
Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 18.00.
(+31 20 624 1111)

If you have any trouble arranging this appointment, come by the office at Team Academy and we will help you.

- The appointment will take place at a City Office.
For addresses see this website:
<https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/contact-information/city-offices/>
- You must come to the appointment in person.
- You must be in the Netherlands legally.
- You must have a residential address in Amsterdam where you can register.

What you need to bring

- A valid proof of identity, such as a passport or an ID card (only valid if you are a citizen from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein).
 - An original birth certificate (*not a copy*). Please note this document needs to be translated into Dutch, English, French, or German and legalized.
 - If you are married: an original marriage certificate (*not a copy*). Please note this document needs to be translated into Dutch, English, French, or German and legalized.
- NB. Please note that the certificate generally needs to be authenticated ("legalized") first.

Depending on your housing situation, you need to bring:

- If you own your home: the proof of purchase (koopcontract).
- If you rent your home: the rental contract (huurcontract), or an Address registration permission form signed by the main occupant and a copy of his or her proof of identities, such as a passport or an ID card.

- For a postal address: an Address registration permission form (in Dutch) signed by the main occupant and a copy of his or her proof of identities, such as a passport or an ID card.

Additional certificates from other countries

Depending on your situation, you may also need to show other certificates issued in foreign countries. During your appointment, you will hear which additional documents you need. You will have 3 months to arrange these documents. You will also need to make a new appointment when you have the additional certificates.

2. Housing

Finding a room in Amsterdam can be tricky since there is an ongoing shortage of suitable affordable homes. Luckily, many rooms are assigned specifically to students, which means you actually have a better chance of finding a place to live.

The Social Hub or Student Experience

If you have just arrived from another country and are still finding your bearings, Team Academy recommends you start at the Social Hub or Student Experience. Their vibrant establishments include a gym, study room, laundromat, and a games room:

<https://www.thesocialhub.co/cities/amsterdam/>

<https://studentexperience.nl/en>

Rooms cost roughly €900,- per month and you can book for the entire school year (10 months) or for shorter periods of time.

Renting a room

If you are set on finding your own place to live, you should take a look at the following websites:

- <https://kamernet.nl/en>

- <https://www.studentenwoningweb.nl/en/>

- <https://www.duwo.nl/en/>

- <https://www.sshxl.nl/en>

- <https://www.pararius.com/apartments/amsterdam>

- <https://www.funda.nl/en/huur/>

- Facebook has several groups specifically aimed at searching for or offering available rooms in Amsterdam.

Beware

Due to the housing shortage, foul play often occurs. You might be charged ridiculous costs without ever having seen a room. Some things you *need* to keep in mind at all times:

1. A realtor is only allowed to charge you a fee when they are employed by you. If you find a listing on your own, through Funda, for instance, a realtor cannot charge you any brokerage fees.

2. Under Dutch law, an intermediary is allowed to charge you for “reasonable costs” – this means they will need to have compensated for the costs in some way.

The following things are often charged, but are not considered “reasonable”:

- Sleutelgeld; money charged for a set of keys.

- Contractkosten; providing you with a contract is a standard job for a realtor or intermediary. They are not allowed to charge money for this service.
- Administratiekosten; charging money for services rendered is only allowed when a realtor has done something extra like helped you to obtain a certain license or permit.

For more information on this, please look at: <https://www.nvm.nl/overnvm/about>

3. Never, *ever*, pay upfront for the property you have not yet viewed!

4. Let someone else check the contract for you, just in case

Utilities

In a rental agreement, you should be able to find which utilities are included in your rent. In case you need to sort the electricity or water yourself, take a look at:

<https://dutchreview.com/expat/moving/a-simple-guide-to-sorting-utilities-in-the-netherlands/>

3. Student life

With its abundance of beautiful libraries or cafes to study in, numerous bars and clubs, countless festivals – the season roughly runs from March until October, and hundreds of museums, being a student in Amsterdam is an amazing experience – there’s no doubt about that. There’s so much going on that it can sometimes get a little overwhelming.

Fortunately, there are several national and international student networks in Amsterdam, offering activities and parties to join. For more information, find numerous Facebook groups and websites about this. Below, a few examples of international student networks.

International Student Network Amsterdam

The ISN belongs to the Erasmus Student Network, a European student organization. This network, set up by Dutch students under the supervision of UvA and HvA, offers recreation to all foreign students in Amsterdam. There is no joining fee or membership, students are simply offered the chance to take part in numerous activities organized by the ISN, such as trips around Holland, theme parties, etc. The ISN also runs a mentor system whereby it offers to assign a Dutch student to assist foreign students in adapting to Dutch life.

Website: www.isn-amsterdam.nl

Marketing Association Amsterdam

MAA connects students, faculties, and companies who have a shared interest in all things marketing. The focus is to help students transition from their student lives and apply their skills to a career that suits them. The association organizes a range of events that aim to inspire, advise and train the marketers of the future.

Website: <http://www.ma-amsterdam.nl/>

There are also numerous student associations with memberships and joining fees, but from experience, we can say that some associations are very hard to combine with the program of Team Academy, as both might require your full attention and time.

4. Transport

There is so much to see and do as a student in Amsterdam, so you'll need to get around the city somehow. Traveling by car isn't really a feasible option for students. Luckily, Amsterdam has you covered: not only is it one of the most cycling-friendly cities in the world, it has some of the most connected and fluid public transport too.

Cycling

Cycling in Amsterdam can be a bit challenging at first, with all the tourists, elderly people, and mothers juggling four kids and three bags of groceries in one bakfiets. Don't be discouraged though, just remember the traffic rules and take your time to get used to it.

You can get yourself a second-hand bike for around 50 to 175 euros from a variety of locations around the city. Prices of new bikes typically start at around 200 euros. You can also rent bikes from many locations. Beware of people selling stolen bikes on the streets though – buying one is a criminal offense!

Another great option for getting your bike is Swapfiets:

For a fixed fee per month, you have a working bike. In your subscription, reparations are included (flat tires, broken lights, etc.). They simply take the broken bike, swap it for a new one, and you're ready to go. But, be sure to not get your bike stolen, then you will have to pay a surcharge. More information in this video with subtitles:

<https://vimeo.com/428092316>

Subscriptions start at €19.90 per month (no gears). <https://swapfiets.nl/en-NL/amsterdam>

OV (Openbaar Vervoer - Public transport)

Amsterdam's public transport system consists of trains, trams, buses, and the metro. The most (in)famous metro line is number 52: the Noord-Zuidlijn, which took almost twenty years to build and a few billion more than originally planned. You can easily spend a day simply visiting every stop and discovering the artwork hidden in each of the Noord-Zuidlijn stations.

The easiest (and cheapest) way to use the OV in the city is to get yourself an OV-chipkaart, with this card you check in and check out at the little gates in all stations and in buses and trams. You can get an anonymous OV-chipkaart at train stations; selected bookstores – like the Primera or Livera; and at several supermarkets.

A personal OV-chipkaart costs € 7,50 and is valid for five years. The added convenience is that you can load a subscription on this card, so you never need to worry about missing a train because you had to top up your card. You can apply for a personal card here:

<https://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/purchase-an-ov-chipkaart/apply-for-personal-ov-chipkaart.htm>

To plan your journey with public transport, use these websites: <https://9292.nl/> or <https://en.gvb.nl/>

If you have more questions about living in Amsterdam, feel free to contact us via info@teamacademy.nl or our contact form on the website.