COVID measures on UvA campuses from September

For the 2021-2022 academic year, the 1.5-metre social distancing requirement will be lifted. However, a number of additional measures will remain in place to ensure everyone's safety:

- A maximum group size of 75 people is allowed per room.
- Face masks will be mandatory in the campus buildings. You may remove your face mask in class once everyone has taken their seat.
- Additional hygiene and safety measures include walking routes, maximum ventilation, additional cleaning efforts and disinfection facilities.
- We encourage students and staff to take a self-test at least twice a week. These tests can be ordered free of charge at zelftestonderwijs.nl.
- Students and staff with COVID-related symptoms must stay home and get tested at the Municipal Health Service (GGD).

More info? Go to uva.nl/corona →

Student associations

Studying is about much more than just your education. Each study programme
has its own association that organises social events like excursions and parties. They also offer nice book discounts for their members. You will receive more information about this during the introduction of your study programme.

Perhaps you might be interested in joining an association that shares your interest, orientation, mindset or background. There are plenty to choose from and many like-minded people to meet!

In addition, there are student unions like ASVA, which represent the interests of all students. Student associations such as ESN look after the interests of international students.

Find your student association →

Opening a Dutch bank account

Once in the Netherlands, you might find it to be helpful to open a Dutch bank account. International money transfers can be expensive, and credit cards are not widely accepted. A Dutch debit card allows you to pay at supermarkets, cafes and restaurants easily and free of charge.

ING and ABN AMRO are examples of banks that will offer you an account. Check our Upon arrival webpage for more details.

Go to step 4: how to open a bank account: →

How to get vaccinated in the Netherlands

We recommend that all UvA students and staff get vaccinated. International
students can either visit a vaccination unit on the Roeterseiland campus from 6 to 10 September, or get their vaccination at RAI Amsterdam any time after arrival in the Netherlands. An appointment is not necessary, nor will you need a BSN number or proof that you have been staying in the Netherlands for at least one month.

For more information, the Amsterdam Municipal Health Service (GGD) has set up a special hotline for international students: (+31) 020 5555 202.

International Student Ambassadors: ask your questions

[Message sent only to REG students.]

Would you like to know what it’s like to study at the University of Amsterdam? In our series of ASK videos, topics like study load, the Dutch grading system and the structure of the academic year are covered. Watch the videos on our Youtube channel.

Got more questions? Our international student ambassadors are here to answer all your questions. You can contact them any time via chat, and they’ll get back to you within 48 hours. Also, make sure to check out the blog section, which includes lots of helpful tips for applicants and new students.

Ask a question, chat with a current student and read student blogs →

Are you interested in becoming a student ambassador yourself? Submit your application now! →

Ambassadors

[Message sent only to exchange students.]

Would you like to meet local and international students and befriend students from a range of different countries? Would you like to expand your volunteer experiences, enhance your professional skills, and participate in a meaningful project during your exchange in Amsterdam? Then join the UvA international student community and sign up to be an Exchange Ambassador!

Exchange Ambassadors Programme →
Tips for your personal safety

Amsterdam is a small city with a pleasant atmosphere where you will soon feel at home. Recently, it was ranked as one of the safest cities worldwide and the second safest city in Europe. However, incidents do occur, so it is recommended to take some safety precautions.

- Always watch your belongings, especially in crowded places, bus stops, when you're on public transport, shopping and so on – pickpockets may be active.
- Avoid walking or cycling alone in poorly lit and unpopulated areas after dark.
- Do not use ATMs at night in quiet areas.
- Bike theft is common in Amsterdam. If you have a bicycle, make sure to always lock both the wheel and frame properly, preferably by locking it in a bike rack.

The emergency number for the Netherlands is 112. Non-emergency is 0900-8844, or if you’re outside the Netherlands +31 (0)34 357-8844.

**Find police stations in Amsterdam →**

Software and hardware discount

A working, well-equipped laptop or computer is crucial for the success of your studies. As an UvA student, you will find that particular software, such as Office 356 ProPlus, is freely available. You can also purchase software and hardware at substantial discount prices on Surfspot. Make sure to use your UvAnetID to log in.

**Go to Surfspot →**
Not starting your studies in September?

If you do not wish to start your studies in the academic year 2021-2022, please cancel your enrolment request in Studielink. This helps the UvA determine how many students to expect. It will prevent you from receiving further email reminders about your enrolment. Go to Studielink and select the programme for which you wish to disenroll, and click ‘cancel’. Next, check the box ‘I confirm that I wish to cancel my enrolment (application) and click ‘confirm’.

Go to Studielink →

University of Amsterdam

Editors: UvA Student Services. Contact us through the UvA Central Student Service Desk.

You are receiving this newsletter to help you prepare for your study programme at the University of Amsterdam, once every two or three weeks, from June to the end of September. Did you miss one? All previous editions are available online.

Images: UvA Beeldbank, Unsplash and Freepik.

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter: unsubscribe here