Arriving in Amsterdam

In little over a month, your studies at UvA will start. We hope you are as excited as we are! If you will be coming to Amsterdam physically, you might wonder how you will be able to navigate your way around. No worries, let Tuncay and Yee Man guide you through your first steps in Amsterdam.

Watch the video here (YouTube)

Travellers arriving in the Netherlands coming from a country or area that is marked as red or orange by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs are **urgently advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.** If this applies to you, you will receive more information on this soon.

Student Services will be hosting a [webinar](#) to answer all your arrival-related questions, like how to register with the municipality, where to pick up your student card, how to open a bank account and much more. For date and time, check the Upon Arrival website.
Not starting your studies in September?

In case you do not wish to start your studies in academic year 2020-2021, please cancel your enrolment request in Studielink. This helps the UvA to determine how many students to expect, and 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 →

Intreeweek

Want to find out all about Amsterdam student life, get tips and tricks on studying, and learn some Dutch as well? International Student Network (ISN) Amsterdam has a special programme for international students during Intreeweek. Tune in on Tuesday August 25 from 14:00 on!

If you have not yet registered, please check your mailbox for the official invitation.
Please note: AUC students do not participate in Intree, there’s a separate introduction at AUC.

Check the Intree website for more information →

ISN Amsterdam buddy programme

Throughout the semester, ISN organises (online) activities for students studying in Amsterdam to help them settle in more comfortably. They also offer a buddy programme. Explore the city and all its hidden spots with a local - the best way to get to know Amsterdam! Make sure to sign up before August 10.

Join the ISN buddy programme →

Free online Dutch course

Get your studies off to a flying start! INTT now offers a new free online course, Master Your Dutch (MY Dutch) that will teach you the first basics of Dutch and everything you need to know about the UvA and academic culture. As the programme is flexible, you can decide yourself which of the twenty modules you want to take, and how many.

More information on the course can be found on Canvas, after logging in with your UvAnetID and clicking 'enrol in course' and then 'go to course' in the menu on the left. This is completely free and without any obligation.

Go to MY Dutch →
Student associations

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

In addition, there are more general student unions like ASVA that represent the interests of all students. Student associations such as ISN focus on international students specifically.

Find your student association →

ISIC public transport card for international students

In the Netherlands, you need a chipcard to travel on train, bus, metro and tram. Exclusively for international students, ISIC created the ISIC Mobility Card. Reserve the ISIC Mobility Card prior to your arrival in Amsterdam and pick up the card at the ISIC office in Amsterdam or have it sent to your Dutch address, as soon you have one. Do not wait too long, as stock is limited!

To plan your trips, either within Amsterdam or throughout the Netherlands, we recommend using the online travel planner 9292.nl - they offer a very useful app as well.
**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 normal safety precautions.

- Make sure you always watch your belongings, especially in crowded places, when waiting at a bus stop, travelling by public transport, shopping and so on, because pickpocketing occurs.
- It is recommended to 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 wheel and frame properly, preferably by locking it to a bicycle 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.

**Police stations in Amsterdam**

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*University of Amsterdam*

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

The Start Newsletter is sent to all new international UvA students from June to the beginning of September. Did you miss one? All previous editions are available online.
If you no longer want to receive this newsletter: unsubscribe here