



UvA Start Newsletter



See you soon (online) in Amsterdam

You're about to start your studies at the UvA, and we hope you are as excited as we are! If you're coming to Amsterdam physically, you might wonder how you will be able to navigate your way around. No worries, we've got you covered. Read our **online step-by-step guide** to find out what you need to do once you arrive in the Netherlands.

Make sure to regularly check uva.nl/corona for the latest news on how Dutch corona measures affect your education at the UvA. This website is updated continuously and has a FAQ section specifically for international students.

For the most up-to-date information on Dutch corona measures and travelling to the Netherlands, please consult the [website of the Dutch government](#).

Request your student ID card

If you plan on coming to the Netherlands, don't forget to request your student ID

card on time! You will need it to use UvA facilities, borrow books, use vending machines, get student discounts et cetera. Please note that it takes about 2 weeks before your card is ready. For more information and to apply, click the link below.

Apply for your student ID card here →

Please note: the student ID card will only be sent to your address if you have an address in the Netherlands. In case you do not have a Dutch address, you can pick up your card at one of the service points mentioned on the website after your arrival.



Workshops for international students

UvA Student Services provides year-round workshops, training and information sessions on all sorts of topics to help you make the most out of your studies. Learn how to best tackle piles of study material and how to manage stress. Acquire skills to write the perfect CV or LinkedIn profile, or do a full career workout. If you consider studying abroad, you also will find useful workshops here.

Go to all trainings and workshops →



International Student Ambassadors: ask your questions

Do you have questions about what it's like to be an international student at the UvA? Our [International Student Ambassadors](#) are here to answer your questions and share first-hand experiences! In our series of ASK videos, topics like study load, working besides your studies, the Dutch grading system and the structure of the academic year are covered.

Watch the videos (YouTube) →

Got more questions? [Chat with our ambassadors](#) on the UvA website.



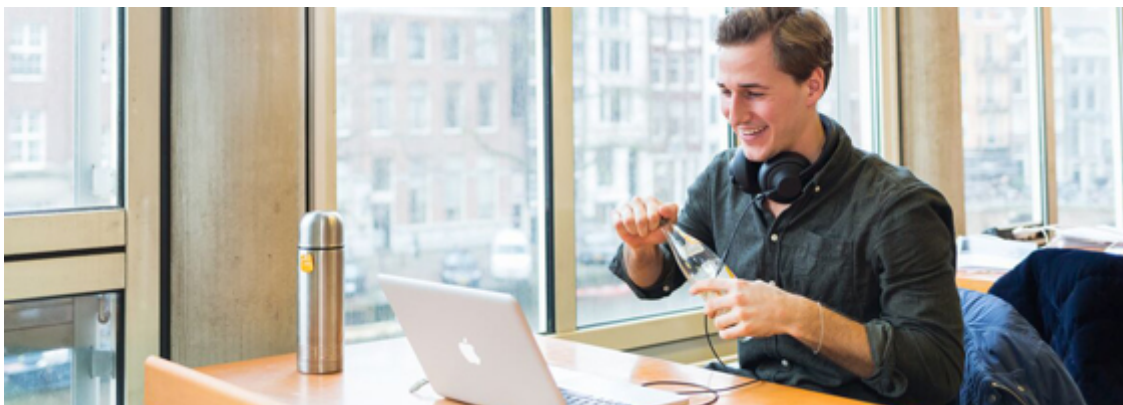
ISIC public transport discount card

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 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! If your plans change because of the current situation you can easily cancel your order and get a full refund.

To plan your trips, either within Amsterdam or throughout the Netherlands, we recommend using the **online travel planner** 9292.nl. Make sure to download their app as well.

Order the ISIC card →

ISIC is an independent organisation and not related to the UvA. For questions, please see the ISIC website.



University Library

Usually, all UvA students have free access to the UvA Library buildings to study

and pick up books. Due to the current situation however, only the UB Singel location will be open in the coming weeks. Study places are only available in special circumstances and require reservation in advance. The digital library continues to provide round-the-clock access.

Please go to the University Library website for up-to-date information.

[Go to the UvA Library →](#)



Discount on software and hardware

UvA students can purchase software and hardware online from **Surfspot** at substantial discount prices. Make sure to use your UvAnetID to log in.

[Go to Surfspot →](#)



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.

- Always watch your belongings, especially in crowded places, bus stops, when on public transport, shopping and so on - pickpocketing occurs.

- Avoid walking/cycling alone in poorly lit, unpopulated areas after dark.
- Do not use ATMs at night in quiet areas.
- Bike theft is common. If you have a bicycle, make sure to always lock both wheel and frame properly, preferably locking it to a bike rack.

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

Find police stations in Amsterdam →

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 November to the beginning of February. Did you miss one? All previous editions are available online.

Images: UvA Beeldbank and Unsplash

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter: [unsubscribe here](#)