



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

UvA immigration

Upon arrival brochure

www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/upon-arrival

Definitions

MVV students (TEV)

MVV students are students who are NOT citizens of the EU/EEA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Monaco, Vatican City, USA, South Korea, and are NOT in possession of a valid EU-residence permit. These students need an entry visa (MVV) to enter the Netherlands and a residence permit (VVR) for the purpose of study.

MVV exempted students (REF)

MVV exempted students are a citizen of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Monaco, Vatican City, USA, South Korea, or are in possession of a valid Schengen-residence permit. They need to apply only for a residence permit (VVR). They do not need an entry visa (MVV) to enter the Netherlands.

Gemeente

Gemeente is the Dutch word for municipality. The municipality plays an important role in the Netherlands. You will have to register with the municipality.

IND

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) implements the foreign nationals policy in the Netherlands. This means that the IND assesses all residence applications of people who wish to live in the Netherlands or who want to become a Dutch citizen.

Biometrics

For your residence permit the IND requires a passport photo, fingerprints and a signature. These are called biometrics.



Click on these icons to follow a link.



Click on these for a video.

Timeline

Pick up your MVV: Appointment with the embassy

- Students with an MVV requirement must pick up their MVV at the Dutch embassy.
- Students with an MVV exemption can travel with their *Beschikkingbrief*.
- Both an MVV and a *beschikkingbrief* count as a travel ban exemption.

Arrival in the Netherlands

- Travel from Schiphol to Amsterdam, you can purchase a public transport card the station. You can use this card for all types of public transport
- Pick up your keys. [↗](#)
- If required, you have to self-quarantine. [↗](#)

Register with the municipality (*gemeente*)

- When you register with the municipality, you receive a BSN number.
- Make an appointment via the UvA Upon Arrival page. [↗](#)
- Difference between Gemeente Diemen en Gemeente Amsterdam.
- Recommended to make an appointment within 5 days of arrival. [More on page 4.](#)

MVV exempted students: Have your biometrics taken

- Booked up quite fast, it is possible that you can make an appointment in September the earliest.
- Make an appointment to pick up your residence permit card for a date approximately 3 weeks after your biometrics appointment. [↗](#)

Pick up your residence permit card

- Students with a MVV that have already received an email that their card is available for pick up, can make an appointment. [↗](#)
- You can pick up your residence permit card after the 1st of September.
- If you do not have your residence card yet, you still have legal residence.

Registration municipality

Register with the municipality (*gemeente*)

- When you register with the municipality, you receive a BSN number.
- Make an appointment via the UvA Upon Arrival page.
- Difference between Gemeente Diemen en Gemeente Amsterdam.
- Advice: make an appointment within 5 days of arrival.

BSN number

It is mandatory to register with the municipality. When registering, you will receive your BSN number which you will need for a lot of things. The BSN number is a unique number for everyone who has dealings with the Dutch government. You use the BSN number for healthcare and to open a bank account, you also use the BSN number to get tested for COVID-19. You usually receive the BSN number during the appointment (Amsterdam) or via post within two to three weeks after your appointment (Diemen).

Making an appointment

It is important to use the link on the Upon Arrival page on the UvA website. This link will get you to a separate appointment page specifically for students.

Gemeente Amsterdam

To register at the municipality of Amsterdam, you need to make an appointment. You can do this by following the link on the Upon Arrival page.

To the appointment, you should bring (1) your valid passport, plus a copy of all the pages of this passport. If you have more than one nationality / passport, you must bring all of the passports. You should also bring (2) a printed copy of your rental contract, if you are staying with a friend or relative, you should bring the *Permission to register at an address* form and have it signed by the primary resident. Furthermore, you should bring (3) your student card or proof of registration at a university.

Gemeente Diemen

To register at the municipality of Diemen, you need to make an appointment. You can do this by calling the following number: +31 20 3144888. To the appointment, you should bring (1) your valid passport; (2) your residence permit card; (3) your rental contract printed; and (4) the registration form already filled in and printed.

When to make the appointment

We advise you to make an appointment within 5 days of your arrival in the Netherlands if your lease agreement has already started. If not, upon the start of your lease agreement, within 5 days of the start of the agreement.

Banking

Once in the Netherlands, it's useful to open a Dutch bank account. International money transfers are usually very expensive and take days to process. Also, credit cards are not widely accepted. With the debit card of a Dutch bank account, it is easy and free of charge to pay at supermarkets, cafes and restaurants.

How to choose a bank?

Several banks in the Netherlands have student bank accounts. The benefit of student bank accounts is that they usually are free of charge. For banks such as ABN Amro and ING, you will need your BSN number. It is possible that you want to open a bank account as soon as possible, but you do not have your BSN number yet because the first available appointment at the municipality was later than you expected. In this case, you can look at Bunq. In contradiction to other banks, Bunq allows you to open a bank account without a BSN number. However, Bunq requires you to submit your BSN eventually after approximately 3 months.

Below you can find the information on how to open a bank account with these three banks, including the benefits and / or drawbacks.



ABN Amro

You can make an appointment online. To complete the opening of the account, you'll need to visit one of their desks.

You need:

- A valid passport
- Proof of enrollment
- Your BSN number

Not suitable for exchange students. You can only open an account if you'll be living in the Netherlands for more than 6 months.



ING

You can make an appointment online. To complete the opening of the account, you'll need to visit one of their desks.

You need:

- A valid passport
- Proof of enrollment
- An original extract from the BRP
- Your BSN number

If you upload your proof of enrollment every year, the bank account stays free of charge. Only applicable for students younger than 30.



Bunq

You can make an appointment online.

You need:

- A valid passport
- Your residence permit

As with the other banks, you'll need to provide your BSN number. But Bunq allows you 3 months to do so.

Health Insurance

As a resident of the Netherlands, you are required to have health insurance. If you have health insurance with international coverage, you do not need a separate Dutch insurance or to upgrade your current insurance. If your current health insurance does not cover the Netherlands (or EU), you will need to either upgrade your current insurance to EU / world wide coverage or take out Dutch health insurance.

Please note that if you want to work in the Netherlands, you are obligated to take out Dutch health insurance!

Coverage of Dutch health insurance

Basic health care insurance includes a yearly policy excess (*eigen risico*) of €385. This means that you need to pay the first €385 in health care costs (excluding GP, gynaecological care and maternity care) yourself, before you can start to receive reimbursement from your insurance company.

Taking out Dutch health insurance

The website [Zorgwijzer.nl](https://www.zorgwijzer.nl) (in English) allows you to compare the policies offered by the different insurance companies in the Netherlands.

You need to obtain a BSN number before you can take out basic health care insurance.

For more information take a look at the UvA website [🔗](#) or [zorgverzekeringslijn.nl](https://www.zorgverzekeringslijn.nl) [🔗](#)

Working as a student

As an EU student you are allowed to work as many hours as you'd like. As a non-EU student, there are some rules and limitations.

Working as a non-EU student

As a non-EU student, you are allowed to either work a maximum of 16 hours a week outside of the summer period OR work full time during the summer months (June, July and August). If you want to work in the Netherlands, you are obligated to take out Dutch health insurance!

For more information take a look at the UvA website [🔗](#)

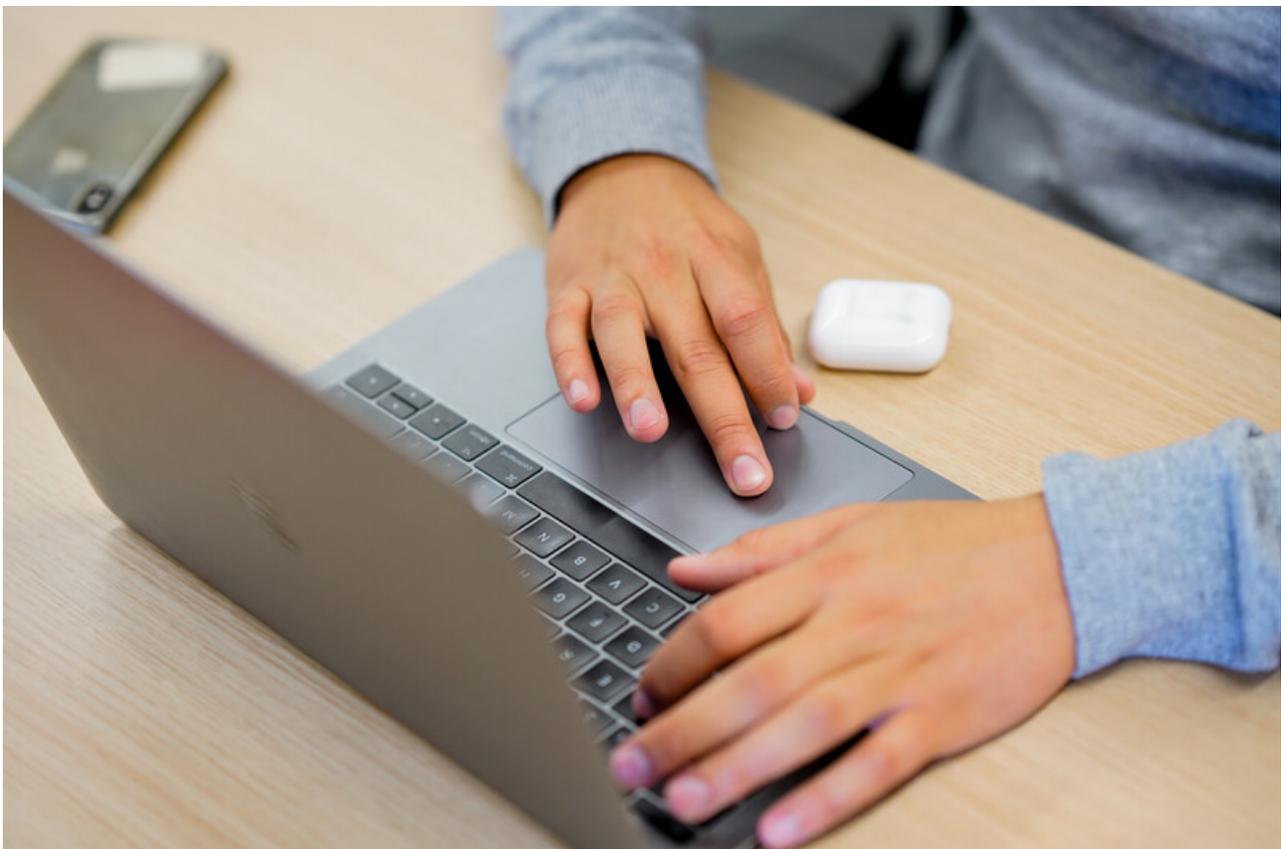
Checklist item RP

You can find all the steps you need to take to complete your enrollment at the UvA in the Enrollment Checklist in SIS. One of these steps is the residence permit. Once you have completed all the checklist items, you will receive your Proof of Enrolment from the Central Student Administration.

The Immigration Office at the UvA will flip the checkbox from *Started* to *Done* for you by the end of August. You cannot do this yourself. If you have received an email from us that your residence permit application has been approved, the checklist will be flipped to *Done* as soon as possible, you will receive this email on August 31st the latest. Please contact the Immigration office if your checklist hasn't been flipped after August 31st.

Refund living expenses

If you have transferred your living expenses to the UvA during your immigration process, please contact financialaid-sts@uva.nl to have them transferred back to you. Please be advised that you will get your living expenses transferred back into a Dutch bank account. It could take up to a month before you have an active Dutch bank account, so make sure you bring enough spending money for the first month.

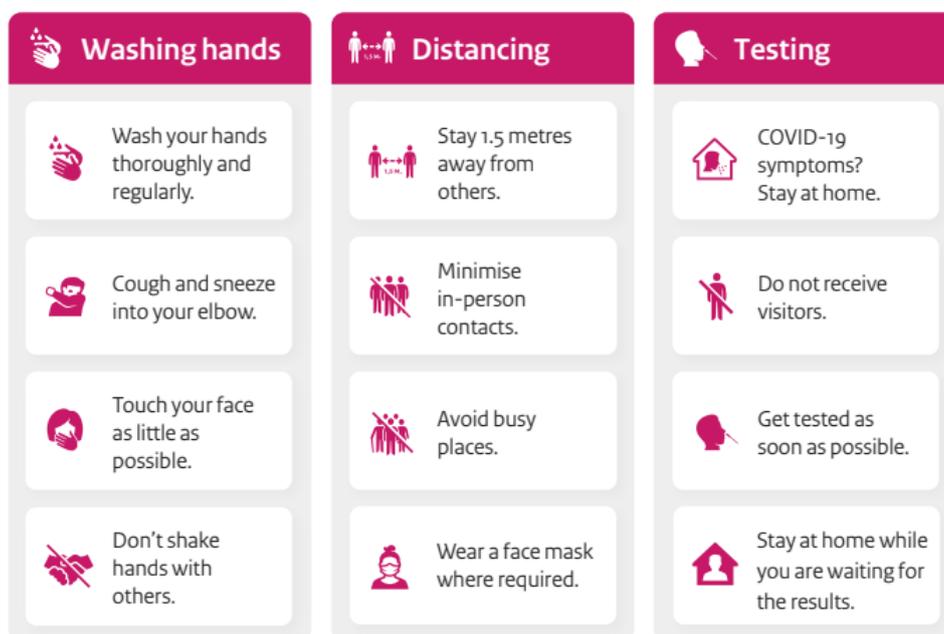


COVID in the Netherlands

While we are well on our way with the vaccinations, the Netherlands still has different measures in place to fight the spread of the virus. Below you can find information about quarantining, getting tested, getting vaccinated and more. For a complete overview of the information available on COVID, visit the UvA website. [↗](#)

Current COVID restrictions in the Netherlands

There are some ground rules that you have to follow regardless of the extra restrictions. You can find these basic rules in the graphic created by the government below.



Currently, restaurants, cafés and bars are open until 00:00 (12 am). Conditions include 1.5-metre distancing and assigned seats for all guests.

These restrictions will most likely change over the next few weeks. More detailed information about the restrictions can be found on the government's website. [↗](#)

Quarantine

Self-quarantine means that you stay at home and do not receive visitors. It is mandatory to self-quarantine if you are returning to the Netherlands from a destination with a very high corona risk and/or variant. After becoming infected with coronavirus it can take 10 days for symptoms to show. So it's important to stay at home for 10 days. You may also need to complete a quarantine declaration before arriving to the Netherlands depending on the country you are arriving from. For the exact information relating to your specific case, please use the Quarantine check [↗](#), there you will be able to select the country and see exactly what documents you will need and how the quarantine process should go.

Students are expected to stay at home during your self-quarantine, you cannot go outside or visit the UvA campuses.

You can have your groceries delivered by the following supermarkets:



At Albert Heijn, you can pay with your debit card and iDeal. At Jumbo you can pay with your credit card as well.

Other grocery services which have apps include Gorillaz, Getir, and Zapp.

Make sure that you have a credit Debit card (Maestro) or cash to pay for living expenses for the first weeks when you may not have a Dutch bank account yet. Many places in the Netherlands do not accept credit cards, only Dutch Debit cards (Maestro) and cash.

Testing

You can order a self-test through zelftestonderwijs.nl  or by calling +31 (0)800 1202. The test will be delivered by regular mail. That same website also offers instructions on how to use self-tests, as well as instructional videos and frequently-asked questions.

Taking a self-test is voluntary. We will not be check at the door whether you have taken one, nor will you have to show proof of a negative test. However, other measures such as the 1.5-metre measure and face masks will continue to apply.

However, we do hope that you consider taking a test before coming to the UvA. This will allow us all to contribute to a safe campus and possible further relaxations of the measures by the government.

You can also choose to get tested free of charge at the GGD Amsterdam (Public Health Service of Amsterdam). Most tests here will be a PCR test.

How to make an appointment for a coronavirus test

- Call 0800-1202 – the helpline is open between 08.00 and 20:00 every day.
- Or make an appointment online at coronatest.nl  (with your DigiD).

Vaccinations

You are free to vaccinate yourself after you arrive in the Netherlands. You do not have to wait to get your BSN. It is important when you get vaccinated to write down your patient number. Afterwards when you do have your BSN, you can call the GGD Amsterdam Corona number (020 5555202) to add your vaccination to your Digital Corona Certificate. After this has been added successfully you can use the CoronaCheckApp. You can use this CoronaCheckApp in many different situations to prove that you have been either tested or vaccinated.

Making an appointment

International students can call the GGD Amsterdam Corona number (+31 20 5555202) to make an appointment to get vaccinated. They can help you in English. You should indicate that you are going to study in Amsterdam in the coming period so you do not have to wait for four weeks after arriving in the Netherlands. They have been informed by us and you should not require a proof of enrolment for this.

If you wish to get vaccinated without making an appointment you can visit the RAI in Zuid. You can visit this location between 08:00 and 20:00 without an appointment. This is possible with or without a BSN. Do bring your passport.

Partially vaccinated abroad

It is possible to get a second vaccination in the Netherlands after you have had a first vaccination abroad. You can request this through [this online form](#). Depending on the type of your first vaccine and if you have a proof of vaccination, your second vaccination might or might not be registered for the Digital Corona Certificate.

Fully vaccinated in the EU

The country where you were vaccinated will arrange your Digital Corona Certificate.

Fully vaccinated outside the EU

Check out this website. [!\[\]\(ceb7cef9f9d693d102dfe501130037c6_img.jpg\)](#)

Vaccinations available in the Netherlands

A range of COVID-19 vaccines are being used in the Netherlands. All of them prevent people becoming seriously ill due to coronavirus. The vaccines used in the Netherlands are produced by AstraZeneca, BioNTech/Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).

Leaving the Netherlands

If you want to leave the Netherlands, please keep the following in mind:

- Maximum of 6 months abroad
- Make sure to stay registered in the BRP if you plan to return to the Netherlands within 6 months.

Useful websites

Upon arrival video	https://youtu.be/8aU9h87jr-8
Pick up your keys	https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/upon-arrival/upon-arrival.html#Step-2-Collect-the-key-to-your-UvA-room-or-apartment
Quarantine check	https://reizentijdenscorona.rijksoverheid.nl/en
Upon Arrival page	https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/upon-arrival/upon-arrival.html
Make an appointment with the IND	https://ind.nl/en/contact/Pages/Making-an-appointment-online.aspx
Health Insurance (UvA)	https://www.uva.nl/en/shared-content/studentensites/uva-studentensite/en/az/insurance/health-insurance/health-insurance.html
Health Insurance (Zorgverzekeringslijn)	www.zorgverzekeringslijn.nl/en
Working as a student	https://www.uva.nl/en/education/practical-information/working-in-the-netherlands/work-and-internship-during-your-studies/work-and-internships-during-your-studies.html
Corona updates (UvA)	https://www.uva.nl/en/current/coronavirus/coronavirus.html
Corona measures	https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/tackling-new-coronavirus-in-the-netherlands/coronavirus-measures-in-brief
Groceries	www.jumbo.nl www.ah.nl

Ordering self-tests

www.zelftestonderwijs.nl

Getting tested

www.coronatest.nl

Vaccinated abroad

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/coronabewijs/vaccinatiebewijs/gevaccineerd-in-het-buitenland>

Contact

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via the contact forms on the UvA website.

Please contact the department by clicking the designated button below.

[Immigration](#)

[Housing](#)

[Tuition fee payment](#)
[\(CSA\)](#)

[General questions](#)
[\(CSSD\)](#)

[Refund living expenses](#)
[\(Financial Aid\)](#)

[Office of International](#)
[Student Affairs](#)

You can contact the Immigration Office during consultation hours at +31 (0)20 525 5375.

Their consultation hours are on:

- Monday, Wednesday & Friday between 10:00 and 11:00
- Tuesday & Thursday between 15:00 and 16:00