



# Fact sheet Orientation & Arrival

# Good to know before your arrival at Erasmus University Rotterdam

## SECURE HOUSING

A significant aspect of your preparations for studying abroad involves securing safe and affordable accommodation.

In the Netherlands, student housing is not provided by the university. You must arrange accommodation independently. While EUR has reserved accommodation for approximately 25% of our yearly incoming international students, most of you will need to find housing in the private market.

[More information](#)



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

You can buy an ISIC card with special discounts for international students.

You can use this card for train, tram, metro, and bus. This card can also be picked up at the One Stop Shops held in the beginning of the Fall & Spring Semester.

[More information](#)



## FIRST REGISTRATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

Are you staying in the Netherlands for more than 4 months?

And you haven't registered in the Netherlands before, so you don't have a citizen service number (BSN) yet? Then, you need to register in person at the municipality where you will live. This is referred to as "[First registration](#)". Once you have provided all the documents, it usually takes 4 weeks to process your registration. Your BSN-number will be sent to your Dutch address by postal mail.

Are you intending to study in the Netherlands for less than 4 months? You will need to register as a non-resident in the [RNI](#).



## DUTCH HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

You may notice that the Dutch healthcare system differs from your home country. Keep in mind:

- Your GP (general practitioner, Dutch: huisarts) will be your first point of contact
- In case of life-threatening emergency, always call the emergency number: 112
- Looking for a GP near campus? We suggest [Jans Huisartsen](#), they have a lot of experience with – and facilities for – international students.



## OBTAIN INSURANCE

Obtain insurance that includes coverage for third-party liability, your home, as well as medical and dental expenses.

By law, you are required to have appropriate health insurance coverage during your stay in the Netherlands. We advise you to make sure you're properly insured before entering the Netherlands so that you are also insured while travelling. Note: n/a ISS/IHS students as your faculty should arrange this for you.

[More information](#)



## ESN BUDDY PROGRAMME

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) arranges a buddy programme tailored for new international students.

[ESN buddies](#) consist of Dutch and international students from various faculties who have resided in Rotterdam for at least a year.

They are available to assist you by sharing their knowledge and insights on Dutch culture while also guiding you around Rotterdam.

[Request a buddy](#).



## RESIDENCE PERMIT

Only applies to non-EU/EEA students! Studying in the Netherlands requires you to have a student residence permit. Team Immigration will inform you timely about the collection of your residence permit.



## SIM CARD

If you are staying in the Netherlands for a short period of time (ie. less than a year) your most feasible option would be to get a prepaid SIM card. You can pick up a free Lebara SIM card at the ESN office!



If you're interested in purchasing a mobile phone or obtaining a SIM card from a different provider, you can visit provider stores in the city centre, such as KPN, T-mobile, Telfort, Ben, and Tele2.

## CREATE A DUTCH BANK ACCOUNT

Opening a Dutch bank account might come in handy. Sometimes your own bank account from your home country won't suffice. Opening a Dutch bank account can be done at several banks.

[More information](#)



## NEED TO CONTACT US?

 [www.eur.nl/internationaloffice](http://www.eur.nl/internationaloffice)

 [@internationaloffice.eur](https://www.instagram.com/internationaloffice.eur)

 [@International Office - Erasmus University Rotterdam](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-office-erasmus-university-rotterdam)

# CHECKLIST



Begin your housing search early. Stay open to different options and be aware of scammers, especially when looking from abroad.



[Schedule an appointment](#) for your first registration at the One Stop Shop on campus. If you are unable to make it on time, you can register directly with [the Municipality of Rotterdam](#).



Review your email to see if the EUR International Office has informed you about collecting your residence permit [applicable to non-EU/EEA students only].



Collect your residence permit from the Dutch Immigration & Naturalization Service (IND) [applicable to non-EU/EEA non-EU/EE].



Set up a Dutch bank account. If you haven't received your BSN number, make sure to [explore alternative options](#).



Obtain insurance that includes coverage for third-party liability, your residence, as well as medical and dental expenses.



Figure out my transportation method.  
Will you cycle, walk, or obtain a student mobility card?



Participate in the ESN Buddy Programme and discover more about what ESN provides.



**Get settled, and explore Rotterdam and Erasmus University.**