

# PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

[WWW.VU.NL/ARRIVAL](http://WWW.VU.NL/ARRIVAL)



VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
AMSTERDAM

# WELCOME AT VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ARRIVAL

The corona measures have a huge impact on higher education, and we can understand this may lead to a lot of questions. We try our best to still make you feel at home, and help you with arranging practicalities.

If you travel to the Netherlands from a country or area with an orange or red travel advice, the Dutch government urgently advises you to go into home quarantine for 14 days. During this time, you are not allowed to visit the municipality, a bank office or our campus. Make sure to plan your appointments after these 2 weeks. More information: [www.vu.nl/coronavirus](http://www.vu.nl/coronavirus)

### YOUR FIRST DAYS

During your first days in the city, there are some practical matters to take care off. We created an overview with the steps you need to take. A more extensive explanation of the steps can be found on [www.vu.nl/arrival](http://www.vu.nl/arrival).

### STEP 1 - REGISTER WITH THE MUNICIPALITY

If you will stay in the Netherlands for more than four months, then you need to

register with the local authorities, also called the municipality. If you are going to live at student campus Uilenstede, you need to register at the municipality of Amstelveen. After registering, you will receive a social security number (BSN). It's necessary to make an appointment in order to register.

### STEP 2 - SET UP A BANK ACCOUNT (IF NECESSARY)

You will need to have an IBAN bank account in order to arrange your day-to-day activities in the Netherlands. As an EU/EEA student, you do not need a Dutch bank account. As a non-EU/EEA student, you need to make an appointment at a bank office. In order to open a student account, you will need a valid ID and your Declaration of Registration (DoR).



### STEP 3 - PICK THE RIGHT HEALTH INSURANCE

It is important that you are properly insured during your time in the

Netherlands. It is advised to consult your current insurance company and explain that you will be studying abroad for a semester or an entire academic year. You still might need to take out an extra insurance to cover your stay abroad. For international students we offer an exclusive premium package at AON Insurance.

#### **STEP 4 - REGISTER WITH A GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP)**

As a student at VU Amsterdam living in Amsterdam or in the surrounding areas such as Amstelveen/Uilenstede, you will be able to register with the GP at the University General Practice (located in the VU Medical Center on our campus) once you have a valid health insurance. More information can be found on their website.

#### **OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**

Getting Started Guide - In our Getting Started Guide (only available for Bachelor's and Master's students) you can find contact details and general information about studying at VU Amsterdam. We invite you to take a look at it via our website! Please note that this guide was created before the corona crisis.

VUNet - During your stay you will have access to VUNet, the internal network of VU Amsterdam. You were sent your VUNet login details when you first applied to VU Amsterdam. It is important that you familiarise yourself with VUNet, as a

THIS YEAR, THE VU INTRODUCTION DAYS WILL TAKE PLACE ONLINE. GET TO KNOW OTHER STUDENTS, THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM, AND OUR STUDENT AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE.

great deal of important information is only available via this network. Registration for courses etc is also carried out via VUNet.

Canvas - Canvas is the digital learning environment of VU Amsterdam. It is a tool that supports our education and is used by both students and teachers. You can log into Canvas with your VUNet ID, or through VUNet. For students, there is a VU Canvas Student Guide available that shows you how to work with Canvas. You can also watch a short video about the system.

Dutch course - VU-NT2 offers two course modules (8 weeks per level) of the Basic Dutch on Campus course at a greatly reduced rate for international students. You will learn to introduce yourself, do some shopping, order a meal and chat with local students and teachers. Finished the course? Then you receive a 'Basic Dutch on Campus' certificate. Check out the website of VU-NT2 for more information.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## WHOM TO CONTACT DURING YOUR STUDIES

### INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

International Service Desk - You can best reach us via phone or e-mail. Please find all contact details of the International Office on [our website](#). The latest updates in regards to our opening hours can also be found online.

Accommodation - [www.vu.nl/accommodation](http://www.vu.nl/accommodation) and [studentaccommodation@vu.nl](mailto:studentaccommodation@vu.nl).

Student immigration - [www.vu.nl/visa](http://www.vu.nl/visa) and [studentimmigration@vu.nl](mailto:studentimmigration@vu.nl).

International Student Advisors (ISAs) - You can find an overview of the ISAs per faculty on [our website](#).

Student Ambassadors - Ask your questions via [www.vu.nl/ambassadors](http://www.vu.nl/ambassadors).

### OTHER SERVICES

Student Desk - The Student Desk at our main building is closed until further notice. You can reach us by phone (+31 20 598 5020) and e-mail ([studentdesk@vu.nl](mailto:studentdesk@vu.nl)).

IT desk - For more information about your VUNet ID and IT services (such as WiFi) you can visit [www.vu.nl/it](http://www.vu.nl/it) or send an e-mail to [servicedesk.it@vu.nl](mailto:servicedesk.it@vu.nl).

Library - More information about our (online) library services can be found via [www.ub.vu.nl/en](http://www.ub.vu.nl/en).

Student general counsellors - You can make an appointment through our [website](#).

Psychological counsellors - You can make an appointment through VUNet.