

Preparations before you travel to the Netherlands

IMPORTANT NOTICE; do not book any plane or train tickets or travel to the Netherlands until your legal residence application was approved and you have received a copy of the approval letter.

In this document, you will find information about:

1. [Housing](#)
2. [Crucial documents](#)
3. [Health insurance](#)
4. [Money](#)

1. Housing

Your priority is getting a private and personal Dutch address. As this is an absolute necessity to register in the municipality, open a bank account, and meet other obligations, we strongly recommend arranging this as soon as possible. Postponing this until you have arrived in the Netherlands jeopardizes your financial mobility, legal residence, timely start of the program, etc. Finding suitable accommodation after you have arrived is extremely difficult and the address of a hotel, a friend, or the university is not acceptable. A good place to start is the [Maastricht Housing \(link\)](#) website.

Holders of a Dutch residence permit are not allowed to live outside The Netherlands You cannot live in Belgium or Germany even though Maastricht University is close to the border and accommodation may be easier to find.



Housing in Maastricht
House Hunting: Start early!

Starting your house hunt early is essential. Housing options in Maastricht are severely limited, especially at the start of the academic year. Therefore, we strongly advise you not to come to Maastricht if you have not found housing in or around the city before the academic year begins.

If you arrive without housing arrangements, please be aware that UM doesn't provide student housing and online education isn't available due to housing constraints.



Housing in Maastricht
House Hunting: Start early!

Consider using official housing resources like www.maastrichthousing.com or www.mymaastricht.nl/housing.

Exercise caution with Facebook housing offers and always inspect rooms in person. Non-EU students should note that their Dutch student visa requires residency in the Netherlands, so living in a nearby country on this visa is not an option.



myMaastricht.nl
make maastricht yours



Maastrichthousing.com
The portal for student housing in Maastricht.

WARNING

Be vigilant of imposters and fraud. We strongly recommend double-checking the reliability of an offer. Do remember: if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

2. Crucial documents

The following documents are crucial to bring with you and therefore arrange in time:

- A legalized birth certificate: this is compulsory for your municipal registration. Depending on your nationality, the legalization process may be very different and take a lot of time. For more information on legalization, please consult the Dutch government's [legalization page \(link\)](#). Do you plan to live in Maastricht and do you have questions on this topic, please mail to post@maastricht.nl
- Your valid passport
- The health insurance policy

3. Health insurance

If you do not have health insurance yet, or if your current insurance policy does not (sufficiently) cover your stay in the Netherlands, you have to take out health insurance before traveling to the Netherlands or immediately upon arrival. Please visit this [insurance page \(link\)](#) for more information.

4. Money

Since cash payments in the Netherlands are getting less and less and paying by credit card is not always possible, you may want to consider the following. You can open an online bank account without the need for a social security number (BSN) to have quick access to your money and make payments easily. More information can be found on [this page \(link\)](#).

Please keep in mind that when you made a deposit to the Maastricht University Visa Office, this will not be refunded before your first day of registration. We strongly recommend preparing for this.

And after my visa/residence permit is approved?

As soon as the decision on the residence permit application is received, we will inform you on the following items:

1. Biometrics
2. Airport travel arrangements
3. Collection of the residence permit and municipal registration
4. Opening a Dutch bank account
5. Getting your deposit back