

Info & tips for International students starting MSc MADE in Amsterdam

This sheet contains information and tips for International students that are starting the Metropolitan Analysis, Design & Engineering Master program, which is based in Amsterdam. You will be following your lectures in Amsterdam. Life in Amsterdam is different than in Wageningen or Delft and the study environment does not have all the facilities that the campuses in Wageningen and Delft have. This document is shaped by International students that preceded you in starting this master program and by study association MADE IT.

Housing

The housing demand in Amsterdam is much higher compared to other cities in the Netherlands. This also counts for student housing. As a result, the average rental price is also much higher. Expect rental prices for a room to start at about 600 euros.

It is recommended to start your search for a place way in advance (2-3 months). On [this webpage of the website of WUR](#) a couple of options are already given. This webpage also gives some information on what to look out for.

There are many housing associations which provide housing for students. Most of them work with a priority list based on how long you are registered. One of the suggested options is registering through www.room.nl but you should do this as soon as you receive your acceptance letter as this website works with a waitlist in which people that have been registered for more than 6 months are given priority. However, with the room subscription you can also try getting a room through www.duwo.nl. Duwo has temporary rooms of up to 12 months which could be a good temporary option to use as it is first come first serve.

You can also try to find a house via one of the Facebook groups. In these groups (for example these links: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) you will find posts you can respond to through private message or mail. Make sure you are honest but also highlight your best side. Send out as much responses as you can to make the highest chance!

When looking for a room, it's important to see if the room you are looking at, offers the possibility to register at that address. If you stay in the Netherlands longer than four months you have to get a BSN (lit. Citizen service number). To be able to get this number you must have a registration at your municipality. Every dwelling can be used to register a certain number of people. Make sure that the place you are going to rent, offers the possibility to use the address to register.

Electives period

Please beware that in the first year's elective period you will be following courses at the campus in Delft or Wageningen. This period lasts for about 3 months. Travel costs will be compensated. Getting to Delft/Wageningen is relatively easy thanks to NS (the country's train system). If you don't want to walk from the station to class, you can also rent an OV Fiets (bike), a bike service offered by NS or rent a bike for a longer period of time through, for example, Swapfiets.

Bank Account

In the Netherlands the preferred payment method is PIN (debit card), rather than credit card. That is why, right after you get your BSN, you need to process your bank account. This is done through a personal appointment that you arrange online and can take 2 weeks approximately. Among the most popular banks are ABN AMRO, ING, Rabobank and ASN Bank. If you do not want to wait 2 weeks to open a bank account, you can make an appointment within a few days at a bank located in a smaller town such as Krommenie (30 min. by train from Amsterdam Centraal).

Mobility

To travel by public transport in the Netherlands you will need an OV chipcard. This card can be used for almost every transport means in the country: train, metro, bus, tram and you can also rent bicycles (OV bike at the train station) with this card. It is recommended to get a personal OV chipcard to get certain transport deals. Get your pass through this [Link](#). However, to obtain a “personal” OV chipcard you need to have a Dutch bank account as you can only pay through IDEAL. In the meantime, you should get an ‘anonymous’ OV chipcard as soon as you arrive at Schiphol arrivals hall. It’s a bit cheaper than buying individual tickets for train/tram/bus/metro.

Sports and Leisure

Since we are not at the campus in Wageningen or Delft it is harder to access the sport and cultural facilities there. However, Amsterdam has enough to offer for students. Some recommendations:

- 1) Museumkaart – Yearly entrance for over 400 museums in the Netherlands for 64 euros. For comparison: a single ticket for the Rijksmuseum is already 20 euros. Get it [here](#) (only in Dutch).
- 2) Gyms – there are plenty of gyms in Amsterdam. You can get subscriptions at, for example, fit for free, train more and basic fit.
- 3) Since you are a student, you are allowed to use the sporting facilities of the University of Amsterdam. You can also join one of the many student sporting associations in the city.
- 4) Cineville - Pass like the museumkaart, but for cinemas

Language

Although everyone in the Netherlands speaks English, it is always very useful to at least know the basics of the Dutch language, as it helps to integrate better. Before coming to the Netherlands you can start learning some basic words through apps like duolingo (free), memrise (pay) and nederlands v. buitenlanders 5 (first three lessons are free, rest you have to pay).