

I amsterdam®



amsterdam

My First Month

All you need to know and note

IN Amsterdam

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

IN Amsterdam provides a one-stop shop service for international companies and their highly skilled migrant employees, as well as for startup entrepreneurs, international students and scientific researchers. IN Amsterdam is a joint initiative of the cities of Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Almere, Diemen, Haarlem, Haarlemmermeer, Hilversum and Velsen, along with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). With simplified procedures, IN Amsterdam aims to better meet the needs of internationals and companies in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, which comprises the city itself and the entire surrounding region (see p. 41).

IN Amsterdam's website (www.inamsterdam.com) contains a wealth of useful information for internationals, including our most frequently asked questions, covering essential topics from residence permits to finding a job, childcare, or an apartment. Stay up to date with the latest news and information from IN Amsterdam by subscribing to the newsletters via our website.

We hope that this booklet serves as a helpful reference for new international talent in the Amsterdam Area. It provides general information on subjects such as public transport, driving licences, healthcare and housing, including important contact numbers. All of IN Amsterdam's partners that offer services are also included.

Open Amsterdam was a programme to establish the city as the ideal home base for international talent and businesses, offering a welcoming environment to attract internationals. From the programme's implementation in 2016 to its conclusion in 2018, the municipalities of the Amsterdam Area, universities, healthcare organisations and other community players were all involved in achieving goals that guarantee the highest possible quality of life. Waiting lists for international schools in the region were reduced, partnerships with doctors and medical staff made it simpler for internationals to access the Dutch healthcare system, and information on renting and protecting tenants' rights was made more widely available.

IN Amsterdam's team is ready to answer questions and provide information on a wide range of topics and government services. Whether you've just arrived or you've already made yourself at home, IN Amsterdam is here to help! Let us help you settle in, simply.

Sign up to the newsletter to stay tuned to what's happening in town, from updates on Amsterdam's bustling cultural life, to tips on city life for locals, and invitations to information sessions: www.iamsterdam.com/inamsterdamnewsletters.

We hope you enjoy your stay in the Netherlands!



CONTACT US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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welcome@amsterdam.nl
www.inamsterdam.com

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Starting

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Facts and Figures

A CITY OF CANALS

Founded in the late 12th century, Amsterdam's name originates from a dam on the Amstel River. The city has often been described as the 'Venice of the North' due to its many canals.

AMSTERDAM IN NUMBERS

Last Updated: 2022

917.923 Residents

177 Nationalities

2,500,000 Inhabitants in the Amsterdam Area

58% of people cycle daily

895.000 Bicycles (Estimated)

1,281 Bridges

80 Bridges in the Canal Ring

165 Canals

40 Parks

213 Trams

9 Ferry routes

2,500 Houseboats

8 Wooden Drawbridges

8 Windmills

32 Markets

6,159 Shops

654 Gable Stones

8,863 16th, 17th and 18th Century Buildings

42 Historic Church Organs

23 Paintings by Rembrandt

207 Paintings by Van Gogh

140 Wax Statues at Madame Tussauds

50+ Museums

9,000 Concerts and Theatrical Performances Per Year

141 Art Galleries

25 Concerts and Theatrical Performances Per Day

500 Species of Animal at Artis Royal Zoo

Language

HELPFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

The majority of residents in the Amsterdam Area speak English well and are often fluent in one or two languages on top of that. This means you can usually get by effortlessly from the start in the Amsterdam Area without knowing a word of Dutch. Of course, if you're staying for longer, learning Dutch will bring great rewards. For those keen to try, here are a few basics to get you started.

Tip: the Dutch 'g' is normally pronounced mid-throat, sounding similar to the 'ch' in loch or Bach. An 'oe' is pronounced as 'oo'.

HALLO

Hello

NEE ("nay")

No

GOEDEMORGEN

Good morning

LEKKER

Tasty

GOEDEMIDDAG

Good afternoon

MOOI

Pretty; lovely

GOEDENAVOND

Good evening

GEZELLIG

A nice, friendly atmosphere

DAG OR DOEI (informal; "do-wee")

Goodbye

INGANG

Entrance

PARDON

Excuse me

UITGANG

Exit

DANK U

Thank you

OPEN

Open

ALSTUBLIEFT ("alst-u-bleeft")

Please

GESLOTEN

Closed

JA ("yah")

Yes

Arrival Checklist

GETTING STARTED

Moving to another country can be an overwhelming experience, but good organisation can help to smooth the process. Below is our basic checklist to help you once you've arrived in the Netherlands.

You can find more information about everything on the list below further on in this booklet or on our website: www.inamsterdam.com

MANDATORY ON ARRIVAL

- Register in the Personal Records Database (BRP) with the local municipality
- Collect and/or arrange residence permit and/or work permit *
- Arrange Dutch health insurance
- Get a tuberculosis screening (only obligatory for people from specific countries. For more information, see page 18)

* Only mandatory if you're from outside of the EU

OPTIONAL ON ARRIVAL

- Arrange a Dutch bank account
- Register with your local embassy or consulate
- Obtain a driving licence or exchange your current licence
- Get connected: arrange telecom, internet and utilities
- Register with a local doctor and dentist
- Find short-term/long-term accommodation
- Investigate schooling/childcare possibilities

SETTLING IN

- Arrange Dutch lessons
- Join a group, club or association to meet people
- Get active in the local and/or international community



FEEL LIKE YOU'VE LIVED HERE YOUR WHOLE LIFE

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS AT
[IAMSTERDAM.COM/FEELINGATHOME](https://iamsterdam.com/feelingathome)

 WATCH THE VIDEO SERIES!



Gemeente  Amstelveen

Living



Housing

HOUSE HUNTING

Finding a place to live in the Amsterdam Area can be a challenge. However, with research and the right advice, you can find your perfect home. If you don't know where you would like to live yet, find out more about the different parts of the region at www.iamsterdam.com/en/living.

RENTING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The most common option for internationals is renting property in the private sector. Unlike public housing, rental in the private sector isn't subsidised and there are no conditions for being able to rent a home. In most cases, however, you will need a residence permit. To help find a rental property, we suggest you try:

- Online housing sites
- Estate agents (*makelaars*)
- Ask around in your network

Websites such as Marktplaats and Huurwoningen (in Dutch) allow you to search listings from private owners and agencies. Pararius and Funda are available in English. Rooftrack is an initiative by WoningNet and offers a wide range of available properties in the non-subsidised rental market. Rooftrack's website displays rental properties both from housing corporations and from professional property management firms in the cities of Amsterdam, Almere, Haarlem and Utrecht. The Rooftrack website is free of charge and available in English. If you are looking for flatshares with other professionals, check TenantHub.

- www.huurwoningen.nl/in/amsterdam
- www.pararius.com/english
- www.funda.nl/en
- www.rooftrack.nl/en
- tenanthub.nl

When viewing a property, it's a good idea to bring all the necessary documents such as your passport and recent payslips. This speeds up the process and improves your chances to be accepted as a tenant. Please be aware that internationals are sometimes targeted by scammers, so be cautious if anything seems suspicious. For tips on avoiding scams, see the website of !WOON: www.wooninfo.nl/english

NEWBUILDS FOR RENT OR SALE

To find information about newly built houses or new construction projects in the Amsterdam Area (for sale and for rent), see Amsterdam Woont. The site also includes information about self-build plots and renovation projects. www.amsterdamwoont.nl

MORE INFORMATION

- www.iamsterdam.com/housing

HOUSING RIGHTS

It is important that everyone buying or renting a home in the Amsterdam Area knows their rights. What do you do if there is a conflict with your landlord? What are your rights as a tenant or a homebuyer?

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN RENTING

Because there is a chronic housing shortage in Amsterdam, there is a constant upward pressure on rents. It is therefore important to know your rights and read your tenancy agreement carefully before signing. There are many rules in place to protect you as a tenant, and a landlord can't simply evict you. In the private sector, landlords usually ask for a deposit, which is typically the equivalent of one or two month's rent. For information and advice on rental rules and your rights, see !WOON, or drop by one of their offices. www.wooninfo.nl/english

PROBLEMS WITH A LANDLORD

In the Netherlands there is an independent organisation that deals with problems between tenants and landlords: the Rent Tribunal (*huurcommissie*). The Rent Tribunal can also rule on disputes between you and your landlord. For more information, see www.huurcommissie.nl.

Getting Around

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN BUYING

If you are planning on staying in the Amsterdam Area for three years or more, you might consider buying a property. Despite strong competition in the current economic climate, you'll find there are significant tax incentives for home ownership, and it can bring long-term benefits. If you want to buy a house or apartment, seek the advice of an expert. There are many more financial and legal questions to consider than if you rent accommodation. For example, a financial advisor can work out what mortgage is best for you and what it will cost you. In addition, there are the so-called buyer's costs (*kosten koper*). These are the costs you incur for things like the services of the estate agent, transfer costs, mortgage costs and transfer duty

The Netherlands is generally considered to be a very liveable and international-friendly country to live in. Finding the right home, however, can be a bit of a challenge.

MVA Certified Expat Brokers are specialists in helping internationals who are looking for a home either to rent or buy in the Netherlands. The MVA, or Makelaarsvereniging Amsterdam (Amsterdam Real Estate Brokers Association), is an affiliate of the NVM (National Association of Estate Agents), the professional organisation for estate agents active in the Netherlands. The MVA was established in 1877 and currently counts around 600 estate agents among its members. In the Netherlands, an estate agent selling a property may never work as a buying agent on the same project, to avoid any conflicts of interest.

Travelling within the Amsterdam Area is straightforward and convenient. Famously, the easiest way to get around is by bicycle – it's a favourite means of transport with the locals and an integral part of Dutch culture. There's also an extensive public transport network connecting different areas of Amsterdam, and commuters have a variety of modes of public transport to choose from to reach their destination as efficiently as possible, including train, tram, metro, bus and ferry.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT CHIP CARD (OV-chipkaart)

The public transport chip card (OV-chipkaart) is an electronic card with a built-in chip for use on all public transport in Amsterdam and throughout the Netherlands, including buses, trams, trains and metros.

THE RIGHT CARD FOR YOU

You can top up a public transport chip card with credit in euros, or you can buy a single journey or season ticket. There are three different cards to choose from: anonymous (*anonieme*), personalised (*persoonlijke*) and disposable:

- **PERSONALISED CARD** Buy online: www.ov-chipkaart.nl
Costs €7.50 and is valid for five years.
- **ANONYMOUS CARD** Buy at the ticket office or station vending machines.
Costs €7.50 and is valid for five years.
- **DISPOSABLE CARD** Buy at station vending machines or on the tram. A single journey ticket can be used for one hour after validation. Day and multi-day tickets are also available.

REMEMBER TO CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

The most important tip for using your public transport chip card is to always remember to check in and check out! At the start of your journey, hold your card up to the card reader until you see a green light and hear a beep. Do the same every time you leave the tram, bus or metro (also if you are changing to another bus or tram). In buses and trams, card readers are located inside the vehicle next to each door. If you're travelling by metro or train, you check in and check out at the card readers located on free-standing poles near the entrance/exit of each station. If you forget to check

out, you can claim back the extra amount that has been deducted from your card at www.uitcheckgemist.nl.

More info: www.ov-chipkaart.nl

- **BICYCLE** Cycling is the best way to get around the cities in the Amsterdam Area. It keeps you fit, allows you the flexibility of keeping to your own timetable, is often as fast or faster than a car or public transport, and is much handier and cheaper to park than a car.
- **TRAIN** An efficient railway network connects the entire Amsterdam Area to the rest of the Netherlands. Trains are also part of the public transport in Amsterdam.
- **TRAM** Trams are common in Amsterdam, with routes heading out from the centre in all directions. Trams are ideal for short journeys around the city centre, as well as for travelling to other districts.
- **METRO** Amsterdam has five metro lines connecting Amsterdam Central Station to the north, northwest, south and southeast of the city.
- **BUS** An extensive network of local and regional buses will take you anywhere in the Amsterdam Area.
- **FERRY** From behind Amsterdam Central Station and points to the northwest and east of the centre, ferry services cross the River IJ to various locations in the north of Amsterdam.
- **TAXI** Taxis can be handy when you're travelling with luggage, at night when public transport has stopped running, or when you're running late. But depending on the

MORE INFORMATION

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (GVB)

en.gvb.nl & 0900 8011

ROUTE PLANNING

www.9292.nl/en

SHARED TRANSPORT

www.amsterdam.nl/sharedmobility

TRAINS

www.ns.nl/en & 030 751 5155

TAXI

www.iamsterdam.com/en/travel-stay/getting-around/taxis-in-amsterdam

Driving Licence

HITTING THE ROAD

If you intend to drive in the Netherlands, you'll need to check what driving licence rules apply to you. If you plan to remain in the country for an extended period, you may need to exchange your current licence for a Dutch one. Please note, this must be done before your current licence expires.

VALIDITY OF YOUR DRIVING LICENCE

As an international resident in the Netherlands, you can use your own driving licence for six months, after which you are required to obtain a Dutch driving licence (rijbewijs):

- for EU/EFTA countries, licences are valid for ten years from the date of issue (licences issued after 19 January 2013 are valid for 15 years).
- for all other countries (including the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba), licences are valid for six months from the date you register at your local municipality.

CONDITIONS FOR EXCHANGE

You can exchange your licence for a Dutch one if you meet ALL of the following conditions:

- you live in the Netherlands and are registered in the Municipal Personal Records Database (BRP)
- you are from the EU/EEA, Switzerland OR are from a country with a special agreement OR you benefit from the 30% tax ruling (see p. 30)
- you have a valid residence permit (no needed if you are a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland).
- your current driving licence is valid
- your current driving licence, if issued in a country outside the EU, was issued after being a resident of that country for at least 185 days

If you don't meet these conditions, you can't directly exchange your licence for a Dutch one. This means you will need to take a standard theory and practical driving test at the Central Office for Motor Vehicle Driver Testing (CBR).

PROCEDURE AT THE MUNICIPALITY

If you meet the above conditions for exchanging your driving licence, you can submit an application at your local City Office (stadsloket). You'll need to take the following:

- a colour passport photograph
- your foreign driving licence
- your residence permit (unless you are a citizen of the EU/EEA or Switzerland)
- proof of 30% tax ruling (if applicable)
- certificate of fitness (see below)

The application process takes approximately two weeks, and you are not permitted to drive while your application is being processed. For more information on exchanging your licence and the cost, see:

www.amsterdam.nl/en/civil-affairs/passport-id/exchange-foreign/

CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS

You may be asked to provide a certificate of fitness (verklaring van geschiktheid), proving you are physically and psychologically fit to drive a vehicle. The certificate can be obtained from IN Amsterdam or at your local municipality office. It is also possible to apply via DigiD.

The certificate is needed in the following cases:

- you have an EU/EEA or Switzerland driving licence with category C, CE, C1, D etc.
- you benefit from the 30% tax ruling
- your driving licence is from the Netherlands Antilles or Aruba
- your driving licence is from one of the countries with a special agreement

You will need to send your certificate to the Central Office for Motor Vehicle Driver Testing (CBR). They will notify you when your certificate has been registered and let you know whether you have to undergo an additional health check. After the registration you can apply for the driving licence exchange.

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENCE

If you have a Dutch driving licence, you are also able to apply for an international driving licence.

This can be done via two different agencies in the Netherlands:

- **RDW** (Netherlands Vehicle Authority) This agency can provide you with a proof of authenticity certificate stating in English that your driving licence is authentic and valid. This process is carried out by filling in a form online and paying an administration fee.
- **ANWB** (Royal Dutch Touring Club) You can buy an international driving licence booklet at one of the ANWB's offices. This official booklet contains information and a stamp, and is valid for one year. Please note that some countries don't accept an international driving licence on its own and additional documents may be required.

MORE INFORMATION

RDW

(Rijksdienst voor het Wegverkeer) Netherlands Vehicle Authority – RDW is available to answer questions over the phone relating to the exchange of driving licences in English, Dutch and German.

› From abroad: +31 598 39 33 30
› From NL: 088 008 74 47
and www.rdw.nl

CBR

(Centraal Bureau van Rijvaardigheid) Central Office for Motor Vehicle Driver Testing

› 0900-0210 and www.cbr.nl

RIJBEWIJS

General information in Dutch and English about driving.
www.rijbewijs.nl

Healthcare System

Dutch healthcare is generally considered to be among the best in the world, and people have access to advanced treatments and preventative care at every stage of their lives. Hospitals use the latest equipment and physicians are constantly trained on the basis of the latest insights from the scientific community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

General practitioners (huisartsen) play an important role in the Dutch healthcare system; they are the first port of call if you have health problems. Patients are free to choose their own doctor. It's useful to choose a practice close to home. Doctors have their practices in residential areas and operate on an appointment system. If necessary, the doctor will refer patients to a specialist at a hospital.

The health insurance system in the Netherlands is based on the principle of social solidarity. Together, we all pay the overall cost of healthcare.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Almost everyone who lives or works in the Netherlands is legally obliged to take out standard health insurance. This covers most medical costs, including consulting a general practitioner, hospital treatment and prescription medication. Please consult zorgverzekeringslijn.nl to determine whether you are obliged to take out standard health insurance.

All insurance companies offer the same standard insurance package (basisverzekering), and the government decides what costs it covers. Healthcare insurers are obliged to accept anyone who applies for the standard insurance package and have to charge all policyholders the same premium, regardless of their age or state of health. This ensures that everybody is protected against the financial risks of illness and hospital admission. The policy is subject to a mandatory excess (eigen risico), which you have to pay yourself before you can claim back medical costs. This doesn't apply to certain basic costs, such as consulting a general practitioner, obstetric care and maternity care, but it does apply for example to Accident and Emergency care. You can also opt to increase the excess and pay a lower premium.

You are free to choose from any health insurer (zorgverzekeraar) offering the standard package and can change insurers once a year by cancelling your previous insurer before 1 January and take out new insurance before 1 February. You will then be covered by your new provider with retroactive effect from 1 January. If you sign up to a new insurer before this date, they can also cancel your current policy on your behalf. To register for health insurance, you will require a Citizen Service Number (burgerservicenummer/BSN). Please note: If you are not covered by Dutch health insurance, you risk being fined and billed retroactively for the months you were not insured.

ADDITIONAL INSURANCE

Although the standard package covers all the most important healthcare costs, some services are not covered. You can opt to take out additional insurance to cover, for example, physiotherapy or dental care. Additional insurance is not mandatory, and you are not obliged to take out your additional insurance with the same insurance company you use for your standard package. Insurance companies are not obliged to accept everyone who applies for additional insurance. An insurance company can refuse to accept you as a client or can ask you about your health before accepting you.

STANDARD HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM

You pay a fixed, nominal premium to your insurance company for the standard health insurance package. People on a low income may be eligible for a healthcare benefit (zorgtoeslag) to help pay for the cost of health insurance. Children under the age of 18 must have health insurance but don't pay any premiums for the standard package. Parents must register their child with an insurance company within four months of their birth.

Please note that employees on secondment may have social security agreements with their home countries exempting them from Dutch health insurance.

HEALTH INSURANCE ADVICE

Call zorgverzekeringlijn.nl on 0800-646 4644 (a toll-free number) to ask questions about the mandatory health insurance in the Netherlands, insurance premiums or debts owed to your health insurance provider. Alternatively, visit the multilingual website www.zorgverzekeringlijn.nl to find the health insurance answers you need or to receive direct advice about payment arrears.

- www.government.nl/topics/health-insurance/standard-health-insurance
- www.zorgverzekeringlijn.nl/coming-from-abroad
- **Sociale Verzekeringsbank** (www.svb.nl/en) for social security questions
- **EU Direct** europa.eu/europedirect
- **College for Health Insurances** +31 (0)20 797 8555 for health insurance questions

TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING

Nationals of some countries need to take a tuberculosis (TB) test to complete immigration procedures. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) publishes a list of the countries whose nationals are exempt. If you hold the nationality of one of the countries on this list, you don't need a TB test.

See ind.nl/en/search-form.

To make an appointment for a test, you fill in an online registration form. You will then be notified of your appointment. When you go for your test, you need to take your passport or ID card and the completed IND test referral form.

For more information on arranging the test, the fee, and links to the forms, go to ggd.amsterdam.nl/english/tuberculosis/immigrants-and



amsterdam business

amsterdam inbusiness is the official foreign investment agency for the Amsterdam Area. We can help you create a convincing business case for setting up offices in the Amsterdam Area – and it's all free, strictly confidential and without a hidden agenda. What's more, our commitment doesn't end once you have set up a business in the Amsterdam Area: we strive to build a long-term relationship and are supportive in any phase of the development of your company www.amsterdaminbusiness.com.

SETTING UP YOUR BUSINESS

By combining your data with ours, we can provide relevant information for your organisation. Our services for organisations planning to set up in the Amsterdam Area include:

THE INVESTOR RELATION (IR) PROGRAMME

Providing free and confidential support for current investors, and aims to make it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in the Netherlands. Here is what we can do for you:

TALENT

Tapping into the labour market through introductions to recruiters and/or networks and communities of professionals.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Providing specific data on markets and tapping into the labour market through industries in sectors such as aerospace, creative, fashion, financial and business services, food, hotels, ICT, life sciences and logistics.

BUSINESS AND PARTNER NETWORKS

Introductions to strategic partners, business networks/associations, knowledge institutions, tax authorities, governmental agencies and, if possible, potential clients.

INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Providing information about the Dutch legal, regulatory and fiscal framework, the labour market and available incentives. Developing independent benchmark reports on salary levels, office rent, cost of living etc for your European location study and/or supply-chain study.

FACT-FINDING VISITS

Tailor-made fact-finding programmes to gather information about the market, availability of talent, business climate and quality of service providers; visits to potential office locations and co-working spaces.

RELOCATION SUPPORT

Assistance in the search and selection of temporary, flexible and permanent office space, including site visits.

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Apartment search for internationals (short or long stay), introductions to international schools and clubs, and referrals to doctors, dentist, accountants etc.

EXPANDING YOUR BUSINESS

THE INVESTOR RELATION (IR) PROGRAMME provides free and confidential support for current investors, and aims to make it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in the Netherlands. Here is what we can do for you:

TALENT

The IR Programme is here to help your company find the talent with the skills you need for your operations. We make sure any international employees have a soft landing in the Netherlands by assisting with visas and work permits, providing cross-cultural advice and linking to international schools.

RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

The IR Programme can introduce you to Dutch government organisations at national, regional and local levels and put you in contact with commercial service providers, such as consultants, agents, lawyers, and a wide variety of regional, national and international networks that are relevant to your company.

ACCESS TO SUBSIDIES

The IR Programme can help your company to carry out new investment and development projects, and to find and apply for subsidies. If you have any questions, our door is always open.

ADVOCACY

The IR Programme serves as a channel through which you can share your views and experiences with the Dutch

government concerning the investment climate in the Netherlands. We collect your feedback, submit it to relevant government departments and use it as input for governmental decision-making.

ACCESS TO NETWORKS

The IR Programme gives you access to dozens of national and regional events each year, ranging from seminars and conferences to networking dinners, roundtable sessions and individual update meetings with representatives from the Dutch government.

RESEARCH

The IR Programme can provide guidance on the network of public-private partnerships that flourish in the Netherlands. For example, we can provide insight into R&D incentives and advice on partnerships to maximise incentives. We also help to link higher education, government and business, in order to facilitate everything from pooling talent to addressing the need for technical skills.

BENCHMARKS

The IR Programme can be a valuable partner in helping you support your business case for the expansion of international activities in the Netherlands. We provide tools and input for cost and location benchmarking, help recruit talent and promote your company's presence in the Netherlands to increase company recognition and brand awareness.

Working

Finding Work

Whether you've moved for love or labour, finding a job in foreign lands is a challenge, but not impossible. Unemployment in the Netherlands is among the lowest in the EU. Below are some tips for a successful job hunt.

AMSTERDAM AREA WORK

Amsterdam is an old European capital city with a modern outlook. As such, it offers plenty of unique opportunities for internationals looking to develop their career. There is a wide variety of job options to explore in many different fields and a rich vein of Amsterdam companies and international businesses established here, all looking to grow and flourish by hiring top talents from around the world. As well as major Dutch brands, some 3,000 international companies are established in the Amsterdam Area and that number is increasing annually.

For more information and to browse thousands of non-Dutch speaking positions in the Amsterdam Area check out: www.iamsterdam.com/work

NETWORK

For most people new to the Amsterdam Area, places and faces will be unfamiliar. To overcome this, get to know your environment and join a few groups to strike up professional networks (and make friends). It's always easier to find a job through a close contact or by word-of-mouth. The international communities in several cities in the Amsterdam Area are surprisingly tightly knit, making for many likely encounters and acquaintances.

RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

Recruitment Agencies are located all over the Netherlands. Like anywhere, there are temporary employment agencies (uitzendbureaus) that can find work quite quickly, as well as recruitment agencies for more permanent positions. Also, there are several agencies who recruit for vacancies that do not require Dutch. A few of these recruitment agencies are mentioned in the back of this booklet. Apart from traditional temporary employment agencies, there are also now online platforms on which you can find temporary work on a self-employed basis. This means signing in with the Chamber of Commerce.



FINDING VACANCIES ONLINE

Job search engines such as the Nationale Vacature Bank (in Dutch), Intermediair and Monsterboard are user-friendly, invaluable resources. Alternatively, check out the websites of the international companies and organisations that have local headquarters in the Netherlands for their job postings.

TAKE INITIATIVE

It is not uncommon to apply for work at a particular company that currently has no vacancies with an unsolicited application. Employers often appreciate the initiative. You will need to first find a contact person at the company (e.g. in the human resources department), so that the application is addressed to a particular person. When preparing to meet your new contact, have your CV and cover letter (motivatie) tailored to the local style. *Tip: Dutch employers like seeing hobbies and additional interests.*

COACHING

There are many companies in the Amsterdam area offering coaching and training services for English-speakers looking to improve their skills or re-evaluate their career goals and aspirations. Enlisting the help of a professional coach may be a good way to set your job related priorities and hear tips from an expert.

IN AMSTERDAM'S SPOUSE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

If you're moving to the Amsterdam Area to accompany your partner, you might wish to continue your career in the Netherlands too. These tips are designed to bring you up to speed with the Dutch job market to assist you with the challenges that come with working in a new country.

MORE JOBHUNTING TIPS

- Find out how your skills align with the current and future needs of the labour market in the Amsterdam Area.
- Check EURES: a cooperation network offering recruitment services and providing information and advice as well as job searching through the European Job Mobility Portal.
- Strengthen your Dutch language skills: Although English is widely spoken in the Amsterdam Area, learning Dutch will help you to feel part of the local community. It's also a fantastic advantage to have on your CV. Sign up for a language course – the City of Amsterdam offers several opportunities to learn for free. Find out more at: www.amsterdam.nl/en/education/learning-dutch.
- Gain work experience and broaden your network in the Amsterdam Area through volunteer work. Volunteer-run organisations are a great way to make local contacts and get involved in the community. Schedule an appointment with Vrijwilligers Centrale Amsterdam (VCA), the main hub for volunteer work in Amsterdam. Visit www.vca.nu/english or contact volunteer@vca.nu.
- Learn about jobs and opportunities in the Amsterdam Area at iamsterdam.com/work.
- Check out the biggest international employers and their vacancies via iamsterdam.com/jobsearch.
- Find out about going freelance or starting a business at: iamsterdam.com/startabusiness
- Attend career events and job fairs
- IN Amsterdam hosts several seminars throughout the year, including ones on careers and starting up your own business. Sign up at iamsterdam.com/seminars
- Startup Amsterdam offers a guide to Amsterdam's startup scene (iamsterdam.com/startupamsterdam)
- Make connections with international (professional) communities via iamsterdam.com/internationalgroups

- Be proud of the value that your international experience brings to companies.
- Businesses depend on international expertise and knowledge of foreign markets. Remember to promote your valuable experience and access to international networks to potential employers.
- Diversity in the workplace also leads to greater productivity and innovation.

ADVICE FOR NEWCOMERS

- You can also find a list of companies that specialise in working with internationals via IN Amsterdam's partnership programme (iamsterdam.com/partnershipprogramme). From recruitment agencies to employment lawyers, you'll find a wide range of service providers that have our recommendation. You can also visit the ACCESS helpdesk at IN Amsterdam, a non-profit organisation that assists the international community. Find out more at www.access-nl.org.



30% Tax Reimbursement Ruling

The 30% tax reimbursement ruling (better known as the 30% ruling) is a tax advantage for highly skilled migrants moving to the Netherlands for a specific employment role. When the necessary conditions are met, the employer can grant a tax free allowance equivalent to an amount of 30% of the gross salary subject to Dutch payroll tax.

From a tax perspective, the 30% ruling means that the salary agreed upon between the employee and employer can be reduced by 30%. In return, the employee should receive a 30% reduction as reimbursement for expenses. This is the most common way the 30% ruling is applied as it does not influence the salary burden for the employer. However, the employer is not obliged to pass on the advantage of the ruling to the employee. In practice the employer can partially or fully take the benefit.

The 30% ruling is equivalent to a maximum (effective) tax rate of approximately 36.4%. The resulting tax-free allowance is considered compensation for expenses that a foreign employee experiences when working outside their home country. Since April 2011, IN Amsterdam has been involved in an official cooperation with the Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration (Belastingdienst) regarding the 30% ruling. Applications from companies that are part of the highly skilled migrant scheme of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service can now be processed directly at IN Amsterdam. For a list of recognised companies, please check the public register of recognised sponsors on the IND's website (www.ind.nl).

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 30% RULING

Contact the department responsible for the 30% ruling at the Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration:

088-154 2955 or 088-154 2862

Learning



Dutch Education

The Netherlands is renowned for having a strong, well-balanced education system. Children attend primary school from the age of four, before transferring to secondary school after eight years. The choice of secondary school and type of education determines children's further and higher education, for example whether they will be qualified to enrol at a university.

Why do nearly half of all internationals in the Netherlands choose Dutch education? There's a greater selection of schools to choose from, and they usually make integration into the local Dutch community easier for the children. According to the OECD, Dutch education is of a high quality. And unlike fee-paying independent international schools, Dutch state schools are state-funded and free of charge (they can only ask for a non-compulsory contribution for extra activities).

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In the Netherlands, children start school as soon as they turn four. Schools have various educational approaches, so read up on their curricula and the education ethos of the school, and try to arrange a visit. Most schools hold information days (voorlichtingsdagen) – details can typically be found on the schools' websites – and some also accept private appointments.

Look for primary schools in your area by visiting the 'Scholen op de Kaart' website (www.scholenopdekaart.nl). The site is in Dutch, but you can simply enter your post-code to see a list of schools in your area (tick 'basisschool' for primary and 'middelbare school' for secondary schools). They are listed by distance from your home and mention details such as religious orientation and educational approach. Amsterdam and Haarlem's registration procedure is centralised. The procedures for primary schools elsewhere in the region differ from school to school; please see the respective school or municipality's website for more information.

Most Dutch primary schools combine group (groep) 1 and 2 (years 1 and 2, ages 4 and 5) in one year. The children in this year are called kleuters, and the focus is on learning through play, on social skills, structure and gradual preparation for reading and writing. Formal reading and writing starts in group 3 (from age 6). Most primary schools don't focus heavily on homework (a maximum of 30 minutes per week is assigned on average). Children attend primary school for eight years. After group 8 (ages 11 and 12), they move on to secondary school.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

After completing group 8, pupils leave primary school for secondary education (voortgezet onderwijs). There are different types of Dutch secondary education:

- VMBO: preparatory secondary vocational education (four years), followed by MBO (secondary vocational education);
- HAVO: senior general secondary education (five years), followed by HBO (university of applied sciences);
- VWO: pre-university education (six years), followed by a research university.

Many secondary schools offer a mixed-level 'bridge class' in the first year. After having obtained a diploma for a lower level, a student can proceed to the next, higher level if their grades are good enough. This route may take some additional time, however.

MOVING TO THE NETHERLANDS WITH NON-DUTCH-SPEAKING CHILDREN

Ages 4 and 5: Generally, at this age international children can enrol in a Dutch school even if they don't speak Dutch. In a few cities, children need to attend a newcomers' class to begin learning Dutch before they start at a local Dutch school.

Ages 6 to 12: There are so-called newcomers' classes available at many Dutch primary schools for this age group. They cater for students who have just arrived in the country and don't speak any Dutch yet. The criteria for attending newcomers' classes are:

- The child speaks little to no Dutch
- The child has been in the Netherlands for less than one year.

Children spend approximately one year in the newcomers' class. After this, they join their local Dutch school, usually attending the same class as other children of their age. Some newcomers' classes request that you apply to a local Dutch school first, as this will be your future Dutch school. As policies vary from city to city, please check for local information. Children can enrol at any time of the year.

Age 12 and above: From the age of 12, children who are new to the Netherlands and don't speak Dutch are placed in an Internationale Schakelklas (ISK). After enrolment, the child will be tested by the school so they can start out at the appropriate level. Students stay in the ISK for approximately one or two years.

Students can enrol at any time of the year, but must be present for enrolment. Contact the school to make an appointment.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL SCHOOLS

By law, all schools have to start teaching English no later than group 7 (ages 10 and 11). Increasingly, schools are beginning early foreign language education (mostly English), often starting at age 4.

A newer development is bilingual schools that split the curriculum between Dutch and (usually) English. For example, 30-50% of a school's curriculum may be taught in English. Bilingual secondary education is more commonly known in Dutch as *tweetalig onderwijs* or *TTO*.

Please note: bilingual primary and secondary schools require their students to speak Dutch before they start.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Find and compare schools in the Netherlands: www.scholenopdekaart.nl

School holidays schedule: www.schoolvakanties-nederland.nl (in Dutch)

Newcomers' classes:

- www.lowan.nl (in Dutch)
- General information about the Dutch Education System in the Amsterdam Area: www.iamsterdam.com/education
- List of bilingual secondary schools in the Netherlands (in Dutch): www.nuffic.nl/onderwerpen/tweetalig-onderwijs/alle-tto-scholen-nederland

International Education

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

There are many international schools in and around the Amsterdam Area that offer an international curriculum at primary and/or secondary level. Some are subsidised by the government and others are private. View all international schools in the Amsterdam Area, plus other major Dutch cities, on this map: www.iamsterdam.com/internationalschoolmap

All schools listed below are happy to explain their education options in person, by phone or online – they recommend visiting where possible so that you can get a complete sense of their facilities and offerings. Also be sure to read their entry requirements carefully. Some schools require that at least one parent holds a foreign passport.

- AMITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AMSTERDAM
www.amityschool.nl
- AMSTELLAND PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AMSTELVEEN
amstelland-international-school.nl
- AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
aics.espritscholen.nl
- BRITISH SCHOOL OF AMSTERDAM
britams.nl
- ECOLE FRANÇAISE D'AMSTERDAM
<https://lfvvg.com/>
- EUROPEAN SCHOOL BERGEN
esbergen.eu
- FLORENCIUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
www.florenciusinternationalschool.nl
- GIFTED MINDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
giftedmindsinternationalschool.com
- INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL – ALMERE
www.ipsalmere.nl
- INTERNATIONAL FRENCH SCHOOL
www.internationalfrenchschool.com/
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ALMERE
internationalschoolalmere.nl
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF AMSTERDAM
isa.nl
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HAARLEM
www.internationalschoolhaarlem.nl
- INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL – HILVERSUM
www.ipshilversum.nl
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HILVERSUM (ALBERDINGK THIJM)
www.ishilversum.nl
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LAREN (HILVERSUM)
www.islaren.nl
- JAPANESE KINDERGARTEN
www.tulipgakuen.nl
- JAPANESE SCHOOL OF AMSTERDAM
jsa.nl
- OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - HOOFDDORP
www.optimist-international-school.nl
- WINFORD BILINGUAL
www.winford-bilingual.nl

Higher Education

Amsterdam has a tradition of innovative higher education, providing a meeting point between worlds of learning. Its commitment to the advancement of academic excellence in teaching, research and publication continues today, with two leading universities and a myriad of vocational institutes to choose from. Free thinkers have long thrived here.

RESEARCH AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The two types of higher education institutions in the Netherlands are research-orientated universities and vocational universities or colleges of applied sciences. Research universities stress independence in academic and professional settings, whereas vocational institutes focus more on preparing students for specific careers. Both types offer bachelor and master degree programmes, but only research universities offer doctoral degree programmes. Most institutions have courses taught in English. Useful websites: www.studyinholland.nl, www.nuffic.nl/en

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

- UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
www.uva.nl
- VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM
www.vu.nl

- HAARLEM CAMPUS
haarlem-campus.com
- WINDESHEIM UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES - ALMERE
www.windesheim.com

UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ACADEMIES OF THE ARTS

- AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
www.amsterdamuas.com
- AMSTERDAMSE HOGESCHOOL VOOR DE KUNSTEN (SCHOOL OF THE ARTS)
www.ahk.nl/en
- GERRIT RIETVELD ACADEMIE
www.gerritrietveldacademie.nl
- HOGESCHOOL TIO
www.tio.nl/en
- INHOLLAND UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
www.inholland.com

INSTITUTIONS OF EXCELLENCE

- AMSTERDAM BUSINESS SCHOOL
www.abs.uva.nl
- ACE - AMSTERDAM CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
www.ace-venturelab.org
- AMSTERDAM INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED METROPOLITAN SOLUTIONS (AMS)
www.ams-amsterdam.com
- AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
www.auc.nl/auc
- NYENRODE BUSINESS UNIVERSITY
www.nyenrode.nl
- WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
www.webster.nl

ACCESS

In June 2016, IN Amsterdam launched an official partnership with ACCESS, a long-running volunteer organisation that serves the needs of the international community in the Netherlands.

- ACCESS Netherlands is a non-profit organisation committed to supporting the international community in the Netherlands. ACCESS helps internationals with issues such as employment, housing, language courses and schooling. Their English-speaking services include a helpline (helpdesk@access-nl.org), antenatal classes and a counselling referral service. Working with ACCESS extends IN Amsterdam's ability to help internationals settle into life in the Amsterdam Area quickly and easily. The cooperation includes the launch of a dedicated ACCESS helpdesk within IN Amsterdam's office.

Contact ACCESS via email, book an online appointment or visit the website for further details.

- Appointment: appointments.access-nl.org/amsterdam
- Email: helpdesk.amsterdam@access-nl.org
- Website: www.access-nl.org
- Phone: + 31 85 4000 338

!WOON is an excellent contact for information relating to tenancy rights and people looking for housing. It is an independent organisation that offers free information, advice and support regarding renting and housing. Internationals are invited to make use of !WOON's free information and ask any questions they might have about tenancy rights in the Netherlands. For advice on all rental matters, !WOON's full contact information in English is available online at www.wooninfo.nl. You can ask questions via their website or speak to an advisor in person.

- Website: www.wooninfo.nl/english/
- Phone: [020-5230130](tel:020-5230130)
- Contact form: www.wooninfo.nl/vragen/

Public Holidays 2024

January

MONDAY 01
New Year's Day (*Nieuwjaarsdag*)

March / April

FRIDAY 29 MARCH
Good Friday (*Goede vrijdag*)

SUNDAY 31 MARCH
Easter (*1e Paasdag*)

MONDAY 1 APRIL
Easter (*2e Paasdag*)

SATURDAY 27 APRIL
King's Day (*Koningsdag*)

May

SUNDAY 5
Liberation Day (*Bevrijdingsdag*)

THURSDAY 9
Ascension Day (*Hemelvaartsdag*)

SUNDAY 19
Pentecost (*1e Pinksterdag*)

MONDAY 20
Pentecost (*2e Pinksterdag*)

December

THURSDAY 5
Sinterklaas (Not official)

WEDNESDAY 25
Christmas (*1e Kerstdag*)

THURSDAY 26
Christmas (*2e Kerstdag*)

Public Holidays 2025

January

WEDNESDAY 01

New Year's Day (*Nieuwjaarsdag*)

April

FRIDAY 18

Good Friday (*Goede vrijdag*)

SUNDAY 20

Easter (*1e Paasdag*)

MONDAY 21

Easter (*2e Paasdag*)

SATURDAY 26

King's Day (*Koningsdag*)

May / June

MONDAY 5 MAY

Liberation Day (*Bevrijdingsdag*)

THURSDAY 29 MAY

Ascension Day (*Hemelvaartsdag*)

SUNDAY 8 JUNE

Pentecost (*1e Pinksterdag*)

MONDAY 9 JUNE

Pentecost (*2e Pinksterdag*)

December

FRIDAY 5

Sinterklaas (*Not official*)

THURSDAY 25

Christmas (*1e Kerstdag*)

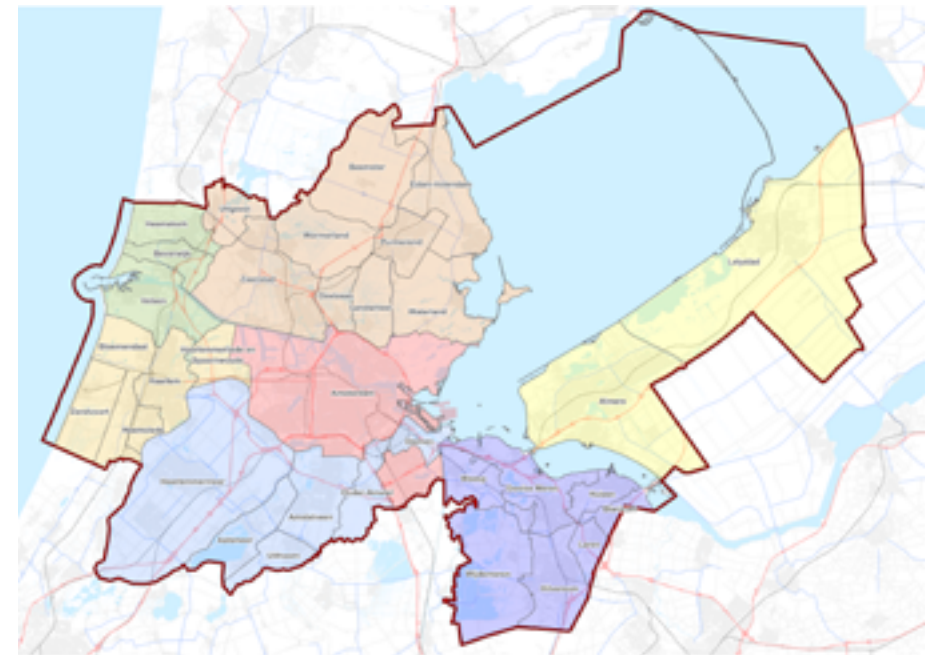
FRIDAY 26

Christmas (*2e Kerstdag*)

Amsterdam Area

The Amsterdam Area encompasses the city of Amsterdam and 32 of its surrounding municipalities – Aalsmeer, Almere, Amstelveen, Beemster, Beverwijk, Blaricum, Bloemendaal, Diemen, Edam-Volendam, Gooise Meren, Haarlem, Haarlemmerliede-Spaarnwoude, Haarlemmermeer, Heemskerk, Heemstede, Hilversum, Huizen, Landsmeer, Laren, Lelystad, Oostzaan, Ouder-Amstel, Purmerend, Uithoorn, Uitgeest, Velsen, Waterland, Weesp, Wijdmeren, Wormerland, Zaanstad and Zandvoort –, the two Dutch provinces of Noord-Holland and Flevoland, and the regional transport authority. The area has a total population of approximately 2.5 million inhabitants.

IN Amsterdam, short for 'International Newcomers Amsterdam', is a joint initiative of the cities of Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Diemen, Almere, Haarlem, Haarlemmermeer, Hilversum and Velsen.



Living in the Amsterdam Area

IAMSTERDAM.COM/LIVING

The area around Amsterdam is well connected by public transport and motorways, meaning that wherever you and your family choose to live, you're rarely more than 30 minutes from the centre of Amsterdam.

Whether you're drawn to the relaxed lifestyle of a beachside dwelling, a quaint Dutch village with windmills in the distance or city bursting with nightlife and culture, there's an area of the Amsterdam region for you. Find out more at iamsterdam.com/living

WORK & BUSINESS

Thanks to its great work-life balance and the abundance of highly skilled talent, the Amsterdam Area is a wonderful place to live and work. The area's business ecosystem offers a vibrant community with plenty of opportunities for startups, scale-ups and global corporations as well as talent looking for work. Find out more at iamsterdam.com/work iamsterdam.com/business

ALKMAAR, BERGEN & HOORN

Traditional Dutch polder landscapes and historical towns go hand in hand with a relaxed lifestyle near the North Sea coast and the IJsselmeer lake.

IJMOND, ZANDVOORT & CASTRICUM

The North Sea coast offers a unique lifestyle that perfectly balances the bustling cities nearby. Spend your weekend taking part in water sports, cycling in the dunes or visiting the beachside bars nearby.

HAARLEM & HEEMSTEDDE

Perfectly situated between Amsterdam and the North Sea coast, Haarlem has a picturesque old-world charm, with cobbled streets, winding waterways, gabled houses and rich cultural facilities.

ALMERE & LELYSTAD

The area has a modern architectural aesthetic and residential areas are thoughtfully planned around schools and parks. Houses tend to be spacious with large gardens and include off-street parking.

HILVERSUM, THE GOOI & VECHTSTREEK

This area is characterised by its lush surroundings, picturesque villages, nature areas, traditional villages and modern living in a green setting.

ZAANSTREEK & WATERLAND

This area offers an enduring cultural and industrial heritage and is looking towards the future at the same time, blending the old with the new and finding innovative ways to repurpose its industrial character.

HAARLEMMERMEER, AALSMEER & UITHOORN

The region's proximity to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is a clear advantage for residents who frequently travel or visit family overseas. The area is ahead of its time in terms of circular construction and housing.

AMSTERDAM, AMSTELVEEN & DIEMEN

Residents enjoy the best of both worlds with a variety of housing options and peaceful residential areas, while Amsterdam's cultural facilities and nightlife are only a 30-minute bike ride away.

CULTURE & ACTIVITIES

The Amsterdam Area is known for its rich cultural and international history. On top of the abundance of cultural heritage and performing arts, the Amsterdam Area is also home to many international communities that will make you feel welcome and at home.

HOW TO...

...SETTLE IN, SIMPLY

IN Amsterdam helps internationals settling into life in the Amsterdam Area and provides information on housing, education, work, healthcare and more. You can receive advice on governmental services as well as tips about renting a home from tenant support agency !WOON, or find out anything to do with relocating to the Netherlands from ACCESS.

- www.inamsterdam.com
- www.wooninfo.nl/english
- www.access-nl.org

...CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION

Each part of the Amsterdam Area has its own unique character, local attractions and industries. Learn more about living in the Amsterdam Area

- iamsterdam.com/living
- iamsterdam.com/housing
- amsterdamwoont.nl (new housing projects)

MAP IT OUT!

Visualise your future in the Amsterdam Area

The MapitOut tool is your interactive guide to living in the region. Visualise your daily routine and find your new home in an area that fits you and your family perfectly.

The tool assists you with making big life decisions such as where to live and which schools to choose for your children by taking your ideal travel time and mode of transport into account. Use the filters to highlight Dutch and international schools on the map.

Whether you want to live a 30-minute bike ride from work, a 20-minute drive to your kids' school or a 10-minute walk from a train station, find out how easily accessible the Amsterdam Area really is.

Map your future at mapitout.iamsterdam.com

PARENT AND CHILD TEAMS AMSTERDAM

Parent and Child Teams Amsterdam (OKT Amsterdam) is a network of advisors, doctors, psychologists, and nurses trained to support families to live healthier and happier lives. Whether it's one-off advice, a quick question, longer consultations, workshops, or short courses, the OKT Amsterdam helps parents and young people address questions or concerns around health & well-being. For more information about their free services, contact a Parent and Child Team in your area: oktamsterdam.nl

CITY OF AMSTERDAM

From its humble beginnings as a 13th-century fishing village to its current role as a major hub for business, tourism and culture, Amsterdam has always had a strong tradition as a centre of culture and commerce. Even in the city's earliest days, Amsterdammers saw the value of building relationships with other cultures, especially when it helped facilitate trade and economic development. Today, the city retains its character as an open and tolerant society, attracting visitors and new residents from all corners of the globe.

MELTING POT OF CULTURES

Amsterdam has become one of the most multicultural cities in the world. It now has a rich mix of cultures, with residents from over 160 different nations. It also embraces a variety of different lifestyles, religions and beliefs.

WORKING IN AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam is a great place to work and live. The quality of life ranks high on international reports, and unemployment is one of the lowest in the EU. Added to that is Amsterdam's burgeoning international community, as well as some 3,000 international companies that have chosen to set up shop here. Major industries include IT and data science, creative, financial and business services, logistics, tourism and conferences, agrifood, life sciences and health, and high-tech materials and manufacturing. There is a wide variety of job options to explore and numerous local companies and international businesses are looking to grow and flourish by hiring top talent from around the world.

LIFE IN AMSTERDAM

There are plenty of iconic characteristics about this city that please both tourists and residents. The canals and historic neighbourhoods are certainly up there as Amsterdam's most famous attractions, but they also make for a monumental environment in which to live and work. Travelling through the city centre, be it to work, school or to go shopping, is a pretty special experience and can brighten up any day. Besides the iconic waterways and architectural heritage, Amsterdam is a green city. It is home to some 40 parks, while thousands of trees line the banks of canals and major thoroughfares.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Amsterdam's cycling culture is no secret, and it may well be a key ingredient towards enjoying a happier, healthier lifestyle. Hopping on a bike to get across town – rather than struggling in traffic or relying on public transport – is one of the most common things internationals highlight about the city. Of course, if you still favour motorised transport, Amsterdam is working hard to become the most sustainable city in Europe. For example, there are thousands of electric charging stations throughout the city, you can hire electric cars directly on the street, and even the main taxi fleet operating between the airport and the city centre is 100% electric.

STUDYING IN AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam has a tradition of innovative higher education, providing a meeting point between worlds of learning. The University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam are globally renowned for their research and both universities are at the forefront of European academia. The city is also home to renowned facilities in applied sciences, business education, vocational learning and the arts. Free thinkers have long thrived here, establishing a reputation that sets Amsterdam apart.

In regards to schooling for children, Amsterdam is known for supporting a strong, well-balanced education system. This is further bolstered by a host of options for international schooling in and around the city, covering a wide spectrum of learning, languages and cultures.

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

As a major European capital, Amsterdam has a lot going on. Some of the world's most important museums are not only on the doorstep, but clustered in the city centre (the Rijksmuseum, the Stedelijk Museum and the Van Gogh Museum). Plus there are another 70 or so museums, specialising in everything from science to chess. And in terms of entertainment, the world's best-known musicians and performers always stop off here to play in some very special venues.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Amsterdam, please visit:
www.iamsterdam.com/en

CITY OF ALMERE

Almere is the youngest city in the Netherlands and the second largest in the Amsterdam Area, with a population of nearly 220,000 inhabitants. It even has space to double in size, without reducing the quality of life enjoyed by its residents.

Almere has a modern and attractive city centre and five districts and boroughs. It was initially developed as a suburban area to the east of Amsterdam, but has grown to become one of Holland's most admired new towns. It boasts 42 kilometres of coastline, a rich natural environment and impressive architecture and attracts numerous exciting events throughout the year. Almere's six train stations provide connections to Amsterdam, Utrecht, Groningen, The Hague and many other cities. Many residents commute to Amsterdam, which is just 20 minutes by train. Intercity trains stop at Almere Centrum Station, and Sprinter trains stop at all stations. There's also a direct train that runs between Almere and Schiphol Airport, with a travel time of less than half an hour. There are regional buses from Almere to Schiphol Airport and from Almere to Zeewolde and Amersfoort. Red and grey R-net buses also regularly travel between Almere and Amsterdam. This service runs on a high frequency and is very reliable, with the use of its own bus lanes to avoid traffic delays.

CULTURE, SPORTS AND RECREATION

Almere is well known for its striking architecture and showcases the work of famous architects such as Rem Koolhaas, SANAA and Claus en Kaan in the city centre. The vibrant centre is home to more than 350 shops, interesting cultural venues like De Nieuwe Bibliotheek (The New Library) and a cinema. A wide variety of cultural events and festivals take place throughout the year. In the summer, spectacular outdoor theatre performances by theatre groups Suburbia and Vis à Vis are held at Kemphaan Country Park and on the Almeerderstrand beach. Almere also has more than 300 indoor and outdoor sports facilities and more than 100 sports clubs. In addition, more and more of Almere's residents participate in non-organised sporting activities such as trail biking, inline skating, hiking, water-skiing and rowing.

WORK

Almere is home to about 25.000 companies. Some of the major international names include Yakult, Yanmar and Csmart, while Dutch companies like Voiceworks and Elements Interactive are also thriving and expanding, regularly looking for new local and international talent.

LIVING

Homes in Almere are typically affordable and modern – some of the existing houses are no older than 20 to 30 years, while many more are between five and ten years old. Residential areas are spacious and thoughtfully planned around schools, parks and shopping areas. If you've ever dreamt of building your own home, Almere is the perfect location, too. In addition, road safety is outstanding – Almere's urban infrastructure features bus lanes and cycle paths that are separate from the main roads.

INTERNATIONAL ALMERE

One of the other primary contributions to Almere's unique and colourful character is its cultural diversity. Almere is home to residents of 192 different ethnicities and 148 different nationalities. International Almere is a volunteer-based non-profit organisation that creates opportunities for internationals and internationally minded locals, to create and foster friendships through regular activities and events.

www.internationalalmere.com

A not-for-profit networking movement for internationals that live or work in Almere or the surrounding region is Expat Society Almere.

www.expatsocietyalmere.nl

As the Indian community is growing fast in Almere, the city now also has its own Diwali festival. www.almerediwali.nl

EDUCATION IN ALMERE

Almere is home to two international schools, two universities of applied sciences, 17 secondary schools and 76 primary schools. The city has state-funded schools as well as schools that provide a curriculum based on a particular religious conviction or pedagogical vision – examples of the latter are Dalton, Montessori and Jena-Plan schools. There are also schools based on Catholic, Reformed, Protestant, Ecumenical and Islamic principles, along with schools that offer a high standard of special-needs education.

INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL ALMERE (IPS ALMERE)

Located in Almere's Literatuurwijk (Literature District), the International Primary School Almere offers pupils the opportunity to learn and develop within a strong and balanced learning programme. The school offers the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and the British curriculum for literacy and numeracy. The staff are native English speakers, and Dutch is taught as a second language. Pre-school and afterschool care is also available onsite. www.ipsalmere.nl

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ALMERE (IS ALMERE)

The International School Almere is an IB World School located right by the Cascadepark in Almere Poort. The school prepares pupils to continue their education at universities all around the world. It celebrates cultural diversity and involves children in sustainability initiatives, such as being part of the pupil-led Green Team. The school's mission is to help its pupils become global citizens who can contribute positively to society and the environment.

www.internationalschoolalmere.nl

HEALTHCARE IN ALMERE

All residential areas in Almere have healthcare centres that provide comprehensive primary healthcare (family physicians/GPs, dental care, physiotherapy, antenatal care) under one roof. Throughout the Netherlands, healthcare professionals collaborate with fellow practitioners, as well as professionals from other sectors such as housing, education and research.

CONTACT INFORMATION PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (GGD FLEVOLAND)

Open on working days, 8:00-17:00
Boomgaardweg 4, 1326 AC Almere
☎ +31 (0)36 535 7300

CITY OF ALMERE SERVICE DESK

Visit the service desks at Almere City Hall for assistance with municipal services. You can make an appointment via the website or by calling 14 036.

Information about Almere is also available online at english.almere.nl and www.thisisalmere.com.



CITY OF AMSTELVEEN

A high quality of life is an essential feature of Amstelveen. With its strategic location right by Amsterdam and close to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, Amstelveen has always been tremendously appealing to international businesses and residents. About forty percent of Amstelveen's current population are from an international background.

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

Amstelveen's international orientation is partly determined by its economic relationships. Located in the vicinity of Schiphol Airport and at a very short distance from Amsterdam, Amstelveen is an appealing base for international companies. The high living standards are also attractive to international employees, which explains why Amstelveen has an active and growing international community. Internationals from India are by far the largest non-Dutch nationality group residing in Amstelveen, followed by Japanese, British, Chinese, German and US-American residents, and other Asian and western European residents.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Housing in Amstelveen is of a very high quality. A strategic location and high quality of life are the fundamental elements of Amstelveen's appeal. The Stadshart (literally: 'heart of the town') is the cultural and retail town centre and plays a vital role in Amstelveen's positive image. It is home to a nationally commended library, the P60 concert venue, the Schouwburg Amstelveen theatre and the acclaimed Cobra Museum of Modern Art.

GREEN CITY

Amstelveen is rightly proud of its abundant greenery. The town is famous for the 1,000 hectare Amsterdamse Bos forest, the botanical gardens and its many peat lakes. The well-maintained public green spaces are highly valued by both the inhabitants and the business community; and in 2014, Amstelveen won gold at the international horticultural competition Entente Florale Europe. The town also has ample facilities for a wide variety of sports at all levels and actively encourages participation in top-level sports. Hockey and tennis are particularly popular.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF AMSTERDAM (ISA)

The International School of Amsterdam provides primary and secondary education for the international community. In a beautifully designed building, it teaches an international curriculum (the International Baccalaureate) to pupils between 3 and 18, preparing them for possible entry to universities across the world. ISA is a caring and secure environment in which pupils can develop the skills, confidence and creativity that will help them to succeed academically. With a focus on international understanding, children learn to think about various cultures, views and opinions. It is a unique educational environment that is designed to bring out the very best in each child.

www.isa.nl

AMITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AMSTERDAM

Amity International School Amsterdam offers a learning experience for pupils between 3 and 13 that encourages independent thinking, communication and emotional intelligence. Part of the not-for-profit Amity Education Group, which has campuses in more than 25 countries, the school is housed in a spectacular building that has been refitted to the highest standards and provides a unique learning environment.

www.amityschool.nl

EMPLOYMENT

The 11,700 registered companies in Amstelveen employ approximately 55,000 people. Employment in Amstelveen is concentrated in high-quality business services, such as IT companies, accountancy firms and financial companies; many of the newly available positions primarily involve these sectors. Besides a great variety of local businesses, also many international companies, the majority of which are from the USA and Japan, have based their offices in Amstelveen.

HEALTHCARE

Within Amstelveen's Amstelland Hospital, there are dedicated support desks for Indian and Japanese internationals. These desks offer support with medical concerns in Japanese, English and Hindi, and guidance to the appropriate department and medical practices.

INDIA DESK ziekenhuisamstelland.nl/en/about-amstelland/india-desk/
email: indiadesk@zha.nl

JAPAN DESK www.japandesk-amstellandhospital.nl/
info@japandesk-amstellandhospital.nl / telephone: 020-755 7146

WWW.VISITAMSTELVEEN.NL/EN

CITY OF DIEMEN

The tranquil town of Diemen, adjacent to Amsterdam Oost and Amsterdam Zuidoost, lies just seven kilometres southeast of Amsterdam's city centre. Its accessible location combined with quiet, leafy neighbourhoods and plenty of green space makes it a popular choice for families and commuters.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

Diemen is home to approximately 30.000 people and is expected to grow in the coming years – and with good reason. Its convenient location nearby Amsterdam's Oost and Zuidoost neighbourhoods makes it one of the Amsterdam Area's most easily accessible municipalities by car, public transport and bike. Although Diemen is a separate municipality, it's closer to Amsterdam city centre than many neighbourhoods that are officially suburbs of Amsterdam. Its two train and subway stations and tram provide direct links to Amsterdam Central Station, Amsterdam Zuid and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, with travel times between 10 and 20 minutes.

HOUSING AND SURROUNDINGS

Diemen offers a wide variety of housing options, ranging from spacious family homes to modern apartment buildings. It also has a large student population and several dedicated student housing complexes, such as Campus Diemen Zuid. Locals enjoy peaceful, leafy streets with plenty of lush, natural spaces. The main park, Diemerbos, provides a sanctuary for picnics and recreational activities such as cycling and even horse riding.

SHOPPING AND DINING

Shopping opportunities abound in Diemen: the town centre is packed with one-of-a-kind boutiques, plus all the usual chains. The dining options are quite varied, too, with a mix of informal restaurants, cafés and bars. The Diemerplein shopping centre contains more than 50 shops and there's a market in the adjoining square every Wednesday. In addition, Amsterdam's shopping and dining opportunities are within cycling distance.

CULTURE AND ACTIVITIES

Although Amsterdam's thriving cultural scene is easily accessible for Diemen's residents, its own cultural calendar boasts several annual festivals and events. Diemen is also home to a cultural centre with a cinema, as well as a wide variety of sports associations.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Despite its small size, Diemen's business ecosystem is thriving; it includes several headquarters of internationally known companies and numerous small- and medium-sized businesses, and it attracts many entrepreneurs, too. As a result, the business platform 'Ondernemend Diemen' was re-established in 2011 to provide its self-employed community with a network to promote their collective interests.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Diemen, visit www.diemen.nl and www.daaromdiemen.nl (both in Dutch).

CITY OF HAARLEM

Haarlem is one of the Netherlands' most beautiful old cities, offering a huge amount of historic sites. It has a lively community of 163,500 inhabitants. Although it's the second largest in the Amsterdam Area, the capital of the province of Noord-Holland and has a real cosmopolitan feel about it, Haarlem is still a comfortably sized city.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Haarlem is an energetic city, with an active business community, dedicated educational institutions and a municipality that creates an encouraging economic climate. Haarlem offers space for economic innovation as well as entrepreneurial vision. It is a popular location for creative, innovative and technology-based businesses and industrial companies. Haarlem Business Park Waarderpolder is a vibrant hotspot for both new and established companies, having a strong position in the creative and maker industries, 3D printing, digital economy, circular economy & sustainability and life sciences & health. It is only a 15-minute drive away from Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport, and just a few minutes' bike ride away from the inner city of Haarlem with its attractive meeting and conference locations.

LIVING

Haarlem is an attractive and highly popular place to live. The city offers a broad range of housing, from grand historic buildings and townhouses to modern apartments and even houseboats. As for short-term stays, there are lots of hotels and B&Bs.

KIDS

Haarlem is also a great city for kids. There is an excellent international school; the International School Haarlem, for primary and secondary education. Several Dutch schools offer bilingual or international programmes. Haarlem also has two schools for primary and secondary education, at which children learn the basics of the Dutch language first before attending a regular school. Cultural organisations in the area provide a year-round calendar of events aimed at children, including museum exhibitions, films, theatre productions, workshops and excursions. The city's numerous playgrounds and parks, and the beach and national park just outside of Haarlem are great for playing and sports activities.

A SHOPPING CITY

Haarlem is a great city for shopping – it has been voted 'best shopping city in the Netherlands' multiple times. The mediaeval Sint-Bavo church on the central market square

(Grote Markt) is surrounded by a cornucopia of pedestrianised shopping streets. The historic centre offers a large and diverse range of exclusive boutiques, trendy fashion retailers, numerous independent and specialist shops and charming antiques and curiosity dealers. Most shops are open on Sundays – not an from 12:00 to 17:00.

CITY OF CULTURE AND ARTS

Haarlem is famous for the high quality of its museums, galleries, antique shops, art in public spaces, cultural events and art platforms. With 15 different museums, Haarlem offers art and culture to suit all tastes. The Teylers Museum, the oldest museum in the country, invites visitors to delve into the wonderful worlds of art and science. The Frans Hals Museum owns the world's largest collection of paintings by Golden Age master Frans Hals. Furthermore, Museum van de Geest|Dolhuys takes you into the world of the mind. Another historic treasure is the Kathedrale Basilica St. Bavo, which is a cathedral located on the Leidsevaart canal. The Jopenkerk, a former church repurposed as a restaurant and brewery, is in the city centre. Most of the museums also offer suitable venues for both corporate and private events, meetings, symposia, receptions or dinner events.

LIVELY HUB

As a historic city with a lively cultural scene and lots of art, music and theatre, Haarlem is an attractive home for internationally minded businesses and highly skilled migrants. Expats-Haarlem is an active community of internationals which provides information and organises events. Haarlem is also experiencing a gastronomic boom, with numerous options for eating out, from bistros to exclusive restaurants.

RECREATION AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Haarlem is rich in green spaces and public parks - one of them, Haarlemmerhout, is the Netherlands' oldest urban woodland. Lakes and canals provide popular spots for boating, sailing and canal cruises. Haarlem borders on the National Park Zuid Kennemerland, a popular walking, cycling and horse-riding spot, where locals and tourists alike come for peace, quiet and relaxation. The dunes, wide beaches (at Zandvoort) and peat polders are also great locations for a day out exploring local nature. The natural landscape forms a stunning contrast to grand country estates such as Duin en Kruidberg – a place of exceptional beauty. All of these locations are easy to reach by bike or public transport, where you can also go canoeing, swimming or mountain biking.

TOURIST INFORMATION

If you have questions about visiting Haarlem, contact VVV Haarlem / Haarlem Marketing. visithaarlem.com

CITY OF HAARLEMMERMEER

The municipality of Haarlemmermeer lies south-west of Amsterdam and is home to 154,000 inhabitants, who value its rural lifestyle, diverse range of housing options, dynamic business environment and short distance to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

RELAXED RURAL LIFESTYLE

Haarlemmermeer is made up of small villages and large residential areas. The municipality's abundant green spaces and agricultural areas provide a tranquil atmosphere that appeals to a diverse range of residents. The unique polder landscape contrasts with the vibrant urban areas, which offer a wide range of facilities such as shopping centres, theatres, a cinema, the Spaarne hospital and a good selection of schools.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Haarlemmermeer is a sports-minded municipality, which is keen to promote a healthy lifestyle through its 180 sports clubs. The King Willem-Alexander complex, which opened in 2014, is a state-of-the-art sports centre that includes top-level facilities for rhythmic gymnastics and synchronised swimming. The new baseball stadium at PARK21 is home to major baseball events, such as the European Championships.

NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

Numerous recreational areas enrich the Haarlemmermeer region. Within cycling distance of the city boundaries, there are freely accessible country estates, dunes, beaches and sailing waters that provide an outdoor playground enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The polder byways provide a picturesque cycling route, as does the Geniedijk, which leads to Haarlem and the North Sea beaches. Water sports enthusiasts love the Ringvaart and the marinas in the polder's eastern regions and the Kagerplassen lake district, while the Haarlemmermeerse Bos is a beautiful forest that attracts families, runners and athletes from all around the region.

COMMUNITY AND EVENTS

Visitors come from far and wide to attend some of Haarlemmermeer's large-scale events, such as Mysteryland, an international dance festival, and Mud Masters, a muddy obstacle course that attracts more than 80,000 participants each year.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Businesses of every sector, ranging from small startups to international corporations, can be found in Haarlemmermeer, nestled in 67 business parks and 17 office locations. Many entrepreneurs and small business owners are drawn to the region for its beautiful environment and great work-life balance. Entrepreneurs establish contacts and work together within Haarlemmermeer's growing number of networks and business associations.

INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTATED SCHOOLS

- Klavertje Vier (ages 0 to 13), a Roman Catholic primary school, offers Early Foreign Language Instruction in addition to the regular Dutch curriculum.
- Gifted Minds International School (ages 3 to 12), an international primary school, offers the IB Primary curriculum with American Common Core State standards.
- Optimist International School (ages 4 to 12), an international primary school, offers the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) with learning guidance taken from the British national curriculum for languages and mathematics.
- Haarlemmermeer Lyceum (ages 12-18) offers a bilingual programme for students at different levels of the school's Dutch curriculum: MAVO, HAVO and VWO.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Haarlemmermeer, visit www.visithaarlemmermeer.nl.

CITY OF HILVERSUM

Hilversum is an attractive city full of possibilities, home to characteristic early 20th-century architecture. The city lies in the southeast of the Amsterdam Area, about 30 kilometres from Amsterdam's city centre and 20 kilometres from Utrecht, and just half an hour by train from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

DYNAMIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

With large international companies like Nike, Spil Games and International Flavor & Fragrances (IFF), Hilversum has a lively international community. The town offers a broad range of accommodation, from modern apartments to stately residences in leafy suburbs. There are also excellent international schools offering both primary and secondary education.

The centre of Hilversum is also remarkable, especially its architecture. The municipal architect, Willem Marinus Dudok, made his mark on the city in the first half of the 20th century – his most famous work is the City Hall.

For shopping and dining, the centre of Hilversum offers major department stores and high-end boutiques as well as restaurants and cafés. For nature lovers, the surrounding forests and heathland provide the perfect setting for bike rides or long walks. In just ten minutes, you can reach the lake for sailing or other water sports.

MEDIA CAPITAL OF THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum is the creative media capital of the Netherlands. The majority of the Netherlands' main broadcasters and major players in the entertainment industry – like music and gaming – have their head offices and studios here. Media Park is the best-known Dutch business park for multimedia companies and enjoys excellent connections to Amsterdam and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

MUSIC IN THE AIR

Hilversum is a lively community with a population of 90,000, and it's brimming with culture, especially music. It is the home-base town of several outstanding orchestras, such as the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, the Netherlands Radio Chamber Philharmonic and the Metropole Orchestra.

A unique attraction is the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision. In a stunning building, the institute presents a historical record of Dutch television and radio.

Two other important economic sectors for Hilversum are healthcare and tourism. For short-term stays, there are plenty of hotels and B&Bs in Hilversum and the surrounding area.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HILVERSUM

The well-established International School Hilversum (ISH) is an IB World School and offers internationally oriented education for pupils aged between 4 and 19. The school emphasises the importance of diversity in its mission and has pupils of more than 40 nationalities. The ISH also has an excellent library and an extensive programme of activities. www.ishilversum.nl.

INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The International Primary School (IPS) Hilversum is an established, partially subsidised Dutch International School and authorised IB World School. It offers the IB Primary Years programme for international pupils, as well as Dutch pupils who have previously been in international education or will be moving on to an international school in the future. Pupils are well-prepared to continue at a secondary school offering the International Baccalaureate, but may also go on to more vocationally oriented secondary education via a partner school. www.ipshilversum.nl.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Hilversum, please visit www.hilversum.nl

TOURIST INFORMATION

www.livehilversum.com
www.visitgooivecht.nl/en

CITY OF VELSEN

The municipality of Velsen consists of seven boroughs and is home to approximately 69,000 people. It's a region of impressive contrasts, where you can live in a bustling port town or retreat to a peaceful village near the dunes and the beach. And it needn't be a tough choice, as you can easily make the most of both lifestyles here.

A stone's throw from the coastal nature reserve and beaches, Velsen offers modern infrastructure as well as great amenities and culture. And for more metropolitan entertainment, Amsterdam and Haarlem are just 30 and 15 minutes away.

A technological region in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, the port town of IJmuiden lies at the heart of Velsen. Many innovative firms here are dedicated to fisheries, offshore work and the manufacturing industry. IJmuiden is also an attractive operating base for many international businesses, as Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is just 20 minutes away.

The port of IJmuiden is all about commercial activity, and a special bonus of this is that the fish could not be any fresher. From an apartment with a sea view, you can watch colossal ships sailing into the port, including Europe's most impressive cruise ships and some of the largest merchant container ships in the world.

HOUSING & RECREATION

The municipality of Velsen includes IJmuiden, Velsen South, Velsen North and Velsbroek, as well as the dune villages of Santpoort North, Santpoort South and Driehuis. Residents in these villages enjoy living in spacious family homes with gardens, situated right along the edge of the Zuid-Kennemerland National Park. It's an amazing, protected landscape, and residents and visitors alike love walking, running and biking through this natural environment.

Velsen also has three wide, sandy beaches that are perfect for water activities and beach sports, like kitesurfing and beach volleyball. To the east, there's a recreational area known as Spaarnwoude, which offers a wide variety of activities like paintballing, golfing, climbing and canoeing plus some tranquil spots for swimming. Major national events and dance festivals are held here in the summer, too.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Velsen, please www.velsen.nl

TOURIST INFORMATION

www.ijmuiden.nl/en/visit/

Amsterdam City Hall

and City Districts

You can contact the Amsterdam City Hall (Stadhuis) and individual City Offices (Stadsloketten) via a single central phone number: 14 020. Operators speak English and can redirect your call if necessary. When calling from outside the Netherlands, please dial +31 20 624 1111 or visit www.amsterdam.nl

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The Amsterdam City Offices (Stadsloketten) listed below can offer the following municipal services. If you live in Amstelveen, Haarlemmermeer, Hilversum or Almere you will have to visit your local City Hall for these services.

- Register in or sign out of the municipal Personal Records Database (BRP)
- Change of address
- Submit birth certificate and/or marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Exchange driving licence
- Obtain an extract (uittreksel) from the Municipal Personal Records Database (BRP)
- Obtain a letter of invitation (guarantor's declaration, garantverklaring) for tourist visas
- Register a birth, marriage or death

AMSTERDAM CITY OFFICES

CENTRUM

Amstel 1
1011 PN Amsterdam

NOORD

Buikslotermeerplein 2000
1025 XL Amsterdam

WEST

Bos en Lommerplein 250
1055 EK Amsterdam

NIEUW WEST

Osdorppelein 1000
1068 TG Amsterdam

ZUID

President Kennedylaan 923
1079 MZ Amsterdam

OOST

Oranje-Vrijstaatplein 2
1093 NG Amsterdam

ZUIDOOST

Anton de Komplein 150
1102 CW Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM AREA MUNICIPALITIES' OFFICES

ALMERE

Stadhuisplein 1
1315 HR Almere
Postbus 200
1300 AE Almere
J 14 036 or +31 (0)36 539 9911
info@almere.nl

AMSTELVEEN

Laan van Nieuwer-Amstel 1
1182 JR Amstelveen
Postbus 4
1180 BA Amstelveen
J +31 (0)20 540 4911
gemeente@amstelveen.nl

HAARLEM

Zijlvest 39
2011 VB Haarlem
Postbus 511
2003 PB Haarlem
J 14 023 or +31 (0)23 511 5115
antwoord@haarlem.nl

DIEMEN

D.J. den Hartoglaan 1
1111 ZB Diemen
Postbus 191
1110 AD Diemen
T +31 (0)20 31 44 888
info@diemen.nl

HAARLEMMERMEER

Taurusavenue 100
2132 LS Hoofddorp-Beukenhorst
Postbus 250
2130 AG Hoofddorp
J 0900 1852
griffie@haarlemmermeer.nl

HILVERSUM

Oude Enghweg 23
1217 JB Hilversum
Postbus 9900
1201 GM Hilversum
J 14 035 or +31 (0)35 629 2000
gemeente@hilversum.nl

VELSEN

Dudokplein 1
1971 EN IJmuiden
Postbus 465
1970 AL IJmuiden
J 14 0255 or +31 (0)25 556 7200
info@velsen.nl

International Groups and Clubs

Below you will find an overview of internationally oriented professional, cultural and social groups and networks in the Amsterdam area. For more specific groups and clubs please see our website: www.iamsterdam.com/internationalgroups

ACCESS

Whether you are a well-travelled international, a first-timer on an international assignment, or you are living short- or long-term in the Netherlands, ACCESS's international team of experienced volunteers can provide practical information, advice, support and services to assist with all aspects of moving to, or living in, the Netherlands, particularly when being you or your family find it tough to be away from your home country. ACCESS is a not-for-profit organisation borne of the international community and serving it since 1986.

■ www.access-nl.org

AMCHAM

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands (AmCham) is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political, voluntary organisation of companies and individuals who invest in and trade between the United States of America and the Netherlands. The Netherlands is one of the most important destinations for US direct investment in Europe and a major hub of American professionals living and working abroad.

■ www.amcham.nl

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB AMSTERDAM

Founded in 1927, the AWCA has a long history of helping US-American women and international women with close ties to the US to embrace life in the Netherlands, creating opportunities for community involvement and philanthropy, offering cultural, educational and family activities, building lifelong friendships and networking with other professionals.

■ www.awca.nl

AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY (AIC)

Amsterdam International Community (AIC) aims to offer inspiration, connection and a sense of belonging. The organisation runs a variety of social events and information sessions, and can share tips to help you enjoy Amsterdam life.

■ www.nicexpat.nl

AMSTERDAM AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUB

AABC is a professional networking organisation whose main purpose is to help improve business-to-business contacts between Dutch and American businesses.

■ www.aabc.nl

AMSTERDAM ACCUEIL

This non-profit association of French-speaking women in the Amsterdam area aims to help members settle in the Netherlands.

■ www.amsterdamaccueil.com

AMSTERDAM EXPAT MEETUP GROUP

A social club for Amsterdam expats, hosting regular social events such as dinners, drinks and karaoke nights, where participants can meet new people and make friends. The group primarily focuses on expats, but native Dutch people are also encouraged to join.

■ www.meetup.com/amsterdam-expat

AMSTERDAM MAMAS

Amsterdam Mamas is a non-profit organisation that provides information and support on a wide variety of issues and standpoints to international parents in Amsterdam and the surrounding areas. They create a community by connecting families, both offline and online, and providing them with the trustworthy resources they need to raise their children in the Netherlands.

■ www.amsterdam-mamas.nl

AUSTRALIA BUSINESS IN EUROPE NETHERLANDS (ABIE)

The Dutch chapter of ABIE was established in London in 1975. Today, there are ABIE chapters in most European countries. ABIE Netherlands aims to be the focal point for senior Australian business professionals residing and working in the Netherlands. Events run throughout the year and include quarterly dinners.

■ www.abie-nl.nl

BRIDGING THE GAP FOUNDATION

A foundation helping to integrate Indian expats in the Netherlands into the Dutch community and in turn to introduce the vast and vibrant Indian culture to Dutch society by hosting numerous events.

■ www.bridgingthegapfoundation.eu

BRITISH SOCIETY OF AMSTERDAM AND THE NETHERLANDS

This volunteer organisation offers British-themed events such as Bonfire Night, Burns Night, Shakespeare Night and a Christmas ball, plus a variety of social and sporting events and activities, including badminton, tennis, squash, sailing, golf, Scottish country dancing and bridge. Membership is open to everyone.

■ www.britsoc.nl

CANADIAN CLUB OF THE NETHERLANDS (CCN)

The Canadian Club of the Netherlands is a non-denominational, non-political and non-profit association established in The Hague in 1972. It provides social, cultural and educational activities for Canadians in the Netherlands.

■ www.thecanadianclub.nl

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK IN AMSTERDAM (PWN)

PWN Amsterdam is a city network of PWN Global, an international, cross-industry professional development and networking organisation focused on maximising professional potential and advancing gender-balanced leadership in business and society. PWN Amsterdam works with a broad community comprising individual members, corporate partners and both local and international collaborative networks and forums. The network aims to provide knowledge, best practices and tools via content sharing, networking, learning events, instructive webinars and mentoring programmes focused on encouraging its community to embrace new skills and to put reforms into action.

■ www.pwnnetherlands.net

EXPATSHAARLEM

Founded in 2014, expatsHaarlem is a constantly growing community of internationals and locals in the greater Haarlem area. Their website offers news, practical information and interesting features and articles. The group also organises numerous events (including a range of events for kids and families) for a mix of internationally orientated people.

■ www.expatshaarlem.nl

EXPATSHAARLEMMERMEER

News, information, articles, events, meetings and services for internationals in Hoofddorp, Nieuw Vennep, Schiphol or elsewhere in the Haarlemmermeer area.

<https://expatshaarlemmermeer.com>

EXPAT SOCIETY ALMERE

Expat Society Almere is a not-for-profit networking movement for international professionals, global minds, mobile citizens and cross-border academics that live, study, work or have any other connection to the Almere Area, the Netherlands' fastest growing region with traditionally strong ties to the Amsterdam and Utrecht metropolitan areas.

■ www.expatsocietyalmere.nl

FAMILIES IN GLOBAL TRANSITION (FIGT)

FIGT is a welcoming forum for globally mobile individuals and families and those who work with them. The network promotes cross-sector connections for sharing research and developing best practices to support the growth, success and well-being of people crossing cultures around the world. FIGT NL's mission is to bring together representatives of the corporate, diplomatic, academic, religious and military sectors present in the Netherlands to share their cross-cultural coping strategies; to encourage the exchange of information between expatriates and professionals involved with global transitions; and to continue the work of FIGT beyond its annual conference by meeting locally to support and educate professionals who work to improve the lives of families in global transition.

■ www.figt.org

INTERNATIONS

InterNations is a global, free networking community, which is active online, and also holds meet-ups and events for expats of various nationalities. Members can connect with compatriots, ask for advice on everyday life in their host country, provide other members with useful tips, make new contacts and find information.

■ www.internations.org/amsterdam-expats

INTERNATIONAL ALMERE

International Almere provides information and guidance about local news, Dutch culture and the practicalities of everyday life, as well as an active online community of more than 1200 internationals and internationally minded people in Almere. To achieve its goals, the organisation runs activities such as the Dutch Language Café, First Friday Night Drinks, quiz nights and other events, including Christmas for kids and an Easter egg hunt.

■ www.internationalalmere.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONTACT AMSTERDAM

IWC Amsterdam is open to all women who are living or have lived in an international environment. Its aim is to facilitate and foster friendship and understanding between women of all nationalities.

■ www.iwcamsterdam.nl

JAPAN WOMEN'S CLUB

Established in 1989 in Amstelveen, the Japan Women's Club (JWC) is a non-profit organisation whose founding members were women in the Japanese business community in the Netherlands. The club's activities include various charity events, a craft club and Japanese conversation meetings, which are open to Dutch Japanese students and others who would like to improve their Japanese.

■ jwcholland.org@gmail.com

JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL AMSTERDAM

The Amsterdam chapter of JC International, a non-profit organisation for engaged professionals aged 18 to 40 who are committed to creating impact in their communities. The club promotes trade, commerce, community and culture as well as networking and the development of personal and management skills.

■ www.jciai.nl

KIWIS IN THE NETHERLANDS (KIN)

KIN aims to build an active New Zealand community in the Netherlands and create opportunities for its members to build relationships with each other and maintain strong links to New Zealand.

■ www.kiwisinthetherlands.nl

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES PAYS-BAS

Amsterdam's oldest foreign institute, Institut Français des Pays-Bas serves as an ambassador of French-Dutch dialogue. It offers cultural events and courses and workshops on French language and culture.

■ www.institutfrancais.nl

DE RANGMANCH

De Rangmanch is a cross-cultural organisation bringing together Indian people who would like to stay connected to their roots and anyone interested in India's rich heritage. The organisation presents performances and runs a cultural programme with a variety of events for families and children.

■ www.derangmanch.nl

SPARK

Established in 2015 by Amsterdam Academy as an annual conference, Spark has become a movement that unites female entrepreneurs throughout Amsterdam and across Europe to help them shape a new collaborative economy. Become part of a community of like-minded entrepreneurs who believe in growing their businesses through learning from each other. In addition to the annual conference in March, Spark offers retreats, masterclasses and networking events throughout the year.

■ www.sparkwomen.eu

SWEDISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business network organisation dedicated to inspiring, promoting, and extending commercial and industrial relations between companies in Sweden and the Netherlands. The Chamber provides a forum for members to exchange ideas and explore new business opportunities, and also hosts a Young Professional Club, a platform for professionals aged 23-36 to build their social and professional networks.

■ www.swedishchamber.nl

TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Toastmasters is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the public speaking and leadership skills of its members.

■ www.toastmasters.nl

Partnership Programme

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR PARTNERS

IN Amsterdam's Partnership Programme was created to connect internationals with service providers operating in the international market. This is particularly useful for internationals on arrival and during the first few months in the Netherlands. All companies participating in IN Amsterdam's Partnership Programme are known to IN Amsterdam and meet several important criteria.

Companies in our partnership programme must:

- have all relevant company information in English (including website, flyers, forms, customer service, etc.)
- have a minimum of one year's work experience in the international market
- agree to cooperate with our client-monitoring project
- have a standard company procedure for handling customer/client complaints
- have recent verifiable references from a minimum of two international clients and companies
- have an office in the Netherlands

Companies must also agree to IN Amsterdam's membership terms and conditions. Please note that companies are paying members of the Partnership Programme, and while IN Amsterdam works to ensure the relevance and integrity of its members, it cannot directly endorse all practices, products and services. IN Amsterdam cannot be held liable for any consequences associated with the services provided by the partners mentioned in this booklet.

We actively monitor the services our partners provide. You can leave your feedback on their quality of service on each partner's the online profile page.

For an overview of all IN Amsterdam partners please see:

- www.iamsterdam.com/inpartners

Partner Sectors

Please find below a comprehensive list of the participants in IN Amsterdam's Partnership Programme that provide specialised services for internationals. Partners are classified in the following categories:

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Our Partners

COMMUNITY



ACCESS

Volunteer based not-for-profit foundation dedicated to supporting the successful settlement of internationals in the Netherlands – **NON-PROFIT**
www.access-nl.org



AMSTERDAM MAMAS

Even in the city, it takes a village – **NON-PROFIT**
www.amsterdam-mamas.nl



BOOM CHICAGO

Boom Chicago is a creative organisation that hosts fun workshops and classes, and produces comedy shows and content for the live stage as well as for digital, hybrid and live events and conferences worldwide.
www.boomchicago.nl



BUSINESS INVOLVED

Doing good has never been simpler. Business Involved helps you scale/up employee volunteering in the Amsterdam region by connecting you with local impact initiatives. Find the perfect cause for your team to get behind, and we'll assist you every step of the way.
www.businessinvolved.amsterdam



ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA

Based in Amsterdam, the Concertgebouw Orchestra has a reputation of being one of the leading orchestras in the world.
www.concertgebouwkest.nl/en/calendar



SWEDISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.swedishchamber.nl



VCA - VOLUNTEER CENTRE AMSTERDAM

Enrich your life, share your skills as a volunteer – **NON-PROFIT**
www.vca.nu/english



IN2MOTIVATION

We are an international learning and development company, specialized in communication, leadership, coaching and Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP).
www.in2motivation.com



AQUENT

Aquent provides Creative, Marketing & Digital Recruitment solutions for Freelance, Contract, Payroll Transfer & Permanent hiring needs.
www.aquent.nl

EMPLOYMENT

RECRUITMENT AGENCIES



EVERY MOTHER KNOWS

Helping mums launch their career in The Netherlands following relocation and a parental break.
<https://www.everymotherknows.org/>



EURES

The EURES network spans 31 European country and supports employers and jobseekers with finding employment under fair conditions in Europe.
ec.europa.eu/eures/public/index_en



UNDUTCHABLES

Undutchables Recruitment Agency is the pioneer in recruitment of international business sector personnel in the Netherlands. We match multilingual talent with challenging jobs in the Netherlands.
www.undutchables.nl

PAYROLL SERVICES



YOUR TALENT AGENCY

We source, recruit, and relocate. You hire, onboard, and scaleup.
<https://yourtalent.agency/>



RAVECRUITMENT

We offer a full-service solution for highly skilled migrants from around the world enabling them to work for companies in the Netherlands. This includes immigration, relocation, staffing and payroll administration. The process is efficient and of the highest quality standards.
www.ravecruitment.com



YOUNG EXPAT SERVICES

College & University consultation: Would you like to study in the Netherlands? We can help you find the right university or HBO and help you with the application procedures.
<https://youngexpatservices.com>

EMPLOYMENT

COACHING & DEVELOPMENT

RECRUITMENT AGENCIES



VCA - VOLUNTEER CENTRE AMSTERDAM

Enrich your life, share your skills as a volunteer – **NON-PROFIT**
www.vca.nu/english



IN2MOTIVATION

We are an international learning and development company, specialized in communication, leadership, coaching and Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP).
www.in2motivation.com



AQUENT

Aquent provides Creative, Marketing & Digital Recruitment solutions for Freelance, Contract, Payroll Transfer & Permanent hiring needs.
www.aquent.nl

FINANCE

BANKING



ABN AMRO INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS

Your Expat Banking & Mortgage Specialist
www.abnamro.nl/expat



BUNQ

Open a Dutch bank account in seconds: no waiting in lines and BSN required
www.bunq.com/expats



ING BANK

At ING we offer the full range of financial services you might need when moving to the Netherlands. From opening a Dutch bank account to taking out a mortgage, our Expat Advisors are here to help.
www.ing.nl/particulier/english

Our Partners

FINANCE

BANKING



RABOBANK

Arranging all your financial needs in a new country; it can be overwhelming and stressful. To help expats in the Netherlands with their specific financial questions and needs, Rabobank set up a Specialized expatriate service: Rabo Expat desk.

www.rabobank.nl/lokale-bank/amstel-en-vecht

MORTGAGES



A&H FINANCE

Over 15 years expert expat mortgage advice for first time buyers and next home buyers in the Netherlands. Same competitive fees as for Dutch people. Provisional tax return included as well as insurance advice. Ready to buy your property?

<http://ahmortgages.nl>



Expat Mortgages

EXPAT MORTGAGES

Expat Mortgages is a dedicated team of independent brokers excelling in securing mortgages for expats buying homes in the Netherlands. With over a decade of experience, we've guided thousands of clients from diverse backgrounds.

www.expatsmortgages.nl

HEALTH

DENTAL CARE



MISTER MORTGAGE

The Mister Mortgage team is here to help you purchase your first home in the Netherlands. We ensure an easy and smooth mortgage application process from start to finish, taking care of everything for you. Let us calculate your mortgage options today!

www.mistermortgage.nl



HEALTHCARE FOR INTERNATIONALS

All about Dutch healthcare and how to find a provider

www.h4i.nl - not for profit



TANDARTSPRAKTIJK JAN VAN GALEN

Tandartspraktijk Jan van Galen is your dental practice for all general and specialist dental treatments in Amsterdam West. We are here to help you keep your teeth healthy and radiant and prevent dental problems. Open 7 days a week.

www.tandartspraktijkjanvangalen.nl

MATERNITY



LASSUS TANDARTSEN

Committed to health, inspired by beauty. Our 3 clinics cater to all your dental needs. We're open 7 days a week, including evening hours.

www.lassustandartsen.nl/en



PLANTAGE MIDDENLAAN DENTAL PRACTICE

We offer high quality dentistry with multiple specialisms in house. We speak Dutch, English, French, German, Italian and Portuguese.

www.tandartsplantagemiddenlaan.nl



WITSENKADE MIDWIVES

Pregnant in Amsterdam? We guide you from pregnancy to childbirth. We are passionate about giving the best and most beautiful care, every day.

www.witsenkade.nl/en/

HOUSING

SHORT STAY HOTELS



!WOON

Tenants' rights organisation, !WOON, provides advice and support, confidential and free of charge.

www.wooninfo.nl/english/



MVA CERTIFIED EXPAT BROKER

The professional organisation for estate agents who are active in the Netherlands and who are specialised in helping internationals finding their new home in the Netherlands.

www.mvahousing.nl

corporate housing factory
serviced apartments

CORPORATE HOUSING FACTORY

Enjoy fully equipped serviced apartments: the freedom of your own space combined with the usual perks of a hotel. A temporary place that feels like home!

<https://corporatehousingfactory.com>

LANGUAGE

TRANSLATION SERVICES



HOTEL JANSEN

NOT FOR TOURISTS

We are a flexible landing ground for internationals coming to Amsterdam to work or study. You can stay with us from 1 day to 6 months.

www.hoteljansen.nl



WITTENBERG BY COVE

Embark on your Amsterdam journey at Wittenberg by Cove, the perfect starting point for an unforgettable experience. Our serviced apartments combine spacious temporary living with a prime location, allowing you to start a new life in Amsterdam and explore the city's vibrant culture.

<https://staycove.com>



KERN GLOBAL LANGUAGE SERVICES

KERN provides a broad spectrum of language solutions, including certified and specialist translations, localisation, interpretation, technical documentation and graphic design and editorial work for marketing materials.

www.e-kern.com/en

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS



DUTCH COURSES AMSTERDAM KATAKURA WBLCN

Our teachers make learning fun and get amazing results

www.katakura-wblcn.nl



DUTCH COURSES AMSTERDAM

Fun, Efficient, Friendly! Dutch Language Courses for Expats, Students and World Travellers!

www.dutchcoursesamsterdam.nl



FLOWENTLY, LANGUAGE SESSIONS

Language courses for growing companies & busy individuals. Learn Dutch on the go!

www.flowently.com

Our Partners

LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS



LANGUAGE INSTITUTE REGINA COELI

Intensive language & cultural training founded by "the Nuns of Vught"

www.reginacoeli.com



TAALHUIS AMSTERDAM

Dive into a new language and culture with our interactive courses!

<https://taalhuisamsterdam.nl/>



TAALHUIS

In a Taalhuis course, you will feel at home quickly and we aim to make you comfortable speaking Dutch. Register for fun and interactive courses in small groups, in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

www.taalhuis.nl

LEGAL SERVICES



LEGAL EXPAT DESK

Legal Expat Desk is an information hub that provides expats in The Netherlands with English information about Dutch law.

www.legalexpatdesk.nl

Noordam Employment Law

NOORDAM EMPLOYMENT LAW

Noordam Employment Law provides legal advice and services in the field of employment law and specialises in advising and assisting expatriates.

<https://en.noordamadvocaten.nl/>



PALLAS EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS

Personal firm, global perspective

www.pallas.nl



TALENCOACH

Dutch Brainwash:

have fun & learn fast + free eBook for you!

www.talencoach.nl



UVA TALEN

UvA Talen is a leading academic language centre for language courses both online and in-class, serving countless students from around the globe with fun, dynamic, results-driven courses.

www.uvatalen.nl



INTT – INSTITUTE FOR DUTCH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Quality Dutch: High standard Dutch language and culture courses in a historical setting

– **NON-PROFIT**

www.intt.uva.nl



RUSSELL ADVOCATEN

We resolve legal problems for expats and international businesses.

www.russell.law



CITIUS EMPLOYMENT AND CORPORATE IMMIGRATION LAW

Specialists and dedicated lawyers in Corporate Immigration and Employment law

www.citiusadvocaten.nl/en/



EVERAERT ADVOCATEN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

High client satisfaction is what motivates us to stay on top of the latest developments in migration and nationality law for over 40 years.

www.everaert.nl/en/

LEGAL SERVICES



VU-NT2

Excellent Dutch language courses, at any level for all purposes

– **NON-PROFIT**

<https://nt2.vu.nl/en/>



VOLKSUNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

Dutch & (Business)English language courses for non-Dutch

– **NON-PROFIT**

www.vua-ams.nl



ARBEIDSRECHT AMSTERDAM | EMPLOYMENT LAW SPECIALIST

Employment Law Specialist delivers specialized legal services for expats. An excellent personal approach at low cost and fluent in Dutch, English & Greek.

www.arbeidsrechtamsterdam.nl/en/



KROES ADVOCATEN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

We are specialist in immigration law. True specialists. Multiple winner of the client satisfaction award for law firms

- We work with low fixed fees
- We work for companies and expats
- We solve your immigration problems

<https://www.kroesadvocaten.nl/en/>



FRAGOMEN (GLOBAL LLP)

Fragomen is a leading firm dedicated exclusively to immigration services worldwide. The firm supports all aspects of global immigration, which allows Fragomen to represent a broad range of companies and organizations as well as individuals.

www.fragomen.com



BROADCAST AMSTERDAM

Broadcast Amsterdam is an English-language radio and TV broadcaster for all of Amsterdam. Find podcasts, on-demand content, a streaming station, all online, 24/7.

<https://broadcastamsterdam.nl/>

Our Partners

MEDIA



I AMSTERDAM MAGAZINE

Written by people who know and love the city.

www.iamsterdam.com/en



DUTCHNEWS.NL

DutchNews.nl provides Dutch news and current affairs in English for an international audience.

www.dutchnews.nl



EXPAT REPUBLIC

Serving Global Citizens.

www.expatriepublic.com



IAMEXPAT

Founded and run by expats, IamExpat Media is the leading English-language media platform for internationals in the Netherlands, providing up-to-date information, news, job listings, housing services, events and lifestyle tips.

www.iamexpat.nl



INTERNATIONAL LOCALS AMSTERDAM

The site for Internationals living and working in Amsterdam.

www.internationallocals.nl



XPAT MEDIA

Your guide to living, working and studying in the Netherlands.

www.xpat.nl

RELOCATION



ARPN*

Please visit our website for an overview of the member companies

www.arpn-relocation.org



EXPAT HELP

A full service relocation company. We offer complete immigration services (including DAFT), housing, education services, 30% tax ruling support, opening a Dutch bank account and so on. We can customize a relocation package to best suit your personal needs.

www.expathelp.nl



EXPAT2HOLLAND

Relocation, Immigration, House-hunt and HR services in the Amsterdam area.

www.expat2holland.com

TAX

INDIVIDUAL TAX ADVISORS



JIMBLE

Jimble your trusted destination service provider. Offering fully customizable destination and relocation solutions toward your move to the Netherlands, with a personal approach to your needs.

www.jimble.nl



BLUE UMBRELLA

Blue Umbrella's mission is to offer the international community in the Netherlands a reliable, accurate and affordable support platform for Dutch tax matters.

Income tax filing for €145
Small business support package as of €68 excl. VAT per month.

www.blueumbrella.nl



HILLBROOK EXPATRIATE TAX SOLUTIONS

We simplify taxation and immigration for employers and their expats or foreign local hires. In the Netherlands and abroad.

www.hillbrook.nl

TAX



THE TAXSAVERS

The TaxSavers is an all-round tax firm that assists you with all questions about Dutch taxes. We help with the M-form, income tax return, 30% ruling, VAT return and more.

www.taxsavers.nl



TAXSIGHT

TaxSight provides tax advice at the highest level. We are tax advisors with many years of experience in local and International tax matters. We can assist you to have your tax matters handled correctly.

www.taxsight.nl



TTMTAX

Online tax solutions for expats. TTMTAX service combines a high level of service with competitive rates.

www.ttmtax.nl

CORPORATE TAX ADVISORS



TAX CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL

The specialist in international taxation

www.tax-consultants-international.com

TRANSPORTATION

DRIVING SCHOOLS



HVO DRIVE - INTERNATIONAL DRIVING SCHOOL

HVO Drive your ride to success

www.hvodrive.nl/uk

UTILITIES

RELOCATION & REMOVAL



ATLAS INTERNATIONAL MOVERS

Moving to or from The Netherlands? Your trusted partner for high quality moving services!

www.atlas-movers.com

Our Partners

UTILITIES

RELOCATION & REMOVAL



UNIMOVE – INTERNATIONAL MOVERS

We Move You – Your partner for your international removal!

www.unimove.nl/home-en



Easy. Fast. Reliable

UTILITY DIRECT EASY. FAST. RELIABLE.

Utility Direct is the only independent relocation platform aimed at completely unburdening customers during a move to or within the Netherlands.

www.utilitydirect.nl

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



LEBARA MOBILE

The first low-cost telecom provider in the Netherlands. For prepaid solutions, as well as for 1 or 24 months Sim Only subscriptions.

www.lebara.nl/expats



Essential Contact Numbers and Resources

Below you will find a summary of important Dutch telephone numbers in the case of an emergency or problem.

EMERGENCY

Police, fire brigade, ambulance: **112**

Police information (non-emergency): **0900 8844**

Anonymous tips phone line (to report a crime): **0800 7000**

Electricity and gas: **0800 9009**

Emergency doctor's office: **088 003 0600**

ANTWOORD: THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM'S CENTRAL INFORMATION NUMBER

The City of Amsterdam has a central information number, known as Antwoord (Answer). Antwoord is available to answer all questions in English and is open from Monday to Friday, 08:00-18:00.

- In the Netherlands: [14 020](tel:14020)
- From outside the Netherlands: [+31 20 624 1111](tel:+31206241111)

You can also contact the City of Amsterdam on WhatsApp:

- [06 4444 0655](tel:0644440655)

ACCESS

ACCESS is a not-for-profit organisation which supports the international community in the Netherlands. Its professional volunteer staff can answer questions and provide information on important issues, and its Counselling Services Network is on-call to refer to experienced and qualified professionals aware of the challenges facing internationals in need of support. Get in touch with ACCESS:

- [+31 \(0\) 85 4000 338](tel:+310854000338)
- helpdesk@access-nl.org
- www.access-nl.org for their free FAQ Guides & other helpful resources

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

Government.nl is the official English-language website of the Dutch central government. The website provides all relevant information and news and explains the workings of the Dutch government on behalf of all government ministries in the Netherlands. The site also gives an overview of all the past topics and publications by the government, provides information on Dutch central government policy and plans, and lists the names of the ministers and state secretaries. It is managed by the Ministry of General Affairs.

- www.government.nl

DUTCH GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION WEBSITE

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) is the immigration department of the Dutch government. Their website will guide you to the government organisations you may have to deal with when you come to the Netherlands to live, work or study. You can find information about the following topics on the website: education, employment, permits and visa, social security, taxes and vehicles.

- www.ind.nl/en

EUROPE DIRECT – EU INFORMATION LINE

The Europe Direct Contact Centre offers:

- Communication in the official EU language of your choice
- Immediate responses to your general questions on EU matters or a reference to further sources of information
- Contact details of relevant organisations you may need to deal with
- Free postal delivery of certain EU publications

You can call the toll-free number from anywhere in the EU during opening hours (09:00-18:00 on weekdays): [00 800 6789 1011](tel:0080067891011).

If you are calling from outside the EU, dial [+ 32 \(0\)2 299 96 96](tel:+32022999696) from anywhere in the world (standard charges apply).

OTHER OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL CENTERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

- [+31 \(0\)70 353 5043](tel:+310703535043)
- www.thehagueinternationalcentre.nl

HOLLAND EXPAT CENTER SOUTH

- [+31 \(0\)40 238 6777](tel:+310402386777)
- www.hollandexpatcenter.com

ROTTERDAM EXPATCENTRE

- [+31 \(0\)10 790 0190](tel:+310107900190)
- <https://rotterdamexpatcentre.nl>

Essential Dutch numbers

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CENTRE UTRECHT REGION

- [+31 \(0\)30 286 00 00](tel:+31202860000)
- <https://welcome.utrechtregion.com/en/iwcur>

EXPAT CENTER EAST NETHERLANDS

Serving the Eastern Holland

- [+31 \(0\)74 250 3325](tel:+3120742503325)
- www.expatcentereastnetherlands.nl

WELCOME CENTER FOOD VALLEY

Situated in Wageningen, serving the Food Valley region

- [+31 317 482 609](tel:+31317482609)
- www.wcfv.nl, info@wcfv.nl

LEIDEN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Operating in the city of Leiden, in Zuid-Holland

- [+31 \(0\)71 516 6005](tel:+31715166005)
- helpdesk@leideninternationalcentre.nl

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CENTER NORTH

Serving Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe

- [+31 \(0\)50 367 7197](tel:+31503677197)
- www.iwcn.nl

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALISATION SERVICE (IND)

Pieter Calandlaan 1, 1065 KH Amsterdam (opposite of train station Amsterdam Lelylaan)

- [088-043 04 30](tel:0880430430)
- www.ind.nl

JURIDISCH LOKET (LEGAL COUNTER)

■ [Vijzelgracht 21-25 1017 HN Amsterdam](http://www.vijzelgracht21-251017hn.nl)
0900 8020

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OF AMSTERDAM (GGD)

Nieuwe Achtergracht 100, 1018 WT Amsterdam

- [+31 \(0\)20 555 5911](tel:+31205555911)
- www.ggd.amsterdam.nl/english

TAX AND CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION (BELASTINGDIENST)

Kingsfordweg 1, 1043 GN Amsterdam

- [055-538 5385](tel:0555385385)
- www.belastingdienst.nl



INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMERS AMSTERDAM

World Trade Center Amsterdam

I-Tower, Ground floor, Strawinskylaan 1767, 1077 XX Amsterdam

IN Amsterdam is open Monday to Friday, 09:00-17:00

■ [+31 \(0\)20 254 7999](tel:+31202547999)

■ welcome@amsterdam.nl

■ www.inamsterdam.com



By tram: line 5 from Eerste Marnixdwarstraat (Jordaan) via Leidseplein, direction Amstelveen. Get off at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 51 from Central Station via Amstel Station, direction Isolatorweg. Get off at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 52 from Noord / Central Station via Vijzelgracht and De Pijp, direction Zuid. Get off at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 50 from Sloterdijk Station, direction Gein. Get off at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 50 from Duivendrecht station, direction Isolatorweg. Get off at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By train/bus: The train and bus station Amsterdam Zuid is just 200 metres from the WTC building.

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IN Amsterdam cannot be held liable for consequences associated with the use of any information found in this booklet.

Departure checklist

If you are leaving the Netherlands to live in another country, there will be a number of matters to deal with before your departure.

1. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE TO DEREGISTER

The municipality will remove your personal details from the Personal Records Database (BRP) and inform other government authorities of your departure. You can deregister online (using DigiD), in person or by post. If you do not contact the authorities before you move, you are likely to continue to be billed for local and national taxes.

More information: www.amsterdam.nl/en/civil-affairs/moving-abroad-deregistering

2. REPORT YOUR DEPARTURE TO THE IND (IF APPLICABLE)

If you deregister from the BRP before leaving the Netherlands, you don't have to report your departure to the IND, as the municipality will pass the information on to the IND. If you have not deregistered from the BRP within four weeks of leaving the Netherlands, you should notify the IND yourself. You will need to return your residence permit to the IND. More information: www.ind.nl

3. INFORM YOUR LANDLORD OR SELL YOUR HOUSE

In most contracts there is a notice period, but please check your own contract for details. If you own a house and intend to sell it, it's advisable to start the process approximately six months before your departure date.

4. CHILDREN AND PETS

If your child is enrolled in a school, notify the school prior to departure – to ensure there's enough time to handle any outstanding administrative tasks.

Pets may require additional vaccinations or medical treatment before they can travel with you, and a period of quarantine may be required.

5. CANCEL UTILITY CONTRACTS / SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Electricity / water / gas
- Phone, television and internet
- Bank account
- General practitioner (huisarts) and dentist

6. INSURANCE POLICIES

Health insurance, car insurance, home insurance etc. The company could continue billing you if you fail to inform them on time.

7. DUTCH TAXES

For tax information relating to emigration from the Netherlands, visit the Dutch Tax Administration website: www.belastingdienst.nl

8. MAIL FORWARDING

The Dutch postal service (PostNL) provides a mail redirection service on request.



Notes

Notes



international newcomers
amsterdam

+31 (0) 20 254 7999
welcome@amsterdam.nl
www.inamsterdam.com