

Orientation & arrival

Information sheet

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Making Minds Matter



Before arrival

Goin' to EUR
Connect with fellow incoming students before arriving through the Goin' app. Find peers from your home country, your study programme, or with shared interests. Chat, share tips, search for housing, and prepare for your move to Rotterdam. Check your student email or MyEUR for your access link to the exclusive EUR community.
🔗 Go to MyEUR

Insurance
When living in the Netherlands, you are legally required to have sufficient health insurance. We strongly recommend arranging health, liability and travel insurance before your trip to the Netherlands. It is your responsibility to arrange insurance, ideally two weeks before your departure. This way, you are also covered during your journey and right after arrival. There are several insurance providers that offer health insurance for international students.
🔗 Insurance details

Cost of living
Your lifestyle determines how much money you will need as a student. We strongly recommend you to make a budget plan to manage your finances effectively when moving abroad.
🔗 Budget and cost of living

Upon arrival

Public transport
Erasmus University collaborates with Student Mobility to provide international students easy access to all forms of transport in the Netherlands. With Student Mobility you are able to receive a customized public transport card (+ an ISIC Student-ID) with special discounts for international students! You can use this card for train, tram, metro and bus.
🔗 Getting around in Rotterdam

First registration in NL
If you're moving to the Netherlands, you are usually required to register with the municipality where you'll be living. This process is known as "first registration". Depending on the length of your stay, different rules may apply.
🔗 Check your situation

General Practitioner
During your time as student in the Netherlands, you may find yourself in the situation where you need medical care or professional support.
Since your General Practitioner (GP) will be your first point of contact in case of any health issue you may encounter, we strongly recommend you register with a GP as soon as possible after your arrival in the Netherlands.
🔗 Health care information

Dutch bank account
Opening a Dutch bank account might come in handy, sometimes your account from your home country won't suffice.
🔗 When & how to open a bank account

Sim card
If you are staying in the Netherlands for a short period, your most feasible option would be to get a prepaid SIM card. You can pick up a free Lebara SIM card at the ESN office on campus Woudestein. Another option is to get an e-sim.

After arrival

Student life off campus
Rotterdam offers plenty to explore beyond campus. Discover cultural hotspots such as theatres, comedy clubs, jazz cafés, museums and cinemas throughout the city. Enjoy green spaces like Kralingse Bos and other parks, or check UITagenda Rotterdam for daily tips on concerts, exhibitions and events. The city's vibrant cultural scene ensures there is always something new to experience during your studies.
🔗 Rotterdam events calendar

Affordable dining options
Eating out as a student doesn't have to be expensive. Rotterdam offers many budget-friendly restaurants, food courts, and international eateries, especially around Witte de Withstraat, Markthal, and the university area. Supermarkets like Lidl and Dirk, as well as the Erasmus Food Plaza on campus, provide affordable meal options to help you manage your daily expenses.

Student deals & discounts
As a student in the Netherlands, you can benefit from discounts on public transport, museum tickets, cinema visits, sports facilities, and cultural events. Many shops and restaurants also offer reduced prices when you show your student card or ISIC. Keep an eye out for student promotions throughout the city and online to make the most of your budget.

Nearby city trip suggestions
Rotterdam is well-connected, making it easy to explore the Netherlands and nearby countries. Popular day trips include Delft and its historic city centre, The Hague for museums and the beach, or Utrecht with its canals and cafés. You can also travel slightly further to Amsterdam, Antwerp or Brussels for a weekend getaway. Frequent trains make planning your trips simple and convenient.
🔗 Train tickets for international travel

Orientation programmes

At the beginning of every semester, the university offers several orientation programmes for incoming international students.

Faculty Orientation
Most faculties organise their own introduction programme to help students get familiar with their studies and classmates.



International Office Activities
The International Office hosts events and activities to help international students settle into life in Rotterdam with a jump-start, such as the One Stop Shop, where you can take care of practical matters before classes start.
🔗 Discover International Office events

Facilities on campus

Most faculties and schools are located at the Woudestein campus, a lively environment with everything you need as a student. The campus features student residence halls, the vibrant Erasmus Pavilion and the Erasmus Food Plaza, which offers a variety of international cuisines. A mini-supermarket (Spar) is also available for daily essentials.

Other campus facilities include a sports center, library, study spaces, cash dispensers, a prayer room, a bicycle shop, coffee corners, a hairdresser, a student-led bar, a living room to relax and more!

Dutch courses
Looking to get the full Dutch experience? The Language & Training Centre (LTC) offers Dutch courses with a high discount.
🔗 Learn Dutch with LTC

Studying with a disability
Whether it's a physical or psychological condition, Team SMF is happy to explore all support options.
🔗 Support for students

Social and cultural activities
Throughout the year, you can take part in many activities, including social drinks, trips across the Netherlands, music sessions, and more. Events, organised by ESN Rotterdam, Studium Generale, the International Office or other associations offer great opportunities to meet fellow students, explore Dutch culture, and make unforgettable memories.
🔗 Study in Rotterdam

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