

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 working in the Amsterdam Area and the companies involved.

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 tool for new international talent in the Amsterdam Area. Within it you will find general information on subjects such as public transportation, driving licenses, healthcare, housing and important contact numbers. All of IN Amsterdam's partners that offer convenient services are also included.

Open Amsterdam, a strategy to establish the city as the ideal home base for international talent and businesses, paved the way for creating the welcoming conditions that 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, collaborations with doctors and medical staff have 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 and able to answer questions and provide information on a wide range of topics and government services. Whether you've just arrived or 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 information about city life for locals and invitations to informative seminars: www.iamsterdam.com/inamsterdamnewsletters.

We hope you enjoy your stay in the Netherlands!



Some information provided in this booklet may not be completely accurate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit our website for the most up to date information.

CONTACT US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

+31 (0)20 254 7999
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 is also often called the 'Venice of the North' due to its many canals.

AMSTERDAM IN NUMBERS

Last Updated: 2020

873,000 Residents

180 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

44 Museums

9,000 Concerts and Theatrical Performances Per Year

141 Art Galleries

25 Concerts and Theatrical Performances Per Day

900 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. One can usually get by effortlessly in the Amsterdam Area without knowing a word of Dutch. For those keen to try, learning a few words or phrases will always go a long way with the locals.

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

SPREEKT U ENGELS?

Do you speak English?

JA ("yah")

Yes

HALLO

Hello

NEE ("nay")

No

GOEDEMORGEN

Good morning

LEKKER

Tasty

GOEDEMIDDAG

Good afternoon

MOOI

Lovely

GOEDENAVOND

Good evening

GEZELLIG

Cosy

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



Arrival Checklist

GETTING STARTED

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

More detailed information about all the items below can be found in this booklet and on our website: www.inamsterdam.com

MANDATORY ON ARRIVAL

- Register with the local municipality
- Collect and/or arrange residence permit and/or work permit *
- Arrange local 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 local 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

- Learn the local language
- 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. Private rental accommodation is - in contrast to public housing - not 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 is 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 and are advised to be cautious of any suspicious activity.

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), consult Amsterdam Woont. The site also includes information about self-build plots and renovation projects. www.amsterdamwoont.nl/en

FURTHER 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

The housing supply in the Amsterdam Area fluctuates greatly. At times there is a shortage of housing, which can lead to raised rents. It is therefore important to know your rights. Always make sure to read your tenancy agreement carefully before signing; six months into the contract many rights may have expired or could do so soon. Should anything go wrong, the Dutch law has many rules in place to protect you as a tenant. For example, a landlord cannot simply evict you from your home. If you do not reach an agreement, only a court can terminate the lease.

In the private sector, landlords usually ask for a deposit, which is typically the equivalent of one or two months' rent. As for contracts, tenancy agreements can be concluded for fixed periods of time. You should always read your tenancy agreement carefully.

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. Further information: 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 want to buy a property. Despite strong competition in the current economic climate, you'll find there are significant tax incentives and long-term benefits of owning your own home. 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 one of the most liveable and international-friendly countries to reside 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. The easiest way to get around is by bicycle, which is also preferred by locals and is an integral part of Dutch culture. There is an extensive transport network connecting city districts, and commuters can choose a variety of methods to reach their destination as efficiently as possible. This includes the 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

The public transport chip card can be topped up with credit in euros, or you can buy a single 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/metro (also required if changing to another bus or tram). In buses and trams, card readers are located inside the vehicle next to each door. If travelling by metro or train, you need to 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 please see the website for advice on what to do. More info: www.ov-chipkaart.nl

- **BICYCLE** In addition to maintaining good health, the flexibility of keeping to your own timetable, and the convenience of parking compared to that of a car, bicycling is the best way to navigate the cities in the Amsterdam Area.
- **TRAIN** An efficient train network connects the entire Amsterdam Area, to the rest of the Netherlands. Trains are also a convenient method when travelling around 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's metro runs underneath the city centre and out to its surrounding areas. This can be a fast and efficient way to travel.
- **BUS** Amsterdam operates a full bus network, which will take you anywhere in the entire Amsterdam Area.
- **FERRY** Behind Amsterdam Central Station, ferries hustle their way across the River IJ, transporting passengers to and from various locations in the north of Amsterdam. Some specialist ferries also travel along the river to other districts of the city.
- **TAXI** Taxis can be handy when travelling to and from the airport, at night when public transport has stopped running or when you're running late. Depending on the traffic during peak times, however, public transport may get you there even quicker.

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/plan-your-trip/getting-around/taxis

Driving Licence

HITTING THE ROAD

If you intend to drive a car in the Netherlands, you will need to pay close attention to the rules pertaining to driving licences. 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 a certain period of time, after which you will be required to obtain a Dutch permit (*rijbewijs*):

- for EU/EFTA countries, licences are valid for ten years from the date of issue (those 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 with your local municipality.
- you are from the EU/EEA, Switzerland OR are from a country with a special agreement OR you receive the 30% tax ruling.
- you have a valid residence permit (unless 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 do not meet these conditions, you cannot directly exchange your licence for a Dutch one. This means you will need to take a standard theory and practical 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 must submit your application at your local City Office (*stadsloket*) with the following:

- 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)

An application for a Dutch driving licence costs around €42,00 + €8,95 postal costs (2022 price) and must be paid in advance. The appraisal process takes approximately two weeks (you are not permitted to drive while your application is being processed).

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

When you are in possession of a Dutch driving licence, you are also able to receive an international driving licence.

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

- **RDW** 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** Through this agency you can buy an international driving licence booklet at one of their offices. They make an official booklet with information and a stamp. It is valid for one year and costs around €18.95 (2022 price). Please note that for specific countries the international driving licence is not enough and additional documents may be required.

MORE INFORMATION

RDW

(Rijksdienst voor het Wegverkeer) The Government Road Transport Agency – 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 among the best in the world, with people having access to advanced treatments and preventative care during all stages of their lives. Hospitals use the latest equipment and physicians are continually educated on the basis of the latest insights from the scientific community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

General practitioners (*huisarts*) 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 is useful to choose one 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 health care.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Almost everyone who lives or works in the Netherlands is legally obliged to take out standard health insurance to cover the cost of, for example, 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.

The government decides on the coverage provided by the standard package. All insurers offer the same standard package. Healthcare insurers are obliged to accept anyone who applies for the standard insurance package and must charge all policyholders the same premium, regardless of their age or state of health. This ensures that every person is protected against the financial risks of illness and hospital admission.

You are free to choose from any health insurer (*zorgverzekeraar*) offering the standard package (*basisverzekering*) 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 with 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/CSN*). 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

Not all health care services are covered by the standard package. You can opt to take out additional insurance to cover, for example, physiotherapy or dental care. Additional insurance is not obligatory and you are not obliged to take out the standard package and additional insurance with the same insurance company. 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 to help pay for the cost of health insurance. Children under the age of 18 must have health insurance but do not 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 zorgverzekeringslijn.nl on 0800-646 4644 (a toll-free number) to ask questions about the mandatory health insurance in the Netherlands, healthcare premiums or debts due to your health insurance company. Alternatively, visit the bilingual website www.zorgverzekeringslijn.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.zorgverzekeringslijn.nl/coming-from-abroad
- **Sociale Verzekeringsbank** (www.svb.nl/en) for social security questions
- **EU Direct** europa.eu/europedirect
- **College for Health Insurances** +31 (020) 797 8555 for health insurance questions

TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING

In some situations, a tuberculosis screening test may be required in order to complete immigration procedures, as mandated by the IND depending on the country you are moving from. Nationals from the following countries are exempt from the tuberculosis screening obligation:

Albania	Ecuador	Macau (SAR)	Serbia
Algeria	Egypt	Malaysia	Seychelles
Andorra	El Salvador	Macedonia	Singapore
Antigua and Barbuda	Estonia	Maldives	Slovakia
Argentina	Fiji	Mali	Slovenia
Armenia	Finland	Malta	Solomon Islands
Australia	France	Mauritania	South-Korea
Austria	Galapagos Islands	Mauritius	Spain
Bahamas	Georgia	Mexico	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Germany	Moldova	St Kitts & Nevis
Barbados	Greece	Monaco	St Lucia
Belarus	Grenada	Montenegro	St Vincent &
Belgium	Guatemala	Morocco (Inc. The Grenadines)	
Benin	Guyana	Western Sahara)	Sudan
Belize	Hungary	Nauru	Suriname
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Honduras	Netherlands	Sweden
Brazil	Hong Kong (SAR)	New Hebrides	Switzerland
Brunei	Iceland	New Zealand	Syria
Bulgaria	Iran	Nicaragua	Tadjikistan
Burkina Faso	Iraq	Niger	Taiwan
Cape Verde	Ireland	Niue	Togo
Canada	Israel	North-Macedonia	Tonga
Chile	Italy	Norway	Trinidad & Tobago
China	Jamaica	Oman	Tunisia
Colombia	Japan	Panama	Turkey
Comoros	Jordan	Paraguay	Turkmenistan
Costa Rica	Kazakhstan	Poland	Ukraine
Croatia	Kosovo	Portugal	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Kuwait	Qatar	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Latvia	Romania	United States of America
Czech Republic	Lebanon	Russia	Uruguay
Denmark	Libya	Rwanda	Uzbekistan
Dominica	Liechtenstein	Samoa	Vanuatu
Dominican Republic	Lithuania	San Marino	Venezuela
	Luxembourg	Saudi Arabia	Yemen



MORE INFORMATION

If you hold the nationality of one of the countries on this list, you do not have to undergo a tuberculosis (TB) test.

Tuberculosis screenings for immigrants only take place by appointment. An appointment will be scheduled for you after you have completed the 'Referral form TB test' and have made an appointment via the following link: <https://formulier.amsterdam.nl/thema/ggd/tb-test/Registration-form/>
You will be notified of your appointment by mail.

Telephone number for emergency and urgent questions only:
020-555 5240 (Mon-Fri 08:30 - 17:30)

The GGD tuberculosis examination is free of charge.

More information: www.ggd.amsterdam.nl/english/tuberculosis

amsterdam business

amsterdam inbusiness is the official foreign investment agency of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area (a cooperation between Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Almere and Haarlemmermeer). We can help you create a convincing business case for setting up offices in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area – and it's all free, strictly confidential and without a hidden agenda. And our commitment does not 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 Metropolitan Area include:

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

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

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 of potential office locations and co-working spaces.

TALENT

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

BUSINESS AND PARTNER NETWORKS

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

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, international 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:

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

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.

ACCESS TO NETWORKS

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

RELEVANT PARTIES

The IR Programme can introduce you to Dutch government organisations at the national, regional and local levels and bring you into 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.

RESEARCH

The IR Programme is equipped to 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 direction on partnerships to maximise incentives. We also help link education, government and business for assistance in everything from pooling talent to addressing the need for technical skills.

ACCESS TO SUBSIDIES

The IR Programme helps execute new investment and development projects, find and apply for subsidies, and assist expanding companies in many other ways. If you have any questions, our door is always open.

BENCHMARKS

The IR Programme can be a valuable partner in helping you support your business case for 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.

ADVOCACY

The IR Programme serves as a channel through which you can share your

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 one of 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. Overcoming 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 tight-knit, making for many likely encounters and acquaintances.

RECRUITMENT AGENCIES (*uitzendbureaus*)

Recruitment Agencies are located all over the Netherlands. Like anywhere, there are agencies that specialise in temporary positions, meaning one can find work quite quickly, as well as those for more permanent roles. 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.



INTERNET

The internet is the most common avenue for job seekers, not only for searching and registering your details but also to keep up to date with prospective employers. Most agencies regularly post vacancies on their sites, and if you are registered with them, they will contact you to alert you to new opportunities. If you prefer the direct route, 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.

- 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, the main hub for volunteer work in Amsterdam. Visit www.vca.nu/english or contact volunteer@vca.nu.
- You can also meet with a Taalcoach (volunteer language coach) organised via VCA. Find out more at www.taalcoachwijzer.nl/contact/
- Search for jobs or start your own business
- 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/startup)
- 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 up to 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 may be reduced by 30%. In return, the employee should receive a 30% reduction as reimbursement for expenses. This is the most common way it 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. As of April 2011, IN Amsterdam has been involved in an official cooperation with the Dutch Tax Administration Office (*Belastingdienst*) regarding the 30% ruling. Applications from companies that are part of the highly skilled migrant scheme of the IND 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 for the 30% ruling of the Dutch Tax Administration Office:

) 088-154 2955 or 088-154 2862

Learning



Local 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 attend a university of applied sciences or a research 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 Dutch schools receive state funding, making them more affordable than independent international schools (Dutch state schools typically only ask for a parental contribution).

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 groups 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 do not 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 may 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
- Pdf version of this brochure: www.iamsterdam.com/media/pdf/living/in-ams-dutch-education-system.pdf
- 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. Entry to some schools often 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 INT'L SCHOOL
giftedmindsinternationalschool.com
- INT'L PRIMARY SCHOOL – ALMERE
www.ipsalmere.nl
- INTERNATIONAL FRENCH SCHOOL
www.internationalfrenchschool.com/
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ALMERE
internationalschoolalmere.nl
- INT'L SCHOOL OF AMSTERDAM
isa.nl
- INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HAARLEM
www.internationalschoolhaarlem.nl
- INT'L 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

■ WINDESHEIM UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES - ALMERE

www.windesheim.com

■ AERES UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES - ALMERE

www.aeresuas.com

APPLIED SCIENCES

■ 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), childbirth courses and counselling referral service. Working with ACCESS extends IN Amsterdam's ability to help internationals settle into life in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area quickly and easily. The cooperation includes the launch of a dedicated ACCESS helpdesk within IN Amsterdam's office.

Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, the ACCESS helpdesk is available remotely for information on things like healthcare, housing, finding work, schooling and more. Contact ACCESS via email, book an online appointment, or visit its webpage 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](tel:+31854000338)

!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 2022

January

SATURDAY 01

New Year's Day (*Nieuwjaarsdag*)

May

THURSDAY 05

Liberation Day (*Bevrijdingsdag*)

THURSDAY 26

Ascension Day (*Hemelvaartsdag*)

April

FRIDAY 15

Good Friday (*Goede vrijdag*)

SUNDAY 17

Easter (*1e Paasdag*)

MONDAY 18

Easter (*2e Paasdag*)

WEDNESDAY 27

King's Day (*Koningsdag*)

June

SUNDAY 5

Pentecost (*1e Pinksterdag*)

MONDAY 6

Pentecost (*1e Pinksterdag*)

December

MONDAY 5

Sinterklaas (*Not official*)

SUNDAY 25

Christmas (*1e Kerstdag*)

MONDAY 26

Christmas (*2e Kerstdag*)

Public Holidays 2023

January

SUNDAY 01

New Year's Day (*Nieuwjaarsdag*)

April

FRIDAY 07

Good Friday (*Goede vrijdag*)

SUNDAY 09

Easter (*1e Paasdag*)

MONDAY 10

Easter (*2e Paasdag*)

THURSDAY 27

King's Day (*Koningsdag*)

May

FRIDAY 05

Liberation Day (*Bevrijdingsdag*)

THURSDAY 18

Ascension Day (*Hemelvaartsdag*)

SUNDAY 28

Pentecost (*1e Pinksterdag*)

MONDAY 29

Pentecost (*1e Pinksterdag*)

December

TUESDAY 5

Sinterklaas (*Not official*)

MONDAY 25

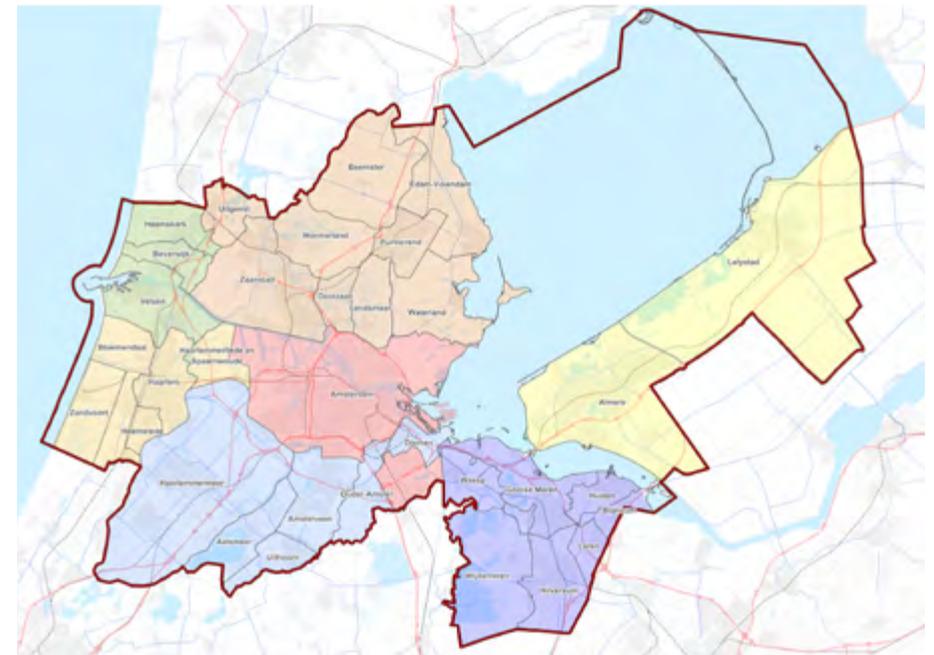
Christmas (*1e Kerstdag*)

TUESDAY 26

Christmas (*2e Kerstdag*)

Amsterdam Area

The Amsterdam Area encompasses the city of Amsterdam and 32 of its surrounding municipalities (including 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 Amsterdam 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

Living in the Amsterdam Area

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 presence of highly skilled talent, the Amsterdam Area is a wonderful place to live and work.

The area's business ecosystem is a hotbed of opportunities for startups, scale-ups and global corporations and offers many job opportunities.

Find out more at iamsterdam.com/work
iamsterdam.com/business

Alkmaar, Bergen & Hoorn 1



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 2



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 & Heemstede 3



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.



Zaanstreek & Waterland ④



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

Haarlemmermeer, Aalsmeer & Uithoorn ⑤



The region's proximity to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport 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.

Almere & Lelystad ⑥



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

Hilversum, the Gooi & Vechtstreek ⑦



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

Amsterdam, Amstelveen & Diemen ⑧



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.

Schools & education

The Netherlands has a strong, well-balanced education system, with international schools as well as newcomers' classes to help international arrivals to learn Dutch and settle into the local education system, while some schools are even moving towards bilingual education.

World-class universities offering study programmes in English also attract large numbers of students.

Find out more at iamsterdam.com/education
iamsterdam.com/study

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.

Find out more at iamsterdam.com

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 on renting a home from tenant support agency !WOON, or anything to do with relocating to the Netherlands from ACCESS.

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

IN Amsterdam
World Trade Center Amsterdam
I-Tower, ground floor
(entrance via Zuidplein)
Strawinskylaan 1767
1077 XX Amsterdam



...choose your location

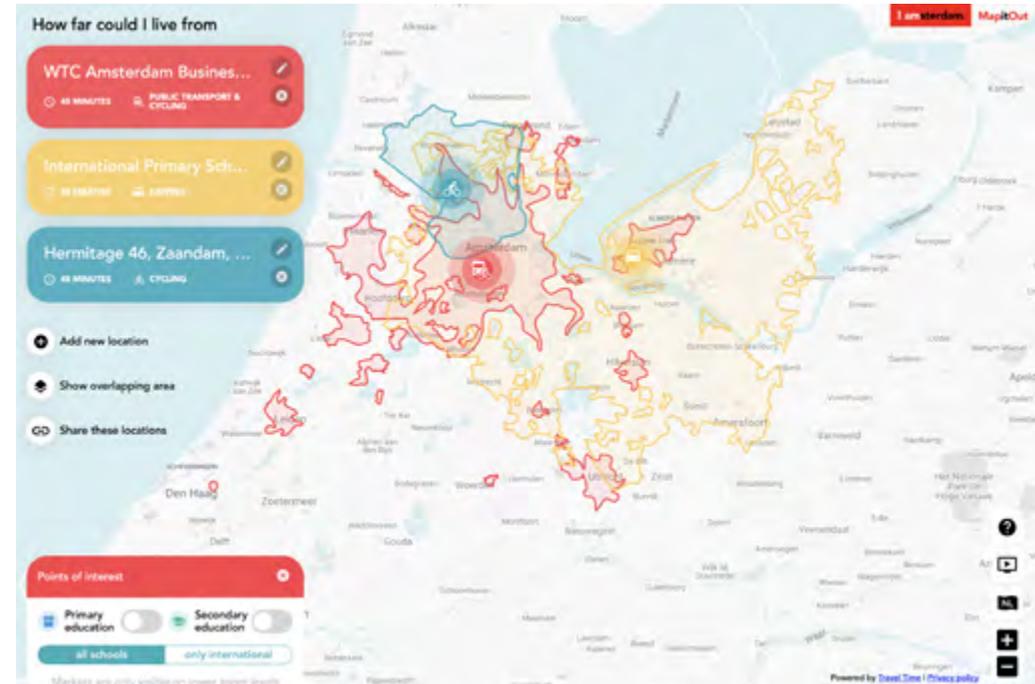
Each part of the Amsterdam Area has its own unique character, local attractions and industries. Learn more about living in the Amsterdam Area, read interviews with internationals and take the fun quiz to further navigate through the area.

Find out more at
iamsterdam.com/living
iamsterdam.com/housing
amsterdamwoont.nl/en (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

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 its 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 is now a melting pot of cultures, comprised of residents from 180 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 ICT/e-science, Creative, Financial & Business Services, Logistics, Tourism & Conferences, Agri Food, Life Sciences & Health, and High Tech Materials & Manufacturing. As such, there is a wide variety of job options to explore 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.

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.

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.

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 (Rijksmuseum, Stedelijk Museum and 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 over 210,000 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, Den Haag 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 the Kunstlinie Almere Flevoland (KAF), 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 Kempaans Country Park and on the Almeerderstrand beach. Almere also has more than 300 indoor and outdoor sports facilities and more than a hundred sports clubs. In addition, more and more of Almere's residents participate in non-organised sporting activities like trail biking, inline skating, hiking, water-skiing and rowing.

WORK

Almere is home to about 20,000 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 Divali festival.

www.almerediwali.nl

EDUCATION IN ALMERE

Almere is home to two international schools, two Universities of Applied Sciences, 17 secondary schools and almost 100 primary schools. The city has public schools as well as schools that provide lessons based on a particular pedagogical vision or religious conviction. Examples of the former 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 students 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 students 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 student-led Green Team. The school's mission is to help students 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, prenatal 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 close to Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport, Amstelveen has always been tremendously appealing to international businesses and residents. Thirty 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 just a 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, American and other Asian and western European residents.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Housing in Amstelveen is of a very high quality with reasonable value for money. A strategic location and high quality of life are the fundamental elements of Amstelveen's appeal. The Stadshart (literally: 'heart of the city' – Amstelveen's city centre) is the cultural and retail heart of the city 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 in the city.

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 (International Baccalaureate) for students from 3 to 18 years of age, preparing them for possible entry to universities across the world. ISA is a caring and secure environment in which students 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 students aged 3 to 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 11,500 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 advertising companies; the annual increase in the number of available positions primarily involves these sectors. The unemployment rate in Amstelveen is relatively low. 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 them direct support, in their own language, with medical concerns, and guide them to the appropriate department and medical practices.

INDIA DESK www.indiadeskamstelland.nl / email: indiadesk@zha.nl

JAPAN DESK www.ziekenhuisamstelland.nl/jp / telephone: 020-755 7146

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Amstelveen, please email gemeente@amstelveen.nl
You can find a lot of fun things to do on www.visitamstelveen.nl/en

CITY OF DIEMEN

The tranquil city of Diemen, adjacent to Amsterdam East and Amsterdam South East, 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 27,000 people and is expected to grow significantly in the coming years, and with good reason. Its convenient location nearby Amsterdam's East and Southeast neighbourhoods makes it one of the Amsterdam Area's most easily accessible municipalities by car and public transport. 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 dotted around the city. 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 relatively 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 162,500 inhabitants. Although it's the second largest in the Metropolitan 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 grants space for economic innovation, new jobs and more businesses. It is a popular location for creative, innovative and technology-based businesses, international oriented companies 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 doesn't just offer a challenging and exciting work environment, but is also an attractive and highly popular place to live. The city offers a broad range of housing, from grand historic houses and villas 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 are excellent international schools, such as 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. Everything needed for a great day's shopping is in place. The medieval 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 as well 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 at the Leidsevaart. The Jopenkerk, a former church repurposed as a restaurant and brewery is located in the center of the city. Most of the museums are also suitable venues for both corporate and private events, meetings, symposia, receptions or dinner parties.

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. ExpatsHaarlem is an active community of internationals who cover informational needs and organise events. Haarlem is also experiencing a gastronomical blooming. From bistros to exclusive restaurants, Haarlem offers numerous options for people who enjoy eating out.

RECREATION AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Haarlem has several green spaces and public parks. One of them, the Haarlemmerhout, is the Netherlands' oldest urban forest. Several lakes and canals are 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 (Zandvoort and Bloemendaal aan Zee) 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

For all your questions about visiting Haarlem you can get in touch with the VVV Haarlem / Haarlem Marketing, who can assist you with booking hotels, tickets and more. visithaarlem.com

CITY OF HAARLEMMERMEER

The municipality of Haarlemmermeer lies south-west of Amsterdam and is home to 145,000 inhabitants, who enjoy its rural lifestyle, diverse range of housing options, dynamic business environment and short distance to Schiphol Airport.

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 flock to 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 54 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.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Hoofddorp's Optimist International School opened in April 2018. Following the International Primary Curriculum and the British National Curriculum for literacy and numeracy, the school provides a supportive environment for children of all cultural backgrounds. The school has small class sizes and plenty of opportunities for parents to get involved in educational activities. Optimist International School offers language support for students who need it, along with reading, sporting and music-based extracurricular activities.

www.optimist-international-school.nl

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Haarlemmermeer, visit www.hlmrmeer.nl/en.

CITY OF HILVERSUM

Hilversum is a city full of possibilities in the centre of the Netherlands. This beautiful city with its 'young', yet charming, monumental buildings is situated about 20 kilometres southeast of Amsterdam and 20 kilometres north of Utrecht. It is only a 30-minute ride by train to Schiphol Airport.

DYNAMIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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

The centre of Hilversum is also remarkable, especially its architecture. The city's architect, Willem Marinus Dudok, made his mark in the city in the first half of the 20th century. One of the most prominent buildings worth seeing 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 five minutes, you can reach the lake for sailing or other water sports.

MEDIA CAPITAL OF THE NETHERLANDS

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

MUSIC IN THE AIR

Whether you live or work there or are just visiting, Hilversum is a lively community, with a population of 90,000, that is brimming with culture, especially music. It is the hometown 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 Dutch Institute of Sound and Vision (Nederlands Instituut voor Beeld en Geluid). Stunning on the outside, its interior presents a historical record of all Dutch television and radio broadcasts.

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) 'Alberdingk Thijm' is an IB World School and a member of the Internationaal Geörienteerd Onderwijs (Dutch International Schools offering all three programmes and catering for students aged between 4 and 19). The school emphasises the importance of diversity in its mission, and its student body includes more than 40 nationalities. The ISH also has a noteworthy library and an extensive activity programme.

Website: 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 to international students and Dutch students returning from, or planning to pursue, an international education. Graduates are best suited to follow through to an International Baccalaureate, but students with different aspirations can graduate into an English-language vocational training programme via a partner school.

Website: www.ipshilversum.nl.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Hilversum please visit:
www.hilversum.nl

TOURIST INFORMATION

www.livehilversum.com
www.vvvgooivecht.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 in versatile Velsen!

Velsen has a unique location by the coast, modern infrastructure, a beautiful, natural environment, an openness to culture and wonderful facilities. And for more metropolitan entertainment, the bigger cities of Amsterdam and Haarlem are just 30 and 15 minutes away, respectively.

A technological region in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, the port city of IJmuiden lies at the heart of Velsen. Here there are many innovative firms dedicated to fisheries, offshore work and the manufacturing industry. IJmuiden is also an attractive operating base for many international businesses, as Schiphol Airport 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 overlooking the sea, 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 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 single-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 spacious beaches that are perfect for water activities and beach sports, like kitesurfing and beach volleyball. On the eastside of the municipality there's a recreational area known as Spaarnwoude, which is home to diverse activities like paintballing, golfing, climbing and canoeing, plus some beautiful, placid spots for swimming. Many major national events and dance festivals are held here each summer!

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Velsen please visit:
www.velsen.nl

TOURIST INFORMATION

www.vvijmuidenaanzee.nl/en

Amsterdam City Hall

and City Districts

The Amsterdam City Hall (Stadhuis) and individual City Offices (Stadsloketten) can be reached by calling the central phone number: 14 020 (dial directly). Operators are able to help you in English and can redirect your call if necessary. When calling from abroad please dial +31 (0)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.

- Change of address
- Present 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
- Deregister

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 (020) 31 44 888
info@diemen.nl

HAARLEMMERMEER

Raadhuisplein 1
2132 TZ Hoofddorp
Postbus 250
2130 AG Hoofddorp
J 0900 1852
info@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 someone who is 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 'far from home' weighs heavily upon you or your family. ACCESS is a not-for-profit organisation born 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 American women and international women with close ties to the U.S. 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) is created for inspiration, connection and a sense of belonging with people. They organize various social events, information sessions and share tips to support you enjoying living in the city.

■ 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 with a goal of meeting people and making friends. While the group is primarily focused on expats, native Dutch 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)

ABIE Netherlands – Australian Business in Europe (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 residing in the Netherlands.

■ www.canadianclubofthenetherlands.com

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK IN AMSTERDAM (PWN)

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

■ www.pwnamsterdam.net

EXPATSHAARLEM

Founded in 2014 and growing ever since, expatsHaarlem is a community for 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 nice mix of internationally-orientated people.

■ www.expatshaarlem.nl

EXPATSHAARLEMMERMEER

News, information, articles, events, meetings and services for internationals in Hoofddorp, Nieuw Vennep, Schiphol or somewhere else 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 & cross-border academics that live, study, work or connect in any way to the Almere Area, the fastest growing region of the Netherlands with traditionally strong ties to the Amsterdam and Utrecht metropolitan area.

■ www.expatsocietyalmere.nl

FAMILIES IN GLOBAL TRANSITION (FIGT)

FIGT is a welcoming forum for globally mobile individuals, families, and those working with them. We promote cross-sector connections for sharing research and developing best practices that support the growth, success and well-being of people crossing cultures around the world. The mission of FIGT NL 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; 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. It has an active online community but is also organising 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 practicalities of everyday life, as well as an active online community of more than 1200 internationals and internationally minded people in Almere. To achieve our goals we carry on activities like the Dutch Language Café, First Friday Night Drinks, quiz nights and other events like Xmas for kids and Easter egg hunt.

■ www.internationalalmere.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONTACT AMSTERDAM

The 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 of 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 wanting to improve their Japanese. For more information:

■ 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 an initiative to celebrate occasions. It started with vision to launch a cross-cultural event organization platform in Netherlands. We facilitate variety of events for families and kids. To make you feel home away from home. We are into performing arts and also working on our new initiative Women of DeRangmanch. Follow our Facebook page or contact us through our website

■ www.derangmanch.nl

SPARK

Established in 2015 by Amsterdam Academy as an annual conference, Spark has become more than just a conference – it is 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 your business 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

Founded in 1960, The Swedish Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business network organisation dedicated to inspire, promote, and extend the commercial and industrial relations between individuals and companies in Sweden and the Netherlands. The Chamber's main role is to provide a forum for members to exchange business ideas, experiences and to explore new business opportunities. You are invited to become a member and participate in events and networking possibilities to enlarge your business network on the Dutch market. The Swedish Chamber of Commerce also hosts a Young Professional Club, a meeting platform where professionals aged 23-36 are welcome to build their social and professional network and develop their career skills.

■ 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; particularly useful for an international's arrival and first few months in the Netherlands. All companies participating in IN Amsterdam's Partnership Programme are known to IN Amsterdam and have met several important criteria.

To join the Partnership Programme companies have to meet the following criteria. Partner companies must:

- have all relevant company information in English (including website, flyers, forms, customer service, etc.)
- have a minimum of one-year work experience in the international market
- agree to co-operate 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

Apart from the above criteria, 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 each, 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 service our partners provide. You can leave your feedback on their quality of service at the online profile page of each partner.

For an overview of all IN Amsterdam partners please visit:

- 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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LANGUAGE - 81

LEGAL SERVICES - 82

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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



ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA

Based in Amsterdam, the Concertgebouw Orchestra has a reputation of being one of the leading orchestras in the world.
www.concertgebouworkest.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

EMPLOYMENT

COACHING, TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT



IN2MOTIVATION

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



CARRIÈRE COACH CAFÉ

The Carrière Coach Café is an initiative to connect people from different backgrounds and learn from each other, with a bridge to work.
www.carrierecoachcafe.nl/en/



AQUENT

Aquent specialises in recruiting digital marketing, creative and development Talent on a Freelance, Contract, Payroll Transfer & Permanent basis
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/>



HOLLAND EMPLOYMENT EXPERTS

We are a recognized sponsor at the IND, which means we are allowed to contract and guide highly skilled migrants and provide them with our payroll solutions
www.hollandemploymentexperts.com/working-as-an-expat/



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.ravecrruitment.com

FAMILY SERVICES

FINANCE

BANKING



YOUNG EXPAT SERVICES

Increase a successful move to the Netherlands with our school search. Our educational consultants can help you navigate the Dutch and International schooling possibilities for your children anywhere in the Netherlands.
www.youngexpatservices.nl



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

Our Partners

FINANCE

MORTGAGES



A&H FINANCE

Get a mortgage for your NL home or buy to let property with the independent financial advice experts of A&H Finance. We help you with the best deal for a competitive fee.

<https://ahfinance.amsterdam>



EXPAT MORTGAGES

Expat Mortgages provides financial advice to expats looking to buy property in the Netherlands. For more than 12 years, the team has been assisting the international community with customized mortgage advice.

www.expatsmortgages.nl



MISTER MORTGAGE

Mister Mortgage offers financial advice and services to expat looking to buy property in the Netherlands.

www.mistemortgage.nl

HEALTH

DENTAL CARE



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.tandartspraktijkjvangalen.nl



DENTAL PRACTICE VAN 'T HOOFT

Everyone smiles in the same language

<http://tpvthoof.tandartsennet.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



APOLLO - TANDARTSEN VOOR ORTHODONTIE

Embrace your smile! We are specialized in orthodontic treatments including invisible braces. Apollo is located at the Apollolaan in Amsterdam-Zuid.

www.apollo-ortho.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

Combine the services of a hotel with the comfort of your own home and personal office - stay home @ CHF.

<https://corporatehousingfactory.com>

LANGUAGE

TRANSLATION SERVICES

TRAINING INSTITUTES



APARTHOTEL WITTENBERG

18th century on the outside yet contemporary within, Wittenberg is a haven for travellers seeking a second home. This boutique aparthotel provides you with the freedom to unplug from the hectic into the calm - elegant but relaxed surroundings in the heart of Amsterdam

www.thewittenberg.com



KERN GLOBAL LANGUAGE SERVICES

Your Global Language Services Partner

www.e-kern.com/en



BERLITZ

At Berlitz, we believe in a world where communication has no barriers. As the world's premier language and intercultural communication specialist, our training courses are designed to teach the skills that build self-confidence and empower people to succeed on a global stage.

www.berlitz.nl/en



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

Learn to navigate daily life and blend into local culture with a private tutor. Live and online sessions, available from 8AM to 10PM, 7 days a week.

www.flowently.com

Our Partners

LANGUAGE

TRAINING INSTITUTES



LANGUAGE INSTITUTE REGINA COELI

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

www.reginacoeli.com



TAALTHUIS

Learning Dutch is educational and fun!

www.taalhuis.nl



TALENCOACH

Dutch Brainwash:

have fun & learn fast + free eBook for you!

www.talencoach.nl

NON-PROFIT LANGUAGE SCHOOLS



UVA TALEN

UvA Talen is the leading academic language centre for language courses and translations.

www.uvatalen.nl



VOLKSUNIVERSITEIT AMSTELLAND

Dutch & English language courses and art classes for non-Dutch

– NON-PROFIT

www.vu-amstelland.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



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/

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



PELLICAAN ATTORNEYS AND ADVISORS

Multi-faceted legal expertise in the Amsterdam Area. From pension law and labour law to avoiding litigation. And so much more.

www.pellicaan.nl/en



RUSSELL ADVOCATEN

We resolve legal problems for expats and international businesses.

www.russell.law



FAM ADVOCATEN

Specialised family and inheritance lawyers & mediators for expats.

www.famadvocaten.nl

LEGAL SERVICES

IMMIGRATION LAW



ADAM & WOLF IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Providing cutting-edge analysis along with effective and affordable service. Low Fixed Fees. Experienced Specialists

www.immigrationlawyersnetherlands.com



CITIUS

Specialists and dedicated lawyers in Corporate Immigration and Employment law

www.citiusadvocaten.nl/en/



EVERAERT ADVOCATEN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Your immigration and citizenship matters are in expert hands with us. High client satisfaction is what motivates us to stay on top of the latest developments in migration and nationality law for 40 year.

www.everaert.nl/en/

Our Partners

LEGAL SERVICES

IMMIGRATION LAW

FRAGOMEN

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



KROES ADVOCATEN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

We are specialists in immigration law:

- In 2021 and 2020 winner of the client review award for law firms
- Fixed fees
- For companies and individuals
- We solve your immigration problems

www.kroesadvocaten.nl/en

MEDIA



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.

broadcastamsterdam.nl

RELOCATION



RELOCATION PLATFORM

ARPAN*

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



JIMBLE

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



ORANGE HOMES

Orange Homes is a boutique home-finding and relocation company set up to meet the needs of the relocating expat professionals.

www.orange-homes.com

TAX

INDIVIDUAL TAX ADVISORS



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

TAX

INDIVIDUAL TAX ADVISORS



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



RIVERLANE

A tax and finance company located in Amsterdam.

www.riverlane.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



I AMSTERDAM MAGAZINE

Written by people who know and love the city.

www.iamsterdam.com/en



DUTCHNEWS.NL

www.dutchnews.nl



EXPAT REPUBLIC

Serving Global Citizens.

www.expatrepublic.com



IAMEXPAT

www.iamexpat.nl



INTERNATIONAL LOCALS AMSTERDAM

www.internationallocals.nl



XPAT MEDIA

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

www.xpat.nl

Our Partners

INDIVIDUAL TAX ADVISORS



THE TAX SAVERS

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

www.taxesavers.nl



TTMTAX

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

www.ttmtax.nl



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



DRIVING SCHOOL THE GRADUATE

Driving School the Graduate offers expert driving lessons for expats in manual or automatic cars.

www.rijsschoolgraduate.nl



RIJSCHOOLEDENK.NL

Automatic and manual driving lessons – English theory courses

www.rijsschooldenk.nl

TRANSPORTATION

CAR BUYING



BYNCO.COM

Buying a Dutch car made easy for expats

<https://bynco.com/nl-en>



BIYU

Provides you with unlimited rental of 125+ premium products (DIY - garden - cleaning - party) from € 7.50 a month

www.biyu.nl



BATMAID

Are you looking for a simple and efficient solution to your cleaning needs in Amsterdam? In a few clicks, book your trusted cleaning agent on www.batmaid.nl

UTILITIES

RELOCATION & REMOVAL



ATLAS INTERNATIONAL MOVERS

Moving abroad? Please contact Atlas International Movers, the quality movers!

www.atlas-movers.com



UNIMOVE – INTERNATIONAL MOVERS

We Move You – Your partner for your international removal!

www.unimove.nl/home-en

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 tip-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.

- It can be reached by calling [14 020](tel:14020) (08:00 - 18:00)
- If you are calling from abroad please dial [+31 \(0\)20 624 1111](tel:+31206241111)

The City of Amsterdam can also be contacted on WhatsApp by sending a message to

- [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.

You can get in touch with ACCESS:

- [+31 \(0\) 85 4000 338](tel:+3120854000338)
- 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 Dutch government set-up on behalf of all 11 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 you:

- Answers 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 CET on weekdays): [00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11](tel:0080067891011).

If you are calling from outside the EU you can call the standard number at [+ 32 \(0\)2 299 96 96](tel:+3222999696) from anywhere in the world (normal charges apply).

OTHER OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL CENTERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

HOLLAND EXPAT CENTER SOUTH

- [+31 \(0\)40 238 6777](tel:+31402386777)
- www.hollandexpatcenter.com

THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

- [+31 \(0\)70 353 5043](tel:+31703535043)
- www.thehagueinternationalcentre.nl

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CENTRE UTRECHT REGION

- [+31 \(0\)30 286 00 00](tel:+31302860000)
- <https://welcome.utrechtregion.com/en/iwcur>

Essential Dutch numbers

ROTTERDAM EXPATCENTRE

- +31 (0)10 790 0190
- <https://rotterdamexpatcentre.nl/>

EXPAT CENTER FOOD VALLEY

Situated in Wageningen, serving the Food Valley region

- +31 317 482 609
- www.ecfv.nl

EXPAT CENTER EAST NETHERLANDS

Serving the Eastern Holland

- +31 (0)74 250 3325
- www.expatcentereastnetherlands.nl/

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CENTER NORTH

Serving Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe

- +31 (0)50 367 7197
- www.iwcn.nl

EXPAT CENTRE LEIDEN

Operating in the city of Leiden, in Zuid-Holland

- +31 (0)71 516 6005
- www.expatcentreleiden.nl

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (Geneeskundige en Gezondheidsdienst – GGD)

Nieuwe Achtergracht 100 1018 WT Amsterdam

- +31 (0)20 555 5911
- www.ggd.amsterdam.nl/english

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALISATION SERVICE (IND)

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

- 088-043 04 30
- www.ind.nl

TAX OFFICE (BELASTINGDIENST)

Kingsfordweg 1 1043 GN Amsterdam

- 055-538 5385
- www.belastingdienst.nl

JURIDISCH LOKET (LEGAL COUNTER)

- Vijzelgracht 21-25 1017 HN Amsterdam
- 0900 8020



INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMERS AMSTERDAM

World Trade Center Amsterdam

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

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

+31 (0)20 254 7999

welcome@amsterdam.nl

www.inamsterdam.com



By tram: line 5 from Eerste Marnixdwarstraat (Jordaan) via Leidseplein, destination Amstelveen. Step out at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 51 from Central Station via Amstel Station, destination Isolatorweg. Step out at at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 52 from Noord / Central Station via Vijzelgracht and De Pijp, destination Zuid. Step out at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 50 from Sloterdijk Station, destination Station Gein. Step out at Station Amsterdam Zuid.



By metro: line 50 from Duivendrecht station, destination Isolatorweg. Step out 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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Departure checklist

If you are moving abroad after living in the Netherlands, there is a number of matters that need to be dealt with.

1. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE TO DEREGISTER

The municipality removes your personal details from the database and informs other government authorities of your departure. Deregistration can usually be done 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)

Will you be deregistering from the BRP before leaving the Netherlands? Then you do not have to report your departure to the IND, as the municipality will pass the deregistration on to the IND. If you have not deregistered from the BRP within 4 weeks of leaving the Netherlands, you should notify the IND yourself. Your residence permit needs to be returned 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. Often there is also a period of quarantine required.

5. CANCEL UTILITY CONTRACTS / SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Electricity / Water / Gas
- Phone, Television and Internet
- Bank account
- Healthcare (GP) and Social Insurance Centre (SVB)

6. INSURANCES

Health insurance, car insurance, house 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 mail redirection service on request.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Depending on your personal situation, additional matters may need to be handled before departure.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.





international newcomers
amsterdam

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