



UvA Start Newsletter | no. 5 - 08 August 2024

Get Ready!

Dear **student**,

August is well on its way and the start of the academic year is fast approaching! If there are still a few things on your checklist, feel free to attend our **Arrival webinar on 13 or 14 August**.

Prefer to talk face-to-face? Don't hesitate to see us at the **Arrival Desk on 19 August and 2 September**. We will be happy to answer any remaining questions upon arrival.

Find more details on uva.nl/uponarrival →



Student Associations

Studying is about much more than just your education. Each study programme has its own association that organises social events and offers book discounts for its members. You will receive more information about this during the introduction of your study programme.

Perhaps, **you might be interested in joining an association** that shares your interest, orientation, mindset or background. There are plenty to choose from and many like-minded people to meet!

In addition, there are student unions like [ASVA](#), which represent the interests of all students. Student associations such as [ESN](#) look after the interests of international students.

[Find your student association](#) →



Opening a Dutch bank account

Once in the Netherlands, **you might find it to be helpful to open a Dutch bank account**. International money transfers can be expensive, and credit cards are not always accepted. A Dutch debit card allows you to pay at

supermarkets, cafes and restaurants easily and free of charge. There are several points to consider when choosing the right bank for you.

[Read about opening a Dutch bank account →](#)



International Student Ambassadors: ask your questions

[This information applies to all students except Exchange students]

Would you like to know what it's like to study at the University of Amsterdam? In our series of ASK videos, topics like study load, the Dutch grading system and the academic year's structure are covered. Watch the videos on our [Youtube channel](#).

Our international student ambassadors are here to answer all your questions. You can contact them any time via chat, and they'll get back to you within 48 hours. Also, make sure to check out the blog section, which includes lots of helpful tips for applicants and new students. [Ask a question and read student blogs](#).

Would you like to become a student (exchange) ambassador yourself?

[Submit your application and join the team! →](#)



Exchange Ambassadors

[This information only applies to exchange students.]

Would you like to meet local and international students and befriend students from a range of different countries? Would you like to expand your volunteer experiences, enhance your professional skills, and participate in a meaningful project during your exchange in Amsterdam? Then **join the UvA international student community and sign up** to be an Exchange Ambassador!

[Exchange Ambassadors Programme](#) →

Tips for your safety

Amsterdam is a big city with a cosy, small-scale feel with a pleasant atmosphere where you will soon feel at home. Recently, it was ranked as one of the safest cities worldwide and the second safest city in Europe. However, incidents do occur, so it is recommended to take some safety precautions.

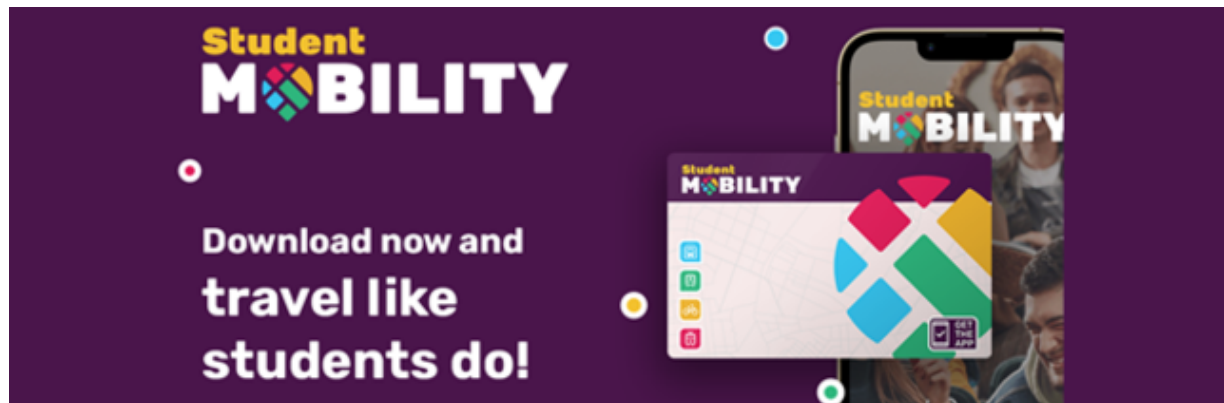
- Always watch your belongings, especially in crowded places, bus stops, when you're on public transport, shopping and so on – pickpockets may be active.
- Avoid walking or cycling alone in poorly lit and unpopulated areas after dark.
- Do not use ATMs at night in quiet areas.
- Bike theft is common in Amsterdam. If you have a bicycle, make sure to always lock both the wheel and frame properly, preferably by locking it in

a bike rack.

The **emergency number for the Netherlands is 112.**

Non-emergency is 0900-8844, or if you're outside the Netherlands +31 (0)34 357-8844.

[Find police stations in Amsterdam →](#)



Public transport card with a discount

UvA collaborates with Student Mobility to **provide international students easy access to all forms of transport in the Netherlands.** With Student Mobility you can receive a customized public transport card (+ an ISIC Student-ID) with special discounts for international students. You can use this card for trains, trams, metro and buses.

Next to the card there are discounts on a bike plan and your first train ticket from the airport once you arrive in the Netherlands. Sign up or order now and we will inform you in time about the pick-up in Amsterdam or your delivery options.

[Sign up or order now →](#)



Wireless internet

When you are in one of the university's buildings, **you can always connect to the Open-Wi-Fi network**. Simply activate the correct settings and use your UvAnetID (student number) to gain access. **More secure and suitable for sending sensitive information is 'Eduroam'**. To use the Eduroam network, provided collaboratively by an international group of higher education institutions, you will need to install the software.

Check out our instructions for setting up your internet access:

[How to connect →](#)

Not starting your studies in September?

Are you enrolled on a full Bachelor's or Master's programme (non-exchange), and will you not be starting your studies in the academic year 2024-2025? Please, cancel your enrolment request in Studielink. This helps the UvA determine how many students to expect. It will prevent you from receiving further email reminders about your enrolment. Go to Studielink and select the programme for which you wish to disenroll and click 'cancel'. Next, check the box 'I confirm that I wish to cancel my enrolment (application)' and click 'confirm'.

[Go to Studielink →](#)



Instagram Countdown Calendar

Follow us on Instagram (@uva_amsterdam) and TikTok (@universityofamsterdam) for a well-prepared start to the new academic year!

In the run-up to the new academic year, we will share important and useful information you won't want to miss via our countdown calendar 🕒 on Insta and TikTok. You will also be able to make digital calls to your fellow students and enjoy entertaining content related to student life in Amsterdam. **From Sunday 11 August**, we will start counting down to the new academic year and you will definitely want to be a part of it!

Why follow us?

- **Important updates:** Receive crucial information that will help you to kick off your studies smoothly.
- **Helpful tips:** Tips and tricks to navigate your way at university and in Amsterdam.
- **Fun content:** Enjoy funny videos and photos related to student life in Amsterdam.
- **Community:** Connect with your fellow students and immediately feel at home in our online community.

Throughout the year, Instagram and TikTok remain the channels for you to keep up to date with everything going on at the UvA. From events and workshops to important announcements and study tips - don't miss a thing!

Will we see you there?

Follow us on [Insta](#) and [TikTok](#) today and make sure you are all set for the start of the academic year!

University of Amsterdam

Editors: UvA Student Services. Contact us through the UvA Central Student Service Desk.

You are receiving this newsletter to help you prepare for your study programme at the University of Amsterdam, once every two or three weeks, from June up to the first week of September. Previous editions are available [online](#) (pdf).

Images: UvA Beeldbank, Unsplash and Freepik.



If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, [unsubscribe here](#).