

# How to find housing in Amsterdam

Studying in Amsterdam is an unforgettable experience! It is the most popular university city in the Netherlands, so the demand for student housing is high. At the same time, the number of available accommodation is very scarce.

With this information document, we would like to provide you with clear and honest information about (student) housing and how you can find a room in Amsterdam yourself.

International Office  
Inholland Amsterdam/Diemen

## Temporary housing with housing corporations

- [DUWO Direct Offer](#) offers short stay accommodation. After registering, you can log in and search for rooms in the online database.
- [Ymere](#) (in Dutch) has around 600 dwellings (for one to four students) that it rents out temporarily and that are reasonably priced.

## Websites with waiting time

On some websites you have to accumulate waiting time in order to increase your chances of finding a room. Therefore we advise you to register with the websites below as soon as you arrive in the Netherlands.

- [Studentenwoningweb](#): This student housing website brings together the student accommodations in and around Amsterdam, offered by several housing associations. You will be asked to pay for the registration fee at the end of the registration process.
- [WoningNet](#): As a registered member, you will be able to search WoningNet's supply of accommodation, according to region. Waiting lists can be long.

## Anti-squat

'Anti-squat' (in Dutch: antikraak) accommodation is affordable and adventurous. You take up temporary residence in a building (which also might be an office or school building) in order to prevent squatters from moving in. Check the websites below (all in Dutch):

- [Zwerfkeibeheer](#)
- [Ad Hoc Beheer](#)
- [VPS](#)
- [Alvast](#)

## Social opportunities

- [Hospi Housing](#) has a wide range of rooms, studios and apartments for reasonable prices. The hosts and guest families are verified, which prevents you from being scammed. You don't have to pay until you find a room.
- [Connect Generations](#) (in Dutch) is an organization which provides rooms in health care facilities for the elderly, in exchange for some volunteer work. If you are an international student, the language (Dutch) might be a barrier. Therefore, basic knowledge of the Dutch language would come in handy.
- [Project Vooruit](#) (in Dutch) is a project where free housing is offered to students in exchange for 10 hours volunteer work per week. Knowledge of the Dutch language is required.

## Upmarket housing

If you prefer a more campus style feeling and more service (like meal plans and 24h reception), then we recommend these upmarket (more expensive) housing websites:

- [The Social Hub](#)
- [Hotel Jansen](#)
- [Student Experience Amsterdam Amstel](#)
- [Our Campus](#)
- [Our Domain](#)

## Other websites with temporary rooms

The websites below provide a database for temporary rooms. They are not housing agencies like mentioned above.

- [Kamernet](#) offers a large number of rooms online. You need to pay a membership fee in order to respond to room advertisements.
- [Nestpick](#) offers accommodation for a longer period (a couple of months or years).
- [HousingAnywhere](#) is a platform to book rooms from private landlords.
- [Roomplaza.com](#) offers furnished rooms in flatshare apartments. It offers flats for groups, and you can use the find-flatmate-tool to create one.

## Facebook housing groups

Rooms in student houses, where students live together and share facilities, are often posted on Facebook. Unfortunately, Dutch students prefer to have Dutch room mates, which is why you will often read 'no internationals' in the advertisements. However, you will for sure find offers that do accept international students. Examples of the groups are [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#).

## Temporary solutions

- [Airbnb](#) and [Wimdu](#) are websites for people who want to rent out their lodgings, from a room in their house to an apartment, for a very short time (a weekend or week). The hosts themselves may be present during your stay.
- [Hostelle](#): a female only hostel
- [Stayokay](#)
- [ViaHostels](#): close to the school building in Diemen

## Other suggestions

- Search for rooms outside Amsterdam. Rooms might be cheaper outside Amsterdam, which will compensate the money you have to spend on public transport. These towns are very near Amsterdam: Amstelveen, Diemen, Duivendrecht, Abcoude, Weesp, Ouderkerk aan de Amstel.
- Stand strong together. Looking for an apartment together with 2, 3 or 4 students will raise your budget and might give you more options.

## Commercial agencies and private landlords

On Facebook and Kamernet, for example, you will find many rooms offered by commercial agencies and private landlords. They must be registered with the Amsterdam authorities. They are allowed to ask only a reasonable registration fee. If they are not able to offer you a house or room (within a certain number of months), your registration fee should be reimbursed. If they do find you a room, you must pay for their services. This amount also has to be reasonable.

We advise you to be careful when you apply to such a room agency. If you have a room offer from a private owner/landlord, please note the following information:

1. It is mandatory to register at the municipality as soon as you have found an address. Ask your landlord before you sign a rental contract, if you are allowed to register at his/her address. If the landlord does not let you register, he is probably subletting a room illegally.
2. Does the offer look too good to be true? Then often it is too good...!
3. Do not rely on promises or photos only, but ask if you can have a video call or pay a visit.
4. Do not do business with property owners who only are available by a mobile telephone number or an e-mail address. Ask for more details to be sure that it is a trustworthy person. Ask for identification or try to find information on the internet about this landlord.
5. Check in the [Kadaster](#) who the owner of the building is (this costs a few euros for administration costs).
6. If possible: talk with the other people living in the building/street. Or, even better, speak with the current tenants.
7. Take your time to make a decision. If the property owner pushes too hard, it may be a red flag.
8. Do not pay in cash.
9. During the viewing, look carefully at the condition of the room (check for proper insulation, possible mold/water damage, signs of vermin) and the facilities available (heating, kitchen, bathroom, etc.) in order to determine if it meets your needs.
10. Do not pay anything until you have made clear agreements in writing.
11. Always inform the police when you are a victim of a tenant fraud. This is the only way to prevent that others will become a victim of the same landlord.

## Further information

- [!Woon](#) offers support and advice about your rights as a tenant in the Netherlands.
- [ASVA](#) is the biggest student organization in Amsterdam and provides information in searching for a room, registration, etc.
- [LivinginAmsterdam](#) offers information about housing permits and more.

### Good luck!

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