

7 TIPS



TO FIND YOUR FUTURE STUDENT HOME IN THE NETHERLANDS

Coming from abroad to study in the Netherlands?

Excellent choice! Students from all over the world choose to study here for the high quality of English-taught education. Studying here also means living here. The biggest difference between student accommodation in other countries and the Netherlands? Here, you have to arrange it yourself. As international students are a highly valued part of our community at the University of Twente, we are happy to guide you with information for a flawless start of your stay. In this paper, you will find 7 tips you can use to find suitable accommodation.

Good luck house hunting!

TIP 1 Start in time!

TIP 2 Living alone or together?
Find out what's best for you

TIP 3 Check out what your future university has to offer

TIP 4 Delve into housing costs

TIP 5 Read the rental agreement before you sign

TIP 6 Watch out for scammers

TIP 7 Adapt to Dutch culture

TIP 1

START IN TIME!

To make sure you have accommodation before the start of your studies, you have to start your search in time.

That is why we advise you to start searching at least three months in advance. But as a future student of the University of Twente, you may be in luck: in general, finding suitable housing in the eastern region of Twente is cheaper and easier than in other Dutch student cities.

Do some research into local and/or national housing providers and, if possible, register there in advance. There also are providers which are recommended by the educational institutes or directly linked to it. Check out the website of the university you want to study at and see what they offer and which providers they recommend.

TIP 2**LIVING ALONE OR TOGETHER? FIND OUT WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU**

Finding a new place to live is a big decision. Will you live on your own or together with other students? Take time to think about which living situation is best for you.

Living alone or together?

These are the main differences:

LIVE WITH ROOMIES

Living with other students can be a great experience.

You can share the rent and hang out with each other.

Usually, there are two options for student houses:

- **Fully shared:** you have in principle your own bedroom, but share a bathroom (toilet and shower), kitchen and living room.
- **Partly shared:** next to your bedroom, you have your own private bathroom, and share the kitchen and communal space. Occasionally, but not always, these houses come with an individual front door.

YOUR OWN PLACE

When you live alone, you are completely in control of everything that goes on in your apartment. If you have lived at home all your life, this kind of freedom can take some time to get used to. It's your place, your rules.

You are not responsible for anyone and don't have to share anything.

What's it like to live alone in a studio or share a flat?

Check out the video to compare both options.

[Watch it on YouTube](#)

or scan the QR-code

	PROS	CONS
Living with roommates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mostly cheaper as you share the bills - Always having friends around - Easy way to meet new people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less personal space & privacy - Aligning your schedule with others
Living alone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You decide when to have visitors or spend time alone - Maximum privacy and personal space - Cleaning and organising on your own terms - No need to adapt to others - Less distraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Might feel lonely sometimes - Pay all the bills yourself - You are fully responsible for the house chores

A FUN DUTCH CUSTOM: 'HOSPITEREN'

If you want to live with roommates, you often have to do something called '**hospiteren**' to get a room. It is a form of **co-opting** where housemates choose their new roommate. Here's how it works: you send an introductory message to the students of the house you are interested in. If they like your application, they will hopefully invite you to an (online) meeting to get to know each other and find out if sharing the house would work well for everyone. So, to increase your chances, put some effort into your

application and tell them a bit about yourself and why you would like to live with them! Once you get invited for the meeting, be prepared for slightly bizarre questions. For example, if you were a day of the week, which day would you be? Silly question, but you should be prepared ;)

Often, these meetings are held in real life.

Therefore, it is harder for first-year, international students to qualify.



TWO EXTRA TIPS!

Apart from thinking about whether you want to live alone or with roommates, you should also consider whether you want a furnished place or not, and where you want to live. Near the university or in the city centre?

FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED?

As an international student, it might not be possible for you to bring all your own furniture, or you might just think it's too much work. If this is the case, then look for **furnished accommodation** (if offered), which means that all the furniture you need is already there, such as a bed, closet, and couch. That way, you can practically move in right away. However, always make sure you do your research: **does the place already have curtains? Is there a mattress/duvet? What is already there, and what not?**

Would you rather bring or buy your own furniture, then you should explore the unfurnished options. This could also mean that there is no flooring.

LIVING NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OR IN THE CITY CENTRE?

Some people like to live in the centre of the vibrant student city, others would rather live close to their university. In the Netherlands, you can usually choose between both options. Also, you can find **private** or **shared**, and **furnished** or **unfurnished** accommodation within both categories.

Some universities even have their own campus. The University of Twente is the only all-in campus of the Netherlands. It is like living in a small village with **3,000 student houses and apartments**. There are plenty of facilities, such as a grocery store, a sports centre, sports fields, a doctor, a bar, a hairdresser and even a Starbucks. And the best part: the city centre of Enschede is only a **10-minute bike ride** away.

TIP 3

CHECK OUT WHAT YOUR FUTURE UNIVERSITY HAS TO OFFER

In the Netherlands, international students need to arrange for accommodation themselves. But bear in mind that the processes for EEA and non-EEA students are different. Are you a non-EEA student and do you require a visa? Then most universities, like the **University of Twente**, offer you an accommodation for one year. Wondering how such a process works? Check out our website utwente.nl/studenthousing and figure out at the **Dutch government** website government.nl if you are an EEA or a non-EEA student.

At the University of Twente, first-year non-EEA students get an offer of **furnished accommodation**.

TIP 4**DELVE INTO HOUSING COSTS**

Not everything is included in the rental price, such as the costs of electricity, water, gas, internet, tv etc. Make sure you avoid surprises by looking into these extra costs before signing the contract.

Rent prices in the Netherlands may be higher than you are used to. However, there are a lot of differences in housing costs within the Netherlands. For example, prices and availability in the east of the Netherlands - in the cities of Enschede and Hengelo where most University of Twente students live - are much more favourable than in the rest of the country.

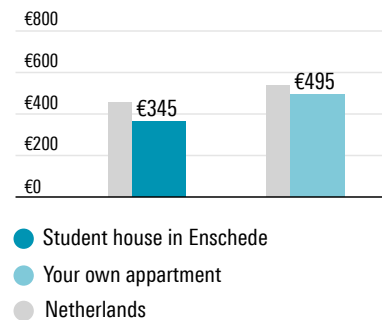
AVERAGE HOUSING COSTS

Enschede

€425

Netherlands

€520

PER HOUSING OPTION

Check the webpage utwente.nl/master/financial for a complete overview of the costs of studying.

TIP 5**READ THE RENTAL AGREEMENT BEFORE YOU SIGN**

Always, always (!) make sure to read the rental agreement before you sign. Also, if possible, let someone Dutch read the contract if you have questions or concerns about it. Not following the rules of the renting contract can have big consequences. A few general things you need to know about the rental agreement:

- Signing the contract means you are bound to it, and that you agree with the rights and obligations in it. If you would like a new contract, housing providers may charge for it.
- Keep in mind the length of the agreement and the term of notice (in terms of eviction).
- When you rent a place, you need to pay a deposit equal to the rent of one or two months.
- You are obligated to pay your rent in time.
- Not all utilities are included in the rent. Think of gas, water, electricity, internet etc.
- It is not always allowed to have pets.
- Your landlord is not allowed to enter your room(s), without your express permission.

TIP 6

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMMERS

In looking for student housing, as in many other areas, it is easy to be taken in by scammers. On the Dutch student housing market, these scammers use different tricks. Often, the key to their scams is that they take advantage of the fact that some students are unable to come and check out the property in person.

HOW TO AVOID SCAMS

1. Never pay high, out of proportion amounts of money prior to signing a contract and/or viewing a room. You can use this website dutchstudentunion.nl/rentcheck to check whether you are paying a reasonable rent.
2. Ask the provider to show you the accommodation in a video call if you are considering renting privately.
3. Ask for the landlord's personal information: (sur)name, phone number, ID.
4. If you are considering renting through an agency, check with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce kvk.nl whether the agency is registered.
5. When in doubt, get in touch with your future university.
6. If worse comes to worst and you discover that you have been scammed, report the matter to the Dutch police politie.nl/en

TIP 7

ADAPT TO DUTCH CULTURE

Our final tip is for once you have found a place to live. To make you feel at home, it's important to get to know the Dutch culture and way of life. Here are a few starters you need to know:

- Dutch people love their bikes, there are even roads specially made for bicycles. It's also a cheap means of transportation, ideal for a student.
- Don't be surprised when your Dutch roommates want to have dinner at 17.30h and eat bread for breakfast and lunch. Also, we are used to sitting at a table and eat together.
- Dutchies can be pretty straightforward: they tend to give their unfiltered opinion, but do not take this too personally.
- Although you can speak English with practically anyone in the Netherlands, understanding and speaking Dutch makes grocery shopping, going to a bar or following the news a little easier and more fun. It will also help you to connect with Dutch students and make new Dutch friends!

utwente.nl/dutchculture

Hopefully, you got something out of reading this paper! We wish you all the best in finding a home away from home here in the Netherlands. Remember that we are here to do our very best in order to ensure that your search is successful when you decide to study at the University of Twente.

Good luck house hunting!

utwente.nl



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE

Based in the east of the Netherlands, the University of Twente (UT) is leading in new technology to initiate change, progress and innovation in society. The multicultural community of talented, ambitious students, scientists and educators have - together with business and government partners - access to a first-class research environment. The campus

is home to three powerful research institutes and about 400 labs for innovation and growth in various research areas as Nanotechnology, IT, Biomedical Technology, Data Science, Earth Observation, Robotics, and Social sciences.

UT is a university of technology that puts people – and our planet – first.