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FORE- WORD

WELCOME IN ROTTERDAM

As mayor of Rotterdam, I would like to welcome you in Rotterdam. You came to this city for an excellent education, that is your goal at heart. But you should also get to know this vibrant city itself. You will soon find out that Rotterdam is a city of many tastes and colours where you will easily feel at home.

As the largest port city of Europe, Rotterdam is internationally oriented and has room for all talents, entrepreneurship and innovation. The Rotterdam mentality is best described as a no-nonsense approach. Not only in business, but also in other aspects of society. Rotterdam is a modern city, with high-end architecture, excellent educational institutions and a present-day urban culture and nightlife for all tastes.

Rotterdam annually receives 6,000 newcomers who find and make their own place in Rotterdam. To figure out how to get around takes a little while,

but the openness and scale of the city you will soon appreciate. Personally, I like to walk around and get inspired by the liveliness of neighbourhoods and encounters with Rotterdammers. There is so much to enjoy!

After you get to know the city and its inhabitants - and perhaps even learned to speak a little Dutch - you may wish to stay and work here after finishing your study. There are many possibilities for housing and employment, and the city of Rotterdam would be very glad to welcome you as a citizen.

I wish you a successful and rewarding stay in Rotterdam!

Ahmed Aboutaleb

Mayor of Rotterdam

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ROTTERDAM - YOUR INTERNATIONAL FAMILY!

ABOUT ISR

DEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF ROTTERDAM,

Welcome to Rotterdam! Studying in Rotterdam is a chapter of your life that you will never forget! Do what makes you happy, strive for (academic) excellence, and enjoy all the little things that are part of your student experience. Before you lays an amazing opportunity to experience (a) great year(s), learn a lot, and meet friends for life! Time will fly and before you know it you have graduated and you're applying for jobs. Until then, make the most of your student life.

Why we exist? *International Students Rotterdam (ISR)* was brought to life in the summer of 2011 because we wanted to improve the lives of all international students in

Rotterdam; we wanted to create a Rotterdam that all international students can call home. We noticed that integrating into Dutch society can be difficult and we wanted to change that. We exist to make student life as an international easier and more enjoyable; we believe that Rotterdam is a beautiful city – full of opportunities – and we want our fellow international students to enjoy it as much as we do.

What we do? We aim to be the platform that brings students together and helps them integrate into Dutch society. Our vision is to create a Rotterdam where all international students feel at home. All our activities can be divided into three categories.

First, we try to connect students by organizing events. These events can mostly be classified as social, academic, cultural or sports and attempt to cover all aspects of student life; the upcoming year we will organize more than 50 events. Second, we aim to link students to organizations of their interest. This we do by attaching valuable organizations to our member's card, offering our members exclusive deals or discounts throughout the city. Third, we aim to inform students about all the relevant matters regarding student life. We do this through our website and through this student guide that we write every year.

Join the Family. We represent more than 30 different cultures and what brings us together is that – just like you – we are international students in Rotterdam. As an international student you are one of us; ISR is your international family!

We have all been through the process of integrating into a new country, culture and language. ISR's network and services

has helped us throughout this process. Any time you have a question or need some help, there is always an ISR member ready to help you out!

The upcoming year we will organize more than 50 events. Think of social drinks, personal development workshops, parties, festivals, company visits, sports tournaments, case competitions, food tastings, and more! These

events are organized for you, so join one of our events to see how you can benefit from joining the family.

We are international students in Rotterdam, we are in this together! Do you want to know more about our family? Check www.isrotterdam.com to find out more!



ABOUT ROTTERDAM

Sometimes referred to as the Dutch New York, it's easy to conclude that Rotterdam isn't comparable to Amsterdam. It is known for its new and modern skyscrapers and has been branded the "moving city" because it builds so fast; a new central station, the Rotterdam, and the Markthal are a few of the many examples





INTRODUCTION

THINGS ABOUT ROTTERDAM

Rotterdam is home to the second largest port in the world, accommodating thousands of workers. Rotterdam's many harbor workers have caused the Rotterdammer to be known as someone who works extremely hard. "*Hard voor weinig, nooit chagrijnig*" is a typical saying

which translates to "*Working hard for little but never bitter.*" Almost everyone in the country speaks English and Rotterdam is no exception to that. The city finds itself constantly focusing on internationalization, trying to lure multinational companies with its harbor.





DEMOGRAPHICS

THE PEOPLE OF ROTTERDAM

Rotterdam is the second largest city of the Netherlands, with *619,879 (2013) inhabitants*. It is also one of the most international cities in Europe due to its history as a port, and more recently as a student city. Of the 619,879 inhabitants currently living in Rotterdam, 58,668 are students, around 10%. The exact number of international students in Rotterdam is hard to come by.

The Erasmus University Rotterdam has 5,739 international students alone as of 2014, more than half of those from Europe and Russia, 29% are of Asian origin, 8% from Africa, 4% from North America and 3.5% from South

America. Codarts has around 500 international students from 50 countries, and the Hogeschool Rotterdam educates students from 40 different countries. Willem de Kooning Academy has around 100 international exchange students per year, while the Hogeschool InHolland hosts around 450 internationals.

There are currently 173 nationalities present in Rotterdam, the most prevalent non-Dutch groups being people of Surinamese (51,945 people), Turkish (45,457 people), Moroccan (37,138 people), Antillean (19,278 people), and Cape Verdean (15,023 people)

backgrounds. Ahmed Aboutaleb causes Rotterdam to be the first large city in the Netherlands with a mayor of immigrant descent and Muslim faith.

Furthermore, Rotterdam is the home of several international companies. *Unilever*, the third largest producer of consumer goods, has its headquarters in Rotterdam. The Big Four, the four largest audit firms in the world, *PwC*, *DeLoitte*, *Ernst & Young*, and *KPMG*, all have offices in the city as well. Rotterdam also features an array of logistics companies due to the fact that it is a port city.

HISTORY

THE PAST OF ROTTERDAM

Settlement on the grounds of what today is Rotterdam began in 900 AD. Being located at the lower end of the Rotte or Rotta as it was then know (from rot muddy and a water; muddy-water) the settlement had to deal with frequent flooding, which hindered further development and lead to the construction of several dams in the 14th century, hence the name Rotterdam.

Rotterdam was granted city rights on July 7th, 1340 by count Willem IV of Holland, having a population of approximately 2000 inhabitants at the time.

Around 1350 a shipping canal was build giving access to the cities in the north and allowing Rotterdam to grow into a port of some importance over the next 500 years. The city eventually became one of six cities to seat a chamber of the *Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC)*, better known as the Dutch East India Company. With the completion of the Nieuwe Waterweg in 1872 the city





experienced a spur of growth, expanding the city and harbour to the south bank of the river. The Witte Huis, or white house, can be seen as a testament to the success of Rotterdam during those years, with a height of 45 meters, making it the highest building in Europe at the time of its completion.

During the Second World War the German army experienced fierce resistance from the Dutch, who only surrendered after the almost complete destruction of Rotterdam by the German Air-force, and the threat to bomb other Dutch cities. Rebuilding efforts began almost immediately after the war and continued until the 1970s. In the 1980s a new concept for an active architectural policy was developed, characterized by lively and modern architecture. Today Rotterdam is known as the “Manhattan on the Maas” and has the busiest port of the western hemisphere, second only to the port of Shanghai.

LIVING COSTS

DAILY FINANCES

Your living costs in Rotterdam depend greatly on your lifestyle, but the average lies around 1000€ a month. Below you will

find an estimation of several important costs you can be sure to encounter during your stay in Rotterdam.

EXPENSES

COST (+/-)

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ EDUCATION <i>EEA STUDENTS</i> €1800 <i>PER YEAR</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ EDUCATION <i>NON-EEA STUDENTS</i> €15000 <i>PER YEAR</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ACCOMMODATION <i>UTILITIES INCLUSIVE</i> €500-600 <i>PER MONTH</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DAILY EXPENSES <i>DAILY NEEDS & LEISURE</i> €350-400 <i>PER MONTH</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ VISA/RESIDENT PERMIT <i>NON-EEA STUDENTS</i> €600 <i>PER YEAR</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ BICYCLE <i>SECOND HAND</i> €50-100 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MEAL <i>IN A RESTAURANT</i> €10-15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ BEER <i>IN A BAR</i> €2.50-3.50 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ENTRANCE FEE <i>FOR STUDENT PARTY</i> €5-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MOVIE TICKET <i>IN A CINEMA</i> €10 |

HOT SPOTS

GOOD PLACES TO VISIT

Rotterdam has many nice areas; here we highlight a few of the busiest and most popular locations.

STADHUISPLEIN

WHERE BARS GATHER

Stadhuisplein is known for its many restaurants and bars clustered together. When the weather is nice, the terraces are full of people enjoying a nice

drink or meal. Students flock to this location as the prices are reasonable and view of the city hall is just pure enjoyment.



BLAAK

THE MARKETPLACE

Blaak is most known amongst students as the place to be on Tuesdays and Saturdays as it is home to one of the largest markets in the Netherlands. Virtually anything you need can

be found on this market. You can find Holland's first indoor market, the world famous *Cube Houses*, as well as the only building left from medieval Rotterdam, the *Sint-Laurenskerk* (church).





BEURS

THE CENTRAL POINT

Beurs is one of the most central points of Rotterdam. Two of the most important streets, Blaak and Coolsingel, intersect here. It is also a major subway interchange station; all subway lines can be

accessed here, including line E which takes you directly to the Hague! It is also home to the World Trade Center, where many international companies hold offices.



WITTE DE WITH

ROTTERDAM'S CULTURAL CENTER

Witte de With is Rotterdam's cultural hot spot. Its many galleries, museums, alternative shops, and cozy restaurants are the main reason tourists flock to this area. The street attracts a

unique mix of students, artists and business people. Make sure you check out *De Witte Aap*, a bar that was announced the best bar of the world by Lonely Planet in 2009.

OUDE HAVEN

THE GOLDEN HARBOR

Oude Haven is the place to be when the weather is nice. It is situated at the oldest harbor of Rotterdam, housing countless of bars and restaurants. Due to its open location, the sun always

favors this place throughout the day. You can enjoy a nice drink while getting your mind sooth by the calming water by *Het Witte Huis* , Europe's first skyscraper.



OUDE BINNENWEG

THE OLD SHORTCUT

Oude Binnenweg roughly translates into “Old Shortcut”. It was built in 1454. It was one of the locations that survived the bombing in World War II. This

street shows the older side of Rotterdam, which is something different than what you’d see in the other places.





LIJNBAAN

THE SHOPPING STREET

Lijnbaan is the main shopping street in the greater Rotterdam area. It was opened in 1953 after the old district had been bombed during Second World War. It's a car-free zone and was the first

pedestrian shopping district in Europe. Most of the internationally known stores can be found here including brands such as *Tommy Hilfiger*, *Mango*, *H&M* and *Zara*.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

Rotterdam is a relatively small city, so you will almost always be able to reach your destination by bicycle. However, this can take some getting used to for

internationals. If you are not very confident biking, the different modes of transport available are trains, trams, buses, metros and taxis.

OV – CHIPKAART

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MUST HAVE

If you want to travel by bus, tram or metro inside of Rotterdam, you will be travelling with *RET* (*Rotterdam's transport company*). You will need an *OV-chip card* for this. OV stands for "Openbaar Vervoer," which is simply translated to public transport.

The RET offers disposable chip cards for single use that are ideal for tourists, but we advise you to acquire a personal OV-chip card. It only costs €7.50, it can be used across the Netherlands, and will make travelling a lot easier. Travelling with an OV is

also cheaper than without, so it is definitely worth the investment. To apply for an OV-chip card, visit www.ov-chipkaart.nl. The website is available in English and the instructions are easy to follow.

TRAIN

ACROSS CITIES

To travel outside of Rotterdam, taking a train is most advisable solution. The first trains leave around 5:30 AM and the last ones depart around midnight. The Netherlands does have a

night network with trains leaving roughly once an hour between the bigger cities. You can use your OV-chip card to travel by train. The procedure, however, is slightly different than Metro

or Tram. An easier option would be physical tickets. It can be obtained at the ticket booth by the station. Check www.ns.nl for more info.

TRAM

ACROSS TOWN

The tram-lines that pass through the city center are 4, 7, 8, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 25, and they all stop at Central Station. From Monday to Saturday most lines start at 5:00 AM and stop at 00:30 AM.

On Sunday they start around 7:00 AM and retire around 00:30 AM. You can only travel by tram with OV-chip card. Make sure your card is loaded before entering

a tram or you will have to get a paper ticket. You could purchase a paper ticket on the spot for €3.00. This paper ticket will grant you unlimited travel for an hour.

BUS

ACROSS STREETS

Rotterdam has developed an extensive network of bus routes, especially in the city center. You will rarely find yourself in a location where you have to walk more than 5 minutes to get to a bus station. Bus is best for short

travel across blocks and streets, or suburban areas, and it works with OV-chip card.

There is also a night bus service called the BOB-bus. They work on Thursdays, Fridays and

Saturdays, travelling between popular nightlife locations and residential areas. The night bus tickets cost €5.00 for a one-way trip, if you don't have an OV chip card. For more information visit www.bob-bus.nl.

METRO

FAST TRAVEL

Rotterdam's metro network is the oldest in the Benelux. Students renting through SSH have a high chance of living right next to a station since the company strategically placed almost all of their housing options as such. Your educational institution will

also be located near a metro station.

Erasmus Woudestein and Rotterdam Business School are both located at Kralingse Zoom. Erasmus MC is located at Dijkzicht, Codarts is located

at Central Station, Willem de Kooning is located at Blaak and Hogeschool InHolland is at Wilhelminaplein. It is also possible to take Metro-line all the way to The Hague.

TAXI

ANYWHERE

Taxis are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This method of transport is most popular after a night of partying. Negotiation of prices is not possible; drivers will always use a meter. The largest taxi company is the Rotterdamse Taxi Centrale (RTC). The initial price is €2.85 and additional

costs are €2.10 per kilometer. You can reserve a taxi at 010 462 60 60.

Another unique transport option offered in Rotterdam is a water taxi. The HNY water taxis shuttle back and forth between Hotel New York, Veerhaven and

Leuvehaven. No reservation is required and the waiting time is usually no longer than 10 minutes. Each water taxi accommodates up to eight people. Prices start at € 2.90 for an adult, but prices depend on the number of people on board and the distance travelled.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND CAREER

It can be a challenge starting a new life in a new city, administrative matters in particular. Here you can find out the basic requirement of staying in Rotterdam, and other basic services that could make your life easier.





STEPS TO BE TAKEN

- 1 REGISTRATION**
REGISTER WITH THE MUNICIPALITY
- 2 BANK ACCOUNT**
REGISTER FOR A DUTCH BANK ACCOUNT
- 3 MOBILE SERVICE**
REGISTER FOR A DUTCH PHONE NUMBER
- 4 INSURANCE**
REGISTER FOR AN INSURANCE
- 5 GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCES**
APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCES

When taking up residence in Rotterdam, you are required to register in the municipal population within five days of your arrival.

Registration takes place at City Hall with the department of Civil Affairs (Publiekszaken), located at

Stadhuisplein. You are obliged to schedule an appointment via the website or by calling **14010**. Be sure to mention that you want to register for the first time as you are coming from abroad. You will be sent an array of documents that you'll need to fill out and bring to your meeting at City

Hall. Provided you filled out all the documents, you will be awarded a *Citizen Service Number (Burger Service Nummer – BSN)*. This number is a critical must have as it allows you to open a bank account or cell phone contract. If you want more in-depth help, send us an e-mail.

CITIZEN SERVICE NUMBER (BSN)

PURPOSE OF CITIZEN SERVICE NUMBER

This number is issued to Dutch citizens along with their birth certificate. As a resident of the Netherlands, you must also apply for the number in order to work, activate a phone contract, open

a bank account, use medical facilities, and apply for benefits.

When you register at City Hall, you will automatically receive your Citizen Service Number

(BSN). If you are from the EU or the EEA, you will need a valid passport or identity card. In other cases, you will need your visa or residence permit (“Verblijfsvergunning”).

NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

- 1 *Valid passport or valid identity card*
- 2 *Original birth certificate*
- 3 *Tenancy agreement (Verhuurdersverklaring), if applicable: form declaration by main occupant (Verklaring inwoning) or rental contract ("Huurcontract")*
- 4 *Proof of enrollment at your educational institution*
- 5 *One completely filled-in application form per person. Filling in this form in advance saves time.*
- 6 *For non-EU citizens: a letter from the IND for an appointment to apply for a residence permit or your current residence permit. Non-EU citizens can register 30 minutes prior to the appointment with the IND*

**To download the forms, please visit our or the municipality's website.*

BANK ACCOUNT

EASY TRANSACTIONS

If you are an EU citizen, you need a valid passport and proof of address in order to open a bank account.

Some banks may, in addition, ask for a *Citizen Service Number (BSN)*, and even proof of a

residence permit application. In addition, non-EU citizens are sometimes requested to bring evidence of registration with the foreign police.

The largest banks in the Netherlands are ABN-AMRO,

ING (Postbank), Rabobank, and SNS. For an nearby office, refer to their official websites .

ABN-AMRO is the only bank with online banking in English. *ING*, however, offers an English App for Smart-phones.



PHONE CONTRACTS

STAY IN CONTACT

When in the Netherlands, you have the choice between prepaid and contract services for your phone. Prepaid operates on a system of prepaid credit. The idea is simple; When the money runs out, the phone stops working. Note that calls are more expensive with this option. Contract is perhaps a more long-term option, requires a more

substantial time commitment. It may provide a better deal if calls and internet takes priority. It is possible to buy a sim card which you must then recharge with tickets available at Media Markt and grocery stores.

Another option is to add packages to your sim card which involves a monthly payment. These are

referred to as contracts, however, it is possible to cancel them at any time.

Contracts allow you to choose the duration of your commitment to a provider. The longer the contract, the less you pay. Often you get a cell phone with it for free or at an acceptable price. You can compare rates at www.gsminfo.nl.

HEALTH INSURANCE

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The Dutch Health Insurance Act requires everyone living in the Netherlands to take out a standard health insurance package called 'basiszorgverzekering'. It covers basic medical costs such as visits to the general practitioner, costs for hospitalization, medications and most medical treatments. Dental care is NOT included. If you would like to insure yourself against dental care costs and other medical expenses, you must take out supplementary (aanvullende) insurance.

If you are an EU/EEA citizen, or possibly a citizen of a country that has a healthcare treaty with the Netherlands, a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) suffices. It allows you to receive the same public

healthcare as a resident in all EEA countries (including Switzerland), either for free, or for a reduced cost. However, it is important to note that the EHIC is NOT a replacement for travel insurance. The EHIC covers any medical treatment that you might need during your stay due to sickness or an accident. It includes necessary treatment of chronic or pre-existing medical conditions.

More information on the EHIC is available on the website of the European Commission.

When choosing health insurance, pay attention to the monthly premium and the deductible excess. The deductible excess is the cost you will have to pay

yourself in one year; everything above that will be paid by your insurance.

IPS-Lippmann and *AON Students Insurance* are two well-known insurance companies for internationals as they provide services in English. Another company that is less known is *Oom Verzekeringen*.

You can also choose to compare all the providers by going to www.independ.nl. The site is in Dutch, but Google Translate can help you out!

A chart that explains this in more detail can be found on this short link: goo.gl/sEBrG2.

STUDIEFINANCIERING

STUDENT FINANCE

'Studiefinanciering' or 'stufi' is a monthly grant handed out to Dutch students in the form of cheap public transportation, a subsidy for health insurance, and a fixed monthly allowance (the 'basic scholarship'). The scholarship ranges from 100.25 to 279.14 euros depending on living arrangements. There is a reason we are telling you this... International students can be eligible too!

Stufi has provisions in place on top of the basic package to make it possible for all students to acquire their degree. Or you could go beyond the basics for the 'aanvullende beurs'. Eligibility for this additional scholarship depends on the income of your parents, their marital status, number of siblings and what kind of higher education you pursue. You could expect 230-260 euros. As an extra deal from government,

students can obtain up to 295.73 from the government each month as a loan. This must be paid back within 15 years of graduating. Interest is relatively low (fluctuating around the 1%), and the time allotted to pay back the loan is extensive so take that into consideration! All the above figures are from 2014, if you are reading this in 2015 or later the numbers might differ.

One major benefit of studiefinanciering is the student-OV card (OV is short for 'openbaar vervoer'). The OV-card is used throughout Dutch public transportation. Students who are eligible for stufi can apply for a special student-OV card, giving them free or discounted transportation.

Some international students are eligible for all or part of

stufi, however, it only applies to students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland. There are two ways international students can get stufi. Firstly, if you come from the EU, EEA or Switzerland and work a taxable 56 hours a month or more, you're eligible for the whole package.

The second way also requires you to come from the EU, EEA or Switzerland. However, you don't have to be the one

working 56 hours if one of your parents or your partner fulfills this requirement in the Netherlands. Are you from somewhere in the EU, EEA or Switzerland but not eligible for stufi? You might still be eligible for 'loan tuition fees', which requires sending a special form with the necessary evidence to the Dutch authorities (check the government website linked below for more information on this arrangement).

REGULATIONS AND CAREERS

BENEFITS AS A STUDENT

Living alone as a student means that you'll need a steady finance background to power you through the years to come. There

are some regulations that could benefit your study or even the quality of your life.

Join ISR now and
enjoy a discount of  25% on our services!

Don't
understand Dutch?

Legal or
administrative
issues?

GNM Legal
is the answer
to your problem!

Legal advice for international students
& young professionals in the Netherlands
————— www.gnmlegal.nl

GNM
Legal

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

RULES TO FOLLOW

As we highlighted before, working as a student can benefit you big time! Remember, if you work for 56 hours per month (+/- 14 hours a week), you can claim studiefinanciering, €279,14 a month for 2014.

International students from the EU/EEA or from Switzerland, have the same working rights as Dutch students. Also be aware if you plan to work in the Netherlands you must take out a basic Dutch health insurance.

WORKING IN THE NETHERLANDS

A SEARCH FOR PART-TIME JOB

If you are looking for a part-time job, the catering and customer service industries are where you will have the highest chance of scoring a job. Most restaurants will accept internationals as dishwashers and, if you have cooking experience, you have a chance at being a cook. If

you want to be in contact with customers, you should look at the more internationally oriented bars and restaurants. Breakaway Cafe is a good example; the spoken language is English. Call centers are a little less complicated than the catering industry; since they are often actively looking for

internationals. They generally prefer students fluent in German, French, and Scandinavian languages. Contact us at recruitment@isrotterdam.com for more information; our partners frequently have vacancies open.

JOB HUNTING SEASON IN ROTTERDAM

By Veronika Norvaisaite, ELM team

THE JOB HUNTERS CLUB

Congratulations on finishing another study year and welcome to the “Job Hunt-ers” club. Membership is free but the competition is fierce, so here are a few guidelines to increase your chances of success in the wilderness of the Rotterdam labour market.

To begin with, you are likely already familiar with Dutch culture, but there is more to it than meets the foreign eye: cycling your orange bike with a kapsalon in hand is not going to be of much help in a job interview. What could help you jump-start

your career, however, is knowing more about the Dutch working culture. For example, in general every team member has an equal say and is expected to contribute to decision making processes, even as a new employee or intern. Note this is not to say suggestions won't be publicly criticized... It is true the Dutch are extremely direct, but it should not be mistaken for rudeness (piece of advice: practice your poker face in advance). Another strong characteristic of the work environment in the Netherlands is agenda setting – if the meeting is not written down, it is as good

as nothing. So make sure to plan well in advance and keep track of meetings meticulously.

What about Rotterdam in particular, you ask? Well, you might have noticed the city has experienced some wear-and-tear throughout history, resulting in a very pragmatic work culture. More so in Rotterdam than elsewhere in the country, people have the attitude of rolling up their sleeves and getting things done, so hard working is the most desirable quality in a potential employee. Moreover, it is wise not to compare the modern



outlook of Rotterdam with the petite cobblestone streets of Amsterdam – Rotterdammers are proud people; rightfully so, as the city has a playing field of its own. Too often the labour market of Rotterdam is associated with the port alone, when in fact the available space and the break from traditional European old-town style has opened up numerous possibilities for daring architecture and other creative industries. Coupled with a globally recognized port, the local job market has something to offer a student of every faculty, so you don't have to look far.

Perhaps most importantly, the population of Rotterdam is one of the youngest and most international in the Netherlands meaning two things: first, there are a lot of job opportunities for talent from abroad, and second, you have to know how to present yourself to stand out of the crowd. That is where the initiatives like "Careers Made in Rotterdam" come into play. During this event, the international students are not only familiarized with the major sectors in Rotterdam, but also introduced to the Dutch culture and receive workshops on successful job hunting

practices. Here at *Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM)* we can't stress enough how vital soft skills are for international graduates. Of course, studies abroad automatically add a sense of independence, open-mindedness and keenness to your CV, but you should know how to use that to your advantage – make sure the employers understand that leaving your comfort zone at home has made you a more adaptive and flexible person. Under no circumstances play down your unique foreign factor! That doesn't mean that you shouldn't make an effort to learn Dutch, but you have something that local job applicants don't, be it knowledge of a different language or of a different culture. It's probably a good idea to read up on legalities concerning work permits in the Netherlands too, so that you have the information and answers ready in case a recruiter asks about it (better safe than sorry!).

Although half of the (job) hunt success depends on being in the right place at the right time, having the right 'equipment' matters just as much. A checklist of your strongest weapons should include a motivation

letter customized for every company and position, and a concise 1-2 page CV in reverse chronological order. Once you have that polished and ready, you can find your target job position in Dutch newspapers, private and temporary recruitment agencies, company websites, and career fairs. More often than not, speculative applications prove to be an effective job hunting technique in the Netherlands. But don't expect your Dutch recruiter to give up (more like sign up) without a fight – have answers ready about your leisure activities, strengths and weaknesses, as well as future goals for the interview.

The good news is that you are not alone in the "Job Hunters" club – don't underestimate the power of networking with your fellow internationals and locals who know their way around Rotterdam. To make you a job hunt pro, ELM offers a comprehensive career guide book "Looking for work in the Netherlands". Readers of this International Student Guide can get their copy with a 5% discount by quoting this code ISG2014. Enjoy the hunt!

Veronika Norvaisaite, ELM team

Veronika is a former international student in Rotterdam, now a part of ELM team, who frequently contributes to the company's media presence.



Start your day in the historic UNESCO registered 'Van Nelle Design Factory'!

ISM eCompany is a Rotterdam based full service e-commerce company and employs a mix of more than 200 e-commerce specialists from all over the world.

At ISM eCompany we love to work hard, but just as important, we like to have fun with our colleagues! Do you want to join the club?



Are you a (near) native American English-, British English-, Danish-, Dutch-, Flemish-, French-, German-, Norwegian-, Portuguese- or Swedish speaking student and are you eager to develop your sales skills?

Join our Lead Generation Team!

This professional team of international students is the center of the company, where new business is developed from our headquarters in Rotterdam. You have the opportunity to develop your sales-, communication- and multitasking skills by learning on the job and attending the structural trainings. In this side job you will be able to apply your academic knowledge in a real working environment!

Please contact one of our Corporate Recruiters
(Tessa Knijnenburg or Shaunny Veldhuis) to
discuss the career opportunities at our company.

+31 (0) 10 243 6000

recruitment@ism.nl

<http://recruitment.ism.nl>



GLOBAL DATA COLLECTION COMPANY

A GOOD OFFER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL

Global Data Collection Company embodies everything the acronym stands for being a leader in telephonic market research for some of the largest and smallest companies on the globe. The atmosphere

is energetic and is one of the most international companies within Rotterdam that employs a diverse group of international people. Guaranteeing a fun work environment, the company has employed ISR members in the

past and seeks out internationals to employ. If you are looking for a job and speak one of the European languages, you have a high chance of GDCC being the right employer for you! To apply, visit www.workatgdcc.com.



PROFESSIONAL CAREER

EXPANDING CAREER IN ROTTERDAM

In addition to many fun things you can discover in the booklet, we come to a bit more serious topic – career. In the end, most of us need to find a job after study, for pursuing our ambitions, making a living, or for not getting bored with life. Benjamin Franklin used to say, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” We do not want that to happen to you. Therefore we want to provide the following job-seeking information and tips to you, on day one. The following three parts will be covered: *Policies about part-time, internship and jobs for international students,*

where to find relevant internship and position information online, and how to make best use of resources around you to secure a job offer.

The content of this section is provided by **HoiTalent.com**– the Largest Job Portal for International Talents in the Netherlands. HoiTalent.com (KvK number: 61141151) is a Stichting (non-profit foundation) with a mission to provide international young talents who don’t speak well Dutch, a one-stop job portal where you can find thousands of jobs that’s currently open.

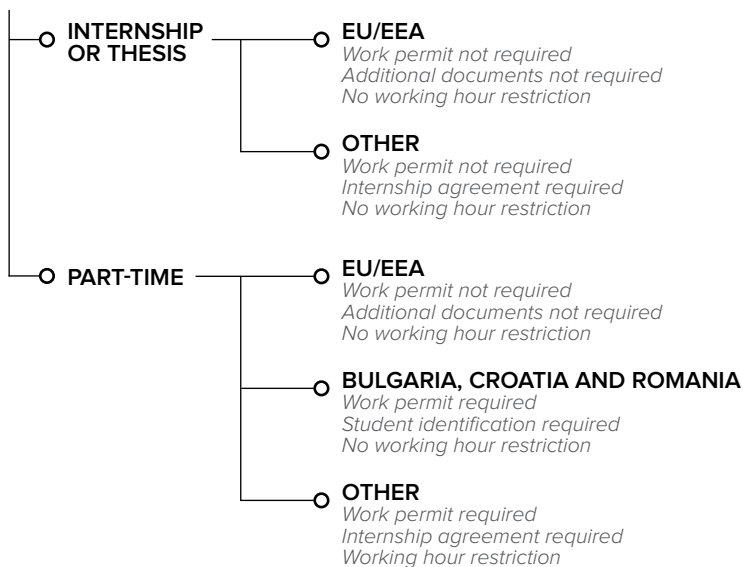
HoiCoaching is a sub-brand of HoiTalent, and it provides 1-2-1 Career / Job Seeking Coaching to international students and young professionals in the Netherlands. We are not a traditional training agency. You will be assigned with a coach who has work experience at the area relevant to your study or targeting career path, and receive the most relevant support on where you want to improve most, from career orientation, CV and cover letter writing, interview, to on-boarding. Welcome to visit www.hoicoaching.com or contact us via info@hoicoaching.com.

POLICIES

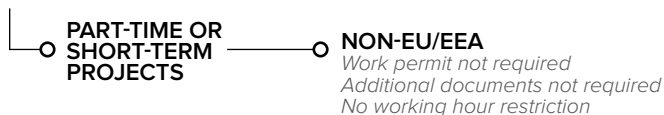
For foreign students in the Netherlands, it is not always clear how to work in this country legally. The table below should give you an overview:

1 STUDENT

(registered under a Dutch university)



2 JOB-SEEKING YEAR



INTERNSHIP AND GRADUATE THESIS

SHORT-TERM PLACEMENT

An internship is any work placement or practical training arrangement that aims to give you experience of the world of work while you are studying. If you have already graduated, you will generally not be able to work as an intern in the Netherlands. If you are studying in the

Netherlands and you are in the possession of a Dutch residence permit with the aim to study, you do NOT need a work permit to do an internship. However, an internship agreement is required if you are from a non-EU/EEA country. It is a formal agreement between three parties: the

intern, the internship provider and the Dutch higher education institution. You may contact your international office or your faculty to sign the agreement on behalf of the Dutch higher education institution.

PART-TIME JOB

FOR AN EXTRA INCOME

As an international student in Holland, you might want to take a part-time job, just as Dutch students do. Rules are different depending on your nationality:

If you are from a non-EU/EEA country, you will need a work permit for a part-time job. Also Dutch immigration law restricts the number of hours you may

work. You may either do seasonal work full-time (but only in June, July and August; of course, you can name it “internship” but strictly speaking this is part-time since it requires a work permit), or you may work part-time throughout the rest of the year (but no more than ten hours a week); you may not do both. It is up to your employer or the

employment agency to apply for your work permit from UWV WERKbedrijf.

If you are a citizen of the EU/EEA (except for Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania) and Switzerland, things are much easier. You do not need a work permit. There is no restriction on the number of hours you are allowed to work.

JOB-SEEKING YEAR

ORIENTATION YEAR FOR GRADUATES

If you have successfully finished your higher educational study programme (Bachelor's or Master's programme) in the Netherlands, you may apply for an orientation year for graduates. The residence permit is issued

for a maximum period of 1 year counting from the date of your graduation. During your orientation year, you are entitled to work in the Netherlands without any restrictions.

KNOWLEDGE MIGRANT

LONG-TERM CAREER

The Knowledge Migrant is also called Highly Skilled Migrant, or Kennismigrant (KM). If you are from non-European Union countries and want to work (not including internship) in the Netherlands, you have to become a KM and possess the KM residence permit.

To be qualified for a knowledge migrant, you need to meet the following two requirements: First, your (future) employer

is a recognised sponsor (be registered in the Netherlands with the Chamber of Commerce, the Tax Authority, and the Dutch Immigration Service IND). Second, you have a monthly gross income that meets the highly skilled migrant criteria. For more information, refer to the chart below.

If you have questions about work permits, you can contact the UWV WERKbedrijf. Their telephone

number is: +31 79 750 29 03. For questions about applying for a visa or a residence permit, you can contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) on the following number: +31 20 889 30 45. If you are already in the Netherlands you can dial the following number: 0900 123 45 61. For more details on policies, please read the Hot Articles at HoiTalent.com. For work permit, go to goo.gl/9dNz1T; Knowledge Migrant, go to goo.gl/lejGCE.

For 2014, the minimum monthly gross salary for a highly skilled migrant is:

1 30 OR OLDER
Employees at 30 or older
€ 4,371.84

2 YOUNGER THAN 30
Employees below 30
€ 3,205.44

3 BELLETRIST
Highly skilled migrant
€ 2,297.16

ONLINE POSITION INFORMATION

We list major websites to find internships / positions as follow:

1 HOITALENT.COM

The largest job portal for international talents in the Netherlands. Simple, neat and to the points. All of its jobs/internships do not require Dutch. Also, it directs you to the employer job post page, which saves you a lot of time. Therefore, if you do speak Dutch quite well / at all, and look for an entry / mid levels jobs (HoiTalent only have jobs requiring up to 5-year work experience), this is a must choice!

2 AGENCY WEBSITES

There are several traditional nation-wide job agencies like Randstad, Tempo Team. You can find positions via their website or by visiting their offices in person. Please not that usually there are very limited positions for non-Dutch speakers, or for graduates without any work experience.

3 INDEED.NL

This is the Dutch version of the largest job search engine in the world. It may have the most complete database for jobs. But the down side of a search engine is that you have to know what you are looking for, rather than using filters to narrow down to specific areas. Another annoying thing is that you cannot easily identify which jobs accept non-Dutch speaking people.

4 LINKEDIN

More and more companies tend to post positions in their LinkedIn page. If you already have a LinkedIn profile, this is a nice way. The filters and search engine there are quite good. However, it does not have complete vacancies especially for those small and medium-sized companies. Also, you need to click into each job by yourself to identify whether they accept non-Dutch speaking applicants.

5 JOBBIRD.COM / NATIONALEVACATUREBANK.NL

These are two largest local websites. Very useful if you can speak Dutch: >90% of jobs require Dutch. Also please note that somehow their jobs are selective - it may not include complete positions from some big names like Shell, ASML.

6 INTEGRAND.NL

This student foundation has a lot of internship positions which are not publicly posted. As a trend, more and more non-Dutch speaking internships are offered.

NETWORKING

EXPANDING CONNECTIONS

You may find a lot of job positions online. However, you should understand that around 80% of the job opportunities are not posted publicly. Where are these

job opportunities? How can you get access to it? You must guess it right – this is about networking, about promoting yourself online and offline.

EXPANDING SOCIAL CIRCLE

MAKE USE OF YOUR SURROUNDING

Many students complain, “Yes, I want to do more networking, but I have nobody to network with. How can I know those professionals who are already working? Even I meet them, why are they interested in me?” Fair enough. There must be some people who have broad network due to their family, or are excellent speakers able to impress people in a few seconds. As a person with average IQ and EQ, why not start from the people around you? You must have classmates, must have professors or lecturers in your courses, and probably know some alumni from your faculty or from your country. According to my observation, most people just let these valuable networking assets go!

Schoolmates: you can of course lock yourself in the room for the whole day. But then why come so

far to the Netherlands to study?! From the friends you know via parties, sports and classes, you may get to know potential hiring opportunities. And what is more important is that they are people together with you to apply for internships and jobs. You won't feel alone.

Professors: many professors are involved in projects with companies in the industry and have some sort of relationship with the industry. Just ask your professors in your class! Some companies may just ask them to recommend some students to do internships or work there. Even not this case, your professors may be able to link you to their contacts in the companies, to whom you can inquire the job opportunity further. The thing here is, you have nothing to lose, even if you fail to get any valuable

information or contacts. Two additional tips: 1) to increase the success rate, you at least have to perform well in the class; 2) choose your thesis supervisor carefully – he or she may become an important person to introduce thesis projects / companies contacts to you.

Alumni: never underestimate the power of alumni! It is not only a rule in U.S. but also the same everywhere in the world. There may be alumni mentoring program in your university – do try it. There may be alumni from your own country – it should not be a problem to find them and contact them proactively. They can offer you huge help from student life to career life. Their employers may want to hire people from the same background of them, and they may have some internal referral opportunities.

CAREER EVENTS

SHOW UP IN CAREER EVENTS

Don't be shy, just try. There are a couple of career events, like the national one held every year: *National Carriere Beurs* (<http://www.carrierebeurs.nl>). There must be at least held in your university, and some held in other universities. Just register them and go! It is a perfect time to know

a lot of companies, agencies that you've probably never heard of. And try to talk to the right people at the stands! Always locate decision makers, in some cases are HRs, in others line Managers. Pitch to them: who you are, why they shall hire you! However do accept that it might not work

every time as sometimes the company presented there has no vacancy at all. Then you save your time by eliminating this company from your later online search, correct? Do bring a CV with you, practice your 1-minute elevator pitch and ready to impress decision makers!

ONLINE PRESENCE

MAKE YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

The social network has made the world smaller and has brought people closer to each other. It can also help you build your network with people you do not know before. We only mention the most important one here. Yes, LinkedIn. At least there are there ways to leverage it:

- We can't emphasize the importance of your LinkedIn profile more nowadays. Your potential employers may look at it, headhunters may look at it. Spend some decent time on polishing your LinkedIn profile, and try to get recommendations from

your previous boss, colleagues, professors or classmates.

- You can use LinkedIn to look for your alumni and build first connection with them.

- You can check the profile of your potential interviewers before your interview. This can help you make better preparation and build personal connections with the interviewers.

- You have 30 days free trial for LinkedIn premium package where you can send InMail to anyone you want and whole lots of features for free. Of course it's

your option to extend it by paying 22 euro per month, but at least try to leverage the free trial period do the 3 aforementioned things! Of course there are other ways to impress people online: making your personal website / blog and have quality contents there. This can prove your track record and your passion for what you are going to apply for.

HOUSING AND UTILITIES

This chapter provides advises on how to find student housing, solve utility or tax issues.





HOUSING

FINDING AN ACCOMMODATION

Finding student housing in Rotterdam can be a challenge. The demand is high, the supply low, and being an international student doesn't make it easier. But don't lose heart. Great apartments await you! We recommend you read on.

You can find an accommodation through your school. Your educational institution likely has arrangements with housing agencies. The Erasmus University Rotterdam, for example, has an agreement with *Short Stay*

Solutions - SSH. They offer furnished student rooms, located in or close to the centre of Rotterdam. You can rent these rooms up to a maximum of 12 months.

Room prices vary depending on availability and circumstance. The closer the room is to the city the more expensive it will be. You can expect to pay between €500-600 a month. This includes all bills and utilities such as heating, water, energy, internet, and taxes.

You may also look for accommodation through an independent landlord. Give yourself a large window of time to find the place of your dreams, as the process could take several months. There are many housing websites that act as intermediaries. English websites are listed below, join ISR to get discounts on agency fees!

1 **STUDYRENT**
.nl

2 **EASYKAMER**
.nl

3 **KAMER**
.nl

4 **PARARIUS**
.com

5 **NESTPICK**
.com

6 **KAMERHUREN**
.nl

7 **GRESIDENCE**
.nl

8 **HOUSINGANYWHERE**
.com

9 **ROTSVAST**
.nl

The following are some questions to keep in mind when apartment hunting. Registering your address is required in order to receive your BSN.

1 *Is the apartment furnished?*

2 *Are utilities included?*

3 *How much do utilities cost?*

4 *Can you register the address at the municipality?*

5 *Are there any extra fees such as commission?*

6 *How much is the deposit?*

7 *What are the conditions of deposit being returned?*

8 *How long will the contract last?*

9 *Can you stay longer if you'd like?*

10 *What are the requirements of renting?*



GRESIDENCE

A QUICK AND RELIABLE OPTION

Looking for a place to live? *Gresidence* caters to us internationals seeking housing in Rotterdam. The company offers reliable service that quickly sets

you up with awesome digs. The best part is registration is FREE and *Gresidence* goes out of their way to cater to your individual needs.

International Accommodation Services **GResidence**

Find out about GResidence

GResidence is a housing agency founded in 2013 in Rotterdam. Our main objective as a startup is to help expats and international students by providing accommodation services. GResidence is a new, dynamic, competitive and friendly agency offering the lowest prices in the market.

GResidence was conceived with the purpose to facilitate new students and expats with the complications of the Dutch housing market. Using our entrepreneurial spirit and our open and informative customer services, we offer valuable help to the international community and create a strong connection with the Dutch housing market.

The GResidence team consists of 4 young individuals, who are together expats and graduates of Erasmus University Rotterdam. This is why GResidence feels and breathes your situation. We can understand exactly what you need and that is why we know how to help you out through this process.

"We've been through that!"

Friendly services

Can you think of an easier way to rent your new apartment?
YOU CAN DO IT WITH GRESIDENCE.

The only thing you need to do is to contact us and fill out a registration form describing your preferences over your new flat. We will conveniently arrange viewings of the selected property, as well as arrange a meeting with the landlord and help you make the best choice. Our ultimate goal is to provide the best customer service.

All of the properties have been chosen very carefully in order to provide only **HIGH QUALITY** properties according to your needs. All of the pictures and videos provided on the website are captured by a professional photographer, in order to give you a real view of the property.



The lowest fees in the market.

Explore our website free of registration fees. To keep it simple and functional, your access to uploaded apartments is unlimited.

Our advice and suggestions are always free of charge.

Once you rent a great place through GResidence, we receive a mediation fee (services fee) of only 70% of a month's rent (plus 21% VAT). This fee is the **lowest** you can find in the market given that we offer full housing agency services (viewings, photographs, personal communication, contracts, check-in check-out).

Social GRevolution

GResidence is not just about housing, it is about living.

We are active members of Rotterdam's social life; **Networking** with student societies, evolving our website to include useful information to newcomers and organizing and participating in social events.

You are all invited to the world of GResidence.



the team

*Are you looking for your next apartment?
Live in the world of GResidence!*

www.gresidence.nl
www.facebook.com/gresidence rotterdam
apartments@gresidence.nl



The House Party



my living room



my view



my kitchen



OTHER COSTS

OPTIONAL SERVICES

There are other costs that you'd need to consider as a part of your living. Living away from home means taxes or other service bill are now your responsibility.

And don't forget that the things that you once thought were free actually cost money. It just that someone has been paying it for you. But now, it's your turn.

UTILITIES

OPTIONS FOR PROVIDERS

Energievergelijken.nl is the only website that compares the Dutch energy companies in English. To find the best energy deal. You will be given a list of companies they advise based on the estimates

you provided. We advise you switch energy providers every year, as they compete on 'cash back offers' rather than actual energy prices.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY

GENERAL COSTS

First check if you have a double tariff. Do this by checking your meter closet to see if you have a single or double meter. Averages stay the same if you have a

double meter, but the 'high usage' is about 65% of the average electricity consumption. Use the estimates below, provided by *www.nibud.nl*

An estimation is more difficult for gas as it depends on the type of house. As most students live in an apartment, we will use that as a basis for our analysis.



ELECTRICITY

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD
AVERAGE CONSUMPTION
In kwh per year

| | |
|---|------|
| 1 | 600 |
| 2 | 850 |
| 3 | 1050 |
| 4 | 1200 |
| 5 | 1300 |
| 6 | 5956 |



GAS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD
AVERAGE CONSUMPTION
In m³ per year

| | |
|---|------|
| 1 | 600 |
| 2 | 850 |
| 3 | 1050 |
| 4 | 1200 |
| 5 | 1300 |
| 6 | 5956 |

WATER

REGISTRATION TO WATER SUPPLIES

The only water provider in Rotterdam is *Evides*. When you move into your new home, you will receive a meter card.

You can complete registration through Evides' official website with your personal registration number. Your registration number

(registratienummer) can be found through either email or mail.

Make sure you find your meter numbers and fill them in. Once you have completed this process, you have registered successfully. If any problems arise, you can always fill out the meter numbers

on the meter card itself, put the card in the mail and the postal service will deliver your information to Evides free of charge.

REMISSION

GETTING TAX RETURNED

You may apply for remission of the water tax if your earnings are at the income support level or lower. The *Regionale Belasting Groep* will calculate how much disposable income you have by deducting your overheads from your income. Then the remission will be made accordingly.

If you are an international student without a job, you are earning below income support level! You should apply for remission within two months after receiving the tax letter. To ensure prompt processing of your application, we recommend that you respond within one month of having

received the notice. Fill out a digital form (you need DigiD for that) or the remission section of the bill and return it without enclosing any documents. You will then receive a form that you need to fill out. Unfortunately, it will be in Dutch. Contact us if you need help with translation!

INTERNET AND TV

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

It generally takes three weeks after the initial purchase for you to acquire internet, so arrange this well in advance. Some larger internet providers include *UPC, Tele2, Telfort, Ziggo, KPN, Scarlett, T-mobile and XS4ALL*.

You can begin your search by comparing different packages through *www.easyswitch.nl*.

This website offers a clear view of packages offered by different providers. The only downside is that it is only available in Dutch. But thanks to the technology, Google Translate is able to do the job just right to get you through the process.

Once completed, you have successfully chosen your Internet

and/or TV provider. Again, keep in mind that it generally takes three weeks after the purchase to complete the setup. Below we've gathered some useful translations that would help you in searching and registering for your internet and TV services.

| | |
|--|---|
| AANHEF | <i>Preamble</i> |
| MENEER | <i>Mr.</i> |
| MEVROUW | <i>Mrs.</i> |
| TUSSENOEGSEL | <i>Word positioned between first and last name.</i> |
| ACHTERNAAM | <i>Family name</i> |
| GEBOORTEDATUM | <i>Date of birth</i> |
| POSTCODE | <i>Postal code</i> |
| HUISNUMMER | <i>House number</i> |
| TOEVOEGING | <i>Additional letter to the house number</i> |
| STRAATNAAM | <i>Street name</i> |
| WOONPLAATS | <i>City of residence</i> |
| TELEFOONNUMMER OVERDAG | <i>Phone number</i> |
| HUIDIG E-MAILADRES | <i>E-mail address</i> |
| BIJ WELKE BANK LOOPT UW REKENING? | <i>What bank do you have?</i> |
| REKENINGNUMMER | <i>Bank account number</i> |
| NAAM REKENINGHOUDER | <i>Account holder's name</i> |

TAXES

COSTS OF LIVING

Above we discussed tax remission, but what taxes actually exist? Below we discuss the 2014 prices. Please be aware the 2015 prices may rise several euros.



DOMESTIC WASTE TAX (AFVALSTOFFENHEFFING)

Afvalstoffenheffing is the dutch term for domestic waste tax and is paid to cover the costs of collection and processing of domestic waste. This tax is charged by Gemeente Rotterdam and it is € 372.50 per household.



WATER TAX (WATERSCHAPSBELASTING)

Waterschapsbelasting is best translated as water tax. The tax is paid to create and maintain strong dikes and ensure the populous has clean water. The tax is charged by the Regionale Belasting Groep and is € 149.01 if you live alone, and € 251.77 if you live with someone.



DOG-LICENSE

If you have a dog, you must obtain a dog license. Costs for one dog amount to € 126.80 per year. Note every additional dog costs an extra € 200.90 per year.

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

With its large amount of nationalities, Rotterdam is one of the most - if not the most - culturally diverse cities in the Netherlands. Here, we will explore its diversity, recommend different cultural visits, and explicate some aspects of Rotterdam's nightlife.





BLAAK

THE ITALIAN CLUSTER

Home to the ‘Blaak Market’ held Tuesdays and Saturdays, is a massive rectangular plaza, lined with a number of yummy and diverse restaurants. You can expect a filling and rewarding meal for under 20 euros most everywhere you go. However, if you join ISR you’re in for an even sweeter deal! In many of the restaurants (13 at the time of writing) you can enjoy a main course, desert and a drink for just €10. Check the website for more information!

Directly on the plaza sits *Vapiano*, an Italian restaurant to razz your dining experience. Upon entering

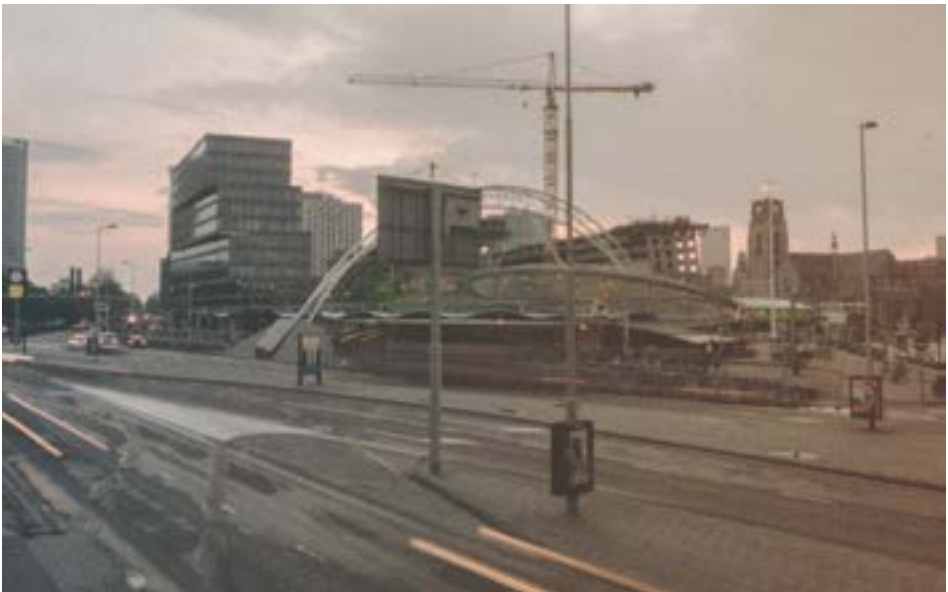
you get a card, with which you can order salads, pizzas, pastas and more. You order, wait, and watch as your food is prepared before your eyes.

Happy Italy, the other Italian temptation, sits beside *Vapiano*, and offers a typical service with meals you can score under 15 euros. The interior is fresh and lively, while extensive seating is available outside in warm weather.

Eazie will satisfy those craving Asian cuisine. With only 10 euros, you can fill your takeout box with meat/fish/chicken and veggies,

sauce, rice/noodles that will surely put a smile on your face. The food is consistently fresh and well worth the trip.

Sumo, while a more expensive option, (expect to pay 20-25 euros) provides endless options of fresh sushi, teppanyaki and tempura in a unique atmosphere. Prices during the day are much lower, so take advantage at lunchtime and reward yourself with this all-you-can-eat dream. Prices vary depending on the hour and day, so check out the website if you want to get the best deal.



OUDE HAVEN

THE OLD SENSATION

Not far from Blaak you'll find Oude Haven. This small marina is home to a variety of café's, abundant with terraces and warm, welcoming bars. If you're looking for a good steak or a simple pub inspired meal—this is the place to

go. Prices can be steep, but the cozy feel and endless beer taps bring in crowds of students and otherwise. Be sure to check out *Kade 4*, *Stockholm Café*, and *Villa kakelbont*, and see for yourself!

WITTE DE WITH

THE CULTURAL HOT SPOT

This street is peppered with diversity. Pizzerias, cafés, bars and shoarma restaurants lay in wait to feed you. Witte de With houses Jaffa, the oldest shoarma restaurant in Rotterdam. This classic joint is open late, inviting

late night party goers in for a *Kapsalon*, a typical Rotterdam feed-bag. If you've never heard of a *Kapsalon*, head over to Jaffa and try it! As mentioned earlier, *Café de Witte Aap* is located here. It was awarded the best

bar of the world by Lonely Planet in 2009. This café attracts a mix of artists, business men, students, journalists and otherwise. The café hosts art installations; good for a beer and a culture fix.

OOSTPLEIN

CONNECTING KRALINGEN AND CENTER

Oostplein, a square abutting the city center, is where you will find smaller restaurants known as *eetcafé's*. You are bound to find the perfect student meal here. *Restaurant De Dijk* offers

unlimited spare ribs on Mondays and Wednesday for €12.95, but if you are an ISR member, you get an even sweeter deal! *De Hemel op Aarde* has, a Mediterranean kitchen, is great for a small bite

to eat that packs a flavor punch. Nearby you will find snack bars where you can experience dutch kroket. *HAS*, another popular shoarma restaurant, is open until 4 a.m.

ORDERING IN

THE LAZY SOLUTION

Rotterdam truly delivers in terms of delivery. We would recommend www.thuisbezorgd.nl where you'll find numerous restaurants that will bring food to your doorstep. The site is in English and easy to navigate, so you never have to

leave your room again! However, we encourage you to explore the city, even if you just walk to Beurs for some classic fast food from *McDonalds*, *Burger King*, and *KFC*.



EATING OUT

RESTAURANTS AND DINERS

Many new and veteran students still lack skills in the kitchen. The good news is, Rotterdam has an array of affordable restaurants with scrumptious food waiting for you! Below we explore some

choice destinations for a great meal, but we encourage you to put on your walking shoes—or hop on your bike—and explore the extensive offerings around the city.

AMIGO

AMIGO-ROTTERDAM.NL

Looking for a Mexican experience without leaving the neighborhood? Stop by *Amigo* at Avenue Concordia for all you can eat tapas at 19.50 Euros a person... And prepare to be satisfied.

CAFE PLEIN

CAFE-PLEIN.NL

Across from town hall in the center of the city houses *Cafe Plein*, sporting a relaxing terrace perfect for kicking back during a day in the city. At night the place is open for select events, while offering classic diner food for lunch and dinner.

COCONUTS

COCONUTS.NL

Sitting pretty by town hall and immersed in Rotterdam grey, *Coconuts* is a restaurant and bar escape for the tropics lover. We've got a reply to your message in a bottle—Go to Coconuts!



CAFE'T FUST ROTTERDAM

CAFEFUST.NL

This cafe is a MUST go. The classic atmosphere started back in '61, offering a wide selection of beer, food and fun. Not only popular amongst locals, ISR also frequents the joint.

SORBONNE

SORBONNE.NL

The cafe and restaurant hybrid offers the whole package... Lunch, dinner and nightlife galore, with numerous student parties for you to check out too!

These places are great for having a meal, but at night they turn into bars and clubs. We have spent many of our favorite nights in these places, so make sure you check them out.



DIVOZA

DIVOZAROTTERDAM.NL

This restaurant and bar offers an extensive drink selection, gourmet food and ice-cream that makes tastebuds dance. Perfect for a night out with friends or family, the spot is accented by old brick walls and comfortable chairs. The illusion you are in the comfort of your living room is only shattered by the fact that it is more comfortable—than mine anyway!

EZPREZZO

EZPREZZO.NL

Need a pick-me-up? This coffee bar has you covered. With an extensive assortment of fine coffee blends and, not to mention, REALLY good muffins, *Ezpresso* serves the Kralingse zoom metro crowd. Another location is in the Alexandrium shopping center if you prefer a relaxing sit down experience.

BRAM LADAGE

LADAGE.NL

This chain began serving the city of Rotterdam back in the 60's. *Bram Ladage* is a classic Dutch treat, with argua-bly the fries in the Netherlands. They are not your common French fries, but rather fresh hand cut fries. Check out any of the 9 locations in the city for the best fries you can get. Oh, and if you want to taste a real Dutch delicacy, we recommend you to try their fresh private label kroket!

BROOD EXPRESS

BROODEXPRESS.COM

Brood Express churns out delicious sandwiches in record time. You'll find it in four metro stations, Beurs, Cool-haven, Dijkzigt and Kralingse zoom, with two other locations at Alexandrium and Zuidplein. If you are hungry and in a hurry—and seeking a quality sandwich to fuel your race—we recommend you stop at Brood Express.

DAYLIFE

FUN FOR DAY LOVERS

For those of you who come alive during the day, here are some ideas of how to spend one. Grab whatever food you have in your cupboards, pack it in your Albert Heijn bags and hop on your bike

to Kralingse Plas, a beautiful park in the east of the city. The expanse surrounds an impressive lake, tall trees and numerous places to roll out a blanket for a picnic with friends.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

FUN WITH THE SUN

If you are looking for some place to have a sing-along with your friends, while maybe you strum away on your six strings. There are some parks you could visit such as *Het Park*, *Kralingse Plas*, and *Vroesenpark*. If your mouth is watering over some Barbecue, you'll need to search for a Barbecue zone, you can't just do it anywhere.

Another option, if you're looking to explore the other side of the city, is to hop on your bike to Delfshaven, a little borough of Rotterdam that houses numerous art schools and classic old buildings that survived WW2. If you have an extra euro or two, head to Café de Oude Sluis and join the locals for a beer. The old wooden bar sits tilting alongside a tiny canal, highlighted by a string of small homes and shops. Venturing to Delfshaven allows access to a small-town feel without venturing far from Rotterdam-proper. Oh—And there's a big windmill there too!

I should mention that if, on the very likely chance that rain and clouds join you on your excursion, you might consider heading to the Tea Lab near Blaak. There you can dry out with a hot cup





of tea and some good music in a modern environment. This café also serves as a meeting-place for 'Shut Up and Write, Rotterdam,' a newly formed writers group and book club that welcomes everyone. If you prefer a live music experience to a contemplative one, head North to Café de Bel on Saturday night, meet your night owl friends and experience music from Jazz to rock'n'roll - with a whole lot of satisfaction and close-quarters in between.

PATHE

PATHE.NL

This movie theater is a perfect destination for those looking to escape a rainy day, or simply the everyday grind of studies. It is massive and features IMAX movies and an array of blockbuster films.

HOLLAND CASINO

HOLLANDCASINO.NL

If you are of age and looking for some evening fun, pop into this spacious casino and try your hand at poker, slot machines and many more gambling attractions. And be prepared to gain or lose magnificently!



LASERGAME ROTTERDAM

LASERGAMEROTTERDAM.NL

Want to shoot laser beams at people? Grab a group of friends and head to this arena. You can get in free your first time if you happen to possess a Rotterdam pass! ISR ventures here for team building trips and all agree it is one of the most choice ways to wrap up a long day.

EXITGAME

EXITGAME.NL

This is a very real feeling escape-the-room-game. It is exciting, semi-scary and not for the claustrophobic but all in all a very rewarding experience. If you do manage to escape, there is little you cannot do.

MUSEUMS

A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Rotterdam is a hub of culture, with many museums worth exploring. You can learn about the city's seafaring history at the Maritime Museum,

and view original Van Gogh's at Boijmans. Read on if you want to plan a museum trip!

BOIJMANS VAN BEUINGEN MUSEUM

BOIJMANS.NL

Boijmans houses a large variety of collections, from medieval masterpieces to more modern works. Pieces from artists such as *Bosch*, *Bruegel*, *Van Gogh*,

Monet and *Magritte* are all on display. The museum is located in the center of Rotterdam, close to Witte de Withstraat, and is easily accessible by tram/metro/bike.



KUNSTHAL

KUNSTHAL.NL

Kunsthall Rotterdam stages around 25 exhibitions a year. Designed by a Dutch architect, Rem Koolhaas, the 3300 square meters of exhibition space is

a must-see. It portrays many different aspects of culture, from old art to new photography, from lingerie expositions to works by *Leonardo Da Vinci*.





WERELDMUSEUM

WERELDMUSEUM.NL

The “*Wereldmuseum*” is another icon of Rotterdam, where you can view an impressive collection of art that has been collected from

all over the world. This museum is located close to the Erasmus bridge.



MARITIEM MUSEUM

MARITIEMMUSEUM.NL

As the largest port city in Europe, there is a great deal to learn about Rotterdam's maritiem history here. The world harbor days take place in the beginning

of September, showcasing a festival dedicated to Rotterdam's port. The maritiem museum offers free entry during this festival.



OTHERS

OTHER CHOICES

In addition to the larger names/ museums mentioned above there are countless more worth a visit. After all, Rotterdam is a very cultural city.

They include but are not limited to The Natural History Museum natural history museum, Dutch institute of architecture, The Netherlands' photo museum, and Scheepswerf De Delft.

Each March the museums in Rotterdam open themselves up for a night, allowing for a Night at the Museum type adventure. You can buy tickets at the Blaak Library, around €14 pre-sale and last minute tickets are around €17.50, so make sure to get them early! A total of 50 art expositions are open and a blinking LED light will be your receipt.

NIGHTLIFE

A GUIDE TO NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Everyone has their own music style and type of party they like to go to. Here, we aim to showcase some of the more popular places as well as some that are less popular but we have good experiences with.

PARTY GUIDE

PREPARE FOR THE NIGHT

Let's not beat around the bush here. If American Pie has taught us anything, it's that going to university is as much about gaining knowledge and broadening your mind as it is about dragging your drunk self into bed in the wee hours of the morning and waking up with a 'never drinking again' kind of attitude.

Keeping the balance between work and pleasure is a delicate affair, so if you allow yourself a night out, best not waste it on a lousy bar with warm beer, right?

Here's some information to help jump-start your nightlife experience in Rotterdam. You'll find some essential information regarding what's allowed and

what isn't, as well as a list of our favorite bars, clubs and places to have a drink and bust a move

THE PARTYING NEED-TO-KNOWS

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Before we tell you about the best bars and clubs, you need to know how to conduct yourself like a respectable Dutch person. For one, teenagers are allowed to drink starting from age 18. Before this, you shouldn't be in possession of alcohol if you are a law abiding citizen.

At 18 all bets are off though, and buying hard liquor is as easy as going to the liquor store

and flashing your ID. A bottle of vodka (depending on brand and quantity of either 70cl or 100cl) will set you back between 10 and 20 euros and a full crate of beer (24x33cl) from the supermarket is at most 13 euros (excluding deposit!). Drinking at home is much cheaper than drinking at a club, which is why pre-drinks are commonplace. Because pre-drinks are a must, most parties start to fill up around midnight.

Keep this in mind to avoid a disappointing and boring few hours before the party really begins.

Drinking can be fun, if it's done in moderation (and alright, having one too many is fun too) but there's one rule of thumb: it's OK as long as you don't bother anybody and keep the public peace. This goes for pretty much anything. Being drunk in

a club is alright, but if you get to the point where you knock onto everybody around you, either sit down or go home. Need to puke? Take it outside or use the bathroom, but DO NOT puke inside the club. It's just bad form and can ruin the night for many people. Same goes for fights; take your troubles outside and don't bother everyone with it. Bouncers will not hesitate to throw you outside. This may seem like commonsense, but a surprising number of people don't act accordingly.

Smoking inside clubs and bars is outlawed by the government, but some establishments (especially

clubs) ignore this and allow their patrons to smoke inside. If you're not sure, take a look around. Are people smoking and are bouncers not caring? If so, go ahead and light up! You can also ask a bartender if you can smoke in peace.

Outside the club is where things get delicate. Being drunk in public is officially a punishable offense, but walking or biking home from a party in the morning is A-OK as long as, again, you don't bother anybody. Screaming matches and fights are often visited by our friends 'de Politie' and result in citations, fines and

sometimes even a night in jail (although a night in jail is very, very rare and only happens for repeat offenders). Do not fret! It really isn't all that strict. Just be a sensible citizen and the police will stay off your case.

Girls shouldn't have to take extra precautions per se; Rotterdam is very safe for ladies to go out and have a good time, although caution is never a bad thing. It is rare for trouble to ensue, but one should always be careful, minimize going home alone after a night out and keep an eye on drinks.

NIGHT SHOPS

LAST-MINUTE PURCHASE

Now that you know how to conduct yourself, you should know where to buy your alcohol. Note that normal liquor store such as *Gall & Gall* opens until 21.00 latest. If you missed out on your chance on purchasing drinks of your desire, you still have one last resort at a night shop.

Night shops, much like their name suggests, are open when the sun goes down and may offer much more reasonable prices than clubs and bars. We recommend you stock up here on your liquor and beer so you don't break the bank! And if you are ever so unprepared, the night shops are

closed and you would still like to have a drink at home, there is one last resort : the beer courier. The website is in Dutch, check it out at www.bier-koerier-rotterdam.nl.

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BARS AND CLUBS

YOUR CHOICES IN ONE PLACE

Now that we've covered the alcohol culture, and going out need-to-knows, here are a few good bars, clubs and general areas to explore if you get the chance. Never be afraid to try a place that's not on this list, as fun is never far away in Rotterdam.

LOCUS PUBLICUS

LOCUS-PUBLICUS.COM

This bar boasts a selection of 200 different beers, with a permanent 12 beers on tap. Don't go here to be rowdy, the atmosphere won't encourage it, but go here to have a taste of some of the finest beers in Europe and all

over the world. If you and your friends are feeling adventurous, you can even arrange a tasting to broaden your knowledge of beer. This is the place for the "Let's grab a good beer somewhere" kind of evenings.

DE WITTE AAP

DEWITTEAAP.NL

De Witte Aap is smallish but packed full of ambiance. Lonely Planet, the world's leading range of travel guides, has dubbed it

"Best Pub of 2009". If that doesn't say enough, I don't know what does, and it's really all I have to say about it. Go try it out.

CAFÉ BED

BEDROTTERDAM.NL

Café BED is a staple in the Erasmus international community. It is home to our friends at ESN every Tuesday; if you want to meet other internationals, this is the place to go. Not only does the name allow you to ask someone "Do you want to go to BED with me?" with a straight face, going

there on a Tuesday generally guarantees a fun night. The music at this location is a mix of the more danceable top 40 hits, slightly commercially-oriented house music and hip-hop. Go with friends, have a few drinks and you're almost sure to have a good time.





TOFFLER

TOFFLER.NL

Rotterdam is dubbed the techno-capital of Holland, and hosts a set of good underground-style clubs. *Toffler* is an old passenger tunnel turned techno paradise. The ceiling itself is an absolute trip, covered in diamond-patterned neon lights that change color with the music. Toffler is only

open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. However, keep an eye out for the very popular monthly Toffler Thursdays, where a world-renowned techno DJ always takes the stage. Previous Toffler Thursday editions saw great names, such as Joris Delacroix, Arjuna Schiks, and Edu Imbernon

PERRON

PERRON.NL

Perron has all the charm of an underground club. Crummy looking from both the outside and the inside, this place is all about the music and the underground grunge experience. People don't

take themselves too seriously here, so venture here if you need a refreshing break from the self-conscious atmosphere that often encapsulates nightlife.

BIRD

BIRD-ROTTERDAM.NL

Bird, located close to central station, is a trendy alternative to the large night clubs in Rotterdam. Many different artists perform soul, latin, funk, hip-hop, and electronica in the evening.

During the day other art-related events take place, such as poetry readings and film viewings. It is a very culturally diverse location, which makes it a great place for internationals!





CLUB CINEMA

CINEMAROTTERDAM.NL

Three bars, bumpin' music and trendy people is the *Club Cinema* way. Step into the club and enter the heart of nightlife in Rotterdam!

HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE

With its large amount of nationalities, Rotterdam is one of the most - if not the most - culturally diverse cities in the Netherlands. Here, we will explore its diversity recommend different cultural visits and explicate some aspects of Rotterdam's nightlife.





DOCTORS

HEALTH ISSUES

We are happy to report that health care in the Netherlands is of high quality. We advise you to register with a general practitioner (huisarts) in your neighborhood. In the last chapter, you can find link to access a list of all general practitioners in Rotterdam divided in terms of neighborhoods.

Keep in mind that you will need to register with the general practitioner before you are able to make an appointment. We advise you to do this as soon as possible so you can make an appointment immediately when necessary. To register, call the doctor closest to you and make

sure they speak English, then ask for a registration form. You will then have to take this form to the office along with an ID and insurance card.

DENTISTS

DENTAL CARE

Dentists (tandarts) can be found through your insurance company, or by using the *Netherlands Yellow Pages*. When you first take out your policy make sure that it covers dental treatment, and if not, you will be able to add an extra dental component.

Without this, your normal medical insurance will not cover dental treatment! If you are not insured for dental treatment, you can opt to pay for treatment yourself. You can search for a list of registered dentists at www.zorgkaartnederland.nl (in Dutch).

USEFUL INFORMATION

YOUR COLLECTION OF RANDOM INFORMATION AND TIPS

Here we provide you with short pieces of information that we believe are useful for you to

know. Think of various discount cards and how to learn the local language.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- 1 ISR**
www.isrotterdam.com
ISR - initialism for International student Rotterdam, It offers information about student life, events, and activities.
- 2 NUFFIC**
www.nuffic.nl
An organisation that supports international higher education, research and professional education.
- 3 9292**
www.9292.nl
9292 offers up-to-date travel information and detailed turn-to-turn travel directions.
- 4 THE MUNICIPALITY**
www.rotterdam.nl
The website of the municipality. Many administrative matters can be handled on this website.
- 5 MARKTPLAATS**
www.marktplaats.nl
Marktplaats is a consumer to consumer based e-commerce platform similar to ebay.
- 6 WE OWN ROTTERDAM**
www.weownrotterdam.nl
We Own Rotterdam is a full scale events calendar. You can find all kind of festivals, parties, and etc.
- 7 ROTTERDAM FESTIVALS**
www.rotterdamfestivals.nl
Rotterdam festivals is an event calendars for festivals and parties.
- 8 STUDIELINK**
www.studielink.nl
Studielink is an online platform for your study. For every course chosen, you will need to register here.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- 1 112**
Emergencies
- 2 010 433 3300**
Ambulance
- 3 010 446 8200**
Fire department
- 4 010 466 9573**
Doctors
- 5 0900 8844**
Police(non-emergencies)
- 6 010 436 2244**
SOS Distress
- 6 0800 9009**
Power outage
- 7 14010**
City information
- 9 010 455 2155**
Urgent dental care

LEARNING DUTCH

KNOWING THE LANGUAGE

We highly advise you to learn at least the basics of the local language. It is not essential since most people speak English, but it does facilitate the integration process. If you are thinking of finding a job in the Netherlands after having completed your degree, considerably many more doors will open if you speak Dutch. By Googling “*learning Dutch Rotterdam*” or “*Dutch course Rotterdam*” you will find

a number of institutions that will provide courses, but keep in mind the cheapest ones you will find are around €500.

Erasmus University students can participate in language courses offered through the institution at a reduced price. If you are an exchange student, you might be eligible for an Erasmus Intensive Language Course. If you are eligible you can take

free Dutch courses due to the fact that the EU funds them. This is a matter you should inquire about at your international office. Also, you should know that with the advancement of technology, now you could just tap away on your smart phone and find a right application for your learning needs. If smart phone is not your thing, the following websites offer various tools you can use in order to learn Dutch independently.

1 LINGUISTADORES linguistadores.com

Go to the website and create a free account. Not only can you learn the language, but also get to know the culture.

2 2BDUTCH 2bdutch.nl

It is very similar to Linguistadores, but it shares mostly videos. The videos are all authentic Dutch video footage with subtitles.

COMMON DUTCH WORDS & PHRASES

WORD & TRANSLATION

PRONUNCIATION

HALLO
“Hello”

Hah-low

HOI
“Hi/Hey”

Hoy

GOEDEMORGEN
“Good morning”

Khoo-de-more-khuhn

GOEDEMIDDAG
“Good afternoon”

Khoo-de-mih-dakh

GOEDENAVOND
“Good evening”

Khoo-de-nah-vont

HOE GAAT HET*"How are you"**Hoo-khaat-hett***IK HEET.../IK BEN...***"My name is.../I am..."**Ick-hayt.../Ick ben...***IK BEN...JAAR OUD***"I am... years old"**Ick ben... yahr aut***BEDANKT***"Thank you"**Buh-dahnkt***ALSJEBLIEFT***"Please"**Ahls-ye-bleeft***TOT ZIENS***"See you"**Tott seens***PRETTIGE DAG/WEEK***"Have a nice day/week"**Prett-ih-khuh dakh/veyk***FIJN WEEKEND***"Have a nice weekend"**Fine veekent***EET SMAKELIJK***"Enjoy your meal"**Ate smah-kuh-lick***HET SPIJT ME***"I'm sorry"**Hett speyt muh***DAG***"Bye"**Dakh***PROOST***"Cheers"**Proast***GEZONDHEID***"Bless you"**Kheh-zohnt-height***GRAAG GEDAAN***"You're welcome"**Khrakh khedawn***PARDON***"Sorry/excuse me"**Pahr duhn***IK BEN VERDWAALD***"I'm lost"**Ick ben vuhr-dwahlt***KAN IK JE HELPEN***"Can I help you"**Kahn ick yuh help-ehn***KUN JE ME HELPEN***"Can you help me"**Kuhn yuh muh help-ehn***RECHTDOOR GAAN***"Go straight"**Rekht-dore khahn***DAN NAAR LINKS/RECHTS***"Then turn to the left/right"**Dahn nahr links/rekhts*

| | |
|---|--|
| HOEVEEL KOST DIT "How much does this cost" | <i>Who-fayl cost dit</i> |
| MAG IK EVEN WAT VRAGEN "May I ask something" | <i>Mahkh ick ay-vuhn vaht frah-khehn</i> |
| IK WEET HET NIET "I don't know" | <i>Ick vayt hett neet</i> |
| GEFELICITEERD "Happy birthday/Congratulation" | <i>Khuh-feh-lee-cee-thert</i> |
| GELUKKIG NIEUW JAAR "Happy new year" | <i>Khuh-luhk-kihkh new yahr</i> |
| VEEL GELUK "Good luck" | <i>Fayl khuh-luhk</i> |
| GOEDE REIS "Have a safe trip" | <i>Khoo-duh rays</i> |
| PRETTIGE VAKANTIE "Have a nice holiday" | <i>Pret-tih-khuh vah-kahn-cee</i> |
| EEN GOEDE DAG VERDER "Have a nice day" | <i>An khoo-duh dakh fehr-dehr</i> |
| WANNEER "When" | <i>Vahn-eyr</i> |
| WAAR "Where" | <i>Vahr</i> |
| WIE "Who" | <i>Vee</i> |
| HOE "How" | <i>Who</i> |
| WAT "What" | <i>Vaht</i> |
| WAAROM "Why" | <i>Vahr-om</i> |
| HOEVEEL "How much" | <i>Who-feyl</i> |
| HOE LAAT "What time" | <i>Who laht</i> |
| WELKE "Which" | <i>Feyl-ke</i> |

COMMODITY MARKET ROTTERDAM

GOO.GL/CHCHF3

If you need to buy something or sell something - as long as it's legal - head to Commodity Market Rotterdam and find your match! It's as easy as liking the Facebook group and posting or searching for an advertisement that suits your needs. And trust us - there is always someone who wants

what you are selling. We also bet it is the most painless way for you to get furniture, knickknacks and random items for generally low, negotiable prices. And of course, you can find bikes here! The community is around fifteen-thousands at present and we urge you to join the ranks.

BICYCLES

GETTING A BIKE

Bicycles – These two-wheeled contraptions, or “fietsen” as they're called in Dutch, are as much part of this country's culture as cheese, windmills and tulips are (if you're into stereotypes, that is). In fact, Holland counts over 18 million bikes for a mere 17 million Nederlanders, which is a pretty good indication of how silly for bikes the Dutch are. As an international student, one of your first steps should be laying claim to your first bike. Bikes are

a great way of getting around and can save you a bunch of money on public transportation. If you are worried about safety, don't fret: marked bike lanes are very common, and Dutch drivers are perfectly used to having bikes on the road.

When buying a bike, going second hand is the smartest choice. Second hand bikes usually still ride like a charm, and their fair price makes them easily

replaceable should something happen to your bike. All you need is that the lights work on the front and back, as it's legally required to have bike lights on in the dark. Getting a solid second lock for your bike is also a smart move, as carelessly parked bikes are easily stolen. In Rotterdam, there are a few places where you can score (refurbished) second hand bikes for a range of budgets. On your right is a list of locations.

1 PIEKFIJN

Piekfijn is a good second hand thrift shop that sells everything from furniture to clothes and bikes, and they have addresses throughout the city.

MARINIERSWEG 255 (CITY CENTER)

Phone No. 010-2677772

ALUMINIUMSTRAAT 6 (PRINS ALEXANDERPOLDER)

Phone No. 010-2677773

WOLPHAERTSBOCHT 246 (CHARLOIS)

Phone No. 010-2677771

OPENING HOURS

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Monday</i> | <i>13:00 – 17:00</i> |
| <i>Tuesday – Friday</i> | <i>09:00 – 17:15</i> |
| <i>Saturday</i> | <i>10:00 – 16:00</i> |

2 PLUSPUNT

Up in the north of the city (near Blijdorp Zoo), there is another second hand store.

NOORDHAVENKADE 142

Phone No. 010-4676614

OPENING HOURS

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Monday – Thursday</i> | <i>10:00 – 16:00</i> |
| <i>Friday</i> | <i>11:00 – 15:00</i> |

3 MEGABIKE

In Kralingen, it's worth going to Megabike, which is a stone's throw away from metro stop Oostplein.

BURGEMEESTER VAN WALSUMWEG 2

Phone No. 010-4137435

OPENING HOURS

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Monday</i> | <i>12:00 – 18:00</i> |
| <i>Tuesday – Thursday</i> | <i>9:30 – 18:00</i> |
| <i>Friday</i> | <i>9:30 – 21:00</i> |
| <i>Saturday</i> | <i>9:30 – 17:30</i> |
| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>12:00 – 17:00</i> |

ROTTERDAMPAS

ROTTERDAMPAS.NL

The Rotterdampas is an amazing discount card that not enough students have. Normally it costs €60, but it is a mere €12.50 for students. You can enjoy over 500 discounted activities per year, including several free ones. A few of the free activities are: laser gaming, a visit to the

Euromast, a Spido boat tour, a yoga class, and free entry to several museums. This pass is definitely worth the investment. You Check www.rotterdampas.nl (only in Dutch) for other activities and for instructions on how to apply for a pass.

ROTTERDAM WELCOME CARD

ROTTERDAM.INFO

The Rotterdam Welcome Card offers over 25% discounts at 50 great attractions and locations in Rotterdam; it even includes some travel discounts. This card is meant for people who just arrived and want to see as much

of Rotterdam as possible in 1 to 3 days. It costs €10 for the first day, €13.50 for two days and €17.50 for 3 days. Google "Rotterdam Welcome Card" and you will find the necessary information in English.

ISR'S MEMBER CARD

ISROTTERDAM.COM/MEMBERSHIP

By joining ISR you will have access to more than 50 events (many free ones), a large amount of discounts and meet students from all around

the world; at ISR we represent more than 30 different cultures! Check the website for more information: www.isrotterdam.com/membership.



STUDY SPOTS

RELAXING SPOTS FOR YOUR MIND

Most students who need peace and quiet to study usually study at home or at the library of their educational institution.

However, there are three other great locations available to use as study space.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

BIBLIOTHEEK.ROTTERDAM.NL

The Central Library is located at Blaak. The library is so massive that it has nearly a million of books and dvd's to offer. On the 6th floor there is an open and quiet area where you could concentrate on your book. You

can rent a meeting/private study room there for free if you have a library card. The library opens everyday except for Sunday. However, the opening hours differs from day to day. On the other hand, you could also apply

for membership or library card for exclusive offers. Be informed that in order to take out book, you'll need a library card. For more information about opening time and membership, please visit [www. bibliotheek.rotterdam.nl](http://www.bibliotheek.rotterdam.nl).

CAFFÈ BELMONDO

CAFFEBELMONDO.NL

Caffè Belmondo is a very popular study location. They serve delicious Italian coffee, prepared by their experienced baristas. It has quiet areas with free Wi-Fi and is one of the few places you

can study while enjoying a nice coffee, muffin or cookie. It has several other chains in other cities. You can find out more about the opening hours and locations on their official website.

COFFEE COMPANY

COFFEECOMPANY.NL

The coffee company is a bigger chain café that serves hot beverages and desserts. If you are looking for a place with cozy lighting and soft background music, this is a place for you.

In general, you'll see other people sitting by their table, sipping on their hot coffee while reading news paper; or a more realistic term, laptops. Visit their website for more information.





CLOSING WORDS

ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY

The team here at ISR would like to thank you for taking the time to explore this guide. Our aim was to provide a roadmap within these pages, both illustrating and demystifying Rotterdam culture and happenings for non-locals. As internationals ourselves, we are well aware of the difficulty and excitement that characterizes studying abroad and invite you to join or contact us should you have any unanswered questions or juicy suggestions.

Another big thank you goes out to the various contributors to our student guide, to our monetary sponsors who made printing possible, to the ISR members who have contributed significantly over

the years, with articles and edits and ideas. Most of all, I would like to thank Bek Tat Lun and Razvan Isac, whose graphic design work transformed the guide into a very pretty picture. A special thank you goes out this city's municipality; their unending support was a crucial factor to the success of this guide.

All in all, ISR wishes you happy reading and sends you a warm welcome to our beautiful city of Rotterdam!

Emma Koeze

Content Manager