



# Chapter 1

## Before you leave home



Okay, so you have decided to go and study in the Netherlands (or Holland if you like). Congratulations, you have made an excellent choice. This country has many outstanding institutions for higher education. Now that you have decided on what and where to study and have been accepted, there are some practical things you will need to take care of.



Final preparations before leaving home include getting your papers (like passport and visa) and insurances organised, taking care of financial matters, housing and so on. Mind you, it can be difficult to find proper housing at reasonable prices, especially in cities like Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam and The Hague. There are many options for arranging the accommodation that suits you best, but considering the housing shortage make sure you start looking for a room as soon as possible. You may ask your host institution to help you or you may have a look on the internet. Websites like [www.easykamer.nl](http://www.easykamer.nl) and [www.kamernet.nl](http://www.kamernet.nl) are two Dutch room-finding services with an English language section. The rooms offered on these sites are particularly well-suited to students.



# Check

Below is a short checklist that might come in handy while you are busy packing for your stay and study in Holland:

- .....
- Passport (make sure it is valid) or in some cases your birth certificate.
- .....
- Your entry visa (check for correct dates).  
Check Chapter 2 for information about residence permits.
- .....
- Diplomas or certificates you already possess (you might consider leaving the originals at home and making good-quality copies to take along).
- .....
- Official letter from your host institution (stating that you have been accepted).
- .....
- Insurance papers (health, liability, etc.).
- .....
- Driver's license (make sure it is valid for the duration of your stay abroad and find out whether you may use it in the Netherlands: [www.rijbewijs.nl](http://www.rijbewijs.nl)).



# Chapter 2

## Arrival and first days in Holland



## Welcome to Holland

You have arrived. Welcome to the Netherlands, the country where you will be spending a period of time studying, meeting new people and having fun. Hopefully your stay here will be pleasant, useful and successful. Make it the start of a great new phase in your life whether you are just starting your studies for the first time in the Netherlands or continuing a previous study programme. At first you will have to make a lot of choices to get organised. Enjoy your stay.

*Make it the start of a successful new phase in your life.*



## Passing customs

Whoever enters Holland from outside the European Union (EU) must have a valid passport and in some cases you will need a visa as well. If you are a passenger arriving at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (the fifth largest airport in Europe) or any other Dutch or closeby European airport this will be checked on your departure to Holland and again on arrival.



Follow the Arrivals and Exit signs to Passport Control. After passing through the control desk, you will arrive at the luggage carrousel located on the ground floor.

Once you have reclaimed your belongings, you can go to the Customs Security Control. If you have nothing to declare, you may simply pass through.



## Imports

As a student it is not very probable that you will be carrying large amounts of money, but nevertheless you should be aware of the fact that all passengers entering or leaving the European Union with € 10,000 or more in cash must declare this to the Customs officials. In addition to banknotes, this regulation also applies to other negotiable instruments such as cheques. All merchandise imports must be reported to the Customs office too. Please note that not all medicines or medicinal herbs are allowed.

For more information, visit the customs website:  
[www.douane.nl/english](http://www.douane.nl/english)

