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Relocating to Amsterdam

The Netherlands is an attractive country to relocate to. It's ranked 11th on the global quality of life index, with a very good health service, high employment rates, good public safety and high life satisfaction levels.



The important things you have to arrange, when moving to Amsterdam

Birth certificate

Get your birth certificate translated and legalized. You will need it for getting your BSN (social security number).

Get a BSN (social security number)

You will need it for your bank account, your taxes, your insurance etc. To get a BSN, you need to set up an appointment with City Hall. You can set up an appointment by phone. For more information, please go to:

<https://www.iamsterdam.com/en/living/about-living-in-amsterdam/amsterdam-city-districts/stadsdeel-centrum>

Note that it can take up to 4-5 weeks before they have a next available appointment, so best is to sign up ahead of time, right after you got your visa. Check the list of documents you will need for the appointment.

If you already have a rental contract for your apartment, then you can register there. If not, check if they can register you at your employer's address?

Get a BSN (social security number)

The main banks in the Netherlands are: ABN AMRO, BUNQ (online bank), ING Bank, Rabobank and SNS Bank.

Tip: ABN AMRO bank is known for their services for expats. At ABN AMRO you can open an account before you have a BSN. After opening your account, you have 4 weeks to pass on your BSN. To open an account, you need to set up an appointment.

For more information, please go to: <https://www.abnamro.nl/en/personal/expats/international-client-desk.html>

Sign up for a tuberculosis (TB) test if required

You have to take a tuberculosis test, unless you are from a country listed here: <https://ind.nl/en/Forms/7644.pdf>

This process can take 3-4 weeks. The requirement is to take the test within 3 months from being issued a residence permit, so it's recommended to sign up as soon as you arrive in the Netherlands.

To sign up: submit the TB test referral form (<https://ind.nl/en/Forms/7604.pdf>) to tbc@ggd.amsterdam.nl.

More info here: <http://www.ggd.amsterdam.nl/english/tuberculosis/immigrants-and/>

Collect your Residence Permit from IND

The HR department will receive a letter, notifying them that your Residence Permit is ready for pickup. After this notification you can pick up your Permit at the IND office.

Get a health insurance

Everyone living in the Netherlands is obliged to have a medical insurance. For questions about this obligation, please call the public information service Postbus 51 on 0800 - 80 51 or +31 10 428 95 51 when calling from abroad.

The first point of contact in getting healthcare in the Netherlands is to register with a general practitioner (GP). To find your local GP, check out <https://www.zorgkaartnederland.nl> (in Dutch) and enter your postal code; or visit your local city hall.

Other useful information

Income taxes / tax return:

You may need to file a tax return form for the previous working year. This must be submitted before the end of April. Normally the tax authority (Belastingdienst) sends this request to you. But to be on the safe side, it is recommended to call them and ask them about your specific case. They will advise you whether to file your tax return or not.

Water tax and garbage tax:

Every registered person living in the Netherlands receives a garbage tax from the city hall and water tax for Waternet. This is an annual bill.



Driver's license:

You are allowed to drive with your license for the first six months after arrival. Within that period, you need to exchange it for a Dutch driver's license. For more information, please go to: <https://www.iamexpat.nl/expat-info/official-issues/driving-licence-netherlands>

DigiD:

DigiD is a digital ID number. You can get it after you get your BSN. It's useful for logging in into all government websites concerning taxes, health insurance etc. You never know when you are going to need DigiD, so it's useful to make an account in advance. For more information, please go to: <https://www.digid.nl/en/>