

We do not assist students with applying for rental allowance, but we have an info sheet to guide you. For now, it is good to know that you need to:

1. Book a room that is qualified for rental allowance
2. Arrive in NL
3. Register yourself at the municipality with your contract (possible during the arrival days)
4. Wait for the confirmation letter with your BSN (it is like a social security number)
5. Apply for your DigID (it is a login for all governmental stuff)
6. Once you have a DigID, you can apply for rental allowance, please send an e-mail for the instruction sheet.

What is housing allowance / Rent allowance?

Housing allowance / rent allowance is a compensation given by the Dutch government to people who have a lower income and a relatively high cost of rent.

The guidelines below can help you to decide whether you can apply for allowance or not. The regulations are a bit complex; [whether you are eligible for rent allowance](#) depends on a number of factors, including the type of room, the rental price, your current taxable income, your household composition and if applicable, your capital.

Is my room/rent eligible for allowance?

In general: all housing units with 100% private facilities. (Private room, private kitchen and private bathroom) are eligible for housing allowance. Selected housing units with shared facilities might be eligible. The allowance is only given for a certain part of your monthly rent. This amount is called the REKENHUUR. The REKENHUUR is the sum of 4 rent components:

1. Basic rent ('kale huur')
2. Energy cost common areas (maximum is € 12,00)
3. Cleaning cost common areas (maximum € 12,00)
4. Caretaker cost (maximum € 12,00)

When are you qualified from a financial point of view?

Your yearly income should not exceed € 22.000,00, for a single person household or € 29.900,00 for multi person household. Financial support through parents, scholarships or study grants is NOT seen as part of your income! Your personal total assets should not exceed € 21.139,00.

If you are younger than 23 years of age the, so called 'Rekenuur' may not extend € 389, 05 in order to apply for housing allowance. The housing corporation can explain how much the 'Rekenuur' is.

Other requirements and misuse

You will have to provide the government with the right information so they will cash out the right amount. There will always be a calculation after each financial year so you need to inform the 'Belastingdienst' as soon as your situation changes. Such may include changes to household make-up, income or address.

The Dutch tax refund year is calculated January until 31 December.

VU Amsterdam strongly advises you to find out if you are eligible before you apply for allowance. If you receive the allowance without being eligible you will have to pay back the received amount and you will have to pay a fine and interest in addition to this.

When do I apply for housing allowance?

It is not possible to apply for housing allowance from abroad. You must apply after arrival. First you need to sign your housing contract and have registered with the municipality.

How to apply for housing allowance?

1. First of all, you have to contact the housing corporation to find out the 'Rekenuur' of your accommodation.
2. In order to apply for housing allowance online, you need a so called DigiD. (Your personal log-in code for all matters involving the government) If you do not already have a DigiD, you can request one here: www.digid.nl
3. After you have received your DigiD, you can do the actual online application for housing allowance. You can apply for housing allowance via this www.toeslagen.nl. You can also request a paper application form by calling the 'Belastingdienst' directly at 0800 0543. The tax office is not allowed to speak English on the phone so make sure that you have a native Dutch speaker close by for this step.

When does the rent allowance become effective?

The allowance year runs from 1 January to 1 January and it is possible to apply for the subsidy at any time of the year. It is even possible to apply for backdated rent allowance up until March of the New Year. Should you begin renting a residence during the year and become eligible for rent allowance, the rent allowance will become effective on the first day of the following month. For example, if the rental agreement becomes effective on 17 March, the rent allowance will start in April.

Subletting your accommodation and Housing Allowance

In certain circumstances, it is possible to sublet your room, for example if you are going on an internship for 3 months. Subletting your room can have consequences for rent allowance. If the main tenant sublets a section of the residence, the amount of rent used by the Dutch Tax Office to calculate rent allowance will be reduced by 25%. This means that less rent allowance will be awarded, or that it will be cancelled altogether. You are personally responsible for informing the Dutch Tax Office of any applicable changes to your living situation. A condition of subletting is that a written subletting contract needs to have been drafted. It is not permitted for the sublettee to be a spouse, registered partner or immediate family of the main tenant, as these people are always considered to be co-occupants.

Information about specific buildings from VU Amsterdam:

Accommodations via VU Amsterdam which are eligible for housing allowance if you are 18 of age or older:

- Cornelis Lelylaan
- Krelis Louwensstraat
- Eerste Ringdijkstraat
- Pierre Lallementstraat (approximately €580)
- Uilenstede 102-private

Accommodations via VU Amsterdam which are only eligible for housing allowance if you are 23 years or older have in general a rent above €590,-:

- Ravel Residence/ Amstel Home
- Laan van Spartaan
- Campus Diemen Zuid

More information:

For more information we recommend: About tax allowances on website Amsterdam Belastingdienst (Dutch) www.toeslagen.nl and the [English information page of the Dutch tax authorities](#). You can find more information on [rent allowance on the website of DUWO](#).

Example:

A room at Krelis Louwenstraat with a rent of € 565,89 per month, could get a monthly rental allowance of €175. So your costs for rent will be € 565,89 - €175 = € 390,89 per month

At room at Cornelis Lelylaan with a rent of €568,27 per month, could get a monthly rental allowance of €177. So your costs for rent will be €568,27 - € 177 = € 391,27 per month