Housing benefit application 2025/2026

Even though the VU Accommodation team is not able to provide personal assistance regarding housing benefit applications, we do aim to provide sufficient information for you to successfully complete your application. As such, this document is meant to outline some resources that will help you get started. Please make sure to read all information carefully and to complete each step fully before moving on to the next step in the application. For any remaining questions, feel free to reach out to [studentaccommodation@vu.nl](mailto:studentaccommodation@vu.nl)

This document is structured as follows:

1. General information and housing benefit eligibility
2. Pre-requisites in starting your application
3. Registration at the municipality + social security number (BSN)
4. DigiD application
5. Start housing benefit application
6. General information and eligibility criteria

Housing benefit is a subsidy/compensation provided by the Dutch government to those with a relatively low income and high cost of rent. Eligibility of the benefit depends, among others, on the type of room, the rental price of the room, your current taxable income, your household make-up and your personal savings and/or assets. All eligibility criteria can be found on [this page](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/benefits/moving_to_the_netherlands/i_live_in_a_rented_house/i_live_in_a_rented_house?projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc) by the Dutch taxation authorities, however, a short summary of these criteria is also provided below.

# Room criteria

In principle, all housing units with private facilities such as a private kitchen and private bathroom in the social housing sector should be eligible for housing benefit, granted that the so called ‘Rekenhuur’ is below the maximum of **€477,20 for students under 23** and **€900,07 for those over 23.** This number is made up of your basic rent ‘kale huur’ and certain – not all - service costs as illustrated below:

* 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)

In most cases, your service costs will exceed the maximum amount of 3 x €12,00 as part of your service costs will go towards utilities or related costs. This is no problem as your contract should specify the exact breakdown of your service costs. Please make sure to only copy the costs illustrated above as you move through your application. If you are unsure, please contact your housing provider as an error in service costs might lead to a rejection of your application even if you are in fact eligible.

Additionally, contrary to previous years, new legislation (March 2024) requires all rooms eligible for housing benefit to include a private bathroom. As a result, some rooms that might have been eligible for the benefit in previous years will have lost that eligibility by now. Please double check with your landlord or housing provider if you have any doubts about the eligibility of the room.

**Personal criteria**

Housing benefit is provided depending on the income of the applicant; those with lower income are likely to receive a bigger amount of the benefit than those with higher incomes. Please note that financial support provided by parents, scholarships or study grants is NOT seen as part of your income and can therefore be disregarded in your housing benefit application. It is important to know that your **total assets should be below €37.395** to qualify for the benefit. Registered partners (as recognized by the government) will cause this amount to be raised to a total maximum of €74.790 between the couple.

# Other requirements and misuse

Please note that housing benefit is paid by the government in advance and will be recalculated at the end of the financial year (December). If your financial situation changes throughout the year, please make sure to inform the tax authorities through [Mijn Toeslagen](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/toeslagen/content/inloggen-op-mijn-toeslagen) (see more information below) as soon as possible, to avoid having to pay back some of the housing benefit you have received. If the information you provided during your application remains accurate, this should not be an issue.

That said, VU Amsterdam strongly advises you to find out if you are eligible before applying for the benefit. If you receive the benefit without being eligible you will have to pay back the received amount and you might be asked to pay an additional fine.

# Information about specific buildings from VU Amsterdam:

Accommodation at VU Amsterdam that are eligible for housing allowance for students aged >18:

* Uilenstede 102 (only the private studios)
* Uilenstede 174 until 222
* Krelis Louwensstraat single room
* Pierre Lallementstraat single room
* Cornelis Lelylaan single room
* De Key – BOLD rooms

Accommodation at VU Amsterdam that are eligible for housing allowance for students aged >23:

* Student Experience
* StuNest
* Plaza Resident Services: WASA & De Flier
* Uilenstede several rooms in 70, 80, 300, and 510
* Eerste Ringdijkstraat single room & couple room
* Pierre Lallementstraat couple room
* Cornelis Lelylaan couple room

1. Pre-requisites in starting your application

Before you can start your application, you need to (1) have found a room that is eligible for the benefit and (2) have signed a rental contract. The basic rent costs (‘kale huur’) show be below the number **€477,20 for students under 23** and **€900,07 for those over 23.**

Additionally, it is important that you have arrived in the Netherlands before starting your application. If you have, please continue to the next step.

1. Registration at the municipality + social security number (BSN)

Anyone planning to stay in the Netherlands for longer than four months is required to register themselves at the municipality. This way, the government is aware of your residence here and they will be able to provide you with a social security number that will allow you access to a range of Dutch services.

During the arrival days, you will be given an opportunity to register with the municipality if you live in Amsterdam or Amstelveen. If you are unable to be present during that time, please make an appointment at your municipality yourself. In both cases, it is important to bring your signed rental contract and a form of ID.

1. DigiD application

In order to apply for housing benefit – and many other services - online, you will be needing a so called DigiD. This digital ID is a personal log-in tied to your social security number, allowing you to access the digital platforms of a range of Dutch services. Please make sure to apply for DigiD before moving to the next step: [www.digid.nl](http://www.digid.nl/) DigiD application can take a while as the activation code will have to be sent by post, please allow a few days for this procedure.

1. Starting housing benefit application

Once you have been registered at the municipality and activated your DigiD, you can start your housing benefit application. Please have a copy of your rental contract available throughout the application.

# Where to start?

1. Make sure you are certain about the correct amount of ‘Rekenhuur’, as mentioned earlier, this cost includes the basic rent of your room and the service costs as illustrated above.
2. You can apply for housing allowance via the following website: [www.toeslagen.nl](http://www.toeslagen.nl/).
3. Please follow the instructions on the website and provide all the information requested. If at any point, you feel unsure about your application or the details needed, please ask your housing provider for help.

# More information:

For more information and further resources on the topic of housing benefit, please consider the following websites:

* [www.toeslagen.nl](http://www.toeslagen.nl) (tax allowance, Dutch website)
* Housing benefit [webpage](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/benefits/moving_to_the_netherlands/i_live_in_a_rented_house/i_live_in_a_rented_house?projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc&projectid=c512a2f0-55d3-45fa-89e5-57a0c9b583cc) of the Dutch tax authorities
* Housing subsidy at [DUWO](https://www.duwo.nl/en/i-rent/financial-matters/rent-composition-rent-allowance-and-rent-increase#/)
* For any additional resources or help with your application, please see: [Kan ik hulp krijgen bij het regelen van mijn toeslag?](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/toeslagen/content/kan-ik-hulp-krijgen-bij-het-regelen-van-mijn-toeslag) (Dutch website)

For any remaining questions, please feel free to reach out to us at [studentaccommodation@vu.nl](mailto:studentaccommodation@vu.nl)