

## How to find a room in Amsterdam

Finding a room in Amsterdam can be difficult, even for natives. There is a shortage of housing in general, but especially for students. In the past years, the UvA has succeeded in getting more rooms for international students. Around 1000 rooms at the moment. Still, it is possible that you weren't offered a room by the UvA, or that you declined that room because you want to find a room yourself. Here are some tips to help you.

- The ASVA Student Union offers general information on renting a room in Amsterdam and also functions as a room mediator between students and landlords.  
[www.asva.uva.nl](http://www.asva.uva.nl) (international students)
- The International Student Network Amsterdam (ISN) has a live and work forum where you can place an ad if you are looking for a room or roommate.  
[www.isn-amsterdam.nl](http://www.isn-amsterdam.nl)
- The SRVU is another Student Union, related to the Vrije Universiteit but UvA students can also become members. They offer the same room mediation service as the ASVA Student Union.  
<http://srvu.org/english>
- The Foreign Student Service provides help in finding accommodation for international students.  
[www.foreignstudents.nl](http://www.foreignstudents.nl)
- Kamernet.nl offers a large amount of rooms online. They charge €12,95 per 20 reactions that you send to landlords. They don't charge commission. The site is in Dutch, but for an English explanation go to:  
[www.kamernet.nl/dsp\\_uk.php](http://www.kamernet.nl/dsp_uk.php)  
[www.studentenkamers.nl](http://www.studentenkamers.nl) is a similar website.
- Amsterdams Steunpunt Wonen (ASW) has a lot of interesting general information on housing in Amsterdam.  
[www.huurders.info](http://www.huurders.info) (click on 'English')
- Het Bureau voor Tijdelijke Bewoning (Office of temporary housing) offers temporary housing in buildings that are empty or will be sold. Usually very cheap but sometimes the period of stay can be insecure. The website is in Dutch.  
[www.kraakwacht.nl](http://www.kraakwacht.nl) (E-mail: [info@kraakwacht.nl](mailto:info@kraakwacht.nl),

phone: +31 (0) 20 6814600)

- Tijdelijk wonen has links to commercial housing agencies.  
[www.tijdelijkwonen.nl](http://www.tijdelijkwonen.nl)
- If you speak Dutch this website is very useful and has links to almost every web page about housing in the Netherlands.  
[www.kamers.pagina.nl](http://www.kamers.pagina.nl)
- Housing Corporation Duwo offers furnished rooms for international students. The website offers general information as well.  
[www.duwo.nl/foreign](http://www.duwo.nl/foreign)
- Three Housing Corporations, De Key, Duwo and Ymere have one central information desk for student rooms. This option is only interesting if you will stay in Amsterdam longer than six months. The website is in Dutch, but you can also e-mail them.  
[www.studentenwoningweb.nl](http://www.studentenwoningweb.nl) (E-mail: [info@studentenwoningweb.nl](mailto:info@studentenwoningweb.nl))

### **Commercial room agencies**

In Amsterdam there are two room agencies run on a non-commercial basis: ASW, ASVA, and SRVU. All the other room agencies in the city are run on a commercial basis, which means that they profit financially of the great housing shortage. All commercial agencies offering houses or rooms must be registered with the Amsterdam authorities. They are allowed to ask only a reasonable registration fee. They have to offer you a house or room within four months, if not, you can get your money back. If they find you a room, you have to pay for their services. This amount also has to be reasonable. We advise you to be very careful when you apply to such a room agency. Often it will only cost you a lot of money. When you have questions, you can come during the ASW office hours for information and advise.