

Study in the Netherlands.

A notably international classroom and many English-taught degrees, with two distinct university models. Accommodation is a decisive feasibility test: finding a course place does not find a room.

Study language	Dutch or English by programme
Main route	Studielink for many courses, plus institutional steps
Institution types	Research universities and universities of applied sciences
Budget pressure	Limited and competitive student housing
Good first question	Is there a suitable course and verified accommodation plan?

For students coming from Spain or Italy, this guide brings the degree, admissions, economy, budget and everyday life into one decision. The examples are a starting point; always verify the exact programme and entry year.

THREE QUESTIONS TO SETTLE FIRST

Before the shortlist becomes a decision

1. Programme fit and selection

Read the curriculum and teaching style, then check the institution's qualification, language and selection criteria for the exact programme.

2. Housing before commitment

Research accommodation alongside the shortlist. Ask when university support opens, what it actually guarantees and what the family will do if a room is unavailable.

3. A workable weekly life

Compare the campus location, travel from a plausible home and ordinary costs. An English-taught course is only one part of settling into the city.

What can the student actually study?

Research universities generally emphasise academic and theoretical study; universities of applied sciences often have more practice-oriented learning and placements. Compare the programme's teaching and progression routes. A similar English title can lead to a different qualification and learning experience.

Explore Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Groningen, Eindhoven, Maastricht and other cities based on subject fit, teaching language and housing supply. Look closely at programme selection, internships, classroom participation and whether a master's route may need additional preparation.

02 / ADMISSIONS AND LANGUAGE

The route from Spain or Italy

For most programmes Studielink is the national registration route, followed by university-specific requirements and document submissions. Some institutions use different procedures for international students. Selection programmes and numerus fixus places can have earlier deadlines and additional tasks.

An institution evaluates the Bachillerato or maturità and any required subjects. Check English evidence, mathematics or science prerequisites, and whether the programme is taught entirely in English. Keep Studielink status and the institution portal on one tracker.

03 / FEES AND THE REAL BUDGET

What a family should price

Tuition

For eligible students at publicly funded institutions, a statutory tuition rate may apply; others pay an institutional rate. Check the current entry-year fee on the exact programme page and whether any special rate applies.

Room example

Study in NL gives an indicative room range of €450–€1,000/month, depending on city and what is included. Availability may be a bigger problem than the published average.

Other costs

Add groceries, municipal and utility charges if excluded, bicycle or transit, health coverage, books, deposit and trips home. Confirm insurance rules for the student's study and work situation.

Planning method: request the exact programme fee, price a real room, and add food, transport, insurance, travel home, deposits and a contingency. Recheck every figure before accepting an offer.

04 / ACCOMMODATION

Make housing part of the choice

Begin with the university's housing office and approved providers, then compare student rooms and private rentals. Ask what is actually reserved for first-year internationals; an application is not a guarantee. Check registration eligibility at the address, written tenancy terms, included utilities and fraud warnings. Set a date when the family would reconsider enrolment if no safe housing is secured.

05 / CITIES AND SETTINGS

Where might the student thrive?

Amsterdam and Utrecht

Strong course choice and connections, with intense housing competition.

Rotterdam and Eindhoven

Different academic and industry environments; compare the exact campus and commute.

Groningen and Maastricht

Student-centred settings with different teaching cultures; housing remains an early task.

06 / ECONOMY AND CAREERS

Put the degree in context

The Netherlands has visible logistics, engineering, agriculture and food technology, finance and creative sectors. Regional clusters differ: a practical placement in Eindhoven is a different proposition from one in Amsterdam. Compare the programme's internship arrangements and the language employers require; English-taught study does not mean every workplace operates in English.

07 / QUALITY OF LIFE

Picture an ordinary Tuesday

Cycling and public transport can make daily travel manageable, but housing and administrative tasks require preparation. Ask about introduction weeks, academic advising, wellbeing and how students find a GP. Victoria is based in the Netherlands and can offer local perspective where relevant; her involvement is confirmed with each family.

A PLAN FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Five decisions to make together

1. Choose three real programmes. Save their module lists, admission pages and the exact degree awarded.
2. Check eligibility. Record qualification and subject rules, language evidence, application channel and every deadline.
3. Build one budget per city. Use the published tuition for this student, a real housing option and a full-year living estimate.
4. Test the daily experience. Ask about accommodation, travel, wellbeing, healthcare and who can help on arrival.
5. Assign the next action. Decide what the student researches, what parents verify and which questions need a university answer.

OFFICIAL STARTING POINTS

Verify for your entry year

[Study in NL: how to apply ↗](#)

[Study in NL: living costs ↗](#)

[Study in NL: finding housing ↗](#)

[Study in NL: tuition fees ↗](#)

Reviewed September 2026. Cost examples are sourced and dated where available. National averages are not offers. Requirements, fees, deadlines, housing and work or visa rules can change; the university and competent authorities are the final source for the student's circumstances.

Talk with us in English, Spanish or Italian: universityabroad.eu/consultation/