

Onboarding - Living and working in the Netherlands - Practical information for internationals

1. Introduction

Starting a new job in the Netherlands can be exciting, especially when you are also moving to a new country! This document provides practical tips on topics such as permits, housing, registration, and everyday services so that you can begin your new adventure with confidence.

2. Permits & Visa

Depending on your nationality, you may need an entry visa, work permit, and residence permit. For the most up-to-date information, please consult the Dutch government website:

[Information for internationals – Living and working in the Netherlands](#).

Note: You might also need to declare your emigration in your home country.

3. Housing and Moving

Renting:

- Register on the housing corporation website: [Woningnet Groningen](#) (note that social housing may have waiting periods of over five years).
- For student and young adult accommodations, check Kamernet and various Facebook groups.
- For private rentals, use [Funda](#).

Purchasing:

- Consider consulting a mortgage advisor or bank for advice on buying a home as an expat.

Relocation:

- You may move your belongings yourself, but hiring a moving company can be very helpful.
- For vehicle rentals during your move, check [Doesburg Autoverhuur](#) and for shorter moves, see [IKEA Trailer Rental](#).

Support:

- For extra help, contact colleaguejourney@belsimpel.nl.

4. Immediately After Arrival

- **Apply for a DigiD:** Get your digital identity via [Apply for DigiD](#) to access government and health insurance websites.
- **Register at your Municipality:** You must register at your municipality within 5 days of moving (for example, [Groningen Change of Address](#)).
- **Health Insurance:** Obtain the mandatory basic health insurance, noting that there is a yearly set deductible (at least €385).

5. Other Practical Matters

- **Taxes:** Once you live and work in the Netherlands, you will receive a letter from the Tax and Customs Administration asking you to file a tax return. Read the instructions carefully and file on time. More details: [Checklist Coming to the Netherlands for Work](#).
- **Voting:** Check your eligibility for Dutch/European elections via [Kiesraad](#).
- **Benefits and Allowances:** Determine if you are eligible for rental, healthcare, or child benefits through the Tax and Customs Administration websites.

6. Healthcare and General Practitioner

- **General Practitioner (GP):** Register with a GP in your area; you can search via [Choose Your GP](#).
- **Additional Insurance:** Compare health insurances through websites like [Independer](#) or [Zorgwijzer](#).

7. Utilities & Transportation

- **Household Utilities (Gas, Water, Electricity, Internet):** Compare energy providers via [Gaslicht](#).
- **Bicycles:** Most colleagues commute by bike. You can buy a bicycle or lease one via [Swapfiets](#).
- **Public Transport:**
 - Apply for a personal OV-chipkaart here: [Personal OV-chipkaart](#).

- For travel planning, visit 9292.nl/en and check [NS Flex](#).
- You can also pay using OVpay; if you miss checking out, use [Uitcheckgemist](#) to correct it.

8. Car and Driving Licence

- **Car Insurance and APK:** If you own or plan to lease a car, ensure you have the mandatory third-party (WA) insurance. For more about converting your driving licence, see [RDW Information](#).

9. Children and Education

- **Childcare and Schooling:**
 - For information on the Dutch school system, visit [Dutch Review – Primary School Guide](#) and [The Dutch School System](#).
 - For preschool options in Groningen, see [SKSG Preschool Groningen](#).
- **Maternity & Parental Leave:** Refer to the internal 'Leave of Absence at Belsimpel' protocol for details.

10. Additional Support

If you need extra help with any of these topics, please contact colleaguejourney@belsimpel.nl.