

What has to happen before you arrive in the Netherlands?

In this document, you will find information about:

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1. Picking up the long-term study visa (MVV) at the embassy or consulate

After collection, please send a clear copy of the visa sticker in your passport to:
visa@maastrichtuniversity.nl

- When the Dutch embassy is in the same country, it may take up to 14 days before the visa sticker is placed on your passport. Please request an official receipt when handing over your passport because you may not get it back immediately.
- When the Dutch embassy is in another country it will cost more money and time because you will have to travel abroad and may require an additional entry visa. Please allow for approximately 21 days of processing time. Please request an official receipt when handing over your passport because you may not get it back immediately.

We recommend contacting the Dutch Embassy yourself for an appointment as soon as possible after receipt of this information, stating your name and V-number. You should not make the appointment more than 2 months before your first registration date. Please note that you, amongst other documents, may have to:

- Fill out additional forms; when asked for the address of the host institute, please write:
Maastricht University Visa Office
Bonnevandenstraat 2
6221 KR Maastricht
visa@maastrichtuniversity.nl
- Submit one or two passport pictures that meet the [photo requirements in the Netherlands \(link\)](#)
- Have your fingerprints taken
- Be Interviewed

Note the following:

As soon as you have collected your residence permit card after arrival in the Netherlands, this replaces the visa in your passport. The visa in your passport then becomes void. The visa is a sticker that is attached to your passport and should be a **TYPE D** visa. Even though the MVV visa says NEDERLAND, it is valid to travel to all Schengen countries unless stated otherwise. Below you can find an example of how the MVV visa sticker looks like. In addition, more information can be found on the website of [the Government of the Netherlands \(Link\)](#).



Do not travel to the Netherlands until your MVV visa has been placed in your passport. You can travel from the “FROM” date mentioned on the Visa (not the issue date). Your residence permit has to be collected before the visa expires.

2. Booking a flight

We urge you not to book any flights until the visa is in your passport and the ‘valid from’ date has passed.

3. Arrange travel from the airport to Maastricht

Please check our [travel information \(Link\)](#) for pick-up facilities and alternative travel instructions from multiple airports to Maastricht or Venlo.

4. Collection of the residence permit and municipal registration

After your biometrics have been processed at the embassy, your residence card can be issued. After your arrival, you will receive additional information on the collection of your residence card and your municipal registration for which you need to bring a legalized birth certificate. For more information on legalization, please consult the [Dutch government’s legalization page \(Link\)](#).

If the biometrics fail to be processed you will receive an invitation to get your biometrics redone in the Netherlands.

5. Subject to a TB test (if applicable)

One of the residence permit requirements is that you will also have to subject yourself to an x-ray of your chest to rule out tuberculosis. The test has to be taken within three months upon arrival. Citizens of [these countries \(link\)](#) and holders of a valid special EU residence permit from [this list \(link\)](#) are exempt from the test. In all other cases, you will have to take the test. More information on the test will follow after you have arrived in the Netherlands. Please note that non-compliance may result in suspension of your residence permit. The test will cost around 55 euros.

6. Opening a Dutch bank account

If you have not opened an online bank account yet, then you wish to consider opening a Dutch bank account. This makes financial transactions much easier during your stay in Europe and the Netherlands. More information can be found on our [website \(link\)](#).

7. Getting your deposit back

As soon as your account has been opened, you can request your refund back by e-mailing the Visa Office via visa@maastrichtuniversity.nl. Please provide the Visa Office with the following information:

- Your IBAN account number
- Your account name in full
- Your student ID number and date of birth

This way the refund will take approximately 5 working days.

International transfers take much more times and are not always reliable. So only if no Dutch bank account is available for the refund, it is possible to have it transferred abroad. In that case, please make sure that a direct transfer is possible (so not indirectly through agents, intermediary banks or institutes).

Please include the following information:

- Name (exactly as on the bank card) and full address of the account holder
- Name and full address of the bank
- The BIC and/or SWIFT code of the bank
- The IBAN code of the account, if any (please refer to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_9362 for more information)
- The account number
- Your full name and date of birth if different from the account holder

This way the refund may take up to 15 working days.