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Factsheet student housing

As a leading international university in a multicultural European capital, the UvA has an academic community with talent from all over the world. An international study and work culture contributes to the high quality of the education and research. For this reason, the UvA aims to accommodate PhD students and first-year students from abroad and offer them a soft landing in the UvA community.

Urgency

Research shows that there was a shortage of approximately 5,000 affordable homes for students in the Amsterdam region in 2021. This figure is based on the Local Student Housing Monitor by Kences (2020). The number of students in higher professional and university education in Amsterdam is expected to rise by 6% to over 120,000 by 2028. This increase will be caused by the growth of academic education and an increase in the number of students from outside the Netherlands.

A substantial expansion of affordable housing for students is needed in the years ahead. All the more so since many temporary units are being withdrawn, and it is expected that less and less affordable housing will be made available on the private market.

The UvA's ambitions

The UvA wishes to increase the number of housing units for students in the coming years. The Knowledge City Coalition, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Inholland University of Applied Sciences, Amsterdam University of the Arts, the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, student representation bodies ASVA and SRVU and the De Key and DUWO housing corporations will all work hard to achieve this goal. New

construction *and* innovative rental concepts in existing buildings or new construction outside Amsterdam are required. An example of new construction outside Amsterdam is the 3,000 student houses that are being built in the municipality of Almere. It is also important to the UvA that the housing remains affordable, that various different housing concepts are offered and that students are properly assisted in finding somewhere to live.

Anticipated enrolments for 2021-2022

In the 2021-2022 academic year, more foreign students are expected to enrol at the UvA than in previous years. This concerns the following groups:

- first-year students (both Bachelor's and Master's) from EU Member States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and from non-EU countries;
- second-year international students who started their degree programme online last year and are now attending on-campus education.

Fewer exchange students are expected this year, as the number of exchange programmes has been reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Housing for one year

Approximately half of international first-year students call on the UvA/AUAS Housing service to find accommodation. The other half find a home independently on the private market. The UvA/AUAS offers new students housing for a maximum of one year, also known as a landing place. After their first year, students must find their own accommodation through the same platforms as students from the Netherlands. Students pay UvA/AUAS Housing a sum to cover costs. They will get this sum back if they cannot be offered accommodation.

Information

International students receive information from UvA/AUAS Housing about finding accommodation on the Amsterdam housing market. Two webinars were organised to explain how the market works. Furthermore, it is explained through various channels that finding a room is very difficult and that, unfortunately, the UvA cannot guarantee accommodation.

Allocation

Every year, 500 residential units are reserved for exchange students. As there are far fewer of these this year, some of these housing units are being allocated to other target groups. Students who were forced to attend lectures online last year during their first year at the UvA because of the coronavirus will be given priority when housing is allocated. This decision was taken because they cannot transfer to a different educational institution if no accommodation is available. In principle, first-year students do have this option, though we are naturally making every effort to ensure that this is not necessary.

Expansion of housing units

Approximately 3,200 housing units will be available for the new international UvA students in the coming academic year. This is not enough to offer everyone a landing spot for one year. The UvA is therefore taking measures to make temporary housing available. Agreements have been made with Student Hotel West and Student Experience Minervahaven regarding around 180 rooms for students. Talks are also underway with more hotels and hostels. In the Oudemanhuispoort building, 60 residential units are being temporarily created. In the autumn of 2022, 500 UvA/AUAS students and PhD students will move into a new building owned by De Key.

Student housing in Amsterdam is difficult to find. The UvA can offer a limited number of rooms.