



# An **020** Booklet on Student Life in Amsterdam



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# Introduction

Moving to a new country and facing a mountain of new challenges and experiences can feel quite overwhelming. This is especially true for students starting their independent life in Amsterdam. Being a dense city, Amsterdam has its own quirks and ways to get around. This is why 020 decided to capture the essentials needed to settle in and ease your daily life in this beautiful place.

Making this booklet, the writing team of 020 tried to think of every aspect that we would have wanted to be aware of when starting our own student life in Amsterdam. And ultimately, what is better than to present all of this information in a single booklet?

The new academic year has only just begun, thus it felt appropriate to release a guide to Amsterdam for all its new students. We invite you to explore the following pages and learn about the essentials of settling in Amsterdam, whether it is how to find housing, the best places to study, or how to open a Dutch bank account. Hopefully, the following text encapsulates all the essentials, though we are conscious that minor gaps might exist. We are always

We are always happy to hear from you if there are any questions, recommendations, or comments, and you are welcomed to contact us through our email address **[contact@020together.nl](mailto:contact@020together.nl)** or by visiting our website **[www.0-2-0.nl](http://www.0-2-0.nl)**.

See you in Amsterdam!

Yours truly,

The 020 Team



# Moving into Amsterdam and finding housing

Moving to Amsterdam and finding housing is perhaps one of the biggest challenges students face when moving. There is limited space and a lot of demand for housing, therefore it is important to be informed fully on the subject. As this is a broad guide regarding student life in Amsterdam, this section will focus on general recommendations, tips, answers, and advice about moving and finding housing. If you would like to know more about the subject in greater detail, 020 has published an in-depth booklet about housing, which you can check out here.

## How do I register at the municipality?

If you are an international student, you are obliged by Dutch law to register within your municipality or town upon your arrival. The deadline for this process used to be 5 days after the arrival date. Due to current COVID-19 measures, you may face a longer waiting period to register this autumn. It is important to understand, however, that registering as soon as possible offers several advantages for you as a student. Upon your registration, you will be given a citizen service number, called the **BSN**, which is mandatory for registering with a **Gene-**

**ral Practitioner**, opening a **bank account**, applying for **insurance**, and many other things. In order to register at the Amsterdam municipality, you need to schedule an appointment through this link, intended specifically for students. Remember to bring the following document to your appointments:

- Your **passport**, plus a photocopy of your passport with your picture and information visible. If you have more than one passport, this must be reported as well.
- A copy of your **rental contract**. If you are staying with friends or family, you need a "Permission to Register At An Address" form signed by the primary owner of the home. You can find one here.
- **Student Card or Proof of enrollment** at the university.

If you are registering at the municipality in Diemen, the same process applies, except you are to call one of the following numbers:

- 020-3144888 [In the Netherlands]
- +31 020 3144888 [Outside of the Netherlands]



## How do I find a place to stay in Amsterdam?

Finding housing in Amsterdam can be tricky due to the limited number of spots available for students. This is especially true for this year, as UvA housing will prioritise students who have started in the year 2020–2021 in their home countries. Especially if you begin the search for a new home late, it is recommended that you opt for finding accommodation independently.

To help students with the independent search for an apartment, the UvA has organised a housing webinar. You may access the webinar with valuable tips and information through this link.

In general, these are some tips we recommend in order to find a place to stay:

- **Start early!** We know this is not applicable to everyone, but if you can, try to start your search as soon as possible.
- Consider the possibility of **staying in towns close to Amsterdam** instead of focusing on the centre in order to find places more easily. These surrounding regions include **Zaandam, Almere,,**

**Hoofddorp, and Haarlem.**

- **Join the International Student Network group** on Facebook to find other students who may be looking for a flatmate or someone to share a flat with. Additionally, there are many other Facebook groups with people looking for a flatmate. These groups include **Amsterdam Room Studio Apartment, Amsterdam rent a room, apartment or studio, and Amsterdam Student Housing**. Finding a room in a shared house can also be more affordable, and it is a feasible option if you are looking alone. If you are an international student, remember to make sure that you are able to register to that address.

- **Be careful with scams**, especially on platforms such as Facebook; if it looks too good to be true it probably is.

- Consider the possibility of using **Anti Squatting Companies**: Squatting has become illegal in the Netherlands since October 1 2020, but anti-squatting or "Antikraak" is permitted. This option allows you, for a temporary amount of time, to live in a building which is currently not occupied by residents. This may not be your normal idea of housing per se, but it includes empty office spaces, schools, nursing homes, etc. This

This may not be your normal idea of housing per se, but it includes empty office spaces, schools, nursing homes, etc. This is a cheap opportunity, and only requires you to pay the agency a small fee or service fee. Below you can find some agencies which provide such a service:

- **Camelot**
  - **Antikraak Direct**
  - **VPS**
  - **HOD**
  - **Interveste**
  - **Alvast**
  - **Ad Hoc**
  - **Zwerfkeibeheer**
- 
- Consider contacting the **ASVA Student Union**. The organisation acts as a bridge between students and landlords in order to facilitate the process of finding housing. Their website can be found here: <https://asva.nl/en/rooms/>

These are a list of websites we recommend in order to start your search for your home:

- **Kamernet**
- **Pararius**
- **Kameramsterdam**
- **Amsterdam Apartments 4 Rent**
- **Hotel Casa [Rooms are from October to**

## How Do I Apply For Insurance?

Insurance in the Netherlands might not work the same as it does in your home country, so it is better to be informed on how the process works. In the Netherlands you are required by law to have suitable insurance for the duration of your stay.

If you are an international student, you can apply for private health insurance or opt for the European Health Insurance [EHI]. EHI cards are issued to citizens of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, or Switzerland. The card will only cover the most basic medical needs such as:

- General Practitioner
- Maternity Care
- Hospital Care

If you are planning on taking on a part-time job or internship, then private insurance is probably the best option for you. In this case you can find a plan which fits your personal needs and is more suited for you. Some insurances, such as the EHI, do not cover dental care, so you should read the policy agreement carefully before taking out an insurance. If you stick with EHI as your primary health insurance, make sure your home insurance covers dental

care, so you should read the policy agreement carefully before taking out an insurance.

If you stick with EHI as your primary health insurance, make sure your home insurance covers dental care, or try looking at alternative insurance options in the Netherlands. For student health insurance, we recommend checking out the **AON Student Insurance**. This is an insurance which is specifically tailored for students of all levels, and provides coverage for health, travel, and more. We advise you to check out their website and see if this would best fit your needs..

## How do I get a Dutch bank account?

If you are new to Amsterdam as an international student, another very important matter you should take care of is opening a Dutch bank account. This way you can benefit from numerous advantages like getting student insurance or receiving and making payments to and from Dutch residents in a faster and cheaper way. Opening a bank account in the Netherlands is very easy! Here are a few steps you can follow.

First of all, to request a Dutch bank account it is necessary to have a **BSN number** which you can obtain only if you are **registered** in the city of Amsterdam. Furthermore, you will have to provide **proof of your address** to the bank you are signing up with. If you've already taken care of your registration you can proceed to sign up for an appointment with a bank of your choice. Don't forget to bring a **valid form of ID** to your appointment and, for non-EU students, your residency permit. If you decide to sign up with that bank after the appointment, you can expect to receive your new Dutch credit card during the following week!

# Transportation in Amsterdam

There is a significant chance that one of the first things you encounter when arriving in Amsterdam is the public transportation system. In this section, we will explain how it works.

First a bit of general knowledge: GVB (<https://www.gvb.nl/>) is the main operator in Amsterdam for most buses, trams, metro, and ferry boats. The NS (<https://www.ns.nl/en>), on the other hand, is in charge of the rail services in the Netherlands. To use these you are required to pay for your journey in order to not get a fine. One of your options is to purchase a ticket from indicated ticket machines at the station or even on board. A one hour ticket costs around 3.20 euros, while daily tickets start from 8.50 euros for bus, tram, or metro provided by GVB. Although, considered more important is that you can and eventually might have to buy an OV-chipkaart (<https://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/home-1.htm#/>).

The OV-chipkaart is a card that can be charged with travel products, also known as subscriptions, or a credit in euros. The card allows you to travel with any means of transportation in the

Netherlands, including trains. There are two types of an OV-chipkaart: an anonymous or a personalized one. An anonymous card costs 7.50 Euros and it can be recharged at loading devices at the station. At some Albert Heijn stores, you can also find a charging point. On the other hand, a personal OV-chipkaart can be purchased, for the same price, only after you managed to open a Dutch bank account [see section above]. A Dutch account is required in order to use iDEAL and request an automatic reload on the OV-chipkaart, so you will not have to worry about manually charging it. Here is more information on how to purchase an OV-chipkaart and also where and how to load it. With it you might actually save a significant amount of money compared to buying individual tickets, so the possession of an OV-chipkaart should definitely be one of your priorities when settling in the city.

Ultimately, there are other specific options available regarding travel tickets that you might be interested in, for example the Amsterdam & Regional Ticket that is available in the region of Amsterdam that you can find more about here. Now, all you have to do with your ticket/card is to check-in and

check-out with it at designated readers in the means of transport, or sometimes at the station. Google Maps can be helpful for finding your way in the city, however 9292 is a more accurate website and app, specific for public transport, where you can actually see your fare and various route options that are up to date.

If you want to save even more money on transportation and opt for a daily workout at the same time, Amsterdam is the perfect city for getting around with a bike. Owning a bicycle is essential for the proper Dutch life. You can purchase second-hand ones from marketplaces, Facebook, Craigslist, or Marktplaats, a widely known buy-and-sell website in the Netherlands. Alternatively, you can buy a new one from a local bike shop. There are also possibilities to rent a bike from companies like Swapfiets, which is quite a popular option among students. Swapfiets offers long-term bike rental with additional perks for only 16.9 euros/month on the minimum. It is easy to bike in Amsterdam as there are paths assigned for cycling almost everywhere and all you have to do is to ride on the right part of the road, signal with your

arm when you change directions, respect the traffic lights and do not use your phone because you could get fined. Also, do not forget to buy a bike lock! Unfortunately, having your bike stolen is not uncommon in Amsterdam.



# Shopping for Everyday Items in Amsterdam

Moving to a new country can be a tedious affair, but food is always there to give us that boost of energy and keep us sane in times of transitions. Before moving to your new place, quickly check on Google Maps for any grocery or drug stores nearby. If you are not familiar with the different stores, we have a short guide for you right here!

## Grocery Stores

### Albert Heijn

When walking through the city you will find an Albert Heijn in every neighbourhood. The unmistakable blue colour is sure to attract many students. Depending on your location, AH will offer a variety of produce, snacks, drinks, as well as packaged produce for meals. If you are looking to buy typical Dutch snacks, this is the place to shop—they even have fresh sushi in the mornings and afternoons! AH does charge higher than most grocery stores. Albert Heijn has two great services: The BonusKaart and a delivery service. The BonusKaart can be purchased for free directly at the shop or downloaded on your phone via the Albert Heijn App. If you are unable to make a trip to the store, AH offers an

an online experience where you can shop from the comfort of your home and have it delivered directly to you.

### Jumbo

Jumbo is a great option for many students. The products are priced reasonably and you will find all kinds of produce, pastries, drinks and cleaning supplies. They even offer ready-made meals for a decent price. You can never go wrong with Jumbo. Jumbo also offers an online shopping experience and will deliver the food directly to you.

### Lidl/Aldi

If you've lived in Europe long enough you already know how valuable Lidl and Aldi are for students. Usually seen as discounter stores, these grocery stores are perfect for anybody. Despite the reasonably affordable prices, neither Lidl or Aldi cut down on quality. You will find anything and everything in these stores.

### Marqt

If you are looking to find good quality food, Marqt is the right place for you. They offer a wide selection of ecological products as well as fresh and local produce. Although it may seem pricey, Marqt is a great alternative for those who are looking for a more sustainable

option; In their words they strive to set the best price “both for you and their producers”.

## **Drug Stores**

You will find a drug store in every neighbourhood. You will find all sorts of beauty, cleaning, and bathroom products in Etos. If you cannot find an apothecary, Etos and Kruidvat sell basic over-the-counter medication, vitamins, and bandages. Of the two options, Kruidvat is the more affordable store, with more selection than Etos. However, you will most likely find an Etos quicker than a Kruidvat.

## **Miscellaneous**

If you are looking for appliances such as pots and pans, cleaning supplies, vacuum cleaners, or generally any non-food related items, Blokker, Action, and Hema are great stores to visit. All three of these stores have online stores as well, where you can have them delivered to you. Blokker is a more popular option for household items and you can find them easily in your neighbourhood. Action is an up-coming discounter non-food shop. Their products are a tad cheaper than Blokker. Hema offers more

than household items: you can find stationary, clothes, beauty products, and more at your local Hema.

# Study-Life Balance

When you're about to start university, you might not know exactly what to expect in terms of the study load, managing your time, and getting the most out of your study program. Don't worry, it's completely normal to feel overwhelmed or confused. Besides, the stress can be downcut through an appropriate study-life balance.

First and foremost, make sure you understand the requirements of your course. Learn how many credits your modules are worth and what exactly is expected of you by thoroughly reading the course manual. At the UvA, most courses will require you to obtain 48 ECTS credits in total to be able to pass on to the next year. However, there are certain exceptions, depending on the course you are taking and the situation with COVID-19.

This minimum credit requirement is called the **Binding Study Advice (BSA)**, and it predicts whether you are on the right track to passing into the next year. The BSA can either be positive or negative and you will receive a preliminary BSA around February. Think of it as a sort of report card for yourself to track your

progress. If a positive BSA is issued at the end of the year, the student is free to enter into the second year. If a negative BSA is issued, with less than 48 credits awarded, then progressing may not be possible. Remember though that the BSA's rules and regulations can vary greatly from faculty to faculty, so make sure to thoroughly read your study guide for your programme to remain up to date with your own rules and regulations.

If you have any doubts on your BSA or would like to have a more specialised view regarding your situation, contact the study advisors who will help you manage your studies more effectively.

Once you have your academic plan sorted, remember to take breaks from your studies to enjoy your life as a student in Amsterdam. This will help you clear your head and remain focused on your studies with less stress. This can be achieved in different ways, such as:

- **Taking up a part time job:** Amsterdam is filled to the brim with possibilities of part time jobs or possibilities to make money while studying. It is useful to look at the UvA job board centre which might help you find a job or an internship which matches your interests.

It is also quite common to find shops or restaurants with signs looking to hire. Contact the organisation and you might just be the perfect fit!

**- Look into sports or other activities:** In Amsterdam there are plenty of opportunities to join sport or creative societies which will help you kick back and maybe meet a few people. The activities which we propose can be found in the next section of the booklet.

**- Spend time outside:** Spending all day in your room can easily decrease your mood and motivation, and can induce a sense of isolation (as we're sure most of you know).

So, every once in a while have a walk outside, catch some fresh air, and just detach. We know Amsterdam is not the most weather-friendly for these types of activities, so take advantage when you can to visit a park, or just have a walk around your neighbourhood.

**- Spend time with your friends:** Although it sounds clichè, remember to spend time with your friends. This will help you entertain yourself with others, and perhaps alleviate your worries or concerns

with people who are going through the same thing. Remember, although sometimes challenging, spending time with friends can help reduce feelings of alienation or solitude.

Although these are just some methods, the booklet has plenty of other suggestions that can help you have some fun while still remaining on track with your studies. As a final note: don't worry, and don't panic. You will manage and have a great experience.

# Social Life as a Student

Starting university life in a new city is like facing a blank canvas to paint anything on. Yet, a pristinely white background entailing endless possibilities can turn intimidating if you stare at it for too long. Metaphorically speaking, this is why you should begin painting right away!

Making your first connections in the student community will help you stipple the first lines of paint. And with a steady base coat, adding in the next layers—building your network—should come smoothly. To get you started with networking and meeting new people, 020 has gathered some opportunities for you to go out there and get acquainted

## Take Part in Social Events

To familiarise Amsterdam newcomers with student life, the UvA hosts three different introduction programs for students starting their Bachelor's, Master's, or an exchange programme respectively. For Bachelor's students, this introduction program is called the Intreeweek. The introduction days take place in late August before the start of the actual courses, thus providing a way for students to meet their fellows before.

attending the first lectures and tutorials. Additionally, each faculty hosts its own faculty introduction days. For this event, students will receive an invitation from the faculty of their respective study programme.

Even if you miss the opportunity to participate in an introduction program, there are plenty of chances to put yourself out there and meet new people. For instance, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) provides a community for international students to meet other student expats from all around the world. Additionally, the ESN caters a buddy program to connect new-coming students with local "buddies". A local buddy can offer valuable insights to student life in Amsterdam, from opening a bank account, to finding the hidden gems of outdoor dining. On top of the buddy program, ESN Amsterdam organises various social events and trips along the year. And for the enthusiastic linguists out there, the organisation offers Dutch language courses.

Moreover, attending events organised by various student associations within the University is a great way to meet other students. Each study programme has



its own study association that hosts academic, career, and social events. To enjoy the full study experience in the Netherlands, we recommend attending a borrel of a study association. A borrel refers to an informal social gathering with drinks and snacks. Can you think of a more perfect setting to enjoy the company of your fellow students?

Some events of student associations are open to anyone, while others are exclusive to active members. In the next section, we will explain steps on how to get more involved within an association of your choice.

## Join a Student Association

Joining a student association is the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded people within the student community. Faster than you know, you will be attending fun social activities and sliding down friendship tracks for life. Besides, student associations are a great way to build your network and CV.

Student associations at the UvA can be roughly categorised into three groups. First, there are study associations, which link to a specific study programme or multiple studies under the same faculty. Second, there are academic

associations with a more determined focus. These are great for developing your professional skills such as writing, debating, or public speaking. Lastly, there are associations focused on sports and free time.

The following paragraphs will walk you through the basics of what you should know about student associations. In addition, you will find a list of all student associations operating within the University of Amsterdam by following this link.

## Study Associations

As mentioned above, study associations operate under a specific study programme or a group of studies under the same faculty. They host a selection of career, social, and academic events throughout the academic year. Usually, all students of the study programme under which the association operates are welcome to take part in these events. However, as an active member you will get to participate in exclusive members' events and trips. Other perks include gaining experience in planning and organising events, expanding your network, and creating beautiful friendships. You can be sure to be introduced to the study associations of your programme upon your

introduction days.

### **Associations for Sports and Free Time**

Be it swimming, rowing, or running, the wide range of sports associations within the UvA offers something for every taste. Some sports teams offer a more laid-back opportunity to kick a ball around with friends, while others require more time and dedication. Most sports associations also host social events and parties for their members. Attending these events is a great way to socialise and to get to know your teammates better off the tracks, the field, or the pool. You may browse through the complete list of UvA sports associations [here](#).

While not exactly a student association, the Amsterdam student sports centre (USC) offers sports and fitness for students of UvA and HvA. USC has multiple locations around the city with gyms, group lessons, tennis, padel, and much more. Moreover, students in their first or second year of Bachelor's can receive a free USC membership deal until December 2021. You can read more about signing up for the USC student deal [here](#).

The range of student associations provides numerous options also for the creative souls among you. The Particolarte, also known as the Amsterdam Student Art Association, organises workshops for different kinds of art forms from fine arts to theatre. Among other things, the association hosts open mic nights, where students can showcase their talents. STAI, or the Student Theatre Amsterdam, is another culture-focused association where the members share their passion for theatre. Finally, the Sweelinck Orchestra is the oldest symphony orchestra in Amsterdam, and it consists of students of Amsterdam universities. Whenever the COVID-19 restrictions allow, the orchestra's weekly practices will lead to touching performances in well-known locations around the city.

### **Associations for academic or social engagement**

Do you find yourself to be ambitious, driven, and socially aware? If so, dedicating a few hours each week to an academic association could prove a good investment for your future. Academic associations often market themselves as having a more determined and serious focus, and they are a great place for enthusiastic students to meet people with

similar goals and values. And of course, members of academic associations get their fair share of social events and fun too.

#### **- ASDV Bonaparte**

ASDV Bonaparte is a student association with a focus on public speaking and debating. In the scope of debating, Bonaparte hosts debate nights as well as organises workshops and trainings for public speaking. Additionally, their debate team takes part in tournaments both locally and internationally. The association operates bilingually both in Dutch and English, and international students are most welcome. For internationals, Bonaparte markets itself as a gateway into the traditional Dutch student life. Despite the more academic focus, numerous social events take place throughout the year, where members of the association get together for a good time. Information on the association and joining can be found on Bonaparte's website.

#### **- SIB Amsterdam**

SIB Amsterdam, also known as the Dutch United Nations student association, is an excellent fit for students

interested in international relations and social impact. The association organises events for intellectual, social, and self-development. With joining SIB, you will meet like-minded people, gain professional experience, and build your network. SIB's monthly events revolve around a variety of interesting topics and are available for members and non-members alike. Read more, apply, or simply attend an event through [here](#).

#### **- Enactus**

Another interesting association to consider is Enactus, with a determination to create an impact in the local community. In particular, Enactus uses entrepreneurship to tackle social, environmental and economic issues in Amsterdam. Joining Enactus is a great pathway for social and driven students to get in touch with the business world and learn about entrepreneurship. The association also organises numerous social activities for its active members. Read more and apply [here](#).

## Visit Amsterdam's Social Hotspots for Students

Signing up for events or joining an association requires some dedication and planning. For the more spontaneous souls out there, it can be good to just go to a place and get talking. Here are some lively spots around Amsterdam to meet other students.

### - Coco's outback

Located at the vibrant Rembrandtplein, Coco's Outback is a cosy, affordable place to grab some drinks with friends. A popular hotspot among students, you can be sure to meet some of your UvA peers on the terrace. Keep an eye open for student nights at Coco's, which will be announced on their website and social media.

### - Kriterion

Kriterion, a rustic neighbourhood cinema located on campus, was founded by students in 1945 to create employment for poor students who would have otherwise had to discontinue their studies. Since its establishment, the café-cinema has become a standard street element at Roeterseiland. Loved by the student crowd and fans of arthouse

cinema alike, Kriterion is a great spot to go see a film and share a drink in the bar afterwards.

### - CREA

CREA is the university's cultural centre set at the heart of the Roeterseiland campus. The organisation operates in the facilities of an old diamond polishing factory, which have been transformed into modern classrooms and studios. Enrolling in one of CREA's creative courses can serve a wonderful opportunity to meet new people. You may find the program of the fall courses at CREA here. Besides offering a variety of trainings and courses on the creative spectrum, the CREA café serves delicious coffee, drinks, and snacks for the hard-working students on campus. It is the perfect place to come together with your course mates and unwind after a rough seminar.

## Explore the Popular Study Spots

Talking about hard work, peaceful and harmonic cafés offer an optimal setting to catch other students on the act. For starters, you should check out Coffee and coconuts, a trendy brunch and coffee spot in the lively De Pijp neighbourhood. Their spacious premises together with a tasty menu guarantee an

enjoyable study experience.

As for the dedicated coffee lovers out there, Coffeecompany is a reliable spot to study. A peaceful working space, free wifi, and a warm drink constitute a good recipe for passing an exam. The Dutch café chain has multiple locations around the city, and you can check the closest one to your living area [here](#).

For a delicious cup of sustainably sourced coffee, drag your laptop to Bocca Coffee located in Kerkstraat. The founder of Bocca was crowned Amsterdam's entrepreneur of the year in 2018. Perhaps sitting at this innovative café will also get your creative juices flowing!

As with peaceful cafés, you can be sure to find other students from the various libraries around Amsterdam. The UvA has multiple libraries around the city with study spots for both silent working and last-minute cramming with friends. Additionally, the Amsterdam city has 26 library locations under the name Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam (OBA). Most worthy of mentioning is the central library, OBA Oosterdok, located just east of the central station. The modern

nine-story building with glass windows opening up towards the city centre has one of the nicest views of Amsterdam. Talk about studying with a view!



# What to do in Amsterdam

If you are new to the city and are looking for some inspiration for places to see and things to do, we have prepared a list with some of our personal favourites. We have listed some less conventional places, but we've also included some must-see Amsterdam spots. We hope you can find some good inspiration from our tips!

## IJ Hallen Market

Every month, Amsterdam becomes the home to the biggest outdoor flea market in Europe. Situated in the NDSM Wharf in Amsterdam Noord, the IJ Hallen market offers over 400 different stands that vary from clothing to home furnishing and more, all at very affordable prices. This September the market will take place on the 4th and 5th, and later on the 18th and 19th, so get ready! You can get your tickets at the gates or online, where you can also find all the information you might need on what the current COVID-19 restrictions are, all by clicking on this link.

## De Hallen

Located in an ex-Industrial building from 1902, De Hallen is the perfect place to spend a rainy day in the city.

Situated in Oud-West, De Hallen is home to a unique cinema, numerous shops, and the variegated Food Hallen, which offers stands of food of a variety of cuisines. Another fun activity offered by De Hallen is a DJ set that takes place every Friday. If you decide to go to De Hallen you won't need to make any kind of reservation nor buy tickets, you can just go! You'll find it open every day from 7AM to 10PM.

## The Nine Streets

For a less conventional shopping day, you can visit The Nine Streets in the centre of Amsterdam. Here you can find stores that vary from designers and brands to independent and vintage shops. Located between Leidsegracht and Radhuisstraat these streets are the place to visit if you want to go on a less crowded and more sophisticated shopping spree.

## Jordaan

If you want to see one of the most characteristic neighborhoods in the city of Amsterdam, you should take a walk around the beautiful Jordaan. With its narrow streets and old buildings, Jordaan is a hidden gem in the centre of the city. Filled with art galleries, antique shops, and many nice bars and

restaurants, this neighborhood is sure to make you fall in love with Amsterdam.

### **Vondelpark**

One place you cannot miss when you move to Amsterdam is definitely Vondelpark. With its 120 acres, this public park is a great place to head to on those rare warmer days in the city. Vondelpark houses an open-air theatre, many bars and restaurants, and much more. You can rent a bike or a skate at Vondeltoein, visit the Hollandsche manege and the former church of Orgelpark, or you can also decide to just sit back and relax in this beautiful park located in the Old South area of the city.

### **De Pijp**

The neighborhood of De Pijp is the perfect place to spend the evening like a local. This multiethnic neighborhood offers a multitude of cafés, bars and restaurants with cuisines from all over the world. Another thing you can do in De Pijp is visit the Albert Cuyp Market, which takes place everyday, where you can find all sorts of goods at very affordable prices.

## Concluding Remarks

Arriving in a new city and starting a new chapter in your life can be both thrilling and daunting. We as 020 want to smooth the way for starting your student life in Amsterdam, and we hope that this booklet is able to achieve just that.

020 is always looking for new members to join our team. You may read more about our party and have a look at available positions, as well as the application process through our website.

We hope that this booklet provided a sufficient outlook on starting your studies at the University of Amsterdam, and navigating your way through the city. Nonetheless, we want to stress that the contents of this booklet are written for students, by students, and are therefore not all-encompassing. Do not hesitate to approach us with any feedback or questions, or show your interest in joining us, through our Instagram page [[@020.nl](#)] or website [[www.0-2-0.nl](#)].



All the best,



**We want to thank our lovely team for the hard work behind this booklet:**

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**020 wishes everyone good luck with the new academic year, and an exciting time exploring Amsterdam!**