

# PREPARATION GUIDE

## PART 1 OF THE PRE-ARRIVAL ROADMAP

IHE DELFT – MSC 2026-2027 & MSCR 2026-2028

**Congratulations on your admission to the IHE Delft  
(research) Master of Science programme!**

*“After having studied at IHE Delft, I feel like I have a second family all over the world.”*

We hear this often from our alumni. It is our pleasure to welcome you to our IHE Delft family next October. You will experience life in the Netherlands, join a multi-cultural community and you will be away from home, perhaps for the first time.

The IHE Delft Student Affairs office has compiled this Preparation Guide for you to help you with all practical preparations you need to make before moving to the Netherlands. Making sure you are prepared will save you time and trouble in a complicated process.

**Please take the time to read everything carefully. It will make your travel and transition easier.**

# PRE-ARRIVAL ROADMAP

IHE DELFT PREPARATION GUIDE – MSC 2026-2027 & MSCR 2026-2028

Studying abroad comes with a lot of questions and preparations, and that is completely normal. We will help you prepare by sharing all the information you need according to the roadmap below.

This preparation guide is part 1 of our pre-arrival information for new MSc students. You'll receive more information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, including the schedule and topics of the webinars, at the end of July.

## PART 1: PREPARATION GUIDE

**When: As soon as you are financially admitted**

- ❖ Preparation checklist Page 2
- ❖ Travel documents & Flight Page 3
- ❖ IHE Accommodation Page 4
- ❖ Finances, health & insurance Page 5

## PART 2: LIVING IN THE NETHERLANDS

**When: August to October**

- ❖ Webinars and eLearning on topics such as healthcare, transportation, and more
- ❖ Book your IHE Delft student accommodation

## PART 3: FINAL PREPARATIONS

**When: October**

- ❖ Pre-departure online meeting with Q&A
- ❖ Detailed introduction week programme
- ❖ Route description Schiphol – Delft
- ❖ Final instructions and information needed to travel to Delft

## PART 4: GETTING SETTLED IN DELFT

**When: 30 October onwards**

- ❖ Introduction week (week 0)
- ❖ Activities to get to know IHE Delft, your classmates, Delft & the Netherlands
- ❖ IHE Delft will also guide you through the administrative tasks related to relocating

## STUDENT SOURCE

→ [Go to the Student Source](#)

Do you want to prepare even more? The Student Source is IHE Delft's intranet page with information specifically for our students.

Use your student account to log in. You received information about accessing your student account from the IHE Delft IT Department when you were admitted to the program.

To log in, use your user ID, **not** your student email address. So for example: use "aaa001" instead of "aaa001@un-ihe.org".

## WHO TO CONTACT

→ **Flight details and changes in your arrival date and time:**

[info@un-ihe.org](mailto:info@un-ihe.org)

→ **About your MVV and/or VVR application:**

1-year MSc: [m.baburek@un-ihe.org](mailto:m.baburek@un-ihe.org)

2-year Research MSc: [i.melis@un-ihe.org](mailto:i.melis@un-ihe.org)

→ **About the IHE Delft accommodation:**

[accommodation@un-ihe.org](mailto:accommodation@un-ihe.org)

→ **Using your student account and email:**

[ServiceSupport.IT@un-ihe.org](mailto:ServiceSupport.IT@un-ihe.org)

→ **All other questions:**

[ArrivalSupport@un-ihe.org](mailto:ArrivalSupport@un-ihe.org)

# PREPARATION CHECKLIST

IHE DELFT PREPARATION GUIDE – MSC 2026-2027 & MSCR 2026-2028

There are many preparations to take care of before you'll be able to start your MSc programme in Delft. We've summarized the most important tasks for you. Please continue reading through the Preparation guide for more instructions on how to complete everything.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES & DATES

- ❖ **17 September** – Accommodation deadline
- ❖ **1 October** – Sign rental contract (deadline)
- ❖ **1 October** – Submit flight info (deadline)
- ❖ **Mid October** – Online pre-departure meeting (exact date t.b.a.).
- ❖ **30 October** – Arrival in the Netherlands
- ❖ **2 November** – Start introduction period
- ❖ **4 November** – Opening Academic year

Please plan to arrive on 30 October so you can take part in the introduction period.

## PREPARE TO BRING WITH YOU

- Sufficient funds (in cash) for the first months.**  
Opening a bank account could take up to 6 weeks
- Medication & any required documentation**  
Only if you take chronic medication which is not easily accessed abroad.

## RESIDENCE PERMIT AND VISA

- Check the validity of your passport.**  
Your passport should be valid until several months after graduation
- Complete your VVR (and MVV) application**
- Make an appointment to pick up your MVV**  
Not earlier than 90 days before traveling to the Netherlands.

## IHE ACCOMMODATION

You will receive more information about reserving accommodation on 4 August 2026.

- Reserve your accommodation.**  
Between 1 and 17 September.
- Pay the first month's rent.**  
Only if you will not receive a monthly allowance via IHE Delft.
- Sign your contract.**  
*Deadline: 1 October*

## ARRANGE YOUR FLIGHT

Only if you have to book your own flight

- Book your flight ticket.**  
Make sure to arrive on Friday 30 October.
- Send your flight information and a copy of your ticket to IHE Delft**  
Email: [info@un-ihe.org](mailto:info@un-ihe.org)  
*Deadline: 1 October*.

## PREPARE FOR THE MSC PROGRAMME

- Complete your preparatory courses**
- Complete the "prepare for your stay in Delft" eLearning**  
Available from July
- Brush up on your English**  
If you do not have advanced proficiency in English, you may face challenges both academically and socially.

# RESIDENCE PERMIT & IMMIGRATION

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Non-EU students need a residence permit (called VVR) for the full duration of their study program to study in the Netherlands. The application procedure can differ per country. By email you will receive information and instructions on the application process. Please be sure to follow these instructions on time.

## IHE DELFT APPLIES FOR:

- ❖ *If applicable:* an entry visa (MVV) to enter the Netherlands
- ❖ A residence permit for the full duration of your study program

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE VVR APPLICATION

IHE Delft applies for your VVR (and MVV entry visa if applicable), but you need to take the following steps to finish the application:

1. Follow the instructions in the email you received from IHE's Visa Administration
2. Fill and return the necessary forms and documents to IHE Delft (by email).

IHE Delft will notify you once we have received confirmation from the IND (Immigration Services) that your application was approved.

3. When you receive this confirmation, make an appointment with the Netherlands embassy (or consulate) to proceed the with application.
4. If applicable: A 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment is usually needed to collect your entry visa (MVV).

**Important:** Make sure to submit all required documents on time. This allows us to apply for your residence permit and visa without delays.

## COLLECTING YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT

You will collect your residence permit after arriving in Delft.

We will schedule this appointment for you as part of the introduction activities.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

Do you have a scholarship? Please keep in mind that travel or other costs related to your residence permit application or MVV application are usually **not** covered by your scholarship. Even if you have to travel abroad to visit an embassy or consulate. Please check your scholarship award letter.

## RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

When you receive a residence permit for study, you gain certain rights and obligations. **Please familiarize yourself with these rights and obligations.**

- Read the IND publication: [Coming to study in the Netherlands](#)

**Important:** You will be staying in the Netherlands on a residence permit for study purposes only. When you finish your MSc program (with or without graduating), your residence permit will be cancelled. You will be required to leave the Netherlands within a few days.

## BIRTH CERTIFICATE

You have to register with your municipality while you are living in Delft as one of your obligations. Students living in the IHE Delft student accommodation should register with Delft municipality.

**If you will live in Delft**, you won't need a birth certificate to register with the municipality.

**If you will live somewhere else**, you will likely need to submit a (translated and/or legalized) [official copy of your birth certificate in Dutch, English, French or German](#).

# ENTRY VISA & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

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You will need a passport, residence permit (called VVR) for the full duration of your study program and in some cases, an entry visa (called MVV) to study in the Netherlands. IHE Delft applies for both your VVR and MVV. You have received instructions via email regarding the application procedure. It is important that you provide the necessary documents for your application on time.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENTER THE NETHERLANDS

- ❖ A passport valid until:
  - **18 January 2028** (1-year MSc)
  - or
  - **31 December 2028** (2-year MSc)
- ❖ An approved residence permit application
- ❖ An entry visa (MVV) (only if required for your nationality)

## PASSPORT

Extending your passport while in the Netherlands is often complicated or nearly impossible. Make sure your passport is valid until several months after the end of your MSc programme. Specifically:

- **1-year MSc programme:**  
Valid until 18 January 2028
- **2-year MSc programme:**  
Valid until 31 December 2028

If your passport expires earlier, renew your passport before going to the Netherlands. If renewing your passport is not possible, contact your embassy in the Netherlands a.s.a.p. to ask how to extend your passport in advance.



## HAND LUGGAGE PACKING LIST

Pack the following in your **hand luggage** while traveling:

- ➔ Your passport (with MVV/entry visa)
- ➔ IHE Delft admission letter
- ➔ Any letters you received from the IND confirming that your application for a residence permit was approved.
- ➔ *For scholarship holders:* your scholarship award letter
- ➔ *If you bring medication:* your medication, including the prescription and other related documentation.

## HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR ENTRY VISA (MVV)

After you have made your first appointment with the Netherlands embassy (or consulate) you in most cases need to make another appointment to collect your passport with your MVV.

- Your MVV is only valid for **90 days** once you have collected it.
- Important: don't schedule your appointment to collect the MVV too early. Make sure your MVV remains valid until **4 weeks** after your planned arrival date in Delft.
- Enquire at the embassy (or consulate) if there are any additional documents you should bring. This differs per embassy or consulate.

**Important:** Did you renew your passport during your residence permit and entry visa application? Always take your new passport with you to the embassy (or consulate), so that the MVV (entry stamp) can be placed in your new passport. Even if you used your old passport to apply.

# TRAVELING TO THE NETHERLANDS

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## ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN DELFT ON FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

Whether you have to book your own flight, or IHE Delft books your flight, depends on the conditions of your scholarship. If IHE Delft books your flight, we will notify you directly.

### IF YOUR TICKET IS NOT PROVIDED UNDER A SCHOLARSHIP

If your ticket is not provided under a scholarship, you have to book your own flight. Once done, please make sure to send us your flight details.

#### SEND US YOUR FLIGHT INFORMATION

Send an email to [info@un-ihe.org](mailto:info@un-ihe.org) with the subject “**Arrival Information**”, containing:

- Name as in passport
- Country
- Student number
- Arrival **date** and **time at Schiphol**
- Flight number of your flight **to Schiphol**
- A copy of your ticket.

### ARRIVAL DATE AND TIME

Plan your arrival in Delft on **Friday 30 October**. Make sure to arrive at IHE Delft during opening hours (**8:00-20:00**). It can take up to 2.5 hours to reach Delft from Schiphol.

### ARRIVING EARLIER OR LATER

- **If you arrive in Delft earlier:** it will be your own responsibility to arrange:
  - Accommodation until 30 October.
  - (Health) insurance until 30 October.
- **If you arrive in Delft late:** IHE Delft is closed in the evening and during the weekend. You will need to arrange accommodation yourself (e.g. a hotel) for the weekend at your own cost.
- **Arriving in Delft after the weekend is not allowed.** You are required to attend the introduction activities from Monday morning 2 November.

### IF YOUR TICKET IS PROVIDED UNDER SCHOLARSHIP

If you have been awarded a scholarship which includes an airplane ticket, you will receive your electronic ticket information by email from your Fellowship Officer. You do not need to inform us about your travel details. If your ticket is included, but you were requested to book your own flight, please refer to the information on the left.

If IHE Delft books your ticket, your accommodation will be available from the day you arrive at Schiphol, even if you arrive before Friday 30 October.



### BAGGAGE ALLOWANCES

Please check the baggage allowance on your ticket or with your airline before traveling. If you receive extra charges for exceeding baggage allowances, you will have to cover these costs yourself.

It's not possible for IHE to increase the baggage allowance, but you can do it yourself.

You are not guaranteed the same baggage allowance when returning home after graduation. It will depend on which flights are available. If your baggage exceeds the limit set for the return flight, you may have to send it home by cargo instead (at your own cost).

# IHE DELFT ACCOMMODATION

IHE DELFT PREPARATION GUIDE – MSC 2026-2027 & MSCR 2026-2028

Delft is one of the most densely populated student cities in the Netherlands. This makes finding good and affordable housing a challenge. To ensure that all IHE Delft students have access to suitable housing and to meet the requirements of certain scholarship programs, IHE Delft has made an agreement with housing corporation DUWO to reserve housing for all IHE Delft-based MSc students.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- MSc students at IHE Delft are expected to rent accommodation for the duration of their master program via housing corporation [DUWO University Housing](#).
- IHE Delft accommodation is **not** on-campus, but in several apartment buildings in Delft, all within cycling or walking distance from IHE Delft.
- You will be able to choose a room yourself during the *booking period* from all available room types on a **first come, first-served** principle. Keep in mind that private rooms are in high demand, and you are not guaranteed the room type of your preference. You cannot reserve a specific room in advance.
- The rental period is fixed: Friday 30 October 2026 until Monday 18 October 2027 (1-year program) or Monday 6 November 2028 (2-year program).

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ **4 August** – Accommodation manual
- ❖ **1 September** – Start booking period
- ❖ **17 September** – Deadline to reserve a room
- ❖ **1 October** – Deadline to sign contract

## TYPES OF ROOMS

- All rooms are furnished with basic furniture such as a bed, desk, table and wardrobe.
- Rooms vary in size and price. Approximately 60% of rooms have a **shared** bathroom and kitchen with one or two students of the same gender, and 40% of the rooms are studios with **private** bathroom and kitchen.

## APPROXIMATE MONTHLY RENT

Monthly rent differs per room and building and includes utilities, internet and municipal taxes.

- Private studio rooms: €785,00 - €1100,00
- Shared rooms: €550,00 - €815,00

## FIRST RENT PAYMENT & ONE-OFF COSTS

The first rent payment will include October and November, and an additional one-off cost between €186,57- €241,51 for linen, and cleaning and administration fees.

### Scholarship holders receiving a stipend via IHE:

The first month's rent will be subtracted from your November allowance payment.

### All other students:

You need to pay your first month's rent in advance via [TransferMate](#) before you can sign your contract.



# IHE DELFT ACCOMMODATION

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## CONDITIONS FOR IHE ACCOMMODATION

- You can only reserve a room once you are financially admitted.
- If you miss the deadline for reserving a room and/or signing your contract, you will not be able to receive your keys on 30 October.
- You will still be required to pay rent from 30 October onwards.
- Any additional costs for temporary accommodation until your keys are available will be your own responsibility.
- The rental period is fixed: Friday 30 October 2026 until 18 October 2027 (1-year MSc) or 6 November 2028 (2-year MSc).
- It is not possible to extend or prolong the rental contract. You will need to find your own accommodation after the end date of your rental agreement. **Even if you continue your studies at IHE Delft.**
- Special room types (e.g. couple rooms) are only available according to the principle of “*passend toewijzen*”. Meaning that students who bring their partner have priority for couple rooms over students living alone.
- It is possible in **exceptional** cases to end your rental contract earlier. But only:
  - With written permission from IHE Delft’s accommodation department,
  - **And** with one month’s notice,
  - **And** only per the 15th or the last day of the month

## BRINGING YOUR PARTNER

IHE Delft has a limited number of studios suitable for couples. There is a waiting list for these couple rooms.

If you are considering bringing your partner, please email [accommodation@un-ihe.org](mailto:accommodation@un-ihe.org) and request to be put on the waiting list.

## FINDING YOUR OWN HOUSING

If you do not want to stay in the IHE Delft accommodation, for example because there is no space in the couple accommodation, or because you are bringing your family, you can request permission to find accommodation yourself.

Finding a good, affordable room will be a challenge. **General searching time is 6 months at the very least, so start on time.**

To find your own housing:

1. Request permission via [accommodation@un-ihe.org](mailto:accommodation@un-ihe.org). Include the reason for your request.
2. Follow the [guide to finding housing yourself](#) (Student Source)

**Important:** if you book your own housing, it is unlikely that you’ll be able to return to the IHE Delft accommodation later. Finding accommodation throughout the course of your MSc program will be your responsibility.

# FINANCES & SCHOLARSHIP

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## A DUTCH BANK ACCOUNT

- **All** IHE Delft students are required to have a European bank account with IBAN number.
- You will be able to apply for a bank account after you've arrived in the Netherlands and have received your residence permit card. IHE Delft will advise you on which banks are available, and how to open your bank account.
- If you receive a monthly allowance, you will receive it by bank transfer once your bank account is active. **Opening a bank account takes at least 2 weeks, but may take up to 6 weeks.**
- Monthly rent payments can only be made by bank transfer. DUWO does not accept cash payments.

### ARRANGE SUFFICIENT FUNDS

- ❖ Opening a bank account takes anywhere between 2 weeks and 6 weeks
- ❖ Bring sufficient cash to bridge this period.

#### Plan ahead to be able to pay your rent from December onwards:

- ❖ The accommodation one-off cost of **€186,57- €241,51** will be subtracted from your November allowance payment.
- ❖ Your laptop deposit (€330) will be subtracted from your December, January and February allowance in three installments (€110).

No allowance via IHE Delft? You'll need to pay the full deposit of **€330 within 14 days** of receiving your laptop.

Please note: credit cards are not commonly used and are only accepted in some stores.



## BRING ENOUGH CASH MONEY

It may take up to 6 weeks for your bank account to be active. Bring a sufficient amount of cash money **(in euros)** to bridge this period. Preferably in smaller denominations (€20 and €50) as large denominations of cash are not widely accepted in stores in the Netherlands.



## SCHOLARSHIP AND MONTHLY ALLOWANCE

- Do you have a scholarship? Keep in mind that your scholarship is just a contribution to your study costs. While your monthly allowance may seem like a lot, life in Delft is expensive.
- You will use about **two-thirds** of your monthly allowance for rent.

- Most scholarships don't include a research allowance. You will have to fund any research expenses yourself (e.g. travel or equipment).
- **Depending on your spending habits, you may need to arrange additional income.**

## THE FIRST THREE ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS

You will have to pay several one-off expenses after arriving in the Netherlands. These will be subtracted from your allowance.

### **Subtracted from your November allowance:**

- Rent payment 30/10 – 30/11 (**amount varies**)
- Accommodation one-off cost (**amount varies**)

### **Subtracted from your Dec, Jan & Feb allowance:**

- Laptop deposit (**€330,00**)

# HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

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The Dutch healthcare system may be different than what you are used to. If you have any pre-existing health concerns and/or you take chronic medication, you are encouraged to start familiarizing yourself with healthcare in the Netherlands early. You may need to make additional arrangements before travelling.

## STUDENT INSURANCE POLICY

IHE Delft arranges health and personal insurance for all MSc students through [Aon student insurance](#) with the Aon Complete+ policy. It includes medical insurance, personal accident insurance, insurance for repatriation under limited circumstances, legal insurance, liability insurance and coverage for luggage and personal items in your home.

The Aon insurance policy is meant specifically for international students. Your insurance also applies when you do field work or research outside of the Netherlands. For holidays abroad, travel insurance is included.

## ALREADY INSURED?

If you are an EEA national and have an EHIC card, or if your sponsor has set different insurance requirements, you do not need to get additional Aon health insurance.

Aon insurance is required for all other IHE Delft students.

If you have both existing health insurance (EHIC or otherwise) and Aon insurance, you are obligated to claim any costs first with your own insurance before you can claim them with Aon.

## PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Aon insurance also covers pre-existing conditions and ailments, including psychological conditions. As long as you comply with the “fit for study” requirement, a pre-existing condition does not prevent you from coming to IHE Delft.

We recommend disclosing your condition with your general practitioner in the Netherlands. Bringing a written diagnosis may be beneficial if you expect to need treatment in the Netherlands.

## MORE ABOUT HEALTH AND INSURANCE

- ❖ You will receive your insurance policy via email.
- ❖ [Attend the webinar](#) and complete the eLearning on Dutch healthcare during summer.
- ❖ Become familiar with Dutch healthcare during and after the introduction week.
- ❖ You can also find more information on the [Student Source](#).

## REPATRIATION

If a parent, spouse, sibling or child passes away or ends up in a life-threatening situation while you are abroad, Aon can reimburse a return ticket to your home country under specific conditions.

You can receive this reimbursement once per insurance year per family member.

## BRINGING MEDICATION

Not all medication is covered by Aon insurance. If you have a condition that requires regular medication, consider if it's possible to bring sufficient medication with you.

Additionally, bring a letter in English from your doctor at home and a prescription for your medication with you.

**Important: Always follow customs regulations when bringing medication abroad.**

