

DISCLAIMER

The following information was compiled to the best of our knowledge in August 2024.

Students should always check the Dutch government's website or the municipality of Amsterdam's website for any updates or changes to policies surrounding student finance, housing benefit, healthcare benefit, and tax waiver for municipal taxes.

A photograph of a modern building with a facade of orange-brown panels and large windows. The building is viewed from a low angle, looking up. The sky is blue with some clouds. The building's name, 'Amsterdam University College', is visible in white letters on the facade.

A
UC Amsterdam University College

Practical and Money Matters

Introduction Week 2024

Agenda

- Introductions
- Government Funding
- Insurances
- Budgeting and money-saving tips
- Payments
- Support Resources
- Coming up



01

INTRODUCTION: STUDENT LIFE OFFICERS



AUC Student Life Officers

- **Lisa van Berkel & Aino Kekkonen**

- Provide support and advice for individual students on well-being issues:

- Mental health
- Stress
- Finances
- Residential issues
- Anything related to “student life”
- Strengthen the residential community aspect of AUC program, advise AUC on policies and support systems for student well-being
- Develop and coordinate the work of the Well-Being Team
- **Contact:** studentlifeofficer@auc.nl or [online booking system](#) to schedule an appointment or join one of the support groups
- **Available:** Mon & Tue, Thu & Fri | **Open hours** 12.45-13.45 in room 3.22



Lisa



Aino

02

Government Funding: Benefits and Tax Exemptions



Benefits, Jobs, Saving Tips

1. Student finance
2. Housing benefit
3. Healthcare benefit
4. Tax exemptions
5. Getting a job



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1. DUO Student Finance

• What is it?

- Student finance provided by the Dutch government
- The student finance includes the following parts
 - Basic grant, supplementary grant, student travel product, interest-bearing loan, tuition fee loan

• Who can get it?

- Do you have a **Dutch passport?**
 - Yes --> Straightforward to apply
- **EU/EEA, Swiss or British students**
 - You have been living in the NL for at least 5 consecutive years
 - You (or your partner or parent) need to have a job in the NL
 - 32 hours per month or monthly income of at least 50% of the social security norm (depends on age)
 - For a full breakdown of the requirements check DUO's website: duo.nl
- **Other international students**
 - Unfortunately, usually not eligible



1. DUO Student Finance

- **What if I do not meet the full eligibility criteria?**

- EU/EEA, Swiss or British students can still apply for a tuition fee loan even if you are not eligible for the rest of student finance

- **How can I apply for it?**

- Go to Mijn DUO on duo.nl
 - You will need a DigiD to log in
- Alternatively, download the application form from duo.nl
 - Processing time of a form will be longer than the digital application



2. Housing Benefit

Approximately
€200 off your
rent **for a single!**



- **What it is?**

- Housing benefit (Huurtoeslag in Dutch) is a contribution towards the payment of your rent from the government.

- **Who can get it?**

- You are 18 or older
- You have a Citizen Service Number (Burgerservicenummer/BSN) and either:
 - Have the nationality from an EU country, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland or Switzerland
 - Or, you have a residence permit & BSN number
- You rent **independent accommodation, meaning a single room**
- Your rent (excluding service costs) is lower than **€454,47** (€879,66 if you are older than 23)
- Your income is not too high
 - Your rent, age, and the composition of your household affect how high your income is allowed to be
- Your capital is less than €36.952 (bank accounts, etc.)

2. Housing Benefit

Make sure you are already registered with the municipality before applying!

- **How can I apply for it?**
 - You need your **DigiD**
 - Log in on the **Mijn Toeslagen** (My Benefits) website:
 - Only in Dutch, so ask a friend or SLOs for help, or download a browser extension
 - DUWO provides you with the exact numbers on their website:
 - Log in > I rent > Financial Matters > Rent Composition (scroll to the bottom)
 - *This is not the same as your normal rent as it excludes service costs*
- You can also call the **Tax Information Line** (0800-0543)
- **Important:** Do your own research as every situation can be slightly different and the regulations can change over time.
- All information on belastingdienst.nl



3. Healthcare Benefit

● What is it?

- Healthcare benefit (Zorgtoeslag in Dutch) is a financial contribution towards the premium payable for your Dutch healthcare insurance
- The benefit covers most of your Dutch healthcare insurance

● Who can get it?

- You have **Dutch health insurance** (more about insurances later in this presentation)
 - If you intend to work in the Netherlands, you need Dutch health insurance regardless of your nationality
- You are 18 years old or older
- You have a Citizen Service Number (Burgerservicenummer / BSN)
- You have the nationality
 - Of an EU country, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland or Switzerland
 - Or, you have a residence permit & BSN number
- Your income is under €37.496 per year and your capital is under €140.213



Toeslagen
Belastingdienst

3. Healthcare Benefit

● How can I apply for it?

- You need your **DigiD**
- Log in on the **Mijn Toeslagen** (My Benefits) website:
 - Only in Dutch, so ask a friend or SLOs for help, or download a browser extension
- You can also call the **Tax Information Line** (0800-0543)
- All information can be found on belastingdienst.nl



4. Tax Waiver for Municipal Taxes

• **What it is?**

- Every spring all residents of Amsterdam get a bill for municipal taxes
- The combined municipal tax bill includes:
 - The water tax (this is not the same as DUWO water service costs)
 - The trash tax
- Shared apartment? Tax letters will be addressed to only one of you, but you are responsible for sharing these costs.
- If you have a low income, you can request an exemption (a waiver) for these taxes

**X Gemeente
X Amsterdam
X**

• **Who can get it?**

- Conditions:
 - Low income
 - Little savings and assets
 - Not yet paid: You can only apply for a waiver for amounts that you have not yet paid or that you paid less than 3 months ago

4. Tax Waiver for Municipal Taxes

- **How can I apply for it?**

- Visit this website: amsterdam.nl/belasting-heffingen
- You need your **DigiD**
- Log in on the **Mijn Belastingen** (My Taxes) on the municipality website:
 - Only in Dutch, so ask a friend or SLOs for help, or download a browser extension
 - You will first fill in a short questionnaire online to see whether you are eligible for the waiver
 - If so, the application form will be sent to you via the mail
- If you live in shared housing (2p or 4p), all tenants need to provide documentation for the application
- For more information, check out the website of [Gemeente Amsterdam](https://www.amsterdam.nl)

5. Getting a Job

How much can you work?

- You have the nationality of an EU/EEA country, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland or the UK
 - No need for a work permit
 - Work as much as you want
- Other countries
 - Work up to 16 hours per week throughout the year OR seasonal work during the summer
 - You need to obtain a work permit, which your employer must do for you
 - Doing an internship as part of your studies? No need for a work permit
 - Self-employed? No limit on the hours and no need for a work permit
- A balance between studying, working and free time



5. Getting a Job - How?

- **UvA Job Board**

- Exclusively for UvA students
- Entry-level jobs, internships and study-related part-time jobs



- **StudiJob**

- Student employment agency in Amsterdam
- Study-related part-time jobs and entry-level positions



- **Indeed.nl**

- Extensive database for vacancies all over the Netherlands in all kinds of sectors
- There are often a lot of vacancies in restaurants, bars, cafés and shops in Amsterdam. If you see a vacancy sign on the window, just walk in to ask for more information.
- If you have a job in the Netherlands -> You need to get Dutch health insurance!

03

Insurances



Insurance

Health Insurance

- All international students are **required by law** to have appropriate health insurance for the duration of their stay in the Netherlands
- Check if your insurance will cover the **complete period** of your stay abroad, and what the coverage consists of
- Risk of having to pay a penalty if you do not take out health insurance;

Other insurances to think about

- Liability insurance: covers damage you accidentally cause to others.
- Home insurance: covers damage to your home contents (for example break-in)
- Legal assistance



AON offers above mentioned insurances. More information here: aonstudentinsurance.com

Understanding Health Insurance

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)	Private Insurance (for example AON+)	Basic Dutch Health Insurance
Who: EU/EEA or Swiss internationals	Who: non-EU/EEA or Swiss nationals	Who: Dutch nationals and/or anyone who has a job/paid internship
What: Reciprocal agreement between EU/EEA. Covers most, but not all, basic and emergency health care costs.	What: Private companies offer various packages for international students	What: Covers basic healthcare/emergency expenses
Apply through local insurer in home country: ec.europa.eu	Recommended by UvA: AON Consulting. Find more information at student.uva.nl	Can utilize Dutch health insurance companies. Find some options here at student.uva.nl
Zilveren Kruis manages Dutch coverage and reimbursements: + 31 (0) 33 445 68 70	Can be used as supplemental insurance to EHIC	NOT for INTERNATIONALS who do NOT have a job.
	Already privately insured in home country? Check if, what, and how long they cover you abroad.	

Insurance information session with an UvA Student Counsellor on Wed 16 October

Recommended reading: student.uva.nl

04

Budgeting and money-saving tips



Introduction

Dhruv Gulati



- Graduate Assistant for Services and Communications
 - What is a Graduate Assistant?
- Resident Assistant
- Previously:
 - Grew up in Bangalore, India
 - Science major, Environmental and Sustainability track
 - AUCSA Board 22-23
 - Intern at Port of Amsterdam



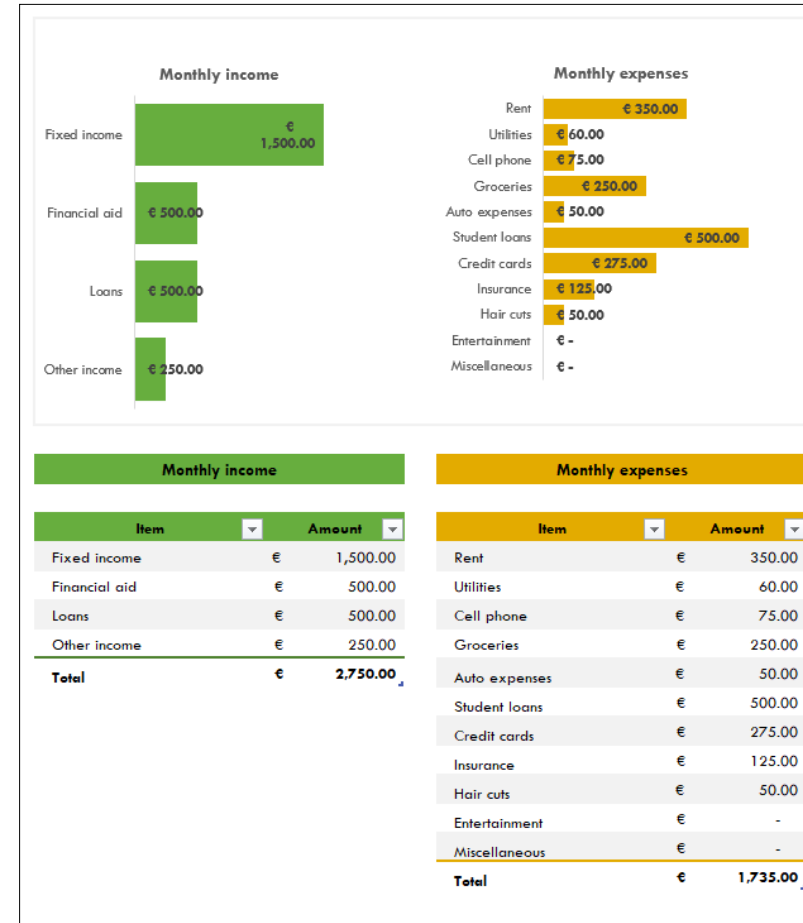
d.gulati@auc.nl

How much money do I need?

All in euro, per year	2024-2025 Dutch & EEU/EEA	2024-2025 non EU/EEA
Tuition fee	4.920	13.790
Accommodation	4.920	4.920
Insurance (approximate)	810	810
Books (rough estimate)	350-500	350-500
Visa/residence permit (approximately)	-	210
Living expenses (including food – rough estimate)	5.500	5.500
Total (estimate)	16.500 - 16.650	25.260 - 25.410

Budgeting basics

1. Identify your monthly income
2. Create a clear picture of expenses
3. Subtract expenses from income
4. Set aside the leftovers
5. Put your plan into action
6. Review and adjust



A budget sheet example. You can find more [here](#).

Unexpected costs

- **Sometimes, things do not go as planned**
 - Family emergency
 - Laptop breaks down
 - Bike stolen/damaged
 - Currency from home country loses value
 - Medical costs
 - Need a new...
- **So, expect the **unexpected****
 - Budget for unexpected costs, even if €15-20/month



Some interesting money-saving tips

Transport

- Public transport in the Netherlands is pretty expensive
- Get a discount subscription for trains or other public transport
 - You need a personalised OV card
- Get a bike! Second-hand is cheaper

Food

- Turkish/Algerian Supermarket > Lidl > Jumbo > Albert Heijn (bonus) > Spar
- Have dinner with a group of friends (bulk is cheap!), make your own food
- Bring lunch – avoid Polder/Spar/Cafeteria
- Try TooGoodToGo for bulk leftovers!
- Keep an eye on Buy, Sell, Trade on Whatsapp
- Learn to cook!



Some interesting money-saving tips

- **Make use of student discounts**

- Use the gym at USC Universum
- Ask for discounts at cultural and social activities or institutions (CREA)
- Use software provided by the UvA/VU (anything from Excel, Zoom to video editing)
- Join student-run sport clubs, especially through the AUCSA

- **Clothes, furniture, books**

- Second-hand stores (kringloop)
- AUC Buy Sell & Trade WhatsApp group, etc.
- Facebook Marketplace, Marktplaats, Vinted (online second-hand platform)

- **Taking pre-cautions**

- Lock your bike (invest in a lock!), your room (even windows), everything
- Don't leave your laptop or phone unattended in the AB

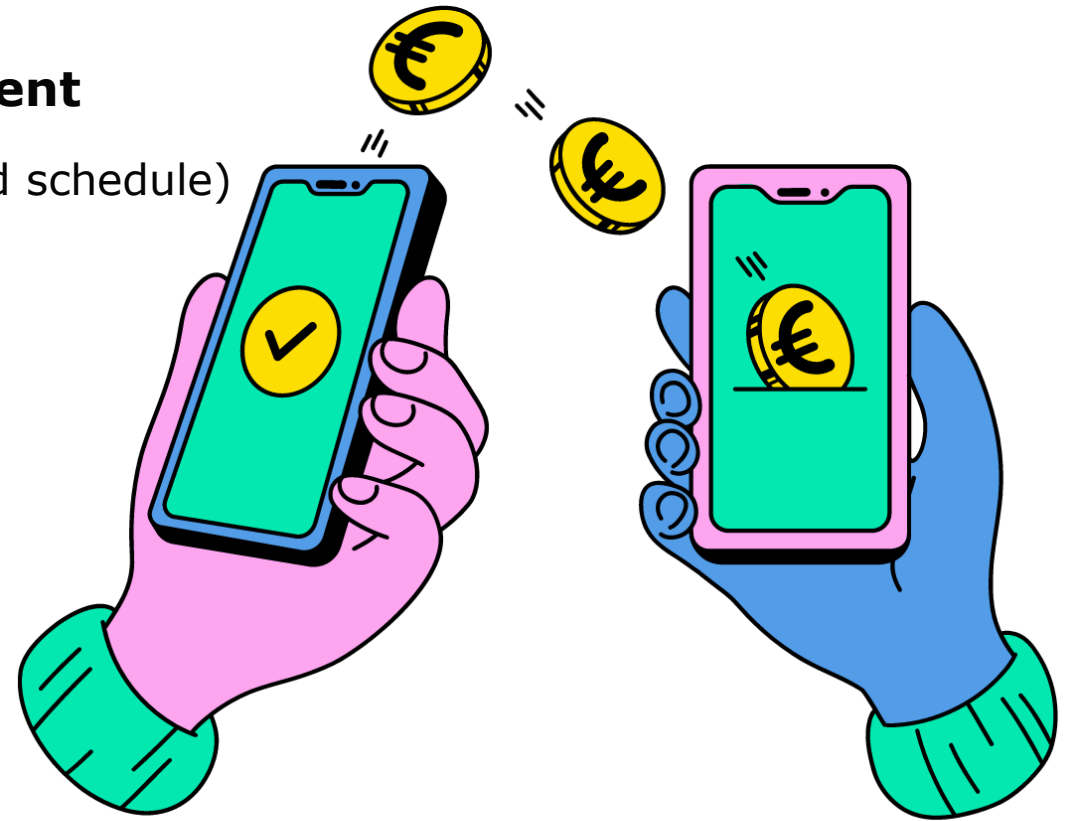


05

Payments

Rent & Tuition fee

- Make sure to pay your **tuition fees** and **rent** on time
- Possible **consequences** of **late tuition fee payment**
 - Blocked UvAnetID (no access to course materials and schedule)
 - Risk of de-enrollment
- Possible **consequences** of **late rent payments**
 - Additional fees due to the bailiffs
 - Legal proceedings
 - Risk of eviction



Tips for success

Best practices for AUC financial success



Be pro-active

- Ask for help when you need it
- If you anticipate trouble, contact the Student Life Officers, UvA Student Counsellors and/or DUWO.



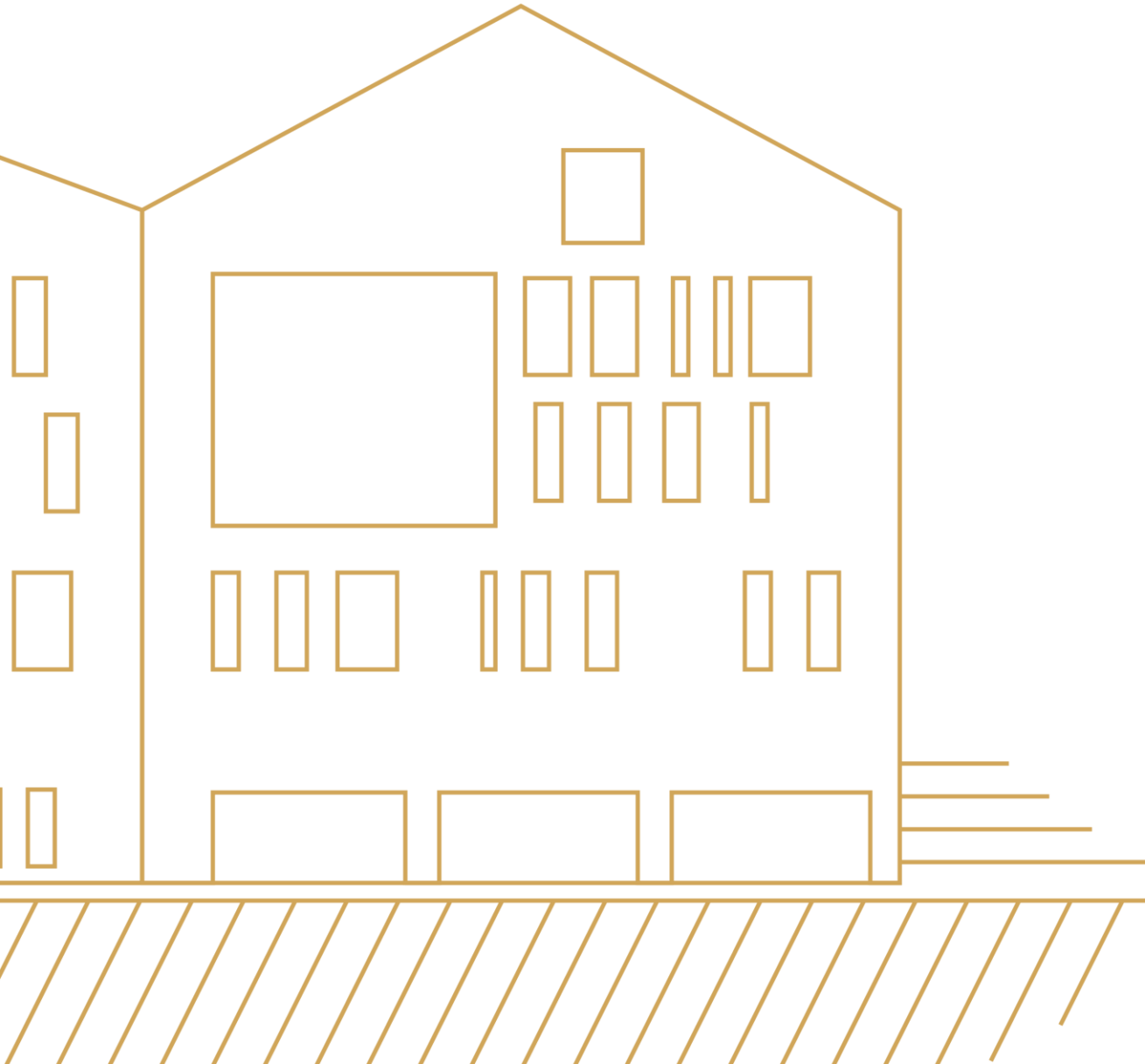
Organise your finances

- Be aware of due dates for rent, tuition and scholarship payments
- Check emails, Studielink and mailbox regularly for bills; keep track of receipts.
- Find guides online or apps that can help you budget (some bank apps...)



Develop your own style

- Align your spending with your values.
- Create and stick to a budget.



06

Support Services

AUC Solidarity Fund

- The AUC Solidarity Fund is a student-led initiative that provides financial aid for AUC students in cases of financial emergency as well as guidance to prevent such situations.
- The AUC Solidarity Fund is:
 - interest-free
 - fast response: emergency financial relief
 - anonymous
 - usually up to 500 Euro, but we examine each case individually
- Some examples of scenarios where students may want to apply for a loan include:
 - “I need money to pay for my flight back home”
 - “My laptop broke, and I need money to buy a new one”
 - “I lost my job so I can’t pay rent this month”
- Contact: [**solidarityfundauc@gmail.com**](mailto:solidarityfundauc@gmail.com)
- More information: student.auc.nl



TO DO's

1. Make a budget spreadsheet for yourself
2. Make sure you are properly insured
3. Look into government funding if applicable (student finance, housing benefit, healthcare benefit etc.)
4. Check out the financial resources
 - [Other financial support - Amsterdam University College \(auc.nl\)](http://auc.nl)
 - [Financial support \(student.auc.nl\)](http://student.auc.nl)





07

Coming up ...

More happening today!

<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p>Hacking Life Skills: Your Cheat Sheet for University and Beyond</p> <p><i>Hosted by the SLOs</i></p>	<p>Practical tips and useful skills that come in handy during your time at AUC and beyond.</p>
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p>Embracing different perspectives during your University Experience</p> <p><i>Hosted by Vrije Universiteit</i></p>	<p>Through a game and a fun time, learn about diversity and inclusion and why embracing different perspectives is important for your university experience.</p>
<p>14:00-15:30</p>	<p>LGBTQ+ Workshop</p> <p><i>Hosted by Aino Kekkonen (SLO)</i></p>	<p>Would you like to meet other LGBTQI+ students, share thoughts and experiences or ask questions related to being LGBTQI+ at AUC? Join this meet-up to learn more about ongoing initiatives, resources and support options.</p>

Introweek

Two sessions during
introweek

- Life at AUC
- Practical & Money Matters

September

Workshop hosted by Our
Bodies Our Voice

One workshop in smaller groups
later on Wednesday(s) in September.
You will be allocated into groups
based on your tutor groups

If you have any **questions** for the SLOs or other members of the Wellbeing Team, check out student.auc.nl or feel free to come find us.

Book a **meeting** (online booking tool can be found on student.auc.nl), **message** studentlifeofficer@auc.nl, come by room 3.22 or ask us a question whenever you see one of us around.

Open hours

Mon, Tue & Thu, Fri 12:45-13:45 in room 3.22



Thank you for joining!

Amsterdam University College