

Annual International Student Survey 2021

Factsheet

In recent years, the number of international students studying in the Netherlands has significantly increased. This has benefitted higher education, but simultaneously challenged the system. The AISS is an annual questionnaire completed by international students and aims to provide insight on the experiences of international students within the Netherlands. This factsheet contains the most important statistics and recommendations from the AISS edition 2021.¹

Interesting statistics

76% would like more interaction with Dutch students.

56% has experienced psychological problems since September 2020.

65% experiences many to extremely many feelings of stress.

57% has experienced discrimination with regard to housing.

33% is (very) dissatisfied with the opportunities to learn the Dutch language for free or for a small compensation.

25% is (very) dissatisfied with the English information provision of DUO and the municipality.

33% has experienced (severe) financial problems since September 2020.

Recommendations

To Higher Education institutions:

- Invest in the accessibility of mental healthcare facilities for international students.
- Facilitate and prioritize accessible Dutch language courses for international students.

To policy makers:

- Develop an integral vision on the internationalization of Dutch higher education which includes the position of international students in the Netherlands.
- Communicate clearly and honestly about housing shortages, extend the National Action Plan Student Housing and focus on English information provision within this action plan.
- Collect complete, clear and up-to-date English information about work, the right to student finance, health care insurance, opening a bank account, registering with the municipality, the obligation of healthcare insurance on one central website.
- Conduct an annual monitor on the experiences of international students within Dutch higher education, so that the AISS becomes superfluous.

¹ The AISS 2021 is an online questionnaire completed by 737 students from 193 different countries. The respondents do not form a truly random sample: therefore, the percentages are indicative, not representative.