Why is there a VU University fee?

The housing market is very tight in Amsterdam and even Dutch have great difficulty in finding a room. For international students it is even more challenging to find a suitable place to live. Therefore VU University Amsterdam (VU) provides all international students with a housing service that offers international students an opportunity of one year of housing in Amsterdam. Participating in the housing programme is voluntary, but highly recommended to all visiting students.

To be eligible for a room through the housing office of the VU, students will have to pay a VU fee. This fee is necessary to cover the extra costs that come along with providing international students the advantaged service of an immediate room upon arrival in Amsterdam. The costs that are connected to providing this housing service have to be paid by the users of this service, since they legitimately cannot be covered by university funds that are meant for academic purposes.

The costs of the housing service has various components: First of all, a large number of rooms, in excess of 1000, have to be reserved (and rented) for the entire calendar year from Amsterdam’s housing corporations. However, most students typically do not rent for the complete calendar year, but for an academic year (or less). During change overs and summer a lot of rooms are unoccupied, but do need to be paid for. This loss of rent revenue is covered by the VU fee. Secondly, the housing fee is required to fund all sorts of incidental costs such as loss of rent due to illness, study results, psychological issues of students, determination of programmes etc. And also VU needs more rooms in the first semester, which leads to surplus of rooms in the second semester, for which the university has to pay the rent.

For clarity; the VU fee is not the same as the administration fee which is charged by the housing corporation.

Why is there an administration fee of the Housing Corporation?

Housing corporations De Key, DUWO and Ymere require tenants to pay an administration fee when they make their first payment to confirm the room offer. Housing corporation De Key and DUWO provide short stay accommodation to international students. Renting out this type of accommodation requires a different service than is required for standard accommodation rented out to Dutch tenants. Short stay tenants rent
accommodation for a relative short period (average 9 months) therefore costs are much higher than for regular tenants who rent accommodation for a long period (average 10 year). The housing corporations also provide customized services that are tailored to the tenants’ needs and all communication and information is provided in English. The information and assistance provided by De Key and DUWO is very wide-ranging and covers the period both before/during and after the accommodation is rented out.

**Why is there a deposit of the Housing Corporation?**

Tenants at the housing corporation De Key and DUWO are also required to pay a deposit. This deposit is refunded at the end of your stay if you leave the room clean, tidy and without damages. Please read the information provided by the housing corporation regarding the amount charged for the deposit.