

Japie's New Student Guide

Welcome to Japie's New Student Guide! This document was created by the International Committee 2023-2024 with guidance from Sven Nash to help Japie's new members get settled in Eindhoven and at Japie. This document provides a brief overview of the study association, broadly discusses Eindhoven and its student life, as well as some tips to help you get started with life here!



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Note: Comments, feedback, and questions can be sent to info@tsvjapie.nl, where the board will respond to the best of their abilities.

Japie

What is Japie

Japie, officially T.S.V. 'Jan Pieter Minckelers', is the study association of the department of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry. As a study association, Japie collaborates actively with the department to advance and support the education given. Japie also offers its members the opportunity for personal and professional development, through its own fun activities and activities in collaboration with external companies.

Japie is there to support the students of the department but cannot and will not provide support outside of the university or outside of its jurisdiction.

The Japie site is where you will find most information that Japie can provide. You can find the site at tsvjapie.nl where you can log in with your student number and your personal password.

Committees & activities

Japie has many different committees. You can find a list of all committees at Japie [here](#). There are different committees for many of Japie's focus groups, such as a Chef committee for those interested in cooking, a study tour committee, for those interested in organizing a large overseas trip, and a Freshmen Committee (FMC) for the first-year students, amongst several others. These committees arrange various activities throughout the year. You can find a list of upcoming activities on Japie's [website](#). These get updated over time, so be sure to check it out regularly to see if there is an activity that appeals to you.

If you have joined a few activities and you liked it, perhaps you should consider becoming a committee member. At the end of every academic year, the board goes looking for new committee members for next year. All committees are on a volunteer basis, and you can often learn a lot from putting on activities, like organizational skills, budgeting, talking with companies, etc. There is also the First-Years Committee which consists of freshmen and organizes activities aimed at their own cohort. Freshmen can join this committee in the first few weeks of the year.

You can subscribe to an activity on the website too, by clicking on an activity and clicking the orange **SUBSCRIBE** button. Be sure to unsubscribe before the subscription deadline if you no longer wish to attend the activity. Know that by not showing up to an activity for which you are subscribed has consequences, such as being excluded from other upcoming activities.

General Members Meetings

General members' meetings (G.M.M.s) take place multiple times a year. The goal of these meetings is to discuss important topics for the association with as many members as possible present. Although you might not be active in Japie at all, the board wants to do what they can to make your time as a student more enjoyable and worthwhile. To do this we need your input. The G.M.M. is a chance for all members to ask questions, give feedback or learn about the association.

What can you do?

One week before the G.M.M. all members receive an invitation with the agenda (list of topics to be discussed), and all relevant documents attached (such as budgets for activities and proposed changes to important documents).

Most important for you to know is that you do not need to attend the G.M.M. (either in part or in its entirety), you can walk in and out whenever you have time. In general, the most important points are planned to take place during the lunch break.

The G.M.M. will probably have some agenda items where quorum is required, which can be found in the agenda. This fancy word basically means that there should be enough members present when important decisions are made. The board will try to schedule these moments in the lunch break, so try to be there when these topics are discussed! By reading the relevant documents or simply attending and following the presentation you will be able to understand what is discussed, otherwise you are free to ask questions!

Know that you will not be asked to actively participate during the discussions, but you can do so by raising your hand if you want to make a point relevant to the topic being discussed. You can also raise your hand in the form of a hook if you wish to add a comment to a point raised by someone else. We kindly ask you to come by the G.M.M. if you can, especially when quorum is needed.

What topics are generally discussed?

Generally, the G.M.M. consists of committees that present themselves and their progress, and the board presenting evaluations or possible changes to the association documents. These documents are:

Articles of association - The rules that form the basis of the association, this is a legally binding document. The binding version of this document is in Dutch, but an English translation has been provided.

Domestic regulations - More detailed rules that define the rights of members and procedures all members have to stick to.

Everlasting decrees - A list of decisions made at previous G.M.M.s that are still relevant for the association and should be followed.

These sets of rules are updated regularly to keep the association up to date or to fix uncertainties. The presentations of committees are often fun to attend since they look either forward or back on activities and it's a nice chance to get to know these active members better.

The G.M.M. always ends with a round of 'any other business' (A.O.B.). This is the chance for all members to bring up topics that they think are important. Here the board can be held accountable and will take any topic you want to bring up seriously. To keep this final part of the G.M.M. fun, A.O.B.s are requested in alphabetical order. The first A.O.B.'s name will thus start with an "A", the second with a "B", etc. Below is an example of what is meant with alphabetical order.

- A. Apples and oranges
- B. Ananas
- C. Herries and strawberries
- D. ...

Well-being resources

Japie also provides you with access to a variety of well-being resources. The majority of these are to direct you to an expert who can help you out. These can be found on the [well-being page](#) of the Japie website. For help, you can reach out to the [Confidential Contact Persons \(CCPs\)](#), to the [Academic Advisors](#), or to [Education and Student Affairs \(ESA\)](#).

First steps

There are several administrative matters that you should take care of in the first couple of weeks after your arrival in the Netherlands. The following checklist will provide an overview of the most important of these aspects. So, if you forgot to arrange any of these, make sure to do so as soon as possible!

Registration at the city hall

When you move to Eindhoven (or any other place in the Netherlands) and are planning on staying for at least 4 of the coming 6 months, you need to register as a citizen with the municipality. You can do this as early as 4 weeks prior to your move and up to 5 days after. You can register at the counter at the city hall by making an [appointment](#).

Upon registration, you will receive a Citizen Service Number, called BSN (Burger Service Nummer). Keep in mind that you will be registered with the municipality at your new address. This means that if you move house within Eindhoven, you will have to notify the municipality of your move, so that they can deregister you from your old address and register you at the new one.

Health insurance

In the Netherlands, it is mandatory to hold sufficient health and liability insurance. Sometimes, the health insurance from your home country will cover part of the insurance that you need in the Netherlands. For EU nationals, your health insurance provider at home can provide a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which covers part of the sufficient insurance. In any case, if your health insurance doesn't (sufficiently) cover your stay in the Netherlands, you can take out a student insurance. The university has partnered with Aon, which offers a small discount for TU/e students. Moreover, Aon can also provide you with liability insurance.

If you end up getting a job and you earn at least the Dutch minimum wage, you **have** to replace your student insurance with a Dutch basic insurance. This is more expensive, but depending on your salary, you might be eligible for healthcare allowance, which covers most of the costs.

You can find more information about the Dutch healthcare system [here](#). Check out the [Aon website](#) for more information about their student insurance, and the [official website of the Dutch government](#) to find out if you are eligible for healthcare allowance.

Registration with a GP

Although not mandatory, registering with a general practitioner (GP) is strongly recommended. The GP is your first contact in case of illness, and they are the ones who can refer you to a specialist if you need one. You can register with any GP's office, and you can find one that is closer to you on the [Zorgkaart Nederland website](#), by searching with your zip code. Furthermore, [Stroomz de Ring International](#) (former SGE International) is a clinic in Eindhoven specifically for internationals. They aim to be more accommodating towards internationals compared to regular Dutch clinics and they provide their services in English. However, due to the large number of internationals in Eindhoven, it might take a while before you can register with a GP there. Additionally, SGE International has a waiting list, but securing a spot on it is also rather difficult. Therefore, if you want to register there, keep checking their website regularly for availability.

Opening a bank account

Opening a Dutch bank account is crucial and it will make your life a lot easier. Payments in the Netherlands are generally done by card, with some places not even accepting cash. Moreover, credit cards (i.e. Mastercard and Visa) are not widely used either. Therefore, you need to get a debit card (i.e. Maestro or V-Pay) to make sure you're able to pay everywhere in the Netherlands. Having a Dutch bank account also allows you to use the iDeal payment system, which makes online transactions very easy. Additionally, non-EU students should keep in mind that a Dutch bank account is necessary to receive the remainder of the guarantee fee payment and the proof of living expenses from TU/e.

To open a bank account, you can simply walk into the branch of a bank and go through the application process. However, make sure that you first get your BSN number from the city hall, as most banks request it. Alternatively, you can also open an account at an online bank. Many people have an ING or Rabobank account, which sometimes offer special student accounts that have a nice discount. More and more, non-traditional banks like Revolut are being used by students.

You can find more information regarding traditional and online banks and required documents [here](#).

DigiD

Digital Identification (DigiD) is an online ID that enables you to access many service and government websites in the Netherlands. While not mandatory, having a DigiD will help you solve lots of administrative matters online and it will thus save you a lot of time. Some important organisations that use DigiD are the Belastingdienst (Dutch tax office), the city hall, healthcare insurance companies and providers, and other government institutions. Thus, with a DigiD, you can do your taxes, apply for benefits and allowances, arrange your insurances, etc. online. Getting a DigiD is free of charge.

A DigiD consists of a username and password which are linked to your BSN. Therefore, you have to register at the municipality before you can apply for a [DigiD](#)!

Transportation

While many other countries use cars, buses, or trams, the primary means of transportation in the Netherlands is the bike. In general, any trip less than 10km would be done by bike for most students. How to get and take care of a bike, as well as traffic rules, will be discussed in the coming section. Furthermore, buses and trains are available, and discounts and even free rates may be available to you.

Biking in the Netherlands

Getting a bike

It's worth noting that the quality of bikes varies widely, and so does the price. Furthermore, buying a higher quality bike is not always a good idea, as it is more likely to be stolen. In general, you want a bike that is comfortable and works well, but something that does not stand out. In Dutch, such a bike is called a *studentenfiets* or student bike. Here are some of the most common ways to get a bike:

1. Going to a second-hand bike store – There are many in and around Eindhoven. Rijwielcentrale Eindhoven Kruisstraat and Budget FietsenHuis are both used often by students. Nowadays, you are looking at (around) €100 to buy a bike this way.
2. Swapfiets - [Swapfiets](#) is a bike-renting service. At the time of writing (spring 2024), this costs around €20 a month. While you could buy a normal bike in just 5 months of renting, Swapfiets will deliver your bike anywhere. Furthermore, if your bike breaks down due to normal use, they will swap it with a working one
3. Online – There are a couple second-hand websites that often have bikes available. [Marktplaats](#) is the most popular second-hand site in the Netherlands and Facebook marketplace can also have some second-hand options. Bikes can be found for €50 or even less on these sites, however without the quality guarantee of the previous two options. If you have experience with bikes, this could be an option, however it's not recommended if you are purchasing your first bike.

Biking rules and regulations

There are of course rules, regulations, and expectations when riding a bike in the Netherlands. Many videos have been made about this, for example [this](#) one. However, the highlights are as follows:

1. The Netherlands is a right-hand drive country, so ride on the right side of the road and bike path whenever possible. When not overtaking someone, keep to the the right so someone else can overtake you.
2. It is required to have a bell, headlight, and taillight on your bike. You can be fined for this, and it does happen.
3. When approaching an intersection, indicate which direction you are turning with your arm by holding it to the side.
4. Regarding the right-of-way at an intersection, you may see a yield sign or white triangles on the ground. This means that you must give way to oncoming traffic. When there are no priority signs, you must let the person to your right go before you, and the person to your left must wait for you. Cars almost always do this, however bikes are known to disobey this rule, so always be careful and make eye contact at such an intersection.

Keep in mind that these are only some of the rules and you are still responsible for familiarizing yourself with the rest. You alone are responsible for your actions on the road.

Caring for a bike

There are 3 things that often break on a bike: the tires, the chain, and the gears. You can often look up how to do the most common repairs. However, repairing a bike is not for everyone, thus bike repair shops exist. You can search for bike repair shops (in Dutch, fietsenmaker or Fietsspecialist)

Public transportation in the Netherlands

The public transportation system is called OV (openbaar vervoer). Buses are usually used if you need to get to the airport, the suburbs and surrounding towns of Eindhoven . Further than that, trains are often used. All trains and buses depart from Eindhoven Central. Nowadays, you can use Google maps to find suitable routes or an app called 9292. It is worth having both apps, but they will recommend the same route most of the time.

While you can pay with your debit card (pin-pas) or even credit card on many forms of OV, people still generally prefer an “OV-chipkaart” (public transportation card) . There are two types, an anonymous one, which is blue and can be purchased and loaded with money at most train stations, and a personal one , which is yellow, and may only be used by you. It is highly recommended to get a personal OV, as this is required for travel discounts. Additionally, it can be linked to your bank account and reloaded automatically.

How to get free or reduced travel

Depending on your passport and possible visa, you may qualify for a free student travel product (in Dutch, gratis studenten OV). In general, you automatically qualify for free student OV if you have Dutch nationality or a residence permit type II, III, IV or V.

For EU / EEZ students, you do not automatically qualify, however you can get free travel products if you work 56 hours a month.

For non-EU / EEZ students, it is generally not possible to get free travel. If you are commuting a large distance, you can buy passes on [ns.nl](https://www.ns.nl) such as [NS Flex](https://www.ns.nl).

It is possible to get a discount (40% fare) when traveling with someone who does have free travel. You must both go to the ticket machine and select this before boarding the train. It is also important that the person really travels with you, as you may be fined if you do claim to be riding with someone, but they are not with you.

Structure of academic year

The academic year is divided into 4 quartiles. Each quartile consists of 7 weeks of teaching (including lectures, practical courses, etc.), 1 week of exam preparation (typically, no new material is introduced during this week), and 2 weeks of exams. Usually, your final exams will be scheduled during the first week of this period. However, if you fail a course and have a re-exam, this will likely be in the second exam week.

Exams and resits

If you don't pass a final exam on the first try, you are entitled to retake it in the following examination period. Although you don't need to register for the first exam (you are automatically

registered when you enrol in the course), you **do** have to register for the resit via Osiris. Furthermore, you can take the resit without participating in the first exam, but once again you need to register yourself via Osiris. If you want to register for a retake, keep in mind that you have to do so before the registration deadline!

BSA and study progress check

At the end of your first year, you will receive a binding study advice (BSA). This serves as an indication of whether the university thinks that you can complete your bachelor's within a reasonable amount of time. You receive a positive BSA if you obtain at least 45 ECTS in your first year; otherwise, you receive a negative BSA. To be able to continue your studies, you need to obtain a positive BSA. If you don't, you can't enrol in the same program for the next 3 years (but you can enrol in a different program at TU/e). After the second quartile, you will receive a pre-recommendation, indicating if you are on track to obtain a positive BSA. This is not binding, but it acts as either an early estimation of your progress.

The examination committee can issue a positive BSA for students who experience study delay and thus don't obtain 45 ECTS in the first year due to extenuating personal circumstances (e.g. illness, functional disorders, etc). If you are in this situation, check out the following for the [necessary steps that you should undertake](#).

For students who hold a Dutch residence permit for study, it is required to [pass at least 50% of the study credits](#) (30 ECTS) each academic year.

Propaedeutic certificate

Students who pass all the first-year courses within the first year receive a Propaedeutic (P) certificate. The certificates are awarded in a ceremony organized by the department at the beginning of the next academic year. The P certificate doesn't contain a grade list and has no recognition outside of TU/e. When you complete all your first-year courses, even if it takes more than a year, you are said to be out of the Propaedeutic phase of your bachelor.

Joining TU/e communities

TU/e offers various associations that can be split into four big groups: study, student, sport, and cultural association. A compilation of all communities can be found on the [TU/e website](#).

Study associations are for students of a particular study or department (e.g. Japie for Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, Simon Stevin for Mechanical Engineering, Protagoras for Bio-Medical Engineering, etc.). The purpose of these associations is to support students from particular study with giving feedback on courses, help with career orientation, and provide personal development opportunities.

Student associations are open to students of all studies and are focused on building a student community with their members. They organise fun activities, drinks, trips, and other events for their members. They also often have their own houses around Eindhoven, where you live with fellow members of the student association. The three primary student associations in Eindhoven are E.S.C, SSRE, Demos. An important thing to note about these associations is that their primary language is Dutch and as such you would be expected to learn it well.

Sport associations are focused on practicing and doing various sports but also on creating a close knit community around the sports. For team sports, this will likely be your core team, while for more individual sports it'll be the general association. There are over 30 sports associations, mostly based in the Student Sport Centre (SSC). A full list of which can be found [here](#).

Cultural associations are focused on the remaining cultural activities. Most fall under the umbrella association, Scala. The cultural associations include: Dekate Mousa (film and photography), Doppio (theater), Footloose (dance), Kinjin (Japanese Culture), Knights of the Kitchen Table (Roleplaying & Board Games), Modern (Pop Music), Noesis (Chess), Quadrivium (Classical Music), and Studentproof (Jazz Music).

There are other associations that could be considered cultural associations but are not a part of Scala. Two of these include Compass (LGBTQIA+ community) and Cosmos (International Student Association).

Enjoying life in Eindhoven

Even though Eindhoven is quite a small and peaceful city, it certainly does not lack fun activities. You can start your day with a bike ride through the city's beautiful parks such as Stadswandelpark or Henri Dunant park. The Strijp-S district is filled with cafés, art galleries, and creative spaces where you can chill or catch up on studies. Tech enthusiasts may like to visit the High Tech Campus and the various innovation hubs hosting hackathons and startup events.

On weekends, you can explore the weekly markets at the Markt square or visit some of the fun museums Eindhoven has to offer such as Van Abbe, DAF or Philips museum.

When it comes to an important part of student life, the party life, the best place to go is Stratumseind, the longest pub street in the Netherlands, offering a plenty of bars and clubs. From karaoke to silent disco, to more casual pubs, Stratumseind offers plenty for all visitors to enjoy.

Annually, Eindhoven also hosts several big events, one of which is the Dutch Design Week (in October), a massive event showcasing cutting-edge design and technology, and another is Glow (in November), a big light show happening all over the city.

For more casual, everyday stores Eindhoven has plenty to offer. However, be aware of closing times, as stores are generally open daily, but may not be open until as late as you are used to. Especially around holidays, closing times may differ, although these are generally well sign posted. Most stores are also open during weekends, as well as extra late on Fridays, generally until 21:00 instead of 18:00. Grocery stores are generally open until 22:00 everyday except for Sundays.

Dutch language and culture

Dutch language

As you probably know, most people in the Netherlands speak English, however, it is still a good idea to learn Dutch. This is because people will still speak Dutch, for example in study rooms, at drinks, or in the Japie room. However, not knowing Dutch should not be a deterrent to speaking with new people, almost everyone is willing and able to hold a deep conversation in English. It is nice to know Dutch so that you can join these conversations, however, if you speak to someone in English this is not generally considered rude.

Dutch Courses

It can also come in handy to speak Dutch outside of the university, especially if you want to live here after university. Thankfully, the university makes this easy with their Dutch courses. The university offers 7 Dutch Courses ranging from Dutch Beginners 1 to Dutch Advanced Plus. Dutch Beginners 1 is designed for someone who doesn't know any Dutch and it is a great course for new international students. It's also very low pressure, there are no surprise tests (that count for a grade), there's not a lot of homework, and it's only twice a week, for 2 hours, and there are even blocks outside lecture hours. These blocks are in the evening, from 17:30 – 19:15. Dutch Beginners 1 is really a useful course, and it will help you understand the basics of Dutch. Sometimes, Dutch culture is also discussed in these classes, which is a bonus.

These courses are free, however, if you miss more than 25% of the classes, or don't take the exam, then you must pay a fee of €75. However, if you fail, there is no fee, and you can simply retake the course.

Dutch culture

How you perceive Dutch culture is very dependent on where you are from, however here are some things that may stand out.

Being direct – The Dutch often “tell it as they see it”. It’s important to remember that they are not trying to be rude, but rather honest or straightforward. They would rather be perfectly clear in what they are saying instead of leaving you guessing.

Gezellig(heid) - The Dutch are big fans of having cozy, friendly, gatherings with a nice atmosphere. These gatherings are gezellig. It's a big part of Dutch culture, and it's hard to explain, but easy to experience.

Being frugal – The Dutch have not embraced consumerism, like Americans and Canadians have. Dutch people are often happy with what they have and will refrain from buying something new unless they must. A lot of people also buy things second hand and can cook quite tasty meals for cheap.

Biking – Biking is so ubiquitous in the Netherlands, it is just assumed that you have a bike, and if you are going somewhere with your friends, you will go by bike.

These were just some of the most striking cultural differences, you can read and see more [here](#).

Closing remarks

The ICie 2023-2024 (**Erik Nijkamp, Diana Stanciu, & Jana Stojanovic**) in close collaboration their guiding board member (**Sven Nash**) as well with help from the rest of the 66th board of T.S.V. ‘Jan Pieter Minckelers’ made this document to compile various sources for your benefit as new student in Eindhoven. We hope that this will prove/has proven useful to you!

Glossary

Dutch term	English term (if available)	Description
Afspraak	Appointment	
Aftikken	Marking off	When you do not uphold your end of an agreement, such as meeting at a certain time, you may be expected to bring an <i>aftikken</i> , which is normally a sweet snack.
Boeien	(Unimportant) details “irrelevant”	A one word remark said when someone brings up a detail that is not important
Borrel		Informal social gathering, usually among colleagues, with drinks and snacks
Fiets	Bike	A necessity in Dutch life
Fietspad	Bike lane	
Gezellig	Fun/Nice vibes	When something is casually fun with good vibes.
Laf	~coward	Someone or something that acts cowardly. Often used while drinking, for someone refuses a drink.
Lekker	Good, delicious	Usually used for food, but it can also be used to describe something in a positive manner
Leuk	Nice, fun, cool	
Lubben	~Convince	The act of convincing people to join an activity, or another event
Lustrum		Latin word used to refer to a period of five years. The year of every fifth anniversary of a committee, association, etc. Is called a <i>lustrum year</i> . This is typically celebrated with special activities, often a gala.
Openbaar Vervoer (OV)	Public Transportation	OV is used as shorthand for the word Public Transportation, as it is much shorter.
Studentenfiets	Student bike	A bike that works, but that is not good enough to be stolen.