

How to apply for rent allowance (*huurtoeslag*)

Rent payment

You will always have to pay the full rent amount to the housing provider one calendar month upfront. If you are eligible for rent allowance, you will receive the rent benefit separately from the Dutch Tax office (*Belastingdienst*). The rent benefit will never be deducted from your rent, so take into account that *if* the allowance is granted to you, that it will take a few weeks to a few months before you will actually receive the money. **So never calculate the rent allowance beforehand within your monthly budget!**

Terms and conditions

A number of factors will affect your qualification for rent allowance: the rental amount, your current taxable income (in your home country; also government allowances, scholarship, study grants, etc.), your household make-up (shared or private) and any assets you may have. In order to apply for rent allowance you need a social security number (*BSN-burgerservicenummer*). To get a BSN, you need to register yourself with the Municipality (*gemeente*) as soon as possible and within 5 days after your arrival in the Netherlands. It will take a few weeks before you receive the BSN from the municipality.

Digital Identification (DigiD)

In order to apply for rent allowance, you need a DigiD, a secured password of the Dutch government to apply for the allowance. If you do not already have a DigiD, you can request one here: www.digid.nl. You will need your BSN to apply for a DigiD. Within five days you will receive an activation code by email. Make sure to activate your DigiD account in time. After you receive the activation code, you have to activate your account within 21 days.

Application: step by step

- Register with the Dutch municipality you live in, in order to receive a BSN
- Register for a DigiD, in order to use the service of the *belastingdienst*
- Go to the *belastingdienst* website, and click on the *Mijn Toeslagen* section. This section is only available in Dutch. Let someone who speaks Dutch help you fill out the form.
- Click on the DigiD button *Mijn toeslagen > inloggen met DigiD*
- Log in with your DigiD username and password
- Click on *Huurtoeslag Aanvragen* (see print screen below)

Changes

You need to inform the *Belastingdienst* as soon as your living situation changes. Such may include changes to household make-up, income or address. Also inform the *Belastingdienst* when you sublease your accommodation.