The "Know Before You Go" Checklist

Get informed so you can make the right choices and reach your goals.
Don't leave your home country until you have checked these boxes.

1. Job Security & Contract

☐ **I have a signed contract in my language.**

☐ **I understand the hours.**

Note: A "0-hour contract" offers no job security. A "Phase 1-2" (in Dutch: Fase 1-2) contract means they can fire you very easily.

☐ **I understand the terms.**

I know my (legal) trial period and the period I am hired for. This is important because after these periods your job can end without explanation.

☐ **I know my "real" employer:**

Important Dutch terms you must know:

• **Uitzendbureau**: The agency. (They pay your salary and arrange your working conditions).

• **Werkgever**: The client. (The place where you actually work)

☐ **I have checked the company registration online**

2. Housing & Health

☐ **I have seen the housing.**

Make sure your housing follows the rules of flexible housing.

• *Example:* Ask for photos. Ask: "How many people sleep in one bedroom?" (It should not be overcrowded).

• See: Information for residents | Stichting Normering Flexwonen

☐ **I have a separate housing agreement**

Your housing contract and work contract should be two separate papers.

☐ **I have my health cards**

Bring your **EHIC (EKUZ)** card. You need this until your Dutch insurance starts.

☐ **I have my medicine.**

Bring enough prescription medicine from home. Dutch doctors might not prescribe the same brand immediately.

3. Money & Costs

☐ **I have emergency savings.**

Bring **€500 to €1000** with you. *Why?* Your first paycheck might not come for a month, or things might go wrong.

☐ **I know my income**

After deductions for insurance, housing, etc.

☐ **I know the cost of living**

Food and goods are more expensive in the Netherlands.

Check the EURES portal for information on living and working in the Netherlands in your own language: Living and working conditions: Netherlands - EURES (EURopean Employment Services)

☐ **I understand health insurance.**

Having health insurance is required by law. If the agency arranges health insurance for you, it costs about €130-€150 per month. The agency usually takes this directly from your salary.

4. Safety & ID

☐ **I have my Passport/ID.**

☐ **I know the golden rule of ID**

Never give your original ID to anyone to keep. Give them a **photocopy** only.

☐ **I have a safety net.**

I have left a copy of my contract and the address of where I am going with a family member back home.

Need help or further information?