

**WELCOME HOME**

**PRINSENGRACHT**

**219-233**

**2019-2020**

# Meet your RA's



Hi there guys, I'm really looking forward spending time at PG with its new residents! A short introduction about myself: I'm Tjalling, 22 years old, born in the Netherlands, I have roots in Indonesia, I'm very passionate about dancing, I'm doing my master in International Relations and I like trying to cook! When I'm on duty and I'm not studying my door's open for a chat or chilling (I do have a PS4 and a chessboard!!!). What else you can expect from me is a couple of movie nights. If you have any questions about what cinema and what movie to go to, don't bother asking me. I know some great places. Next to that I really do like partying so you can ask me what parties or places you should go to. See you around!  
Tjalling (229F1)

Hi there! I'm the youngest RA and this is my first year here at the Prinsengracht. My name is Teun, I'm 20 years old and I study interdisciplinary social sciences at the UvA. I'm really looking forward to organise events and parties here and to learn you guys everything about the city of Amsterdam. I hope you will appreciate this beautiful location as much as I do, so Amsterdam will feel like your second home. When I'm not studying (which is most of the time) I love seeing friends and family and making music. I play bass guitar in a Haarlem based band named 'Golden Boy' and we are planning to release our first music in the coming months, so I'm really excited about that! Feel free to stop by (my room is on the first floor) for a little jam or a chat about The Beatles, soccer or Dutch reality tv. If you have any questions, don't bother asking me. See you!  
Teun (219 B1)



Hey! My name is Caterina, I'm 21 years old and I am super excited to start my second year here as an RA. I am Italian, but I have been living in Amsterdam for a while, and I am currently doing my third year in European Studies. I love music, going to concerts, travelling and every kind of food! As an international student myself, I know some of the struggles that you might face when living here in the Netherlands, but I also know a lot about cool places, parties and activities that the beautiful Amsterdam has to offer: I will be happy to give you tips about the best second-hand markets, delicious exotic restaurants, nice picnic spots... or anything really, just ask me! My room is 225F1 :)

**Welcome to the dorm!** We hope you'll have a great time here. This letter contains a couple of things that are quite handy to know about:

- who your RAs are, what an RA is & how to reach your RA
- some practical information about the dorm
- info about our first social event
- how to find our Facebook group
- the house rules
- how to connect to the internet
- useful contact info of doctors, etc
- where to find the nearest supermarket, etc.

## **RAs**

See the previous page to get to know more about us personally. We are three Dutch students who work for De Key and the University of Amsterdam as 'Residence Assistants': our job is to be your go-to person for almost everything. We could help you with technical request; like a broken heater/ light bulb, but we also organise social events like a Halloween party or maybe a pancake breakfast. Besides that, we also make sure everybody's following the house rules.

If you are unsure what to expect from us, send us an email. We won't do the obvious: clean your room or call an info number when you can do that by yourself just fine, but we could help you finding a shop to get cleaning supplies and could help you translate a Dutch website.

The way to reach us is by email: [teamprinsengracht@gmail.com](mailto:teamprinsengracht@gmail.com). Every day one of us is on duty from **7:00 pm to 11:00 pm**. During these office hours, your email is sure to be checked. We often check the mailbox multiple times a day just to be sure. If you are experiencing problems, this is the best way to reach us.

Of course you could also knock on our doors or approach us when you see us in the building. You can find our roomnumbers on the first page of this letter.

We'll be here anyway during the evening, so if you have an issue that you feel uncomfortable talking about (for example: feeling homesick, lonely, roommate problems, drugs ) know that we don't mind the company at all! Our door is also open if you just want to talk.

## **APP**

As you guys might know, there is an app available for the residents. Each dorm has its own page on the app. You can find the app in the appstore and you can find all the information about the dorm in there. There is also an option to send repair requests or complaints about the dorm and your room. Please note that when you send a repair request through the app, it might be fixed quicker than when the RA's have to make an appointment for you. The application is called De Key Short Stay Student.

## **Practical info about the dorm**

There are five floors in the building: one below street level, one on street level and three above. (For all you Americans: the Dutch refer to street level as ground floor and the one above it as first floor.) On the lowest floor you'll find a bike storage room and a laundry room (which you can open with your roomkey).

## **Laundry**

We are using WASH&GO as our laundry provider. Doing laundry will cost you €2,00 each time and using the dryers €1,30. You can pay in 2 ways: either you pay in cash every time or you download the app and pay by card (be aware that you can only upgrade your credit starting with 15 euros!)

On the ground floor you will find the mail boxes (please check your mail regularly - the Dutch government or De Key know your address and could use it to send you important stuff). Also: let us know if your mailbox key doesn't work. There is also a hallway (where the elevator stops). Through that hallway you get to the lounge a.k.a. common room of our building. We all share this space and it's pretty tight: it has a TV and a bunch of couches and some tables. You could use it to study, relax, have dinners or parties with friends. This area also leads to our massive garden! The common room and garden are open from 11 in the morning until 7 in the evening. These are negotiable hours. If you want to extend the hours, you can email us. Of course, you should clean up before you leave. We have cleaning supplies and a to-do list ready for you immediately left when you enter.

## **Welcome Drinks**

We are organising a welcome "borrel" (Dutch word you will learn really quick) on **Monday 19th of August in the common room starting from 20.00pm.** Please join us! We understand you are all probably quite tired from the travels, but this is a good moment to get to know other people in the dorm and to relax after having just moved here. We will provide some drinks, but feel free to show off your Brazilian cocktail-shaking skills or show us this amazing drinking game we've never heard of.

During the semester, we'll make sure to organise a lot more events. We have some great ideas already, but are always happy to hear from you if you have suggestions! Shoot us an email!

## **Facebook group**

Over the last years, our dorm's facebook groups have shown to be a great opportunity for people to socialize / make plans for nights out / make random jokes / share photos they made of the city / ask people for a cup of sugar / etc. Join in on the fun! Find the Facebook page called "**Prinsengracht 219-233 2019/2020**" and subscribe. Make sure you don't join an old Facebook group!!

## **House rules**

Students from all over the world live in our dorm. People from different cultures tend to have different ethics and moral values. The house rules of this building may be very different from what you would expect in your own country. Please make sure you get familiar with the house rules, because we expect you to know about them.

No noise / nuisance after 10 pm (22:00) If you want to party, just go to a club or a pub. Experience shows that noise from our building will easily wake up our neighbours. After 10 pm **lower your voice, turn down your music, don't smoke in the garden and above all close your window.** After 11 pm (23:00) everyone has to be quiet so other people can sleep. Remember this when you come back home early in the morning! During the day please take into account that many people want to study in their rooms and need some peace and quiet to do so. If you yourself are experiencing noise disturbance, don't hesitate to walk to your neighbor and ask them (friendly) to turn down the volume. If this doesn't help please contact us.

Smoking: In the whole building smoking is **not** allowed. BEWARE! In the hallways the fire alarm will go off easily, so don't smoke over there! **Smoking is only allowed in your room if your roommate or unit mate does not object (ask them first).** Smoking is prohibited in all public parts of the building, including the common room.

Drugs: RAs tolerate smoking cigarettes and soft drugs (weed and hash) in your room, as long as your roommate or unit mate does not object. Make sure your doors are closed if you smoke, because it might set off the fire alarm. And the smell isn't something everyone wants to wake up to. Use or possession of hard drugs in the building is forbidden. Your contract will immediately be terminated if you are caught in the possession of hard drugs.

Garbage: Garbage is collected in the waste containers right in front of the building. Only use official garbage bags (not plastic bags) and make sure to close them.

In the garbage containers right in front of the building, paper and plastic can be separated from the residual waste. For glass waste, residents can go to the recycling point on Westerstraat - between the Jumbo and Albert Heijn. Beer bottles/ crates/ plastic bottles can be also brought back to the supermarket in order to receive the deposit.

It is not allowed to place any garbage in the hallways or main entrance downstairs (a violation will cost you € 25,00).

## Consequences of breaking house rules

If you violate the house rules, we could give you an official warning. If you violate them again after this warning, De Key has the right to terminate your lease agreement immediately. In very severe cases even an initial violation can lead to eviction.

### Bringing others into the building:

If you bring guests into the building, it is your responsibility to make sure they don't break the house rules. If (one of) your guests cause(s) serious violations of the house rules, it might lead to eviction.

Safety: Living in the centre of Amsterdam has a downside: crime. To prevent criminals from entering the building, please take the following into account:

- Don't open the door for people you do not know. If they're visiting someone they can ring the bell of that room.
- If people who you don't know follow you into the building, ask them if they live here. If they say they do, ask them to show you their key. This is not rude! It is a necessary safety measure.
- Whenever you leave, **lock both your unit door and room door with your key.** Rooms that were not properly locked with a key can easily be opened by a skilled burglar.
- On the ground floor, close your windows if you are not in the room. Even if you go to the toilet for 5 minutes, close your windows! (things have been stolen before, even at night, please be careful). The same goes for people on the garden side (intruders might gain access to the garden through the common room during the day).
- When you leave or enter the building, **make sure the front doors close behind you before you get out of sight of them!**
- When you leave the bike entrance, make sure at least one of the automatic doors is closed when you go out of sight of them!

Don't lock yourself out: **The RAs are not able to open your room.** Locking yourself out means you've got to contact the Lock Out Service through DeKey application. They help you 24 hours a day every day. Opening your door will cost you €65,-; a waste of money according to us. Besides,

Common room and garden: Our lounge and garden are open every day from 11:00 AM to 19:00 PM.

Having a party? You're allowed to organise a party in the common room, but you have to contact the RAs in advance. Send an email to [teamprinsengracht@gmail.com](mailto:teamprinsengracht@gmail.com).

Organizing a party means responsibility: you are fully responsible for the common room and for the people you invite. This means you have to keep the party under control and to clean up, the same night! If you violate the rules, De Key will give you an official warning. If you consider having a party, feel free to contact your RA's.

Bikes: All bikes should be stored in the basement. Bikes found in the hallways or against the front of the building might be removed by the local police. The bike storage room can be accessed without a key. Don't forget to lock your bike, even when it's inside! We are not responsible if it gets stolen.

Having guests? In case you are having guests over for less than a week, you do not have to inform De Key. But don't forget to discuss this with your roommate beforehand. Is your guest staying longer than a week? Inform De Key and your RAs in advance the DeKey application. It is your responsibility to inform your guests about our house rules and make sure they follow them. If not, it's on your head. Subletting or hosting a couchsurfer is strictly forbidden and will result in large fines and legal action!

Your belongings: Don't leave any of your belongings in the hallways. Fire regulations state that the halls should be empty at all times. The Caretaker and your RAs are very strict about this rule. If we find anything in the halls we will remove it immediately.

Internet:

There is wifi for common use, the network is *Ziggo\_ittdesk* and the password is *dekey2017*. Please take note that this wifi is accessible for everybody in the building. Next to that the wifi is only supporting. When you want better or faster internet/wifi buy an internet cable and router yourself!

BBQ:

We have a really big BBQ for the dorm. If you want to use the BBQ send an e-mail to the RAs. Then, we can make an appointment to give you the BBQ. We will ask for a € 20,- deposit. You will get the money back if you return the BBQ clean and in time, i.e. the next morning.

**Useful contact details**

Injuries/Doctors/ Hospital: Every RA has a first aid box. For small injuries that need a plaster, you can come to us. For injuries that require medical attention, please go to a doctor or to the hospital. If you're unsure of what to do, come find one of us. In case of emergency, call **112** for an ambulance, but know that it is very expensive if you're not insured. For a doctor's consult without an appointment you can go to the student doctor on Oude Turfstraat 151 weekdays between 09:00 AM to 09:45 AM. Be on time because after 9.45 you will have to make an appointment. You have to pay the consultant fee in cash, app. 27 EURO.

'Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis' (OLVG), is the hospital closet to PG, app 10 min by bike. Their address is Eerste Oosterparkstraat 1, tel: 020-5999111 (<http://olv.g.ziekenhuis.nl>).

In short:

Emergencies (fire-fighters, ambulance and police)	112
UvA Doctors	+31 (0)20 - 6237417 / +31(0)20 - 525 2878

Regular doctors after hours and on weekends	+31(0)88 - 0030600
Nearest hospital: OLVG	<a href="http://www.olvg.nl">www.olvg.nl</a> Eerste Oosterparkstraat 1 +31 (0)20 - 5999111
Taxi (TCA)	+31 (0)20 7777777
Police, non-emergency	+31 (0)900 88 44
Animal cops	144
Anonymous crime line	+31 (0)800 7000
Jellinek drug test service (For a small price, pills and powders will be checked for dangerous ingredients / potency. Anonymous)	Jacob Obrechtstraat 92, Amsterdam. (Every Thursday from 5 to 9 at night.)

### **Nearest supermarket etc.**

There are two Albert Heijn supermarkets close to our dorm. The easiest to find is the one on Westermarkt. Turn left outside the building, cross the bridge, walk past the Anne Frank House and cross the tram tracks on Westermarkt.

The other one is on Westerstraat. Turn right outside our building, cross the first bridge, go right, go left on the big street and walk on the left side of the street until you reach Albert Heijn. Across from this supermarket there's a Jumbo which is a different kind of supermarket but about the same price range.

If you want to go to a cheaper supermarket you could go to the Lidl. The nearest one is on the Tweede Helmersstraat 29.

Other very handy stores for your everyday stuff is HEMA (closest one on haarlemmerplein) or Blokker (Haarlemmerdijk). A cheap version of those is Action (Kinkerstraat)

### **Bike Rent**

If you do not want to buy a bike there's also the opportunity to rent one for the semester or even a full year. Visit the company's website to get more info or if you want to rent one: <http://www.studentbikes.nl/> or <http://www.swapfiets.nl>

### **Bike pump**

If your bike needs pumping, you can go to the bike shop Amstel Bike, also on Westermarkt, next to the Albert Heijn. They have a free bike pump outside that you can use whenever you like.