Dear Partner,

Greetings from Leiden University! I hope this message finds you well.

I am contacting you with an update regarding the student housing situation at Leiden University.

Despite a range of efforts, the demand of student housing in Leiden and The Hague is currently still greater than supply. Even though the Leiden University Housing Office is expanding their housing portfolio, the situation will still be very tight in 2019/2020. As a result, it can be very challenging to find suitable and affordable student housing.

We therefore wish to stress that is it very important for **students who will be starting their exchange in Leiden in Fall 2019, to**[**apply for housing through the Housing Office**](https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/international-students/prepare-your-stay/housing/via-leiden-university-housing-office/how-to-apply)**and to pay the housing fee as soon as possible after submitting their online application for exchange**, even if they have not been formally admitted to Leiden University yet. Accommodation is allocated on a “first come first served” basis, and **a student’s place on the housing list is determined by the date on which their housing fee is received**.

Please note that even an **early application does not guarantee housing.**If your students do manage to secure housing through the Leiden University Housing Office, it is good to be aware of the possibility that, depending on their preferred price range, students may receive an offer for a room that is located either in Leiden or in The Hague (15 minutes apart by train). They might also receive a housing offer that is outside their preferred price range, in the event nothing in their preferred price range is available.

Students also need to be prepared for the situation in which they do not receive an offer from the Housing Office at all, and for having to try to secure housing through different channels. The Housing Office provides [information on how to find housing yourself and how to avoid rental scams](https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/international-students/prepare-your-stay/housing/finding-housing-yourself). It is advisable for your students to already start looking at these options as well. The Housing Office will keep the students updated regarding the status of their housing application and will notify students once all available rooms have been allocated, but the earlier students start exploring other options, the better their chances at securing a place to stay.

Thank you so much for your understanding and for sharing this information with your students.

Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns.