

## **Student assistant wanted for research on the contributions undocumented migrants make to society**

The dominant narrative around undocumented migration in the Netherlands is a narrative of control and criminalization (Hajer 2024). Undocumented migrants are framed as migrants who do not have the right to be in the country and are supposed to return to their country of origin. They are frequently portrayed as a ‘burden’ on society. As a result of this association very little till no attention in the Dutch discourse around undocumented migration is put on the contributions undocumented migrants make as workers to the society.

This student assistant job will contribute to the analysis of different ways to map the contributions undocumented migrants make to Dutch society.

A **literature review** will be conducted to map what is out there, which sectors are researched, how is ‘contribution’ calculated, conceptualized and operationalized? When calculating the contributions undocumented migrants make, it is important to take into consideration that when migrants work they are actually not a ‘burden’ in that they don’t make use of organizations that provide support in the workplace, and sustain themselves. Additionally, earned money is spent on consumer goods and public services, which contributes to tax revenues. We think it is important to take a wider perspective than the individual worker alone. Workers are part of households and families and also remit money to their families locally and abroad. In the literature study we will include this wider perspective.

Dr. Tina Dulam (economy) en Prof. Ilse van Liempt (human geography and spatial planning) will supervise the student assistant.

The job is for **2 days a week for 3 months** (May - July 2026- or September - November 2026).

Funding comes from a seed money project called: ‘*Contributions of undocumented migrants in the Netherlands*’ from the UU Focus Area on Migration and Societal Change.

You will be supervised by Tina Dulam from economy and Ilse van Liempt from human geography. We also closely collaborate with Rian Ederveen (LOS: landelijk ongedocumenteerde steunpunt) and Marijke Bijl (OKIA: ondersteuningskomitee Illegale Arbeiders).

### **Task description**

- Review of international literature on contributions of undocumented migrants
- Contribute to data analysis/interpretation.
- Organise an event for civil society organisations on counter narratives around undocumented migration that includes their contribution

The job is open for Dutch speaking as well as English speaking students. Please note the majority of the documents for analysis will be in Dutch.

### **Preferred qualities:**

- Background in economy, human geography, sociology or related social sciences.
- Independent worker but also a team player.

**Interested?** Please send your CV and motivation letter to [t.dulam@uu.nl](mailto:t.dulam@uu.nl) before Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2026. Student assistant salaries apply.