Travel information for participants of GSG2020

How to get from the airport to Leeuwarden

We assume that most participants will arrive at Schiphol Amsterdam Airport. The most convenient way to get to Leeuwarden is to travel by train. Dutch railways run a good intercity service (wifi included) between the airport and Leeuwarden, taking a bit more than 2 hours. There are two connections each hour, departing at .34 (direct connection without transfer) and .04 (transfer in Zwolle, opposite side of the same platform). Regional trains can be taken as well, but will involve more transfers and take longer.

Check [https://www.ns.nl/en](https://www.ns.nl/en) for more details (in english).

From Leeuwarden back to the airport, IC-trains leave Leeuwarden .16 (direct connection) or .46 (transfer in Zwolle, see above). Travelling time is again a bit more than 2 hours.

Ticket system and ticket gates

Tickets are not (!) sold in the train, so you need to purchase your ticket prior to boarding a train; otherwise you have to pay a fine. You may either buy an e-ticket (address see above), or get a ticket from the numerous ticket machines at the airport. There is also a service desk which sells tickets, but these are slightly more expensive as the others. Usually there is a separate info desk which may assist you when having difficulties in getting around.

Note that you can only enter the train platforms with a valid ticket. You need your ticket to pass the ticket gates (similar as many subway systems use) and keep your ticket upon arrival, as you also need it to leave the platform in Leeuwarden. In Leeuwarden use the yellow ticket gates from NS (and not the red ones from Arriva). If you have an e-ticket, look for the QR-code sign on the ticket gate. E-tickets have a QR-code that enables you to pass the ticket gate.

Travel around in Leeuwarden

Most hotels and the conference location are at close distance and can be reached by foot. If you want to take bus services, you can buy a ticket from the bus driver. Note: usually only card payments are taken. The bus station is next to the railway station (turn left when you leave the railway station).

Coming from abroad by train

For those arriving by train from e.g. Germany, best connections run via the border stations Arnhem (including ICE connection from Frankfurt), Venlo (from Mönchengladbach) or Enschede (from Münster). In Enschede you need to pass the ticket gates to get to the domestic part of the railway station (see above). The connection via Leer (Ostfriesland) to Groningen is currently interrupted, but replaced by a direct bus connection. See also [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de) for details. If you purchase a ticket abroad, check if a QR-code is supplied as well to allow you to pass the ticket gates (this is usually the case when buying tickets online, but may not be the case when buying tickets at e.g. a travel agency).

Travellers from the south usually enter the country via Breda, and need to transfer in Rotterdam-Central for connecting IC-services to Leeuwarden, see [https://www.ns.nl/en](https://www.ns.nl/en).
Note for travelers that need an invitation for Visa, please check the separate document at https://www.sovon.nl/nl/gsg2020 (look for the links at the right side on top of the page). If you need financial support, please look at the same spot.

If you need assistance with your travel connections in The Netherlands, please check out with Kees Koffijberg (kees.koffijberg@sovon.nl).