WHAT DOES DOING A VOTE-IN FOR A ROOM MEAN?
In many DUWO residences, new house mates are selected through interviewing (also via co-option, consent or nomination). This means that the candidates for a room are invited to meet the current residents. This takes place at a time chosen by the residents. Often, this is during the evening. That's why such a moment is often called a vote-in evening. During a vote-in evening the interviewees (those seeking a room) and residents get to know each other. The interviewee has the opportunity to view the home and the room. Afterwards, the residents collectively select a new house mate. If the selected interviewee would also like to live in the home, this person becomes the new housemate.

FOR WHICH RESIDENCES DO YOU HAVE TO DO A VOTE-IN FOR A ROOM?
This is mainly the case in shared units. These are rooms in a house where, for example, the bathroom and kitchen are shared. Sometimes there is also a vote-in to receive a self-contained dwelling, such as a studio. In the case of self-contained dwellings the new tenant is usually determined based on the registration time.

We can imagine that you, as someone looking for a place to live, are curious how vote-ins for a room in a student house works. And that you as a resident would like to know more about how you can organise a vote-in evening. That's why we have written two guides: one for interviewees and one for residents.
GUIDE I: VOTE-IN FOR A ROOM IN A STUDENT HOUSE

If you are looking for a student room there is a great chance that you must go to a vote-in for a room in a student house. In this guide we explain how this process works. This way you will have a better idea of what you can expect and approach the vote-in evening in good spirits.

GOOD TO KNOW
When there is a vote-in for a room in a student house, it’s all about finding a match. During an vote-in evening the residents as well as the person looking for a home explore whether they would like to live together. It may sound crazy, but here it’s usually less about the room itself. Be aware that during an vote-in evening the residents are primarily exploring whether they feel a connection with you.

HOW CAN I GET INVITED TO A VOTE-IN FOR A ROOM?
View the listing of offers on www.room.nl or other online channels (for example, Facebook and Kamernet) and read the advertisements. Is there a room among these in which you would like to live? Then respond to the room offering. Now you must wait to see if you are invited to the vote-in for the room. What happens if you are not invited? Continue to respond to the offers on ROOM. Have you been invited? Congratulations! We will explain further below.

WHAT IS AN ONLINE PRESELECTION?
You respond to a room offering where the rental is done through vote-ins (also via co-opting or consent). Sometimes residents decide to make a preselection before they invite people to a vote-in. This mainly occurs via video calling. This allows for a brief introduction and seeing whether there is a connection. This is convenient for the residents if they receive many responses to a room, and it is also convenient for you. After all, you can already assess whether you want to live with these residents. A preselection also saves travelling time. Is there a connection on both sides? Then the residents will probably invite you to a vote-in evening.
WHAT IS AN INTERVIEW EVENING?
The residents of the student house invite several candidates for a vote-in evening. These candidates are called interviewees. During the vote-in evening the interviewees get to know the residents.

WHAT DOES A VOTE-IN EVENING LOOK LIKE?
Vote-in evenings can differ. The residents themselves determine how they will organise the evening. They may indicate on ROOM how the evening will be organised. This way you know what to expect. Should this not be the case, there are several methods that are regularly used:

• Individual introduction:
The residents invite the interviewees one by one. Each interviewee approximately receives the same amount of time. This way the residents can get to know you properly, and you will get a good indication of the residents.

• Introduction in groups:
The residents hold several rounds of interviews. For each round they invite a small group of interviewees (2-5 persons) to become acquainted with.

• Getting acquainted over drinks:
The residents invite all interviewees at the same time. The interviewees and residents mix among each other and try to get to know everyone.

AND THEN?
You have viewed the house and the room. You have also been able to get to know the residents. Think whether you would like to live in the house. In the meantime wait for the response of the residents. Once the interviewees leave the vote-in evening the residents will consult among themselves. Together they decide which interviewee they will select as their new fellow tenant. They usually choose the person who, according to them, is the best fit with the house. Several options are possible here:

• The residents select you and you would like to live in the house:
Congratulations! You have a room.
• The residents select you but you don’t want to live in the house:
  You can always refuse a room. Tell this to the residents honestly. They can then select a different house mate. Your search then continues.
• The residents do not select you:
  There is naturally a chance that the residents do not select you. Don’t take their choice to heart. Your search then continues.

We have several tips for you to prepare yourself properly for the vote-in evening. We hope these tips will give you peace of mind when you go to a vote-in evening.

• Be yourself:
  It’s important that you feel at ease with the current residents. So try to be yourself. This way you’ll know better whether you are a good fit with these residents.

• Have fun and make a nice evening of it. Focus on getting to know the residents and having a good time. That usually works better than just focusing on arranging a room.

• Arrive on time, but not too early:
  During a vote-in evening multiple interviewees often arrive within a short period. The residents will appreciate it if you arrive at the agreed time. However, don’t arrive early. There is a chance that there is another round before you. Pre-determine your route as well as whether, for example, there are public transport delays.

• Try to speak to all house mates;
  It helps to speak to all of them. This way you’ll know better whether you have a connection with the current residents. And, at the same time, each of them will get to know you. This helps you as well as the residents to make a good choice.
  It can sometimes be difficult to speak to everyone. For example, such as when the residents choose a drinks gathering as an interview method. Try to divide your attention and switch discussion partners from time to time.

• Also give the other interviewees time and space:
  Are there other interviewees present? Then also give them the time and space to become acquainted. Residents usually don’t appreciate it when you are the only one talking.
• Ask questions:
  Before the vote-in evening consider whether there are certain things you want to know about the house, the room or the residents. For example, are you curious whether meals are often eaten together, whether parties are often held, or whether house mates organise activities from time to time? Ask these questions during the vote-in evening. This is how you’ll receive a good indication of whether you are a good fit with these residents.

• Prepare for questions:
  The current residents would like to get to know you. So there is a big chance that they will ask you about your hobbies, your study programme or your cooking skills. It can be helpful to already think about this.

• Do not offer extra money:
  You rent the room from DUWO. This means that you cannot add any extra money to the rent. Offering money to the current residents is forbidden.

• Come alone:
  The residents would like to get to know you, so come alone. If you are brought to the evening, let the person that brought you wait outside.

• Travel safely and responsibly:
  Be aware that alcohol is often consumed during the event. Are you planning to drink alcohol? If so, be sensible and responsible in the way you travel to the vote-in evening.

• Don’t take a rejection personally:
  The chance that there is an instant connection is small. People looking for a place to live interview an average of 8 times before finding something. So rejection is part of the deal. That can sometimes be a shame. Don’t take the rejection personally.
GUIDE 2: ORGANISING A VOTE-IN EVENING

If you rent a room from DUWO there is a great chance that you must organise a vote-in evening. In this guide we explain the steps you can go through when you organise a vote-in evening. This way you ensure that you and your housemates, as well as the interviewees, will have a fun evening.

YOU ARE ORGANISING A VOTE-IN EVENING

One or more of your house mates are moving out. This will result in a room becoming available. You live in a house where the rental is done via vote-ins (also via co-opting, consent or nomination). This means that you and your house mates will look for a new house mate. How do you approach that?

1 Pick a date:
Together with your house mates choose a time when (almost) everyone is available. In connection with the study times of you and your (future) house mates, it’s convenient to select an evening. This will be the date of your vote-in evening. Take the amount of time that DUWO gives to look for a new house mate into consideration.

2 Create an advertisement:
Discuss with your house mates what you are looking for in a new house mate. For example, are you looking for a quiet person or, instead, someone who is a party animal? Write some text to recruit a new house mate. It’s smart to include here what kind of person you and your house mates are looking for. This ensures that people who match your wishes will respond.

3 Think about how you want the vote-in evening to go:
Discuss with your house mates what the vote-in evening should look like. And, in the advertisement, share the method that you and your house mates have chosen. People who respond will then know what they can expect from your vote-in evening.

Many methods are possible. Here are several methods that are regularly used:

- Individual introduction:
The residents invite the interviewees individually. Each interviewee approximately receives the same amount
of time. This way the residents can properly get to know the interviewees. And the interviewees will get a good indication of the residents.

- **Introduction in groups:**
  The residents hold several rounds of interviews. For each round they invite a small group of interviewees (2-5 persons) to get acquainted with.
- **Getting acquainted over drinks:**
  The residents invite all interviewees at the same time. The interviewees and residents mix among each other and try to get to know everyone.

4 **Make photos:**
An advertisement really comes to life when photos are added. Add at least a photo of the room in question. Consider what other photos you and your house mates want to share. These can, for example, be photos of the house or a group photo from an outing with the entire house.

5 **Place the advertisement via the rental platform and on other online channels (such as Facebook):**
You now have all the information needed to place the advertisement. And... Share it! Share your advertisement via the rental platform. This way all those who are looking for a place to live and are registered with ROOM can see the advertisement.

6 **Select the candidates:**
Determine with your house mates who you want to invite to the vote-in evening. Invite 5-15 people. This ensures sufficient choice, and you can still allocate your attention among the different interviewees.

7 **Make a preselection on Teams:**
Have you and your house mates received a lot of responses, but you only want to invite a small group? Or do candidates have to travel from afar to attend the vote-in evening? In these cases it can help to video call the candidates in advance. This will quickly give you an indication of whether someone fits with your house group. If that is not the case, then be sure to politely mention
that. If that is the case you can invite this person for the vote-in evening.

8 Invite candidates:
Invite the selected candidates. In the invitation mention when they are expected. If you have not previously shared how the vote-in evening will be organised, it is good to do that in the invitation. This way interviewees will know what to expect, which is very nice.

Now it’s time for the vote-in evening! Here are some more tips for hosting the perfect vote-in evening.

• Give a tour:
The interviewees have never seen your house. They are surely curious about what it looks like. So give them a tour. This way they will get a good indication of your house. And it’s also a nice opportunity to have an informal conversation with them.

• Show the room:
It might be a no-brainer, but don’t forget to also show the room. You and your house mates may find the atmosphere in the house more important than the room, but it’s nice for the interviewee to see what their potential room looks like.

• Distribute your attention:
Try to speak to all interviewees. This way you will get a good indication of everyone. This makes it easier when you and your house mates must subsequently decide.

• Be respectful:
This also speaks for itself, but we will just mention it here: be respectful to your interviewees. Treat everyone equally and respect everyone’s boundaries.

• Do not force anyone into taking action:
Respect everyone’s boundaries. This means that you may not force or oblige your interviewees to do something they do not want to do.

• Consider the interviewees’ travelling time:
It may be the case that, after the vote-in evening, interviewees must travel a long time to return to their home. They would appreciate it if you would consider that. So start the interview evening on time. You can then also stop on time and avoid interviewees missing their last train.
• Do not organise a vote-in evening if it is already clear who will be the new house mate:
   Is it already clear from the preselection or invitation who you and your house mates want to select as your new house mate? Then be honest with the other candidates and don't organise a vote-in evening. You will avoid other candidates investing their time and effort unnecessarily.

• Do not accept any money from people looking for a place to live:
   It may occur that a student offers you money for your room. ‘Selling’ your room to someone looking for a place to live is prohibited. Therefore, do not accept this money.