



**most people  
come for the tulips  
you come for an  
international  
experience**



**Life and Study**

[www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl)

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# Facts & figures about Holland

## Geography

**Surface area** 41,528 square kilometres, one quarter of which is below sea level

**Distance north to south** 300 kilometres

**Distance east to west** 170 kilometres

**Lowest point** 6.76 metres below sea level (near Rotterdam)

**Highest point** 323 metres (near Maastricht)

**Climate** moderate maritime climate

## Government

**Official name** Kingdom of the Netherlands, commonly referred to as Holland or the Netherlands

**Form of government** Constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliament

**Head of state** The hereditary monarch of Orange - Nassau

**Head of government** The prime minister

**Capital city** Amsterdam

**Seat of government** The Hague

## Population

**Total population** 16,829,289

Holland is one of the most densely populated countries in the world

**Ethnic composition** Of the current population, 19.9% are of recent foreign descent

**Religion** 46% identify themselves as Christian, 45% claim no affiliation, 9% belong to other religions

**National language** Dutch; Frisian is spoken as a second language by approximately 500,000 people living in the northern province of Friesland

# Welcome to Holland

The Dutch combine history and traditional culture with innovation, modernism and an international orientation. They have taken to the high-tech world with ease, but are equally happy going for a quiet stroll along the beach.



## Holland, or the Netherlands

The Netherlands is a kingdom. Its official name is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The country's name in Dutch is *Nederland*, meaning 'low country' and referring to the fact that much of the land is at or below sea level. The Netherlands is often called 'Holland', a name that is derived from the names of the two western coastal provinces, North and South Holland, that were the most developed and wealthiest parts of the country in the seventeenth century and played a dominant role in the country's history.

## Geography

Holland is situated in the west of Europe and borders Germany to the east, Belgium to the south and the North Sea to the north and west. What strikes people most when they first arrive in Holland is the landscape: the country is extremely flat. While there are some hilly areas in the southeast corner of the country, these barely infringe on the broad, unbroken expanse of sky that is so characteristic of the Dutch landscape. Moreover, there is water everywhere, in the

form of lakes, rivers and canals. Holland's relatively small area of slightly over 41,000 square kilometres is home to nearly 17 million people.

## Society

Dutch society is home to more than 200 different nationalities living in its many cities and villages. For decades the country's historical ties with other parts of the world have brought people of non-Dutch origin to settle in Holland, which makes the Dutch generally open-minded and tolerant towards foreigners. This cultural diversity has made Holland a place where knowledge, ideas and cultures from all over the world come together. Although Dutch is the national language, the majority of the population also speaks English and very often another foreign language, such as German or French.

## Mentality

The Netherlands is a 'self-service country'. The Dutch try to manage most things themselves, which makes them very independent and organised. Another distinctive characteristic

of the Dutch is their openness and direct manner of acting and speaking. You will notice that you can say exactly what is on your mind, as the Dutch are not easily offended. Dutch society is organised in a non-hierarchical way. For example, teachers tend to be very accessible and true interlocutors for their students. You will be on familiar terms with most people in almost no time.

## Public safety

Holland is a safe country by international standards, with low levels of violence and street crime. The police are friendly and helpful; they have a duty to protect everyone and you can always feel confident approaching them for help. Should you need to contact them, don't worry about language difficulties as the police speak English or will find someone, free of charge, who speaks your language. In the event of a life-threatening emergency or crime you can contact the police, fire brigade or ambulance by dialling 112 from any phone (free of charge).

## Religion

Holland has a huge religious diversity: you will find churches, mosques, synagogues and Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh places of worship. Of all the religions in Holland, Christianity has the longest tradition, with the first Christian missionaries arriving about 1600 years ago. A sizeable part of the population describes itself as non-religious, however, and Dutch churches lost much of their influence during the second half of the twentieth century. You will have plenty of opportunities to practice your own religion if you wish.

Ask the student affairs office at your host institution to help you locate places of worship.

## Student life

Higher education institutions are spread throughout the country. Only some of them have central campuses, however, and the buildings of a single university might even be scattered throughout a city. Nevertheless, universities do have a real student culture. Each institution has a network of associations that bring students together for academic activities, sports and recreation. All of these associations are run by students, and some of them are internationally oriented. Students also have their favourite pubs, restaurants and other meeting places. Generally speaking, the Dutch higher education community seeks to be part of society and is not isolated from it.

## Culture & leisure

Holland is more varied than you might expect. There is plenty to see, whether you're strolling through town, making a boat trip on the canals or lakes, lazing on the beach or walking in the woods and dunes. There is no shortage of entertainment either. Major

international stars regularly play at Dutch stadiums and other venues.

Parkpop (in The Hague in June) is one of the largest free pop festivals in Europe. Musicals and theatre performances are also very popular. With over 1,000 museums, there is a lot to discover.

And don't be surprised to see people dressed in orange and partying in the street on King's Day or when the national football team is playing an important match.

Did you know that...  
**'the Netherlands' and  
'Holland' are both  
used to describe the  
same country?**



Dutch society is home to over 200 different nationalities living in its many cities and villages.

## Dutch cuisine

The Dutch do not have a tradition of fine cooking, and hot meals are generally limited to one a day, traditionally in the evening. A typical breakfast consists of sliced bread with cheese, sliced cold meat and/or jam. Most people have sandwiches for lunch with the addition of perhaps soup, a salad or fruit. For the evening meal, potatoes and vegetables are accompanied by a serving of meat or fish. This traditional diet is also the most economical. In recent years, however, Dutch tastes have become more international and refined. You will find a large variety of products (pasta dishes, rice, curry) in the regular supermarkets, and many restaurants offer a wide range of international dishes.

## Getting around

Holland is a small country. You do not really need a car to get around. Public transport will take you almost anywhere you want to go.

Consider buying a discount card for the train; it really is worth the investment. Holland has a dense railway network that offers frequent service and is the quickest way to travel between city centres. The bicycle is the cheapest and easiest way to get around, especially if you live in a city. Most Dutch people, regardless of their profession or status, own a bicycle. Buy a second-hand bike rather than a new one to save money. But also be sure to buy at least one strong lock!

## Travel

Once you have arrived in Holland, you will discover that many European capitals are within easy reach. Berlin, Brussels and Paris can be easily reached by train, and a short flight from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport will take you to London, Madrid or Rome. Dutch institutions make an ideal starting point for study tours and exchanges to other European countries.

## **Business**

The Dutch economy is open and internationally oriented. For centuries, international trade has been a key element of the Dutch economic system. Located in the delta where several major European rivers flow into the North Sea, Holland was ideally situated to become a centre of trade and transport for all of western Europe. The seventeenth century is known as the Golden Age of Dutch history, when Dutch ships carried 90% of all goods coming into Europe.

Today, international trade is still the main engine of economic growth in Holland. According to the CIA's The World Factbook, Holland is the twenty-eighth largest economy in the world and one of the ten leading exporting nations. Holland's most important trading partners are its neighbours Germany, Belgium, the UK and France.

## **Service industry, agricultural products and the creative sector**

The Dutch economy is particularly strong in the service industry, the agricultural products sector and the creative sector. In recent years, the Dutch economy has made a shift from a production-based to a service-oriented economy. Nowadays, over 70% of Dutch economic activity is service-based. Holland is also one of the world's largest exporters of agricultural produce. One-fifth of all Dutch exports fall within the food products and flower sector. The flower sector owes its strong position to the country's climate, the availability of high-tech production methods and the proximity of 500 million consumers across Europe. In recent years, Dutch Design

has become an international phenomenon. From fashion and architecture to music and new media, the sector is filled with talent.

## **Politics**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliament and universal suffrage based on a system of proportional representation.

This system gives a large number of parties the opportunity to win seats in parliament, such that no single party has an overall majority. The monarchy symbolizes national unity and therefore has a more ceremonial character. The political preferences of the Dutch people are much the same as is found in the rest of Europe: the three main moderate political tendencies are represented by the social democrats, the Christian democrats and the liberal parties. The smaller parties are generally less moderate variations of one of the three main lines.

Did you know that...

**the Dutch are statistically the tallest people in the world?**

## **Learn more about Holland and the Dutch:**

[www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters](http://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters)  
[www.minbuza.nl/en](http://www.minbuza.nl/en)  
[www.dutchdailynews.com](http://www.dutchdailynews.com)  
[www.dutchnews.nl](http://www.dutchnews.nl)  
[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com)  
[www.rnw.nl/english](http://www.rnw.nl/english)  
[www.xpat.nl](http://www.xpat.nl)

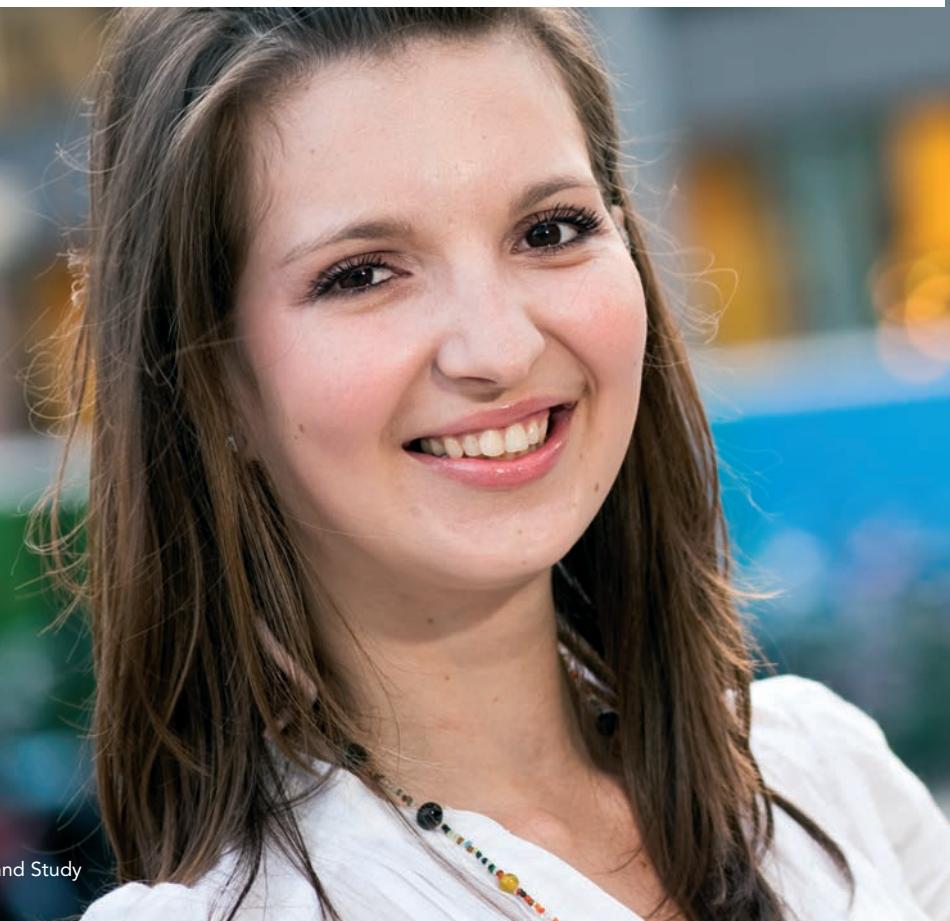
Before arriving in Netherlands, I was afraid that maybe I would not find people with the same interests because of the difference in culture and that it would be difficult to make friends. But all the people that came to study here were really open and from the very first day at university you make friends.

One must-know tip for new students is to not miss the introduction week. This week is really important for building your social network and getting to know lots of people with whom you'll have a lot of fun during your entire study period.

After arriving in Holland, the university helped me integrate in the culture and

## Madalina Postelnicu, Romania

Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Deventer  
Bachelor's in Tourism and Leisure Management

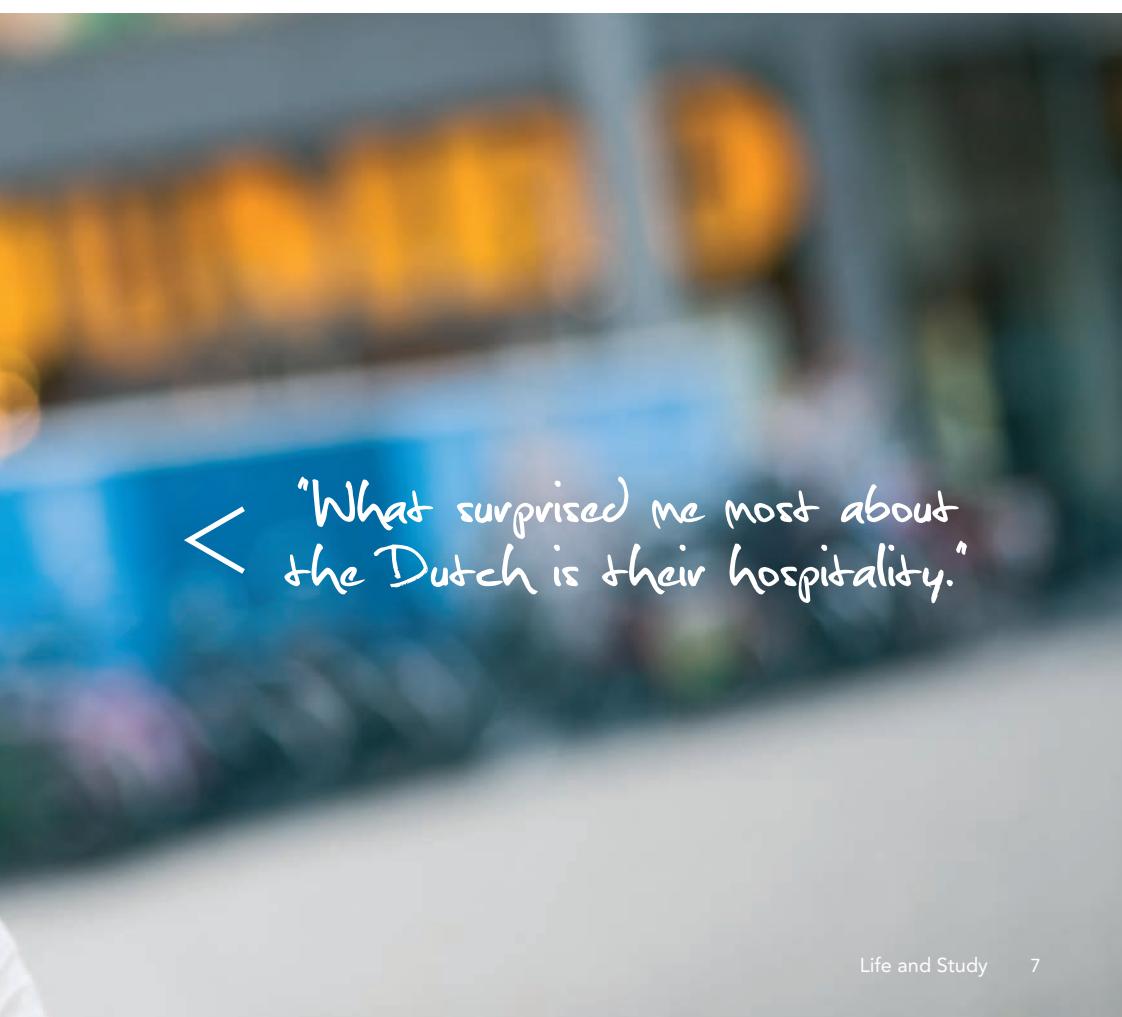


society. The first thing I did after my arrival was discover the city I was planning to live in for the coming years. What surprised me most about Holland and the Dutch people is their hospitality. I was impressed that no matter where you go, there are always people willing to help and support you.

After one year of living in Holland I can say that I know enough Dutch to make myself understood in the supermarket and cafés. I am not able yet to speak fluent Dutch but

since all Dutch people will speak English to you it is not necessary to know it.

As regards education, the biggest shock for me was the relationship between students and teachers in Holland. In my culture, the teachers are situated up very high, but in Holland they are almost like one of the students. They even have casual chats with us, just to ask how we are doing. So far I haven't found anything that I don't like about the way of teaching and I hope that it will stay like this.



< "What surprised me most about the Dutch is their hospitality."

# Why study in Holland?

Holland stands out for its great inventiveness, its problem-solving attitude and its openness to the world. Studying in Holland offers you the space to be a pioneer, be creative and get connected.



## Pioneering

Holland has proven to be a true pioneer for discovering inventive solutions to everyday problems. The way the Dutch created a large part of the country by reclaiming land from the sea shows their pragmatic approach to living below sea level.

We can also see this approach when it comes to education. For a small country like Holland, an international orientation – extending into education and training – is a must to be a successful competitor in our increasingly internationalised world. Holland was also the first non-English speaking country to offer courses taught in English.

## Creative

The important role of the Dutch in the international design industry is a reflection of their creative drive. The creative sector in Holland is world famous for its innovative ideas and ground-breaking Dutch Design. It is perhaps because of the Dutch way of teaching that creativity has acclaimed such an important role in Dutch society. Students are

challenged to solve problems with an out-of-the-box approach and work together in case studies to gather and share knowledge.

## Connected

Being a small country, Holland is open to the world and to surrounding countries. Cooperating with other countries is key to being successful for the Dutch. The strong connection between Dutch higher education institutions and the business world creates possibilities of practical assignments and internships to prepare students for a career in an international environment.

## Key aspects of Dutch higher education

The Dutch higher education system enjoys a worldwide reputation for high quality. This quality is achieved through a national system of regulation and quality assurance. The Times Higher Education Supplement 2014-2015 even ranks eleven research universities in Holland among the top 200 in the world.

The more than 2,100 international study programmes and courses cover a broad range of fields. All programmes and courses lead to a bachelor's, master's or PhD degree, a diploma or certificate.

The Dutch education system is interactive, student-centred and focused on teamwork, which makes it easy to meet other international students. Studying in Holland means developing an open mind and increasing your international orientation.

The teaching method at Dutch higher education institutions is founded on respect for each individual's opinions and convictions. This respect is a national virtue that characterises Holland's diverse and plural society. The method aims to provide students with both the attention and freedom they need to develop their own opinions and creativity in applying new knowledge.

Did you know that...

**most Dutch people  
speak at least one  
foreign language?**

overview of all research universities, universities of applied sciences and institutes for international education on [www.studyfinder.nl](http://www.studyfinder.nl).

### Research universities

There are fourteen government-funded research universities in Holland. Three of these specialise in engineering, one in agriculture and there is one open university.

These institutions train students in academic study and research, although many study programmes also have a professional component, and most graduates actually find work outside the research community. The universities vary in size, with enrolments ranging from 6,000 to 30,000.

Altogether they enrol some 243,000 students. For more information, visit the website of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands: [www.vsnu.nl](http://www.vsnu.nl).

### Universities of applied sciences

Programmes offered by universities of applied sciences (*hogescholen*) focus on the practical application of knowledge. Acquiring practical work experience through internships is an integral part of professional study programmes. Holland has 39 government-funded universities of applied sciences. The largest of these enrol 30,000 to 45,000 students. Altogether some 440,000 students are enrolled in professional programmes. For more information, visit the website of the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences: [www.vereniginghogescholen.nl](http://www.vereniginghogescholen.nl).

## Dutch higher education system

Holland has two main types of higher education. Research universities focus on independent research-oriented work in an academic or professional setting, while universities of applied sciences focus on the applied arts and sciences, preparing students for specific professions. A third, smaller branch of higher education is provided by institutes for international education, which offer programmes designed especially for international students. You can find an

## **Institutes for international education**

Holland has been offering another form of higher education for more than 50 years, referred to as 'International Education' (IE). International education offers advanced training courses, taught in English, originally designed for people from developing countries whose jobs require highly specialised knowledge. Most of the IE institutions are part of a research university and focus on courses relevant to developing countries.

For more information, visit the website of the Platform for international education: [www.pieonline.nl](http://www.pieonline.nl).

## **Study options**

Holland offers a large variety of study programmes in different disciplines: degree programmes, short courses, summer courses, training modules, and so on. Whatever type of student you are, chances are that you will find the programme that matches your preference and situation. You can find an overview of the study options on [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl).

## **Main degrees**

### **Bachelor**

Completion of a bachelor's programme at a research university requires three years of full-time study (180 ECTS), while bachelor's programmes at universities of applied sciences require four years of full-time study (240 ECTS). Upon completion of a bachelor's programme at a research university, you will receive a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science (BA/BSc) degree depending on the discipline. A bachelor's degree programme offered by universities of applied sciences will result in a bachelor's degree indicating the

field of study (for example: Bachelor of Engineering, B Eng). A bachelor's degree gives you an excellent basis for your future career. If you wish, you can continue with a master's programme once you have a bachelor's degree.

### **Master**

Depending on the discipline, master's programmes offered by research universities, universities of applied sciences and institutes for international education will require one,

two or sometimes even three years (60-180 ECTS) to complete. Degrees in engineering, agriculture and mathematics and the natural sciences always require 120 ECTS. Graduates from a research oriented master obtain a Master of Arts or Master of Science (MA/MSc) degree. A master's degree awarded in the applied arts and sciences

results in a degree indicating the field of study (for example, Master of Architecture, M Arch).

### **PhD**

Doctoral degrees (PhD) are offered by research universities and require four years to complete. The aim of doing a PhD is to complete a dissertation based on original research. Only the research universities can award PhD degrees. However, since other research institutes generally work in close collaboration with these universities, they can also provide research positions to PhD candidates. In addition to the standard PhD degree, the three universities of technology also offer design and technological design programmes in a number of engineering fields. These consist of advanced study and a personal design assignment. Technological design



### The Dutch teaching style can be described as interactive and student-centred.

programmes require two years of study to complete. Graduates obtain the degree of Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng).

The site [www.euraxess.nl](http://www.euraxess.nl) provides all sorts of practical information useful for researchers (including PhD candidates) coming to Holland.

### Admission requirements

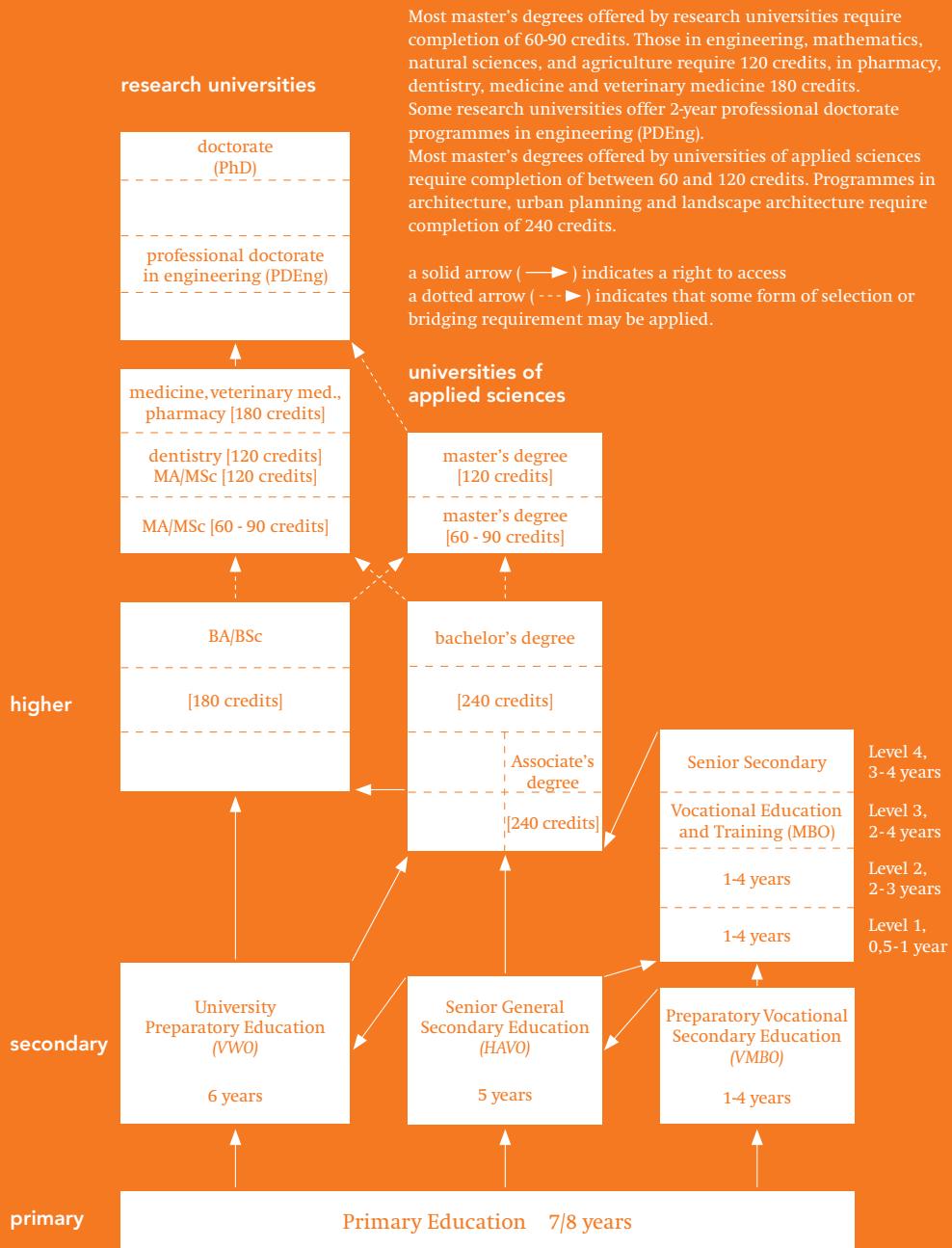
International students wishing to apply for a programme at a higher education institution should first contact the institution offering the programme. The main requirement for admission to a bachelor's programme is a secondary school diploma at the appropriate level. International students must have a diploma corresponding to a certain level as well as good grades in relevant subjects. Applicants to a master's programme must have at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. In certain popular fields the number of places is limited and quotas are set. It is essential that international students

are able to speak, read and write English well. Students must have passed an English language test. IELTS and TOEFL are commonly accepted, but institutions may accept other tests as well. For the TOEFL the required scores are at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (Internet-based); for the IELTS a score of at least 6 is required. For more information, visit: [www.studyinholland.nl/admission-requirements](http://www.studyinholland.nl/admission-requirements).

### Diploma Evaluation

When you apply for a study programme in Holland, your host institution may want to have your diploma compared to the Dutch education system to see if you meet all the admission requirements. Recognised higher education institutions can send your diplomas to Nuffic to be evaluated, free of charge. Nuffic has a number of in-house experts who are specialised in the education systems of specific countries. Where possible, a foreign diploma is compared to a Dutch diploma. If this is not possible because your prior study programme is unique, a compar-

# The Dutch education system



able level is indicated. In addition, individual courses or modules that were taken, the study load and the academic level of the programme are taken into account. You can find more information on diploma evaluations on [www.studyinholland.nl/diploma-evaluation](http://www.studyinholland.nl/diploma-evaluation).

## Accreditation and Quality Control

Higher education in Holland enjoys a worldwide reputation for high quality. This quality is achieved through a national system of regulation and quality assurance. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science ([www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministries/ocw](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministries/ocw)) is responsible for legislation pertaining to education. For more information, visit [www.studyinholland.nl/quality](http://www.studyinholland.nl/quality).

Responsibility for accreditation has been allocated to the Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organisation, or NVAO ([www.nvao.net](http://www.nvao.net)). Students are awarded recognised degrees only after completing an accredited degree programme. Accredited programmes are listed in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (CROHO).

**Accreditation of degree programmes**  
Degree programmes lead to associate's, bachelor's, master's or PhD degrees. The system of accreditation in higher education aims to guarantee that study programmes meet the highest standards. Dutch law (the Higher Education and Research Act) requires that all degree programmes offered by research universities and universities of applied sciences are evaluated against a specific set of criteria. Bachelor's and master's programmes that meet these criteria are accredited by the NVAO (i.e. officially

recognised). PhD programmes are the responsibility of individual universities and cannot be accredited by the NVAO.

Institutions may also offer bachelor's, master's or other programmes that have not been accredited by the NVAO, but by a body in another country. In these cases, the degree may be recognised in that country, but not necessarily in Holland. An example would be a master's programme offered by a Dutch university of applied sciences that has been validated by an accredited British university that awards the degree.

**Quality control of specialised courses**  
A specialised course does not lead to a degree, but to a certificate or diploma. As these courses do not lead to a bachelor's or master's degree, they cannot be submitted for accreditation by the NVAO. The fact that a specialised course has not been accredited does not mean that it does not meet quality criteria. The quality of specialised courses that are part of an accredited master's programme is assured through the accreditation of the main programme. The quality of other types of specialised courses is the responsibility of the institutions themselves.

## Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct lays down standards for Dutch higher education institutions in dealing with international students. By signing the Code of Conduct, the institutions are offering international students a guarantee of the quality of their programmes and their student recruitment, admission and counselling procedures. Only institutions that have signed the Code are allowed to recruit international students. The Code of Conduct requires education institutions to provide timely, reliable and



### Holland offers a large variety of study programmes in different disciplines.

easily accessible information to international students about their study programmes. Specifically, this includes information such as accreditation status, quality, admission requirements and many more important rules and procedures for international students. Institutional information provided to international students on the basis of the Code of Conduct must be in English, in the language used for the study programme or in the native language of the student. The education institution must make clear what services it provides to international students, such as help with obtaining a visa and residence permit, housing, introduction sessions and student counselling. In their information materials education institutions must also clearly specify which services they offer and what the associated costs are.

Students from outside the EU who seek to enrol in a course at a higher education institution that has not signed the Code of Conduct will not be able to obtain visas.

You can find the full version of the Code of Conduct at [www.internationalstudy.nl](http://www.internationalstudy.nl). The website also provides a list of the institutions that have signed the Code. The institutions that have listed their study programmes in the database of international study programmes and courses at [www.studyinholland.nl/studyfinder](http://www.studyinholland.nl/studyfinder) have all signed the Code of Conduct. In addition to institutions that have signed the Code of Conduct there are also other institutions and organizations in the Netherlands specializing in transferring knowledge and skills.

# Scholarships

You have decided you want to study in Holland, you know which field of study interests you and which degree you want to earn. Now it is time to think about how you are going to fund your studies. Education in Holland is not free, but tuition fees are reasonable compared to other countries. Annual tuition fees for enrolment in a degree programme or course at a Dutch higher education institution start at approximately € 1,950 for EU students. The costs of programmes and courses for non-EU students are generally higher, on average € 8,500. There are a number of funding opportunities.

## What are your options?

**1. Scholarships offered in your own country**  
If you are a student from a country in Europe, you may be eligible for a student grant from your home country while studying in Holland. Studying abroad while continuing to receive your student grant at home was already possible through exchange programmes, but now more and more countries are allowing students to retain their grant while enrolled in regular degree programmes abroad. The rules and regulations and forms of support may differ per country. Check which options are available in your country, either by contacting the international office of your university or the relevant national ministry. Organisations similar to Nuffic in your home country can also provide further information.

## 2. Scholarships offered by the Dutch government

The Dutch government offers a number of different scholarships for international students who wish to study in Holland. Find out more about these funding possibilities by contacting:

- The Dutch Embassy or Consulate ([www.mfa.nl/en](http://www.mfa.nl/en)) in your country, or;
- The Nuffic Neso office, if your country has one ([www.nuffic.nl/neso](http://www.nuffic.nl/neso));
- Nuffic; for a complete overview of scholarships administered by Nuffic, please visit [www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships](http://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships).

Below is a selection of scholarships administered by Nuffic:

### 1. Orange Tulip Scholarship Programme

The Orange Tulip Scholarship Programme runs in China, Korea, Mexico and Taipei. The Orange Tulip Scholarship Programme was created to provide opportunities for talented students to study in Holland. Dutch higher education institutions and companies have joined forces as sponsors of the programme.

### 2. Erasmus

The Erasmus Programme, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme, is an exchange programme that aims to encourage cooperation among European higher education institutions. Erasmus supports students who wish to complete part of their studies in another EU-country or do a European internship. An Erasmus scholarship covers a period of three to twelve months.  
[www.ec.europa.eu/education](http://www.ec.europa.eu/education)

### 3. Erasmus Mundus

Erasmus Mundus is a programme of the European Commission. Its aim is to improve the quality of European higher education and to encourage cooperation with non-EU countries through the creation of joint master's degree programmes offered by partner institutions in member states.  
[www.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus](http://www.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus)

#### **4. Holland Scholarship**

The Holland Scholarship is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science as well as 48 Dutch research universities and universities of applied sciences. This scholarship is meant for international students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who want to do their bachelor's or master's in Holland.  
[www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/holland-scholarship](http://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/holland-scholarship)

#### **5. Netherlands Fellowship Programmes**

The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) is an initiative by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finance international education programmes that focus on organisational capacity development. By offering fellowships to professionals, NFP helps to alleviate shortages of skilled staff at a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organisations. Candidates have to be nominated by their employers.  
[www.studyinholland.nl/nfp](http://www.studyinholland.nl/nfp)

#### **3. Scholarships offered by Dutch higher education institutions**

In addition to the scholarships administered by Nuffic, a number of Dutch higher education institutions also offer their own scholarships. These scholarships are often related to a specific field of study and/or degree programme. We advise you to contact the Dutch higher education institution of your choice to find out if it offers scholarships in your particular field of study.

Visit [www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl) for a complete overview of all current scholarship opportunities.

Once you have found a suitable scholarship, check whether you meet all the requirements. If you do, follow the application procedures and submit your application.

**Education in Holland is not free, but tuition fees are reasonable compared to other countries.**



# Dutch achievements

## Prize-winning student projects

Students in Holland put their knowledge and skills to good practice. There are many student projects that have become a big success. A few examples:

In cooperation with the Lornah Kiplagat Foundation, students at the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht developed a plan for a **girls secondary school in Kenya**. The school will support underprivileged girls by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment where they will also focus on participating in sports at the highest level.

Saskia Nijmeijer (MA student at VU University Amsterdam) won the Solvay Young Talent award for her **groundbreaking international research** on a protein produced by the Epstein-Barr herpes virus. Around 80% of the world's population is infected with this virus, which can be a contributing cause of cancer.

A team of four students from Mexico, Turkey, Poland and the Netherlands, at Wageningen University, came first in a competition for the **best "technological" solution to the global food shortage**. Their recipe for Sorghum-Termite porridge for America is nutritious, easy to prepare and uses ingredients that are locally available, assuring that people would not have to depend on others for this food source.

Erik-Jan de Boer, one of the first to graduate in computer animation at the Utrecht School of the Arts, has won an **Oscar in the category "Best Achievement in Visual Effects"** and a BAFTA for the visual effects in 'Life of Pi'.



## Nobel Prize winners

Dutch people have won 18 Nobel prizes: in the fields of chemistry, physics, medicine, economics and peace.

## Dutch brands

**Philips**

**Akzo Nobel**

**Heineken**

**Royal Dutch Shell**

**Unilever**

**G-star**

**DSM**

**KLM**

**Leerdammer**

**Randstad**

## Some famous Dutch people

**Armin van Buuren** (DJ)

**Anton Corbijn** (Photographer)

**Vincent van Gogh** (Painter)

**André Kuipers** (Astronaut)

**Rem Koolhaas** (Architect)

**Doutzen Kroes** (Top model)

**Wesley Sneijder** (Soccer player)

**Viktor and Rolf** (Fashion designers)

# Facts & figures about higher education in Holland

## Internationalisation in higher education in Holland: key figures (2012-2013 academic year)

### Higher education

- 13 research universities (excl. Open University; 239,755 students enrolled)
- 39 universities of applied sciences (421,136 students enrolled)
- Total number of students enrolled: 660,891

### Number of international students:<sup>\*</sup>

- 43,500 EU+EFTA<sup>1</sup> students enrolled
- 20,350 non-EU+EFTA students enrolled
- 9,600 students within Erasmus or with residence permits for internship
- 17,050 other inbound diploma and credit mobile students<sup>\*1</sup>

### Top 5 countries of origin of international students

1. Germany 26,050\*
2. China 6,400
3. Belgium 2,900\*
4. Spain 2,450\*
5. France 2,300\*

### Degree cycle of enrolled international students

#### Research universities: 50%

- 51% bachelor's cycle
- 49% master's cycle

This is a general summary and figures are approximate. Enrolment refers to government-sponsored study programmes. For further details visit [www.nuffic.nl/mobility](http://www.nuffic.nl/mobility).

#### Universities of applied sciences: 51%

- 96% bachelor's cycle
- 4% master's cycle

\* rough estimate

\*\* at least

### Holland plays a leading role in a broad number of disciplines.

#### It is particularly well-known around the world for:

- management & business studies
- agricultural sciences
- medicine
- civil engineering
- remote sensing
- arts & architecture

<sup>1</sup> EFTA: Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

<sup>2</sup> Diploma mobility: to complete a study programme abroad; credit mobility: to gain credits abroad for the study at home.



Holland offers English-taught study  
programmes in more than 30 cities

Holland is not a very common place for Indian students to go and study. However, I consider myself blessed to have been able to come and explore an entirely different and unique place in the world.

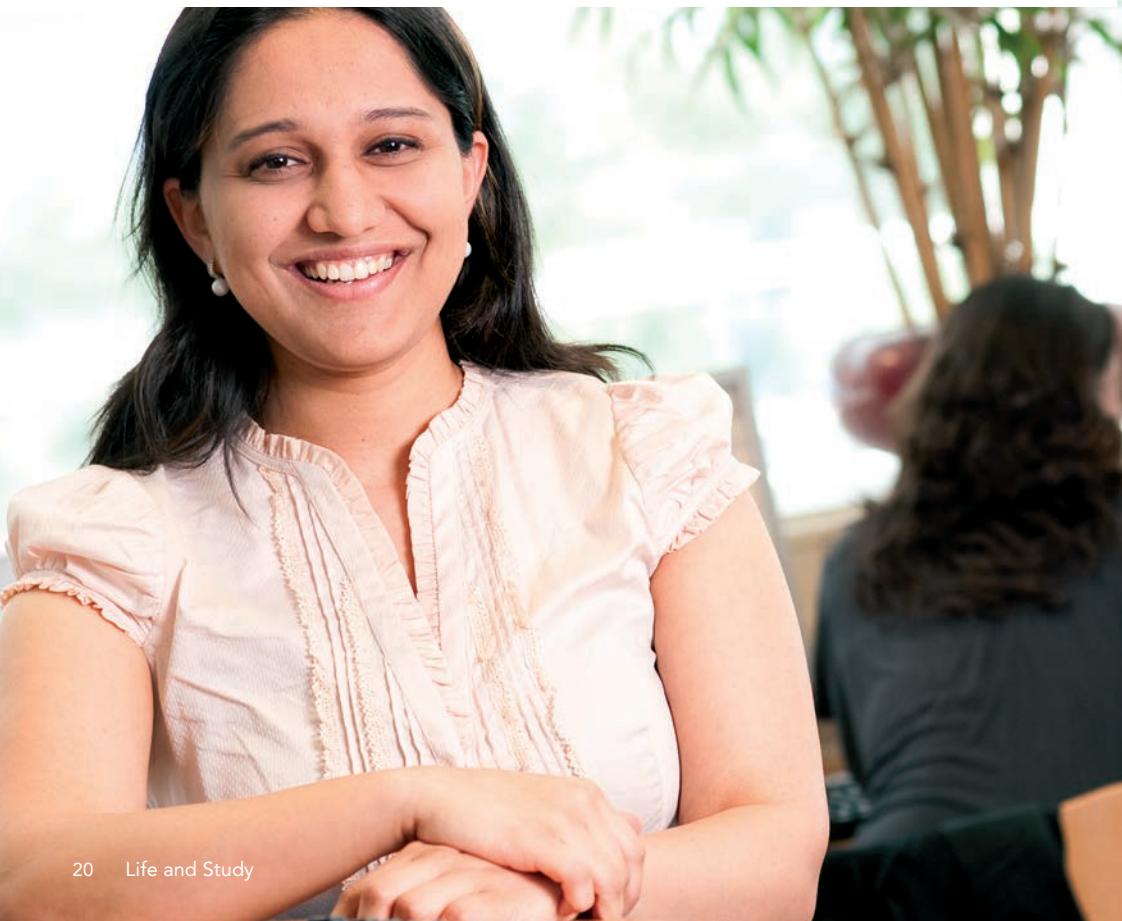
It has been almost ten months now that I am in Holland. The first two days made me feel homesick but now I enjoy living here more

than ever. The friendly Dutch people helped me to figure out the transportation details and the product names in English in the supermarkets so now I at least know some Dutch.

Housing can be pretty expensive, depending on your preferences, but it is very safe and nice. I have rented a studio. Most student

## Pranali Buch, India

**Maastricht University, Maastricht  
Research master's in Cardiovascular Biology and Medicine**





cities are a hub of international students and hence it is not at all difficult to make friends. If you are open to exchanging cultural ideas, Holland is the place to be.

As far as education is concerned, here there is more of a practical approach and that makes the Dutch people successful and organised in whatever they do. It is a stimulating environment, with journal clubs and problem-based learning, and it developed my abilities to search for minute details of any

subject and learn independently. Furthermore, the university has an excellent infrastructure for students.

So guys, if you want to come to Holland for your higher education, don't debate the thought. Just pack your bags and go! However, be ready to face unpredictable weather, the difference in culture and biking as the mode of transport. If you can endure these things, adjusting here is a piece of cake.

< "If you are open to exchanging cultural ideas, Holland is the place to be."

# Practical matters

When you decide to study abroad, make sure you allow plenty of time for preparations. You will need to start planning your stay a year in advance. International students who wish to study or do an internship in Holland need to go through a number of Dutch immigration procedures.



## Visas and permits

To enter Holland and stay in the country for study purposes, nationals from most countries need a visa and/or a residence permit.

What you need depends on your nationality and the period you want to stay. You may need:

- a short-stay visa (*Visum Kort Verblijf, VKV*) for a stay of up to three months; or
- a provisional residence permit (*Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf, MVV*) for a stay longer than three months; and/or
- a residence permit (*Verblijfsvergunning Regulier voor bepaalde tijd, VVR*) for a stay longer than three months.

If you are a student from outside the European Union or European Economic Area or Switzerland and you would like to stay in Holland for more than three months, you are obliged to obtain a visa and residence permit.

If you are a national from the EU/EEA/ Switzerland, you do not need a visa or residence permit. You are free to study or work in the Netherlands. No work permit is needed either, unless you are a Croatian national. If you are staying for more than three months you have to register with the Dutch Immigration Service (IND) for free. The registration will make a number of things easier, like opening a bank account, or getting a rental contract.

Croatian nationals cannot yet register with the IND for free but they can decide to apply for a residence permit for studies. Please check [www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters](http://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters) for more information.

Take a look at the Visa Wizard at [www.studyinholland.nl/visa-wizard](http://www.studyinholland.nl/visa-wizard) and find out which rules apply for your situation and how to go about arranging your visa and residence permit.

# Insurance

## Health insurance

Before coming to Holland, make sure that you have taken out proper healthcare insurance. Dutch law requires everyone living in Holland to be covered by healthcare insurance. Students must make sure that they have adequate cover.

There are three healthcare insurance possibilities:

- You have to take out Dutch public healthcare insurance
- Your insurance policy in your home country covers your stay in Holland
- You take out a special insurance policy for your stay in Holland

If you do not have adequate cover, you will have to take out an insurance policy. In some situations you may be obliged to join the Dutch public healthcare insurance scheme, for example if you have a part-time job in Holland next to your studies or if you take on a paid internship. The student dean at your host institution can provide you with more information.

Some insurance policies are specially designed for students. On the website [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl) you can find more information.

If you are obliged to take out a Dutch public healthcare insurance (in Dutch: *basiszorgverzekering*) it is likely that you are eligible for compensation for your insurance costs. This compensation is called healthcare

allowance. You can find more information on [www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters](http://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters)

## Liability insurance

Liability insurance provides cover for loss or damage that you accidentally cause to someone else's property and for which you are held liable. This kind of insurance might not be so common in other countries, but you could find yourself in trouble if you damage someone's property while in Holland and you don't have proper insurance cover.

## Financing your stay

Your daily expenses include food, public transport, books, clothes, and cinema tickets. But you also need to take into account the costs for housing and insurance. Experience has shown that students living and studying in Holland for one year spend between € 800 and € 1,100 a month.

## Housing

If you are taking part in an exchange programme or are enrolled in an international course, it is quite possible that a room will be arranged for you. Accept it immediately, or you might regret it later. Finding a place to live in a country as crowded as Holland is not easy. It is difficult even for Dutch students to find

rented rooms on the private market. Rooms are generally unfurnished, and kitchens and bathrooms are often shared with others. Most rental contracts are for a period of at least six months or a year. Before you leave your own country, ask your host institution whether or not housing will be arranged for you in advance. If you have an average student income you will find that one-third of it will

Did you know that...  
**when your plane arrives at Schiphol, it lands 4.5 metres below sea level?**



In many cases, the host institution will help students by finding accommodation for them.

go towards housing. Depending on where you are staying, an average room in Holland costs somewhere between € 300 to € 600 a month.

## Food

Food is estimated to take another third of your income. Fortunately, most higher education institutions offer hot meals at reasonable prices. Many cities have pubs (eetcafés) where you can eat a good meal at a reasonable price. But the cheapest way to eat is to do your own cooking.

## Other expenses

The remaining third of your income will go towards leisure, books, travel and other expenses. Many bars, restaurants, museums, cinemas and some large retail stores give discounts to students. Most of these ask for proof in the form of a student card from your institution. You should check in advance if a student discount is available. The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) can provide some

Did you know that...

Holland has  
approximately  
**480 inhabitants per  
square kilometre?**

interesting discounts and offers on travel, shopping, museums and more, worldwide. Find out more at [www.isic.org](http://www.isic.org).

## Working while studying

As a student, a little extra money is always welcome. International students who would like to work alongside their studies may need a work permit.

If you want to work as well as study and you are a national from outside the EU/EEA/ Switzerland, your employer must apply for a work permit. You must also apply for Dutch healthcare insurance (basiszorgverzekering) once you start working.

You have two options for working during your studies:

- you work either ten hours or less a week year-round or;
- full-time during the months of June, July and August only.

If you are a student from the EU/EEA/ Switzerland, you do not need a work permit and are free to work as many hours as you like. For Croatians there are other rules, please check [www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/working-while-studying](http://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/working-while-studying).

If you want to do an internship in Holland, different rules may apply: please check [www.studyinholland.nl/internship](http://www.studyinholland.nl/internship) to find out what you need to arrange in that case.



# Support in your own country

When preparing for your study period in Holland, you might run into specific questions that you would like to have answered. In many countries education in Holland is represented through a variety of organisations:

Who	What do they offer	More information
Netherlands Education Support Offices (Nuffic Neso)	<p>Information about Dutch higher education, institutions, study and research opportunities, scholarships and visa procedures, as well as pre-departure briefings.</p> <p>Offices are located in: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.studyinholland.nl/neso">www.studyinholland.nl/neso</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.nuffic.nl/en/education-promotion/neso-activities">www.nuffic.nl/en/education-promotion/neso-activities</a></p>
Netherlands Alumni Associations	First-hand experience and practical advice that will help you to prepare for your stay.	<a href="http://www.hollandalumni.nl">www.hollandalumni.nl</a>
Netherlands Embassies and Consulates	Specific information on application forms and scholarships.	<a href="http://www.mfa.nl/en">www.mfa.nl/en</a>
Netherlands Education Information Offices	<p>Contact point for students and researchers who are seeking contact with Dutch universities.</p> <p>Courses and research; publication of academic literature in fields relevant to their background and location.</p> <p>Cultural events, including lectures, exhibitions, excursions and Dutch language courses.</p>	<a href="http://www.studyinholland.nl/ni">www.studyinholland.nl/ni</a>

# Checklist to prepare for your study in Holland



## 1. Study programme



Choose the study programme of your interest at [www.studyfinder.nl](http://www.studyfinder.nl).

## 2. Accreditation



Check the accreditation of the programme of your choice to make sure it is accredited by the NVAO (Accreditation Organization of The Netherlands and Flanders).

## 3. Code of Conduct



Check [www.internationalstudy.nl](http://www.internationalstudy.nl) to find out whether the institution of your choice appears on the list of institutions that have signed the Code of Conduct.

## 4. Scholarships



Check which scholarships and exchange opportunities are available at [www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl), at the Dutch Embassy in your home country or your institution's international academic relations office.

## 5. Requirements



Contact the Dutch institution offering the programme of your choice to ask for more information about admission requirements, language requirements and so on.

## 6. Admission



If the programme is suitable and you meet the requirements, follow the institution's procedure for admission.

## 7. Immigration regulations



Check which immigration regulations apply to you. You can find this information using the Student Visa Wizard at [www.studyinholland.nl/visa-wizard](http://www.studyinholland.nl/visa-wizard).

If you need an entry visa (MVV), your host institution must arrange it on your behalf.

## 8. Documents



Gather all the relevant documents required by the Dutch immigration authorities.

## 9. Housing



Ask your host institution about arranging a place for you to live.

## 10. Healthcare insurance



Check the information and regulations about health insurances at [www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/insurance](http://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters/insurance).



Life in Holland is very different to the life I was used to. Getting around the city is easy with a bicycle. You can go almost anywhere and it's much faster than walking. The language is hard but not impossible to learn. Especially if you have Dutch friends who help you practice every day. The interaction with people on the street is very helpful as well when it comes to learning Dutch. And believe

me: you will feel very good about yourself when you can order a cup of coffee or buy something at the market in Dutch.

As a student, there are many things you will enjoy here. Dressing up for parties, going to the carnival and getting to know people from all over the world. Then there are also a couple of Dutch dishes you must experience.

## Manuel Félix Cárdenas, Mexico

**TU Delft, Delft**  
**Master's in Urbanism**



Try the *frikadellen* and the *kroketten* (typically Dutch meat pies) and at least once take the herring-test. The idea with eating herring is that you grab the herring by its tail, dip it in the raw onions, throw your head back and down the hatch it goes...

My student city is rather small but very cheerful and with a lot of places to visit. But the best feature of this city is that it is full of students! Dutch students and international students will always come up with things to

do and you will always have someone to hang out with.

In the so-called *Randstad* area, the country's largest conurbation, large cities like Rotterdam and The Hague are just a few minutes away by public transport and they have a big variety to offer when it comes to entertainment.

Life is as easy as you decide to make it, so just let go and enjoy the ride!



< "As a student there are many things you will enjoy in Holland."

# After your studies

Once you have finished your studies in Holland, you may want to stay and continue studying or find a job. Below are some tips on what to do and who to contact.

"The experience I obtained will help me in my future career",  
Didi Qian, China



## Working after your studies

With your Dutch diploma and international experience, your chances on the labour market have certainly improved. Are you thinking about starting a career in Holland after your studies? Visit [www.careerinholand.nl](http://www.careerinholand.nl) for reliable and up-to-date information about:

- Chances and key economic sectors in Holland
- Information about residence and work permits for international students
- All you need to know about Dutch business culture
- What you will earn and salaries
- How to apply for a job in Holland
- Relevant networks and companies to help you in your job hunt

Are you ready for a Career in Holland? Do the test: <http://starthere.careerinholland.nl>

There are two admission schemes allowing certain groups of foreign nationals to spend a period of up to twelve months in the Netherlands to find a job as a highly skilled migrant:

- the procedure for ‘seeking work after graduation’: this scheme is only open to foreigners who have studied in the Netherlands and have obtained a bachelor’s or master’s degree.

Immediately after graduation you will need to apply for this ‘search year’.

- the ‘admission scheme for highly educated persons’: this scheme is also open to foreigners who have studied abroad and have obtained a master’s or PhD degree

at listed universities. You can apply for this ‘admission scheme’ up to three years after graduation.

It is not possible to make use of both schemes. A permit for one of the schemes is only given out once. If you have not found a job (or any other purpose of stay for which you fulfil the requirements) within the year, you will have to leave the country. If you have found a job, you need to apply for a change in purpose of your residence permit.

You can find more about rules and regulations when working after your studies at [www.careerinholland.nl](http://www.careerinholland.nl)

## Continuing your studies

If you have obtained a diploma and you wish to continue your studies and apply for another study programme, you may extend your residence permit. This applies, for example, if you have a bachelor’s degree and want to continue for your master’s degree. International students are allowed to study in

Holland for a certain maximum number of years, which is generally equal to the number of years of the study programme chosen plus an additional two years. However, if you have not finished your study programme within the maximum duration of stay, you cannot extend your residence permit for the purpose

of study. The legislation on this topic may change in the near future. Make sure to check the website [www.hollandalumni.nl](http://www.hollandalumni.nl) for the latest information.

Did you know that...  
**people who studied  
in Holland perform  
well in other parts of  
the world?**

If you have obtained a master’s degree and would like to continue to do a PhD, you will need to apply for a change in the purpose of your residence permit, as PhD positions are classified as work in the Netherlands rather than as study. In most cases the institution where you are going to conduct your research will apply for the necessary residence permit on your behalf.

Are you  
thinking about  
starting a career  
in Holland?

**Start here!**

**[www.careerinholland.nl](http://www.careerinholland.nl)**



# Holland Alumni network

Whether you continue studying in your home country, look for a job or leave for another country, make sure you stay connected at [www.hollandalumni.nl](http://www.hollandalumni.nl)!

## Link your knowledge worldwide!

The Holland Alumni network is an international network is a worldwide network of international students who study or studied in Holland. Through the network you can connect to fellows from your home country, your scholarship programme, your field of expertise and your Dutch host institution.

## Share your experiences

After your studies in Holland you are an ambassador for Dutch higher education. Other students thinking of studying in Holland want to know all about your experience.

Share your experience of studying in Holland by writing a testimonial, joining pre-departure briefings at Holland Alumni associations around the world or become a Holland Ambassador!

## Why join the Holland Alumni network?

Tap in to the Holland Alumni network to benefit from our services and join our activities. Register at [www.hollandalumni.nl/register](http://www.hollandalumni.nl/register) to become a member and:

- keep in contact with fellow Holland Alumni
- join existing networks or establish new ones
- stay informed about upcoming alumni activities
- find refresher courses, news & trends in your area of expertise
- share experiences with prospective international students
- find information about career opportunities in Holland

[www.linkedin.com/in/hollandalumni](http://www.linkedin.com/in/hollandalumni)



My student city is vibrant and lively and full of interesting things to see and do. It has many good shops and markets to do shopping on a Saturday afternoon, and activities such as walking and cycling during the autumn season and horse riding, fishing and water sports during summer.

One of my many reasons for choosing this city as a place to study was that my university has a great course in Communications and Media study, and the entire study programme is taught in English. I find the level, the system and also the curriculum very well organised.

I was involved in a project initiated by one of my teachers at the city's local radio station.

## Joseph Williams, South Africa

Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen  
Bachelor's in International Communication and Media



I was one of the presenters and music directors for an all-English radio programme that is intended for international students and non-Dutch residents living here. Its purpose is to provide information about life in the city.

The thing I loved most about this project is that it is fun and very exciting indeed to be working with students from different cultural backgrounds. I have come to learn how to identify cultural relativism, cultural identity

and I now have a better awareness of other cultures and their communicative styles. Acquiring this knowledge is certainly making my study even more interesting and insightful.

My study also brings me into contact with many people and that is what I like, because this helps me to put into practice what I learn at school.

< "It is exciting to work with students from different cultural backgrounds."



# More information

## Life

### CBS

Statistics about the Netherlands.

[www.cbs.nl](http://www.cbs.nl)

### Expatica

News and information for the international community in the Netherlands.

[www.expatica.nl](http://www.expatica.nl)

### Facebook

Become a fan and get in touch with other students and share your experiences.

[www.facebook.com/studyinholland](http://www.facebook.com/studyinholland)

### Holland Handbook

An informative book on living and working in the Netherlands.

[www.xpat.nl](http://www.xpat.nl)

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The international homepage with addresses of Dutch embassies abroad.

[www.government.nl/ministries/bz](http://www.government.nl/ministries/bz)

### NBTC

Netherlands Board of Tourism, including a map of the Netherlands.

[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com)

### Twitter

Follow @studyinholland on Twitter.

### YouTube

Watch videos from higher education institutions and international students.

[www.youtube.com/studyinholland](http://www.youtube.com/studyinholland)

## Study

### Grantfinder

Online search engine that brings together a range of (Dutch) scholarships for international students.

[www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl)

### Vereniging hogescholen

Information about the universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands.

[www.vereniginghogescholen.nl](http://www.vereniginghogescholen.nl)

### Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs

Information about student grants and the Code of Conduct.

[www.ib-groep.nl/International\\_visitors](http://www.ib-groep.nl/International_visitors) and  
[www.internationalstudy.nl](http://www.internationalstudy.nl)

### Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Information provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

[www.government.nl/ministries/ocw](http://www.government.nl/ministries/ocw)

### Nuffic

Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education.

[www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl)

### NVAO

Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organisation, the body responsible for the accreditation of existing programmes and assessment of new programmes.

[www.nvao.net](http://www.nvao.net)

**PIE**

Platform for International Education  
in Holland.

[www.pieonline.nl](http://www.pieonline.nl)

**PromoDoc**

The PromoDoc project aims to enhance  
the attractiveness of doctoral-level study  
in Europe.

[www.promodoc.eu](http://www.promodoc.eu)

**Study in Holland**

Everything you need to know about  
studying in Holland.

[www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl)

**VSNU**

Association of Universities in the  
Netherlands, information about  
Dutch research universities.

[www.vsnu.nl](http://www.vsnu.nl)

**Practical matters****IND**

Immigration and Naturalization Service:  
Information on Dutch immigration laws.

[www.ind.nl](http://www.ind.nl)

**Learn Dutch**

Website for distance learners who would like  
to take up the challenge of mastering a new  
language.

[www.learndutch.org](http://www.learndutch.org)

**Preparing your stay**

Brief description of how to arrange visas  
and permits, insurance, housing, diploma  
evaluation, etc.

[www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters](http://www.studyinholland.nl/practical-matters)

## **Networks & Events**

### **AIESEC**

The website of the international student organisation.

[www.aiesec.nl](http://www.aiesec.nl)

### **ESN**

The Erasmus Student Network in the Netherlands.

[www.esn-nl.org](http://www.esn-nl.org)

### **Holland Alumni network**

After your studies in Holland, whether you continue studying in your home country, look for a job or leave for another country, stay connected!

[www.hollandalumni.nl](http://www.hollandalumni.nl)

[www.careerinholland.nl](http://www.careerinholland.nl)

# Notes

# Notes

Netherlands organisation  
for international cooperation  
in higher education

[www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl)

Kortenaerkade 11 / P.O. Box 29777  
2502 LT The Hague / Netherlands  
p +31 (0)70 42 60 260 / f +31 (0)70 42 60 399

Nuffic is the Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education. Our motto is Linking Knowledge Worldwide. This means linking people, because it's knowledge that makes us unique as people. Nuffic works in line with Dutch government policy to serve students and higher education institutions in three key areas:

#### **Programme Management**

Administrating international mobility programmes (scholarships) and institutional cooperation programmes.

#### **Information Services**

Providing information about higher education systems in the Netherlands and in other countries; providing credential evaluation services; providing information in the Netherlands about studying abroad, and in other countries about studying in Holland; promoting Dutch higher education in other countries; encouraging international mobility.

#### **Expertise**

Conducting studies into international cooperation in higher education; providing information to expert groups and consultation forums; transferring our knowledge of international cooperation in higher education through courses and seminars.

# Colophon & disclaimer

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Netherlands organisation  
for international cooperation  
in higher education

