



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en
Wetenschap

Studying in the European Netherlands

Information for final-year secondary school
students and students living in Aruba,
Curaçao and Sint Maarten

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online information
and animation





Choosing a programme of study

This folder contains information that can help you make a flying start in your new study programme. It tells you how to choose your programme, how to enrol, and how to take care of money matters. We wish you every success!

Get a good orientation

Do you want to study at an academic university or a university of applied sciences? Are you seeking a Bachelor's degree or an Associate degree? Or would you like to do a double major? You need to orient yourself about what's available, and discuss your choice with your teachers, adviser, mentor, academic counsellor, friends, parents or guardians. Visit open house days (if you get the chance), take a taster course, but most of all ask a lot of questions, especially of students who have experience studying in the European Netherlands. Also visit the websites of academic universities and universities of applied sciences. Sometimes you can find online activities.

The website studiekeuze123.nl lets you compare different programmes; you'll also find tips and handy tools to help you find the programme of your choice. It also has information about the curriculum of each programme, open house days (some online), student survey results and what you will be able to do with your degree on the job market.

You can find more information about the differences between an Associate degree, Bachelor's degree and Master's degree at studiekeuze123.nl/ad-bachelor-of-master.

Plus there are tips for your parents or guardians at studiekeuze123.nl/ouders, so they can help you choose.

There is a separate page for aspiring students from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom: www.studiekeuze123.nl/studia-na-hulanda.

Check the admission requirements

Some study programmes have prerequisites, like a specific profile or specific courses. These requirements are given on the institution's website. Often different requirements apply to first-year applicants from secondary vocational schools (MBO) than those from preacademic secondary schools (VO). There are additional national requirements for enrolment in the higher professional education programme for teachers of primary schools (PABO). You can find out more about how to prepare for this application process and what kind of support is possible by visiting: goedvoorbereidnaarpabo.nl.

Find out if there are selection requirements

Programmes like medicine often only admit a limited number of students (called a quota or *numerus fixus*). If too many applications are received, a lottery or another form of random selection is used. Some programmes have professional requirements for applicants, while others, like art schools, want to see if you have specific skills.

Every programme posts the latest selection criteria on its website. You can find a complete overview at studiekeuze123.nl/opleidingen. Visit studiekeuze123.nl/selectie for general information about the selection process.

The Caribbean part of the Kingdom

All universities in the Netherlands are required to take into account aspiring students from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom during the selection procedure, for example by offering applicants an opportunity to participate remotely. Ask your specific programme about the details.



Want to find out what you are entitled to, and what you have to arrange yourself when you start university? Visit rijksoverheid.nl/studeren for a personal overview.



Register

Submit your application on time

Have you decided on a programme of study? Apply as soon as possible via studielink.nl.

You will need a DigiD, the Dutch digital identity card, to apply on Studielink. In the European Netherlands, everyone can set this up via www.digid.nl. But those who do not live or have not lived in the European Netherlands don't have a Citizen Service Number (BSN) and therefore cannot yet apply for a DigiD.

Those without a BSN and DigiD should select the option 'Set up Studielink account without DigiD' at www.studielink.nl. You can enter your prior education information manually by indicating whether you graduated with a diploma or will do so, and in which country. All islands of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom are listed separately in the countries list.

You must apply for programmes with limited enrolment (quota/*numerus fixus*) by **15 January 2024, before 7:00 pm Caribbean time**.

The final application date for other programmes with selection requirements (such as art programmes) are given on the institution's website. Please note: some of these programmes may have a final application date of **15 January 2024**.

For all other programmes, it's best if you apply no later than **1 May 2024, before 6:00 pm Caribbean time**.

For more information, visit studiekeuze123/aanmelden-voor-1-mei.

Do the programme choice check

Have you applied on Studielink? Then you are entitled to a programme choice check to find out whether this programme is a good choice for you. The programme choice check is even required for certain programmes.

Usually the check involves an interview, taster lecture with a test, or a questionnaire. Afterwards you will get feedback and a recommendation. The recommendation is not binding if you have applied by 1 May. That means that you can change your choice of programme, as long as your first application was no later than 1 May. If you live in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, your prospective institution is required to give you the possibility of conducting this interview remotely and digitally, if you wish. For more information, contact the programme.

If you're not satisfied with the programme choice check and recommendation, discuss it with your chosen programme. Or get in touch with someone at the Dutch Student Union (LSVb) or Dutch National Student Association (ISO).

For some degree programmes, the check is mandatory. However, study programmes with selection restrictions do not offer the programme choice check.

Read more about the programme choice check at studiekeuze123.nl/studiekeuzecheck.

Extra support

Students from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom sometimes encounter problems when starting their studies in the European Netherlands. Sometimes these are caused by legal hurdles, such as applying for a Citizen Service Number (BSN) or healthcare insurance, and sometimes it's because of differences in language and culture. Finding a place to live can also be a problem. Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten work together with the Netherlands to make the transition go more smoothly.

All of the above offer guidance and advice to students who are moving to the Netherlands, both by the government and by private organizations. Some services are free, others you have to pay for. It's important to talk to friends or others who have attended university in the Netherlands to be well prepared for the transition. They can share their experiences with you and give you some tips. We also strongly advise you to seek guidance.

Institutions offer support to those with a visual or other kind of impairment, dyslexia or psychological problems; there is also support for those with care responsibilities and top athletes. The institutions are there to help you find a suitable solution. Contact them about your situation well before your programme's starting date.

The website hogeronderwijstoegekkelijk.nl has more information about accessibility.

Final enrolment

You are only fully enrolled if the following have been taken care of:

1. You received your diploma or successfully completed the 21+ test.
2. You have authorised the institution to deduct tuition from your account.
3. You have satisfied any other prerequisites.

You will receive a message via Studielink about this. Be sure that you have taken care of everything **before 1 September**.



Money matters

Arrange student finance

Apply for student finance at **duo.nl**. Will you be attending a secondary vocational school (MBO)? Then you have to be at least age 18 to receive a grant or interest-bearing loan. If you're under the age of 18, you are still entitled to the student travel product. There is no minimum age for higher professional education and universities. Apply for student finance in good time. At the very least 8 weeks before you are entitled to receive it. Then you will be sure that you don't miss out.

Student finance includes different items that you have to apply for separately:

- Basic grant
- Supplementary grant
- Student travel product
- Interest-bearing loan
- Tuition fee loan (only for HBO and academic universities)

Are you starting a programme at level 1 or 2? Then your basic grant, student travel product and any supplementary grant never have to be repaid. The interest-bearing loan must always be repaid, with interest.

For MBO levels 3 and 4 and in all higher education, the basic grant, supplementary grant and student travel product are performance-related grants. If you graduate with your diploma within 10 years, then they are converted into a gift. If you drop out, you have to pay everything back, with interest. The interest-bearing loan and tuition fee loan always have to be repaid, with interest.

Tip: at duo.nl/meerdanlenen you can find a handy overview of what it costs to complete a degree, how other students support themselves financially, and how much student finance you can receive.

Basic grant

The amount of your basic grant depends on your living situation. Will you be living with your parents or one of your parents? Then you are living at home. Will you be living on your own? Then you are living away from home. You receive a higher basic grant if you are living away from home.

The supplementary grant

You may be entitled to receive a supplementary grant in addition to your basic grant. Always apply for a supplementary grant! You only have to apply once. Each following year, DUO will do the calculation for you to see whether you are eligible. The amount of the supplementary grant depends on your parents' income. It also depends on the number of children that your parents are supporting and whether your parents are paying back a student loan.

The student travel product

The student travel product allows you to travel on public transport across the European Netherlands free of charge or with a discount. You can choose a weekly or weekend travel pass.

Taking out a loan/tuition fee loan

Will you be unable to make ends meet? You can borrow extra money from DUO. You can adjust the amount of your loan every month. You will pay interest on the loan, which starts accruing in the month following the month that you receive the loan. The interest rate is set each year you are enrolled as a student and is subject to change.

If you take out a loan, you will owe money (accumulate debt). This loan will have to be repaid with interest in monthly instalments after you finish your degree; the maximum repayment period is 35 years. Your income is taken into account in calculating the monthly instalments of your student loan payments. In some cases, you yourself must submit your income information. If you have little or no income, you will pay less. You can also take out a separate loan from DUO to pay your tuition fees: the tuition fee loan. This has to be paid back after graduation too, with interest.

Applying without BSN and DigiD

Because you don't have a citizen service number (BSN) yet, you can't apply for a DigiD. This means you have to apply for student finance using the form.

As soon as you move to the European Netherlands, you have to register in the municipality where you live and they will give you a BSN. Use your BSN to apply for a DigiD. Then you will be able to do all your business related to student finance online via 'Mijn DUO'. You can find more information and the form at www.duo.nl/antillen.

Financial aid from the government of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten

In addition to student finance from the Dutch government (via DUO), the government of Aruba, Curaçao or Sint Maarten may also offer financial support.

If you go to study in the Netherlands, you will have some extra expenses, like purchasing an airline ticket, a bicycle and some warm winter clothing. Check with the government of the island where you live to see if you are eligible for any other financial aid.



Further information

On the DUO website you can also find a brochure about student finance, specially made for students from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. This brochure is available in both Papiamentu and English.

DUO regularly organizes a variety of webinars specially designed for students and loan repayers from the Caribbean region. You can find these at duo.nl/antillen under the heading 'Webinars and calculation help'.

Deregistering from population database before leaving for Caribbean

Before you leave for the European Netherlands, you must deregister from the local population register on the island you currently live on (PIVA). Do this within 10 days of your departure at the Department of Citizen Affairs. Then when you arrive in the European Netherlands, you will register in your municipality there. For further information, see:

<https://www.rvig.nl/Informatieblad%20studenten%20Caribisch%20Nederland>





Timeline

Now

◆ Search for information and participate in **(online) activities that help you choose a programme of study**, such as open house days, taster sessions or summer courses at the different universities. You will need a **DigiD** to take part. Your application will take at least a week to process. Apply now, if you can, so that you don't get caught out later.

From 1 October 2023

◆ **Apply via Studielink.**

No later than
15 January 2024

◆ Check the deadline if **applying to limited enrolment (numerus fixus) programmes.**

15 January -
1 May 2024

◆ Final **application deadlines for other programmes with a selection process.** In order to be sure, check the website of the institution for the final application deadline.

15 April 2024

◆ If you have applied for a programme with limited enrolment (*numerus fixus*), you will be given a **number** with your place in the queue. If you are offered a place, you have 2 weeks to accept.

No later than
1 May 2024

◆ **Apply for all other programmes.**

Between applying
and 31 August 2024

◆ The university offers you a programme choice check in order to see whether the programme is a good match for you. You will still be able to change your programme afterwards. Have you made your final choice? Enrol in your programme. You need to have the following taken care of:

- You have graduated with your diploma.
- You have entered your payment information in Studielink (you'll get a message about this).
- You meet any other potential requirements that the programme has informed you about.

June 2024

◆ **Apply for student finance.**

End of August 2024

◆ **Freshers week for first-year university and HBO students.**

1 September 2024

◆ **Start your studies!**