



BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands is located in Northwestern Europe. It is bound by the North Sea to the north and west, Germany to the east and Belgium to the south. The inland area is below sea level in some places, protected by coastal dunes and dykes. The capital of the country is Amsterdam, but The Hague is the seat of the Queen, Government and Parliament. The country has a population of 16.3 million. The official language is Dutch, while English is also widely understood.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Netherlands higher educational system is a dual system composed of two main types of regular higher education: Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (WO – university education) and Hoger Beroepsonderwijs (HBO – higher professional education). The universities (WO) focus on the independent practice of research-oriented work in an academic or professional setting. The universities of professional education (HBO) are more practically oriented, preparing students directly for specific careers. A smaller branch of education is provided by Institutes of International Education – Internationaal Onderwijs (IO), which offer programmes designed especially for foreign students. International Education is generally conducted in English.

Universities (WO) and universities of professional education (HBO) award both Bachelor's and Master's degrees, but with a difference in orientation: most degree programmes at universities focus on science, and those at universities of professional education on applied science. Institutes for International Education (IO) offer Master's programmes, but no bachelor's programmes. A bachelor's programme at a university requires three years of full-time study (180 ECTS credits) to complete, while a bachelor's programme offered by a university of professional education requires four years of full-time study (240 credits). Depending on the discipline, Master's programmes at universities, universities of professional education and institutes for International Education last one to two years (60–120 credits). Doctorate (PhD) programmes are only offered at universities (WO) and last at least four years.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) are demand-oriented fellowship programmes designed to foster institutional development. The NFP is initiated and fully funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic).

The NFP target group consists of Mid-career professional who are already in employment and who are nationals of and working in one of 57 selected countries. More information on NFP can be found at www.nuffic.nl/nfp

Huygens Scholarships Programme (HSP)

The HSP programme is aimed at talented students who want to come to the Netherlands in the final phase of their Bachelor's studies or during their Master's studies. Study in the Netherlands can include research and/or practical training. However, HSP scholarships cannot be awarded to finance PhD studies in the Netherlands. Part of the total budget is reserved for students following programmes in Dutch studies. The HSP programme is administered by Nuffic. Scholarships are awarded for a period of no less than six months and no more than 24 months. More information is available at www.nuffic.nl/hsp or hsphuygens@nuffic.nl

Where can I find more information?

Study in Holland-comprehensive information on various aspects of study in the Netherlands:
www.studyin.nl

Online database of English-taught study programmes in the Netherlands (more than 1,200 programmes):
www.nuffic.nl/ispacsearch

Scholarships for study in the Netherlands:
www.grantfinder.nl

Full listing of all higher educational institutions in the Netherlands:
www.studyin.nl/education/overview-institutions-for-higher-education

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