

Applying to the Netherlands 101: Things to know and consider



Why the Netherlands?

- A range of world leading institutions with excellent links to centres of global business, law and science
- A diverse range of locations from metropolitan to country living
- Study conditions: from the ultra modern to ‘Hogwarts’
- One of the most inclusive and diverse societies in Europe
- Excellent, speedy and affordable travel links to the UK, France and the rest of the world
- EU resident and citizens : guaranteed rights to settlement, study, work and healthcare
- Internship and travel opportunities are often built into courses from London to Aruba..
- In some institutions the chance to build your own curriculum and study program
- Affordable fees....



Some things to know about the Dutch Education system:

- Highly individualistic, both in terms of what each course, faculty and college provides to the expectations on prospective students. There is no 'one size fits all' application process or student experience.

Two types of courses:

- General application: long deadlines, usually April/ May depending on your citizenship status.
- **Numerus Fixus** : For the most popular and competitive courses, deadlines are usually in early December-January. You will need to get these applications in early, and be prepared for interviews/ entrance tests.

Education is specialised:

- **Universities** - huge institutions with a large student body, larger class sizes, great range of courses.
- **University colleges** - much smaller, similar to a Oxbridge/ Private Liberal Arts College in the States. Very prestigious, small class sizes, opportunities to really tailor your course to your interests. Mostly housed in old Hogwarts style buildings.
- **Applied Science Colleges** - for those of you thinking about STEM courses, often have excellent industry links.
- **Hospitality Colleges** - world leading institutions for those wanting a career in the travel and tourism industry. An industry placement is normally a requirement of graduation.

Some not quite so fun practicalities to consider...

Good news! Lower Fees than many anglophone providers!

Depending on your status as an EU citizen and course choice you are looking at around:

1500 Euros to 12,000 Euros p.a.

*Most courses fall into the lower end of that bracket if you are an EU citizen.

NB - some courses also charge an admission fee, these are generally low, but a few can be in excess of 100 euros.

Not so great news... admission requirements.

- Many courses and institutions will require you to provide evidence of parity with a Dutch High School Diploma. This means:
- **Maths needs to have been studied at every year of Lycee.**
- If you have not chosen to do this, it is not the end of the world, but you will need to check if you need to take a maths course or placement test offered by the University before making an application.

Language requirements:

- Many institutions will require proof of English proficiency. Some take the OIB as proof, some will accept your status as a native speaker and some will accept your iGCSE. Others will not and will insist on you taking an English language test either through them or by an external provider. **If they insist on this there is very little we can do. Accept it with good grace and do the test.**

But some exciting things for you to consider!



Biodiversity, ecology and tourism placements as part of your course on the Island of Aruba!



Opportunities for work and study at a centre of International law and trade.



Study and work placements in leading museums and cultural centres both in the Netherlands and internationally.

Great! So where to start?



<https://www.unifrog.org/student/know-how>

Unifrog has compiled a complete series of guides to applying and living in the Netherlands within the 'Know how' section of the student site. This covers everything from:

- Student life
- Fees
- Making an application
- Specific guides for some courses and institutions.



Created by the Dutch ministry and education and the leading universities themselves, it also offers:

- A course search function
- Individual student stories and experiences
- [A guide to the Dutch education system](#)
- [Fees and Funding](#)
- [Information on visas, residency permits and healthcare](#)
- Events both digital and in person.

An excellent University Fair is usually held either in person or online each summer and early autumn, the advisors from each major anglophone provider. They are extremely kind and helpful, with no question being considered 'trivial'.

Using Unifrog to help you research different courses

Note: all courses taught in English in continental Europe will appear in your search, the Netherlands always appears in Western

Shortlists: you can make as many of these as you want and delete as you narrow down to your final lists. These are saved in favourites and shared with the UC team.



Problems:

- A lot of the answers to your studielink problems can be found in **the VERY detailed Q&A help section they have produced:**
<https://help.studielink.nl/en/>
- **You have not completed a degree,** so bear this in mind when filling in your previous education
- Please read the step by step guide they have provided :
<https://info.studielink.nl/en/how-to-us-e-studielink/step-by-step-plans>

The central portal for all Netherlands applications!

Studielink applications:

1. ***You will need to create a non DigiD account with them.***
2. You must have a valid form of ID, your national identity card will do, as will a passport or a carte de sejour.
3. Start completing the form, insert your choices, upload your documents and pay!

Big things to bear in mind:

- Make sure your ID documents are in date, and if they look close to expiry please renew them.
- You can **only have 2 numerus fixus courses on an application,** so choose carefully weighing up your desires, the course competitiveness, housing options and costing when making these choices.

Once you have made your choices...

You got your top choice!

- Accept by the deadline (sometimes as short as 10 days from the offer)
- Upload any additional docs
- Make plans to pay any fees as required up front by deadlines

You didn't get in to one of your choices.

- You now have a free slot to add on another course, so provided you meet the entry requirements and the deadline hasn't passed you can make another application.

You get accepted into another University elsewhere in the world and choose to go there.

1. Accept your other choice and complete all steps.
2. Withdraw your application from Studielink.
3. Inform us so we know to amend our records and can make sure our time is best supporting you and others, not chasing you for information!!!

- UK, USA, ANZAC and Canadian passport holders you will need to apply for residency and potentially a visa as well so make sure your identity documents are ready and in date.
- **Sit back, relax, complete the BAC.**



Housing:

- This is very dependent on the universities, some will offer it for a year, the whole course or not at all.
- There may be potential housing shortages in popular areas, so think ahead and plan carefully in your budget.
- If in doubt contact your university to see what help and policies they have in place.

Things to bear in mind once you have finished your applications:

- Non EU citizens apply for residency and any visa
- Non EU citizens apply for student health insurance (around 60 euros a month)
- Sort out your course financing and have support docs ready for these applications.

For more information:

- [Housing](#)
- [Finances, costing, and scholarships](#)
- [Healthcare & insurance](#)
- [Visas and immigration](#)

Transport:

- Consider a railcard for cheap returns to France
- Get a bike and brush up your cycling!