

The Dutch higher education system

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Higher education in Holland

14 research-oriented universities (Ba/Ma/PhD)

- Train students in science and the application of science
- Enrolments ranging from 6,000 to 30,000 students (total 185,000)
- Bachelor of Arts (BA): 3 years
- Bachelor of Science (BSc): 3 years
- Master of Arts (MA): 1 – 2 years
- Master of Science (MSc): 1 – 2 years
- PhD: 4 years

44 universities of applied science (B/M)

- Professionally/career-oriented
- Practical work experience through internships an integral part
- The largest enrol 20,000 to 39,000 students (total 350,000)
- Bachelor (B): 4 years
- Master (M): 1 – 2 years

15 international education institutes (Ma/PhD)

- International education: advanced courses taught in English
- Specialized institutes focus on development-oriented courses
- Mid-career professionals from developing countries
- Master of Arts (MA): 1 – 2 years
- Master of Science (MSc): 1 – 2 years
- PhD (only possible at 5 institutes): 4 years



Degrees and programmes (1)

Bachelor: 3-4 years

- Three years of full-time study (180 credits) at research universities (Ba/BSc)
- Bachelor of Science (BSc): in engineering, science and agriculture
- Four years of full-time study (240 credits) at universities of applied sciences (B)
- Bachelor of Arts (BA): in all other fields

Master: 1-2 years

- Depending on discipline and type of institution (60-120 credits)
- In most cases the last year is reserved to write the thesis and to conduct research.
- Master of Science (MSc) or Master of Arts (MA)



PhD-track

PhD: 4 years

- PhD-programmes (or doctorate) usually last 4 years for research and writing a dissertation
- In most cases independent research and hardly any course work
- Sometimes a trial period of 6 to 12 months
- Original research required
- Quality control
- Requirements: academic background, master's degree
- Financing: temporary position, fellowship, own source of funding

Main admission requirements

- Bachelor's: secondary-school diploma at the appropriate level
- Master's: at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in relevant field
- Sometimes own additional requirements (e.g. GPA, GRE, GMAT, work experiences)
- Number of places is limited and quotas are set in certain popular fields (e.g. medicine)
- All programmes: English language test (TOEFL or IELTS)
- Required scores are at least 550 (TOEFL paper-based) or 213 (TOEFL computer-based) or a minimum of 6.0 (IELTS)

Costs

- Tuition fee: varies depending on type of programme and institution
- Range bachelor's programmes: €1,500-€3,000
- Range master's programmes €3,000-€15,000
- Average cost of living: €700-€1000 per month including housing, meals, transportation, insurance etc.
- Abolishment of funding for students from outside EEA-region (EU + Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein)

Dutch way of teaching



- Respect for individual
- Student-centred
- Self-study, self-discipline
- (Problem-Based Learning)
- Interactive
- Workshops

Leading-role



- Management and business studies
- Agricultural sciences
- Medicine
- Civil engineering
- Remote sensing
- Arts & architecture

Institutional formats

- Education is basic liberty
- Various private institutions have been recognized by the government
- Three categories of educational institutions:
 - Government-funded
 - Government-approved
 - Without government funding or approval

Accreditation & quality control

- Since 2002, quality assurance and recognition in Holland based on a standard national system of accreditation
- NVAO, the Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organization, responsible body for accreditation of existing programmes and assessing new programmes
- If accredited by NVAO, diplomas and degrees awarded officially recognized by the Dutch government (see www.nvao.net)
- 2006: Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

- Introduced in 2006
- Initiative of Dutch institutions
- Accreditation by NVAO is required
- Sets out standards for recruitment of international students
- Quality assurance for international students
- List of institutions on www.internationalstudy.nl
- Complaints procedure through National Complaints Committee

More information?

www.studyin.nl

www.minocw.nl/english/education/index.html

www.eurydice.org

www.internationalstudy.nl

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