

STUDY IN HOLLAND – INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS



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Holland:

Holland is an excellent destination to begin or continue your studies. Of all European countries (except Ireland and the UK), Holland offers the most English-taught programmes. The programmes that are taught in English are also taught **fully** in English (unlike in some other European countries where programmes are sometimes taught in two languages). Almost 10% of the students in Holland are international students, so there is a vibrant international, multicultural atmosphere at the universities. Nearly all the people in Holland

speak English so communicating with the Dutch is easy.

English:

For admission purposes, you are required to submit proof of English sufficiency. A TOEFL (Internet based) score of 80 or an IELTS score of 6.5 overall is the minimum requirement. Note that many universities only accept IELTS or TOEFL Internet based.

Accreditation:

Programmes that are offered have all gone through a thorough accreditation and quality assurance process by an independent panel and on approval of this panel have been registered in the official register CROHO, administered by the Netherland Flemish Accreditation organization (NVAO, www.nvao.net). A degree from such an accredited programme in Holland is also widely accepted internationally. A degree from Holland gives your career a global perspective.

Financing:

Compared to other major study destinations, Holland is an attractive option, financially speaking. A Master's degree in Holland would cost, depending on the subject, between 8000 and 14000 euro per year, compared to 9000 to 20000 Euro in the UK and the US. The cost of living in Holland is also moderate. You should expect to spend between 700 and 1000 Euro per month on rent, food, transportation and other expenses.

Funding: There are several possibilities to obtain a scholarship. Here are some examples:

1) **Erasmus Mundus programme** is a programme funded by the European Union. Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with third countries. The Erasmus Mundus programme provides support to:

- a. **higher education institutions** that wish to implement joint programmes at postgraduate level (Action 1) or to set-up inter-institutional cooperation partnerships between universities from Europe and targeted Third-Countries (Action 2);
- b. **individual students**, researchers and university staff who wish to spend a study / research / teaching period in the context of one of the above mentioned joint programmes or cooperation partnerships;
- c. **any organisation** active in the field of higher education that wishes to develop projects aiming at enhancing the attractiveness, profile, visibility and image of European higher education worldwide (Action 3).

For more information visit: http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm

2) **The Tempus programme** enables universities in (e.g.) Syria to establish partnerships with universities in (e.g.) the Netherlands to help them restructure their higher education systems. The Tempus programme allows universities to offer scholarships for student

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exchanges within those partnerships. For information about existing partnerships and their related scholarships please contact your own university. For more information on the Tempus Programme please visit: www.tempus-nto.org.sy

3) *The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation* offers some scholarships intended for Arab students who have been accepted into a Masters or Ph.D programme in the Netherlands or vice versa, Dutch students who have been accepted into a Masters or Ph.D programme in the Arab

World. See www.rabbanifoundation.org for more information.

4) *Dutch universities or other institutions of higher education* regularly offer scholarships themselves. To find out, please search the website www.studyinholland.nl under Study options and click the link to the database for more than 1500 programmes taught in English. Once you have identified a study programme, you can see which scholarship opportunities are available for that programme under the *Full Programme Information* (the full description).

You can find other scholarship opportunities on the website www.grantfinder.nl , where you can search by country, degree and field of study.

IMPORTANT: In order to apply for a scholarship, the student usually must be registered at the university. However, the deadlines for scholarships are usually earlier than the deadlines for the universities. Therefore, universities require the students to ask for temporary admission as early as November. With this temporary admission, the student can then apply for a scholarship.

Ranking:

When you compare Dutch higher education institutions with other institutions worldwide, you will find many of the 14 Dutch research universities in top rankings (for example: 10 universities in the Times 200 ranking, 7 in the ARWU ranking, 12 in the QS ranking). That is a high score, considering the fact that Holland has only 14 research universities. Holland is a small country with big academic opportunities indeed!

Study results: Many courses ask for proof of excellent study results. This generally means that you will need an average score of minimum 70% in a field of study relevant to the subject, on the appropriate level (see below). When the student wants to apply for a scholarship, he needs to have even higher scores (80%). Official documents that list these results should be translated to English and legalized.

Work permits: For non-EU students working besides the study is limited. International students can work fulltime in the summer months (June, July, August) or maximum 10 hours a week the rest of the year. You may not do both. A special work permit is required for this. For more information please check the following link: <http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students/living-in-holland/working-while-studying>

Visa procedures: You can apply for a student-visa (Study-MVV) with the Netherlands Embassy in Damascus, Abou Romaneh (<http://syrie.nlambassade.org>) after you have received your admission papers from the university. The university can usually apply on your behalf through an accelerated process, however you are advised to check with the relevant university what their procedure is.

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Schedule: Please start preparing your application at least 6 months to 1 year before the start of the programme. Start therefore already in October, as most programmes will start in September.

Study in Holland

A lot of helpful information on study in Holland can be found on www.studyinholland.nl, for example information on how to prepare your stay in Holland, what practical steps you need to take, but also a database with all available study programmes taught fully in English. In that database you can search for a field of study that interests you and it will give you an overview of available programmes in that field, how much they cost, what the different educational and language requirements are, what the subjects are and perhaps most importantly, what scholarships are available.

Important websites:

www.studyinholland.nl

www.grantfinder.nl

www.academictransfer.org

www.euraxess.nl

www.scholarshipportal.eu

www.euogates.nl

www.niasd.org

www.nuffic.nl

General information and search engine for available programmes

Information on scholarships

Information on PhD opportunities and funding

Information on PhD opportunities and practicalities

Information on scholarships

General information

Website of the Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus

Website of Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education.



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