

# Studying in the Netherlands

In this document you will read about applying for a study at a Dutch university or 'hogeschool'. The text is ordered by steps to be taken. When you apply for a fix-study in the Netherlands you will find more info at the last paragraph called 'extra steps when you apply for a fix-study'. I hope this text is clear and understandable.

If however, after a read of this text, there are still questions you would like to pose, you are very welcome to make contact with the orientation teacher of the Dutch section, Gerben van der Meer. His email address: **VANDERGE@teacher.eursc.eu**

Before going through the steps of applying, the actual fee for studying at Dutch universities or hogescholen is 2.143 EU (2020-2021). When a student starts his or her study the fee for this first year is actually only 1.071 EU.

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/hoger-onderwijs/vraag-en-antwoord/hoogte-van-het-collegegeld-hogeschool-universiteit>

## STEP ONE

When you know what to study in the Netherlands you search for information on the different websites of the Dutch universities (or 'hogescholen').

Advice: google upon the study you want to study and the university you want to go to.  
For example: psychologie universiteit Maastricht

Here is a list of main Dutch universities:

<https://universitairmasters.nl/universiteiten/>

Be aware that each university has different curriculums, offer different programs in the field of study.

## STEP TWO

You check the criteria for admission. The European baccalaureate is considered as having the same level as the Dutch secondary diploma VWO. So with the European baccalaureate you can enter each university in the Netherlands.

Some studies and especially the studies with selection (the so called fixus studies) ask for certain subjects in your baccalaureate, like: math, biology, chemistry, physics, art.

## STEP THREE

Check the admission deadlines.

For numerus fixus studies the deadline will be 15 January.

For normal entry studies the deadline will be 1 May. For study year 2021-2022 this will be 1 June due to Covid-19.

Read more about this:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/hoger-onderwijs/vraag-en-antwoord/deadline-aanmelden-opleiding-hogeschool-of-universiteit>

#### **STEP FOUR**

Start applying.

You can start applying for your study from 1th of October.

You apply for a study in the Netherlands over the platform **Studielink**.

Because you are not a citizen of the Netherlands you cannot sign up in **Studielink** with your DigiD-code (Digital ID). You can sign up with making an account with username and password. (Write this username and password immediately in your agenda, so that you don't lose them.)

Be careful. All your personal data have to be up to date or written correctly. The hogeschool or university uses the personal data on Studielink to come in contact with you.

<https://www.studielink.nl/>

Applying over Studielink is only one part of the applying process. Check the entire applying process for your study at the university you have chosen.

#### **STEP FIVE**

Follow the applying process of the study at the university you have chosen. These processes can be different. In most cases when you apply for a study on Studielink you see a button or a web-address to upload documents. (On the website of the study/university you will find information about the required documents.)

For example:

*You want to study psychology at the Universiteit van Maastricht.*

*You will have to upload your documents via the button MyUM. This button appears automatically in Studielink when you apply for a study at the Universiteit van Maastricht.*

It's obvious, but still good to keep in mind. Make sure your passport is valid. Of course you will have to send a copy of a valid passport as well.

#### **STEP SIX (if necessary)**

Sometimes, for certain studies, a Dutch university is asking for grades. The reason for this is because in certain studies many students fail in the first study year. Universities would like to reduce these numbers by lifting the requirements. They ask for **the grades on the last bulletin of year 6**. Sometimes they ask for **predicted grades**. Your teachers have to predict your grade for your baccalaureate. When this is the case, you have to make contact with the orientation teacher of the Dutch section. He will take care of this. The work he will do for you will amount up to a **small dossier**. The price of a small dossier is 130 EU.

#### **STEP SEVEN (if asked for)**

In order to finish the applying process a university could ask you to do a '**studiekeuzecheck**'. This is to check if your choice of study is done on solid grounds. Such a check is good for both parties: good for you to know if the choice is a right choice and you don't end up disappointed at the end of the first year. And also good for the university to have students studying on the right place with good study results, because competences and motivation seem to match the requirements.

Check the website of the university and especially the one of your study when the university is offering these 'studiekeuzechecks'.

Activities which count as 'studiekeuzecheck':

- A talk with a professional worker at the study at the university or hogeschool.
- 'proefstuden' . You will follow a course as a guest. In times of Covid19 some studies have arranged a possibility to follow a digital course.
- Fill in a digital questionnaire.

The university can ask for a proof that you did a 'studiekeuzecheck'. This proof is mostly asked for at the end of the applying process. This would be in the months May or June.

### **EXTRA STEPS WHEN YOU APPLY FOR A FIX-STUDY.**

As mentioned above, the deadline for applying for a fix-study (a study with numerus fixus) is 15<sup>th</sup> January.

For fix-studies there is always a **selection**. This selection is both non-cognitive and cognitive.

**Non-cognitive:** your motivation, which you put clear on paper and present in a motivation letter.

Another non-cognitive item in the selection will be your work-experience or other activities out of school, which you can proof officially. The EEB2 is offering a kind of framework for doing your work-experience at the end of year 5. Check for this the website of EEB2.

**Cognitive: grades or a selection test.** Not only the fix-studies are nowadays asking for grades. Studies which are not fix but are more complicated to study, are asking for grades as well.

But here we focus on the fix-studies. The grades are concerning the ones on your final bulletin in year 6, but as well the predicted grades for your baccalaureate. **Please be aware:** The deadline for applying to a fix-study is 15<sup>th</sup> January. Between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> January you have to ask the orientation teacher of the Dutch section to arrange an official paper where all your predicted grades are mentioned. This will go with an official stamp of the European School. **Please be on time** for asking the predicted grades for a fix-study, it takes always a few days before all your teachers reacted upon the request for a predicted grade.

If you have to do a **selection test** depends on the particular university or study. Check the website of the study, and especially the information under applying (aanmelden).

At the end of the month February or the beginning of March the selection procedure will be finished. For example, for the study year 2021-2022 the selection procedure for psychology at University Maastricht will finish at 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

For most of the fix-studies the ranking (after the selection procedure) will be published in Studielink at 15<sup>th</sup> April. By then you will know if you can study the subject.

### **Think positively**

For psychology in Maastricht there is a limit of 600 students. If you end up at place 645. You will still have a reasonable change to study psychology at Maastricht. Some students change their mind and some applied for another fix-study, which they might prefer.

You can **only apply for two fix-studies**. Studielink doesn't allow you to apply for more than these two fix-studies. (One can easily imagine the chaotic situation when everybody is free to apply for as much fix-studies as possible.)

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/hoger-onderwijs/vraag-en-antwoord/hoe-werkt-de-toelating-bij-een-opleiding-met-een-numerus-fixus>

You are allowed to try **three times** to surpass the selection for a study which you really would like to do. This means you can try three years in a row to enter in the desired study. After these three years Studielink will not accept your apply anymore.

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/hoger-onderwijs/vraag-en-antwoord/hoe-werkt-de-toelating-bij-een-opleiding-met-een-numerus-fixus>

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