



THE NETHERLANDS

OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS



With more than 2,100 international study programmes taught in English, ranging from short training seminars to full-fledged bachelor's and master's degree programmes, Holland has the largest offer of English-taught programmes in continental Europe.

The most popular fields of study for international students are:

1. Economics & Business
2. Human & Social Sciences
3. Engineering

PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE



Search for all English taught programmes available here:

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

FEE INFORMATION



Annual tuition fees for students from an EEA country (including Ireland) start at €2,060 for the academic year 2018-2019 and at €2,087 for the academic year 2019-2020. The Dutch government has halved tuition fees for first-year students in higher education.

Read more:

- <https://www.studyinholland.nl/finances/tuition-fees>
- <https://www.government.nl/topics/secondary-vocational-education-mbo-and-higher-education/plan-to-halve-higher-education-tuition-fees>

Some universities also ask for a handling fee for some English taught master's programmes. This is a one-time fee between €50 and €150.

The handling fee is to cover certain administrative costs in relation to your application.

Your application will not be considered for admission until the university receives your proof of payment

INSTITUTION TYPE



In Holland you can choose between two types of higher education:

- research universities:
<https://www.studyinholland.nl/dutch-education/research-universities>
- universities of applied sciences: (programmes that focus on the practical application)
<https://www.studyinholland.nl/dutch-education/universities-applied-sciences>

Both research universities and universities of applied sciences can award a bachelor's or a master's degree: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/dutch-education/degrees> however, there are differences.

Further information regarding the Higher Education system in Holland: <https://www.nuffic.nl/documents/360/higher-education-system-in-the-netherlands.pdf>



APPLICATION PROCESS

Choose your course and check with your institution

The first port of call should be to check the institution's website pages for the programme of your choice to find information on the application process.

They can instruct you regarding the need to register via Studielink, they may wish to do their own review first. They will also advise whether the programme that interests you has a selection procedure in place. These are known as a numerus fixus programmes. They have their own application processes and an earlier application deadline of **15 January**. (more info below).

Interviews/ cognitive ability tests/ a letter of motivation may apply.

It is always best to check with the Institution directly what these will entail.

Universities may supply their own guidelines, like the university of applied sciences InHolland:

<https://www.inholland.nl/media/13942/howtowritealetterofmotivation.pdf>

Studielink

For most programmes you need to register via the [Studielink tool](#). This is the official registration portal for programmes at Dutch higher education institutions.

Via Studielink you can submit multiple requests for registration. There is a maximum of 4 study programmes. These are your options:

- 4 study programmes without numerus fixus,
- 3 study programmes without, 1 study programme with numerus fixus,
- 2 study programmes without, 2 study programmes with numerus fixus (however, you can apply for only one Medicine, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Oral Health or Obstetrics. For example: you can apply for Medicine and Physiotherapy, but you cannot apply for the same study programme Medicine at two different universities).

Once you have made your choice, you will have to withdraw the remaining requests for registration in Studielink.

Please note- you should first check with the institution of your choice whether you are required to register via Studielink. Some institutions use a different method to register students from abroad! **Commonly, having registered on Studielink, you will also need to**

apply to the course on the university's own on-line portal.

If you need help creating a Studielink account, adding your previous education and submitting an application, you can visit the [Studielink website](#). It shows you step-by-step instructions for the enrolment process, in both text and screen shots.

<http://info.studielink.nl/redactie/Documents/181008%20Stappenplan%20-%20Algemeen%20Stappenplan%20EN.pdf>

There is also a [Studielink Q&A](#) with answers to the most frequently asked questions on using the system. If you cannot find your answer, you can contact the institution where you want to study for further assistance (even if you haven't applied yet).

Acceptance

Your institution will send you a notification of acceptance. If you have questions about your acceptance, please contact the institution directly.

Application deadlines

Please note the following application deadlines:

- **15 January** for a numerus fixus (restricted) programme
- **1 May** for all other study programmes*

* This is the general deadline, but always check the exact deadline with the institution of your choice, as it may vary per institution and study programme.

A note from our Dutch colleagues: *Students should register by May 1st for a course. After this date, they can still change their choice until 1 September of the academic year. They then retain their right of admission. Students who register for the first time after May 1st can be refused entry to a programme. For numerus fixus study programmes, the application deadline is earlier (15 January).*

So Irish students can apply for a study programme before they have their Leaving Cert results. Before the start of the bachelor's or master's programme (1 September) the University will need proof that you've graduated. How this is arranged exactly depends on the university and study programme. For example, sometimes you need to submit a list of grades received thus far when applying or you just need to make sure you provide the proof of diploma requirements before 31st of August. So, when you know which study programme you want to do, search for the entry requirements of that study programme.



APPLICATION PROCESS continued

<https://www.studyinholland.nl/plan-your-stay/how-to-apply/application-via-studielink>

A note on 'numerus fixus':

If the number of students who apply exceeds the number of available places, a selection procedure will take place. The application process therefore differs from that of regular study programmes.

15 January application deadline

If you have to register via Studielink, make sure you do so before 15 January 23:59 hours (CET). Please check the [page about the Studielink application](#) for more information.

See the list of all courses with a numerus fixus here (in Dutch): <https://www.studiekeuze123.nl/selectie/welke-opleidingen-hebben-een-numerus-fixus>

Max two applications:

For each academic year you can apply for a maximum number of two numerus fixus programmes. The institution decides how many times you can participate in the selection of a specific programme.

Medicine, Dentistry, Dental hygiene and Physiotherapy programmes are an exception; for these programmes you can only submit one application per programme per academic year. For example, you can't apply for Medicine at two different universities, but you are allowed to apply for Medicine and Dentistry.

See: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/plan-your-stay/how-to-apply>
<http://info.studielink.nl/en/studenten/vraag/Pages/vraag.aspx>

Selection based on ranking number

If the number of students who apply exceeds the number of available places, a selection will take place between 15 January and 15 April. The education institution decides what the selection will look like and will provide you with further information.

Applicants in the selection procedure will receive a ranking number via Studielink on 15 April. This number is determined by the institution, based on their selection criteria. Depending on your ranking number and the number of places available, you may or may not be offered a place.

Places offered

If you are offered a place, you have to accept this place via Studielink within two weeks. If you don't accept the place within two weeks, your place will be assigned to another student automatically.

Numerus fixus guide: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/sites/default/files/2020-06/step-by-step-plan-numerus-fixus-programmes.pdf>

<http://info.studielink.nl/en/studenten/hoebruikjestudielink/Pages/hoewerktstudielink.aspx>



IMPORTANT DATES



Application deadlines

Please note the following application deadlines:

- 15 January for a numerus fixus (restricted) programme
- 1 May for all other study programmes*

*This is the general deadline, but always check the exact deadline with the institution of your choice, as it may vary per institution and study programme. Some institutions may accept applications to non-Nf courses long after these general deadlines.

This year, the Department of Education liaised with the Dutch HEIs to ensure that Irish students receiving Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades results will be able to register to attend higher education in the Netherlands

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2020-press-releases/PR20-07-29.html>

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



A Higher level Leaving Certificate (at least 6 exam subjects with at least 2 subjects at higher level with a grade of H1-H4) is the equivalent to the Dutch VWO diploma (NLQF 4+/EQF 4)

See: <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/education-and-diplomas-ireland/>

Entry requirements will depend on your programme of choice. Eg: Some programmes might require certain subjects or levels- maths for engineering etc.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES



Support: Most universities have an international office where you can make an appointment and ask questions. At some universities you can also contact the International Students Admissions office. They can give specific advice concerning admissions.

Tuition fee loan info: <https://duo.nl/particulier/student-finance/tuition-fee-loan.jsp>

<https://duo.nl/particulier/student-finance/eligibility.jsp>

Preparation for your stay- general info: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/plan-your-stay/get-prepared>

Checklist for applying: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/plan-your-stay/checklist>

<https://www.wilweg.nl/english-information>

https://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/country-profiles/netherlands_en