**Study in the Netherlands**

**There are a couple of good sites to check out if you’re thinking of studying in the Netherlands:**

* [www.study.eu/country/netherlands](http://www.study.eu/country/netherlands)
* **www.studyinholland.co.uk**

**Types of universities**

There are two types of universities – research universities and universities of applied science. Research universities are more academically rigorous and focus on specific subjects. Degrees take three years and usually do not include work experience. Most teach bachelor’s degrees in English. Universities of applied science are more profession orientated. Degrees take three or four years and always have a work placement and usually a period of time studying abroad. There are 14 research universities in the Netherlands but not all will teach bachelor degrees in English. For a full list of undergraduate courses taught in English at research universities there is a course finder on the studyinholland website.

There are also private universities and university colleges. Private universities typically specialise in particular areas such as hospitality and tourism and charge higher fees than other Dutch universities. University colleges are more often affiliated with public universities and specialise in teaching liberal arts degrees. University colleges usually charge additional fees and require students to live on campus.

**Cost**

Studying in the Netherlands is not free. Fees for non EU citizens are between 6000 and 15000 euros per year. British nationals are now treated no differently from other international (i.e. non-EU) students in the Netherlands and now pay full international fees. Generally they range from around €8,000 a year for most degrees in business, arts and humanities, to around €12,000 for science subjects, €14,000 for liberal arts programmes and €32,000 a year for medicine. You can’t access loans or grants either in the Netherlands or the UK.

**Admissions and entry requirements**

There is now a centralised admissions process called Studielink but it isn’t the same as UCAS. Generally students are entitled to a place to study at a Dutch university if they have a school leaving certificate. For British students, this typically means at least 2 A levels. Therefore it can be easier to receive an offer from a Dutch university. You will not be made a conditional offer, you will simply be told that you will be accepted subject to your achieving your A levels in the summer.

The admissions calendar in the Netherlands usually opens the first week of October for the following academic year. The deadline for submitting an application varies depending on the type of university you apply for and any entry restrictions such as [Numerus Fixus](http://studyinholland.co.uk/numerus_fixus.html). This is a restriction of the number of places on offer on popular degree programmes. Although common in the UK, in the Netherlands it is quite rare.

Most of the courses taught in English are not subject to Numerus Fixus. The exceptions include medicine, psychology, artificial intelligence, computer science, international business administration, international relations and physiotherapy. It is now possible for students to apply for only two of these programmes in the future. You can only apply to one medicine and physiotherapy programme. You still have a total of four choices in Studielink but the other two or three cannot be used for Numerus Fixus programmes in the same field.

For Numerus Fixus programmes, the application deadline is typically 15th January for the following September. As in the UK, students applying before the deadline will definitely be considered. Those applying after the deadline will only be considered if there are places remaining. Once the university has been notified of your application, you will be told what you need to do next which generally involves sending more information including a CV and a motivation letter, which is similar to a personal statement, as well as any specific application form for your chosen course.

After this you may be asked to attend an assessment day at the university or complete an online exam or have an interview. This tends to be in late February or March. After the assessment day, the university will rank applicants based on the strength of their application and their performance. Students who are ranked up to the limit of places on the course will be made an offer via Studielink, usually in mid-April. You have two weeks to accept or decline this offer. Students who narrowly miss out on being offered a place are put on a waiting list.

For non Numerus Fixus courses, the deadline for most courses at research universities is 1st April for non EU students but there are exceptions so you’ll need to check.

All the websites emphasise that while entry requirements might be lower at Dutch universities than UK ones, standards are not. It is much more common for students to drop out at the end of the first year because they do not reach the required standard. It is important to choose the right university for you and not to choose your decision based on what grades the university asks for, or based on an offer which is essentially just passes of your A levels. Just because they will make you an offer it doesn’t mean it’s the right university for you.

**Studielink - How to apply**

Studielink is the central application organisation for Dutch universities. Every university has its own introduction page to Studielink and this will be where you first start to apply. You can apply for up to four courses at a time, of which only two can be subject to Numerus Fixus. (You can only apply to one medicine/physio course.) You can change the courses you wish to apply for at any time before the enrolment deadline. You do not receive conditional offers through Studielink because Dutch university entry requirements usually do not really depend on the specific grades you get at A level. You do not submit a personal statement through StudieLink because not every course requires one. Universities will request this directly from you if it is necessary. You can write an individual motivation letter for each degree programme that requires it so this is different to UCAS. When you have completed your application for one programme and have submitted it, you will then be able to add up to three additional programmes but the system will prevent you from applying to multiple Numerus Fixus options. Some programmes with Numerus Fixus might require additional online tests or interviews.