

# SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

---

Module: Further Study in the Netherlands



<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
GENERAL INFORMATION	5
MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO NETHERLANDS	5
Job Prospects	5
Working while studying	6
OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM	6
<b>SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY</b>	<b>8</b>
TYPES OF DEGREES	9
HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	9
EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN	9
<b>APPLYING</b>	<b>11</b>
OVERVIEW	11
<b>FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>12</b>
FEES	12
SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	12
<b>SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY</b>	<b>13</b>
TYPES OF DEGREES	14
HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE	14
EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S	15
EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs	15
OVERVIEW	16
<b>FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>18</b>
FEES	18
SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	18
<b>SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>(Applicable to all Applicants)</b>	<b>19</b>
MORE NOTES ON APPLYING	20
<b>BUDGETING</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TRANSLATABILITY KEY</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APPLYING FOR A VISA</b>	<b>24</b>
DO YOU NEED A VISA	24
WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY	24
How long does visa processing take?	24
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST	24
HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN NETHERLANDS	24
APPLYING	25

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>27</b>
GENERAL OPTIONS	27
On-Campus Accommodation	27
Cities ranked according to living cost	28
Other	28
<b>SECTION 5: CONTRIBUTORS</b>	<b>29</b>

## GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
DigiD	This is the 'Digital ID' you will need to log into <a href="#">Studielink</a> or other government websites. You will receive once you are a registered Dutch resident (students typically receive this status after they arrive at university)
<i>Studielink</i>	Studielink is the official application portal for programmes at institutions of higher education in the Netherlands

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Netherlands offers 2,100 programs taught in English. Additionally, Netherlands currently ranks 2nd (after Switzerland) on the [EF English Proficiency Index](#).

Other things to note:

- Dutch institutions must sign the [Code of Conduct](#) for them to be eligible to accept international students; they must then in the future, abide by the rules laid out in the code.
- When planning your study in the Netherlands, [this checklist](#) is a good way to get an idea of the kind of things you will have to sort out.

### **MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO NETHERLANDS**

There are a number of reasons motivating students to apply to the Netherlands.

- Firstly, compared to other countries, the Netherlands is one of the countries which has relatively lower study costs. [Times of Higher Education](#) ranked it as one of the top 10 most affordable European countries.
- In addition to this, there are a large number of scholarships available for Pakistani students, as outlined in the Scholarships section within this profile. These are not only organization-based but also university-specific. It is important to note however that there is no guarantee that you will get accepted for a scholarship; these are largely dependent on potential and academic past.
- Another motivating factor can be that English tends to be spoken widely in the Netherlands, as mentioned before. This makes the adjustment to Netherlands easier than other European countries. Though basic knowledge of Dutch should exist and work in the Netherlands will likely require some Dutch background, the general population has more English-Language knowledge than other European countries.

### **Job Prospects**

Job prospects in the Netherlands tend to be limited for non-EU (and non-EEA) students (similar to other EU countries). Employers are required to favour natives and EU candidates; if such candidates do not meet requirements then only can they look for non-EU applicants. In this way there is a lot of competition in the job market. Another hurdle in the Netherlands job market is the language barrier; knowledge of the Dutch language is an asset, and in some cases a requirement for working in the Netherlands. New policies such as the Orientation Year Residence Permit (mentioned below) are improving the chances of work opportunities post-graduation, however issues such as the two major ones mentioned above still reduce work prospects (language barriers and preference for EU students).

### Working while studying

You are allowed to work a maximum of 16 hours per week or full-time during the summer holidays (June-August). For such work opportunities your employer will need to apply for a work permit.

Note the following things to remember:

<b>Internship as part of the study program</b>	If you have to do an internship as part of the program you are studying, then no work permits are required (the student visa is enough). Employers must have an internship agreement handy in case the Labour Inspectorate require to see it. For more information on this, <a href="#">click here</a> .
<b>Health insurance</b>	Once you get a job you will need to take out health insurance. More information on this can be viewed <a href="#">here</a> .

### Working in the Netherlands after graduation

While we would hope that Pakistanis return to Pakistan to play a part in building the country, we do want to share that -- for those interested in staying abroad -- in order to work in the Netherlands, you must first obtain a work permit (elaborated in the 'Visa' section). Job prospects wise, although legislations related to work permits are changing in a way to attract international students (i.e. extended period of stay post-degree, so students can get some time after graduating to look for work opportunities in the Netherlands), the actual job prospects or chances of getting the job may be limited.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The Netherlands follows a 3-cycle system of higher education, consisting of a Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree. Under Dutch law, all students must complete 60 credits in their respective universities per year, with each credit consisting of 28 hours of work.

Study in the higher education system can be research-oriented, higher professional education (practice or professional work-oriented) -- this is dependent on the university/institution you apply to (explained below). Note that there are also programs that target international students.

### **DIFFERENT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS (TIERS)**

There are two types of higher education institutions in the Netherlands:

1. [Research Universities \(WO\)](#): These can include general universities and technical universities, both of which have research-oriented study (note that they can also have practice-oriented work, but the research component always dominates the program).
  - a. WBOs focus more on research; the faculty is typically involved in research and that is a critical component of lectures. This degree aims to make students learn to approach a discipline in critically and analytically.
  - b. Programs give their students more independence: these programs can be self-defined to an extent. There are some compulsory subjects, but these will always be directly relevant to the specific academic field you have selected.

- c. In academic universities, lectures and tutorials are separate, and are compulsory to pass the course.
2. [Universities of Applied Sciences \(HBO\)](#): These can include general universities or universities that specialize in a particular field (e.g. Agriculture, Performing Arts etc.), both of which provide higher professional education (practice or professional work oriented).
  - a. HBO programs have a clear occupational outlook. Universities of Applied Sciences (which offer HBO degrees) provide training to students for a particular profession: this kind of degree aims to develop competencies. They offer degrees of higher professional education, which aims at preparing students for the job market in a particular field.
  - b. Programs typically provide more direction to their students. Group work and internships are often compulsory in these programs.
  - c. In HBO program, there is no distinction between lectures (theory) and tutorials (application) -- because the two are often integrated.

Both degrees are, however, considered equal in value.

Additionally, there are also [Institutes of International Education](#), which offer advanced training courses in a variety of fields, with a focus on issues related to development of countries. Such institutions are usually a part of research universities (but can also be seen in universities of applied sciences), and offers Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees.

## **SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**



## **TYPES OF DEGREES**

HBO	WO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bachelor (B) of [field of study]: 4 years</li> <li>● Bachelor of Science (BSc): 4 years</li> <li>● Bachelor of Arts (BA): 4 years</li> <li>● LLB: 4 years</li> </ul> <p>Or for Business Administration, Social Work, Education and Music, the following degrees are often given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bachelor of Education (BEd)</li> <li>● Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)</li> <li>● Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)</li> <li>● Bachelor of Music</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, Associate degrees are also offered by these institutions. These usually take 2 years to complete, after which students can enter the job market or apply for a Bachelor's degree.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bachelor of Arts (BA): 3 years</li> <li>● Bachelor of Science (BSc): 3 years</li> <li>● LLB: 3 years</li> </ul>

If you want your study process to be more research oriented, or if you have research-oriented career goals, then you should apply for a WO degree. Otherwise, if you want a more practice-oriented program or study structure then you should apply for an HBO degree. Certain programs are more common in HBO, such as Business, Performing Arts etc. and so it also depends on your field of study. So overall, the degree you opt for depends on your field of study, career goals and study goals.

## **HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE**

### **EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN**

Higher education institutions in the Netherlands usually consult Nuffic, which is the National Academic Recognition Information Centre for Holland (NARIC). The following information has been taken from the in depth evaluations on their website.

Note that if you are over the age of 21 and do not fulfill any of the following requirements, you can opt for the entrance examination test (more information [here](#)).

*Disclaimer: universities may choose to disregard the advice given from Nuffic, so make sure to confirm your specific university's guidelines and requirements. This information serves as a general guide.*

### **British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels)**

If you have completed your **O Levels in 6 subjects with grades A\* to C**, this is equivalent to a Dutch **VMBO-t diploma**.

You need to have done **A Levels in 3 subjects** after fulfilling the previous requirement to have your overall education be equivalent to the **VWO diploma in the Netherlands**. If this is the case, then you are eligible to apply for both the HBO and WO Bachelor's degrees directly. You may have to fulfill subject specific requirements depending on the field you are going for.

#### **Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)**

If you have done the HSSC and achieved a pass with a **Grade C or above**, your certification is equivalent to the **Dutch HAVO diploma**, which is the senior general secondary education of five years in the Netherlands. Most universities will let you apply straight to a **4-year HBO Bachelor degree** program with this sort of qualification. You may have to fulfill subject specific requirements depending on the field you are going for. Do note that some universities may not follow these guidelines set by Nuffic, and may not accept the HSSC, so make sure to check carefully for requirements in your chosen university.

If you have done the HSSC and achieved a **Grade D or below**, your certification is equivalent to the **Dutch VMBO-t diploma**, which is preparatory vocational secondary education of four years in the Netherlands. You may have to do at least a year's worth of preparatory courses before you can gain admission into an HBO program.

You can only go for a **WO Bachelor's degree** after you have completed a year in the HBO Bachelor's degree program.

#### **International Baccalaureate**

If you have done the IB, this will be equivalent to a **VWO diploma in the Netherlands**. In this case, you are eligible to apply for both the HBO and WO Bachelor's degrees directly. You may have to fulfill subject specific requirements depending on the field you are going for.

# APPLYING

## **OVERVIEW**

When looking for programs, [click here](#).

For Bachelor's programs, taught in English, at the Universities of Applied Sciences please [click here](#).

For Bachelor's programs taught in English at Research Universities, please click [here](#).

## **Application Components**

- Proof of Secondary level study
- Proficiency in English: You need to be proficient in speaking, writing and reading English.
  - Passing TOEFL or IELTS is the usual requirements. Generally:
    - TOEFL:
      - Online: 213 minimum score
      - Paper-based: 550 minimum score
    - IELTS: 6 minimum score
    - Specific minimum requirements can be viewed on the university admission requirement pages.
  - Some universities may accept other forms of English proficiency, including [Cambridge English](#).
- Admission Tests
- If you want to take Dutch-taught programs: State Exams Dutch as a Second Language ([Staatsexamens Nt2](#)).

## FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

### **FEES**

The fees you pay for an undergraduate program will depend highly on whether you choose to go to a public or private university, as well as what program you choose to do. Private universities can set their fees independently, and so typically charge very highly. In public universities, the range for a non-EU/EEA student will typically be from €6,000 - €15,000 per year. Some programs also went up to €17,000 per year. You will usually stay at the lower end of this range if you choose to do a degree in the arts or humanities. You will be at the higher end of this range if you choose to do a degree in a field such as medicine or engineering.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

The following links show potential scholarships you can apply for:

<a href="#">A-1 Auto Transport Scholarship</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPA requirement: 3.0 or above</li><li>• This is applicable not only for Bachelor's/Undergraduate, but also for Master's and PhD programs</li></ul>
<a href="#">GoEuro European Study Abroad Scholarship</a>	For students enrolled in <a href="#">eligible universities</a>
<a href="#">Holland Scholarship</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is applicable not only for Bachelor's/Undergraduate, but also for Master's and PhD programs</li><li>• <a href="#">More information</a></li></ul>
<b>Other</b>	Other scholarships, including university-specific, can be viewed in the link below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Study in Holland - Scholarships</a></li></ul>

## **SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY**

## TYPES OF DEGREES

<b>HBO (Research Universities)</b>	<b>Master's Degrees</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Master of Arts (MA): 1-3 years</li> <li>● Master of Science (MSc): 1-3 years</li> <li>● LLM: 1 year</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For Engineering, agriculture, and mathematics, Master's degrees always last for 2 years.</p> <p>For the fields of Business Administration, Social Work, Education and Music, students can graduate with a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Education (MEd), Master of Music (MM) respectively.</p>
<b>HBO (Universities of Applied Sciences)</b>	<b>PhD Degrees</b>
	<p><b>Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng): 2 years</b></p> <p>This doctoral degree is for MSc graduates who "are able to create high level, technological and innovative designs for complex issues with a multidisciplinary character". It is essentially a technological designer program. It adds to the teachings of the MSc degree by adding an interdisciplinary component to learning. Students who pursue this degree graduate with skills relevant to the development of new and innovative technological solutions to products, processes and systems. These solutions take into account functional requirements, business and market requirements and the requirements of society as a whole.</p> <p>The first year of the degree focuses on getting students familiar with the current design methods. The second year involves practical experience with the student working as a trainee on an individual design assignment, at a high-tech company.</p> <p><b>PhD: 4 years</b></p> <p>A PhD takes a minimum of 4 years to complete, and it involves independent research and the completion of a dissertation. For more information on PhD programs, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<b>HBO (Universities of Applied Sciences)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Master's of [field of study]: 1-4 years</li> <li>● Master of Science (MSc): 1-2 years</li> <li>● Master of Arts (MA): 1-2 years</li> <li>● LLM: 1 year</li> </ul>

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

According to Nuffic, different Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Pakistan are equivalent to different diplomas and degrees in the Netherlands. A summary of these can be found in the following table and

used in the following sections. This information can be useful for when you are interpreting university requirements.

Information extracted from [Nuffic](#)

Pakistani degree	Dutch equivalent
Bachelor's (Pass) — 2 years	VWO schooling diploma OR 2 years of an HBO degree
Bachelor's of Technology (Pass) — 2 years	2 years of a relevant HBO degree
Bachelor's of Technology (Honours) — 2 years	HBO Bachelor's degree
Bachelor's (Honours) — 3 years	3 year HBO OR 1 year WO degree
Professional Bachelor's — 4 years	HBO Bachelor's degree OR 2 years of WO degree
Professional Bachelor's — 5 years	WO Bachelor's degree
Postgraduate Bachelor's Law — 3 years	WO Bachelor's degree
Master's (after a Bachelor with a Duration of schooling: of 3 or 2 years) — 1-2 years	HBO Bachelor's degree OR 2 years of WO degree
Master's (after a Bachelor with a Duration of schooling: of 4 years) — 2 years	WO Master's degree of 1 year duration
MPhil — 2 years	WO Master's degree of 1 year duration

## **EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S**

Generally, applicants are required to have a Bachelor's degree in one or more of the fields related to the program.

For Research Masters: you need to have the equivalent of a WO Bachelor's degree if you want to apply directly. If you have the equivalent of an HBO Bachelor's degree, you will be eligible to go for a WO Master's degree after completing a bridging program of 1 year.

## **EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs**

You will need to have the equivalent of a WO Master's degree if you wish to apply for PhD candidacy in a public Dutch university. There may be requirements on what subject Master's you have completed and what the length of it was, depending on the university and PhD you are going for, so make sure to view these requirements before applying.

# APPLYING

## **OVERVIEW**

When looking for programs, [click here](#).

For Master's programs taught in English, at the Universities of Applied Sciences, please [click here](#).

For Master's programs taught in English, at Research Universities, please [click here](#).

PhD wise: Note that in Holland, PhD candidates are not considered to be students -- they are regarded as professional researchers. In this way, when you apply for PhD, it is like applying for a job. PhD positions are posted as job vacancies, rather than programs. For PhD positions, you should consult [Euraxess](#) and [Academic Transfer](#). Wherever you pursue your PhD research, you will likely be paid -- because it is considered one way of employment. When applying, you should contact the institution/organization and find out what their application procedures are.

## **Application Components**

- Proof of Bachelor's/Undergraduate level study (as explained in the previous section)
  - Most degrees usually require students to have a relevant Bachelor/Undergraduate degree to the subject they plan on studying.
- Bachelor's/Undergraduate level transcript
- Proficiency in English: You need to be proficient in speaking, writing and reading English.
  - Passing TOEFL or IELTS is the usual requirements. Generally:
    - TOEFL:
      - Online: 213 minimum score
      - Paper-based: 550 minimum score
    - IELTS: 6 minimum score
    - Specific minimum requirements can be viewed on the university admission requirement pages.
  - Some universities may accept other forms of English proficiency, including [Cambridge English](#).
- If you want to take Dutch-taught programs: State Exams Dutch as a Second Language ([Staatsexamens Nt2](#)).
- Other Standardized Tests: GMAT or GRE may be required.
- Admission Tests
- Motivation Letter
- CV
- References
- Interviews



Note: for PhD application, proficiency in the Dutch knowledge is not usually a requirement but can be an asset during your research.

## **GENERAL ADMISSION TIPS**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

#### **Useful links:**

- <http://uconsulting.nl/motivation-letter-tips/>
- <https://www.inholland.nl/media/13942/howtowritealetterofmotivation.pdf>

## FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

*Note that the figures were last updated in December 2018.*

### **FEES**

The fees you pay for a postgraduate program will depend highly on whether you choose to go to a public or private university, as well as what program you choose to do. Private universities can set their fees independently, and so typically charge very highly. In public universities, the range for a non-EU/EEA student will typically be from €8,000 - €20,000 (US\$9073-US\$22683) per year. Some programs also went up to €30,000 (US\$34024) per year. You will usually stay at the lower end of this range if you choose to do a degree in the arts or humanities. You will be at the higher end of this range if you choose to do a degree in a field such as medicine or engineering.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

The following links show potential scholarships you can apply for:

<a href="#">A-1 Auto Transport Scholarship</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPA requirement: 3.0 or above</li><li>• Master's and PhD candidates are eligible for this (undergraduate students can also apply).</li></ul>
<a href="#">Holland Scholarship</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master's and PhD candidates are eligible for this (undergraduate students can also apply).</li><li>• <a href="#">More information</a></li></ul>

## **SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION**

**(Applicable to all Applicants)**

## MORE NOTES ON APPLYING

### Overview

In order to apply to Dutch Higher Education programs, you will need to register on [StudyLink](#) (admission portal). Note that some universities do not require international students to register with StudyLink, so check requirements first or contact the university to confirm their admission processes requirements. Also, when applying (especially if it is through StudyLink) make sure to contact the university and let them know that you are applying because they may have additional or different requirements aside from StudyLink requirements.

*Check whether your selected university is a partner of StudyLink; check if it is included in the lists [here](#).*

### Important to note:

#### ***Numerus Fixus Programs***

- Some education institutions have a limited or specific number of students they will accept; such programs are *Numerus Fixus*. The process of application is different for these programs; if the number of students who apply to such programs exceeds the capacity limit, there is a selection process that takes place.
  - The selection process takes place between 15th January - 15th April.
  - The institute decides on its own selection process and will give you details on this if needed.
  - StudyLink gives you a ranking number based on the selection criteria of the institution. Your admission is based on the capacity allowed for the program and your ranking number.
- ***Check Program*** to find out if the program you are interested in is a Numerus Fixus.
- You can only apply to a maximum of **two** Numerus Fixus programs per academic year. Institutions may have separate limits for the number of times you can apply for specific programs.
  - ***If you are applying to Medicine, Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and Physiotherapy:***  
For such programs, you can only send one application per program per academic year. This means, for example, that you can **not** apply to two Medicine programs; but you **can** apply to one Medicine and one Dentistry Program.
- If you are accepted into a numerus fixus program, you must accept this offer through StudyLink within 2 weeks or else your place will be given to someone else automatically. In this way, it is important to note that if you are not offered a place in the initial phases, you should still wait and see because if another student declines or fails to accept their position, then you may get the place (depending on your ranking and the capacity limit).

### Application Cycle

The general deadlines are as follows:

<b>Numerus Fixus Programs</b>	15th January
<b>All Other Study Programs</b>	1st May <i>In some cases, deadlines for non-EU students may be one month earlier.</i>

Note that these are general guidelines, make sure to check the exact deadlines for each of your selected programs/universities.

Also note:

- Even if the deadlines for your selected university/ies is later than 1st May, you will need to be registered to StudyLink (if you need to apply through StudyLink) before 1st May in order to apply through this portal.
- There are some courses where you can apply for the Spring Semester (starting February), however there are very few such English-taught programs. Contact individual universities for more information on such possibilities.

## Application Process and Timeline

### For Master's

As mentioned in the previous sections, you will need to register with StudyLink before 1st May. Note that you are only allowed to apply for 4 maximum courses at a time.

<b>1. Apply for Account</b>	Make sure that your registration is acknowledged; if you do not receive this confirmation make sure to double check any issues. Once you have signed up, it is important to remember your ID and login password because retrieval of these details can be difficult.
<b>2. Enter Personal Details</b>	Make sure to present accurate and correct details.
<b>3. Enter Enrolment applications</b>	You just have to select 'new enrolment application' to start the process. To continue the application you will need a verification code; your selected university will have to identify you. This is one of the reasons why it is important to contact your selected universities prior to application. <i>Make sure to keep a close eye on your emails in case further instructions are provided by StudyLink.</i>
<b>4. Enter Previous Education</b>	This information will be verified. For example, your selected universities are likely to ask for copies of your past diplomas and transcripts.
<b>Further Information</b>	After you have submitted, keep a close eye on emails in case there are further steps required. You will be required to give information on how you plan on paying the required tuition fees for universities. <b>StudyLink does not charge you</b> - it merely passes the information on to the relevant authorities.

For Numerus Fixus Programs, check [this link](#) for guidelines on the application process.

Useful links on StudyLink:

- [Q&A](#)
- [Step-by-step guide](#) on applying through StudyLink

### For PhD

For PDEng programs, please [click here](#).

## BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

Keeping all of this in mind, you can expect to spend between **€700 - €1100** per month. If you stay in Amsterdam, the costs will be at the higher end of this range. If you stay in smaller cities or municipalities such as Apeldoorn, you will be at the lower end of this range.

## TRANSLATABILITY KEY

### How applications to the Netherlands are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for the Netherlands compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

<b>TRANSLATABILITY KEY</b>	<b>Are they required? Compare importance to UK/USA</b>	<b>Anything that needs to be added/removed (as compared to US/UK) in these components</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</b>	Required	
<b>LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION</b>	Required	

<p><b>STANDARDIZED TESTS</b></p>	<p>For undergraduate applications: Not usually required</p> <p>For Masters/PhD applications: GRE/GMAT may be required</p>	<p>For undergraduate applications: The US tends to have a requirement for the SAT for university admission, which is not required for admission into undergraduate programs in the Netherlands</p>
<p><b>TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)</b></p>	<p>Required</p> <p>All qualifications tend to be accepted -- you need to compare your qualifications with the Dutch education system to find out where you stand.</p>	<p>The US and UK have different qualification standards -- the grade requirements of these tip sheets should not be used as a main reference point.</p>
<p><b>INTERVIEWS</b></p>	<p>Sometimes required</p>	
<p><b>LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTS</b></p>	<p>English Language Proficiency tests such as IELTS and TOEFL are usually required for admission, as is the case for the UK and US. In both cases these are important application components. Note however that Dutch institutions may accept alternative forms of proof, which the UK and US generally doesn't (they usually require the IELTS or TOEFL). Additionally, if you plan on taking Dutch-medium courses, then Dutch language proficiency is required for admission.</p>	<p>Dutch language proficiency is required for Dutch-medium programs</p>
<p><b>FINAL COMMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD programs in the Netherlands are considered jobs and so their application process is likely different to both the US and UK applications. So tip sheets on PhD applications may not be relevant for applications to the Netherlands.</li> </ul>		

## **APPLYING FOR A VISA**

### **DO YOU NEED A VISA**

In order to study in the Netherlands, you will need a visa, The following processes need to be followed:

1. First you will need to get a Provincial Residence Permit (MVV) -- this permit allows you to enter the Netherlands and stay for 6 months. Your university (that you have been accepted in) will apply for this permit.
2. Once you enter the Netherlands, you will need to apply geta Residence Permit (VVR) -- this is also applied for by your host university. This visa is for study purposes only and is valid for the duration of your studies.

### **WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY**

Although the IND (Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service) will generally process the application quickly, it is recommended that you start the process as early as possible -- since it could take some time to collect all the relevant documents your institution will require.

### **How long does visa processing take?**

Generally the processing of a visa can take between 15-30 days (a maximum of 60 days, in rare cases).

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST**

Applying for a Residence Permit will cost money, and the fees will typically be paid on your behalf by your educational institution. You should contact your institution to find out how you need to submit the fees to it. These fees will not be refunded if your application is rejected.

There may be some additional costs for legalising your documents. Your host institute will inform you which documents will need to be legalised. To find out specific costs, contact the Dutch Consulate in Pakistan.

### **HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN NETHERLANDS**

The Residence Permit is valid for the duration of your education plus an additional 3 months. You may apply for one extra year of validity if you require preparatory education or are in a transition year (to learn Dutch, for instance). The permit can be issued for a maximum of 5 years.

Visa holders will usually be allowed to travel throughout all countries in the Schengen area. Sometimes, the visa may be limited to a single country (e.g. Netherlands only) or a few countries (e.g. Netherlands, Belgium, France). In such situations, you can travel to and through the specified countries only, on your visa.



## **APPLYING**

*This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.*

After you have officially enrolled in a study program, your host institution/university will typically contact you to start the application process. If this does not happen, you should get in contact with the international office of your host institution as soon as possible.

You will need to meet certain conditions in order to apply for a Residence Permit for study (VVR):

- You will need to be (provisionally) accepted into a university as a student to a full-time accredited day program. Your university will need to be accepted as a recognised sponsor.
- You will need to have sufficient income (to find out how you can demonstrate this, click [here](#)).
- You will need to meet the requirements of Study Progress Monitoring to ensure your VVR remains valid (to find out more, click [here](#))
- Any other conditions as specified by your institution, or the IND.

For more information on applying from Pakistan, click [here](#).

## **WORKING IN THE NETHERLANDS AFTER GRADUATION**

There is no general work permit; permits are linked to the job you have. This means that the permit you obtain is valid for the employer you are working for or plan to work for at the time. Once that job ceases or when you leave that job, the permit is no longer valid. Usually the employer puts in the request for the permit, though you can apply for it too once you have a job offer.

<b>GVVA / Single Permit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This permit is for people who plan to stay in the Netherlands for more than 3 months.</li><li>• It consists of 2 documents:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Dutch residence permit (verblijfsvergunning).</li><li>b. Document stating which employer you are allowed to work for and the conditions required.</li></ol></li></ul> <p>Note that before that the employer must show that they have looked for European or native workers for this position and no suitable candidate was found, and then they looked at non-EU applicants.</p>
<b>Work permit for entrepreneurs / self-employed</b>	If you are an entrepreneur or wish to work in the Netherlands through self-employment, then you need to apply for a residence permit for self employment. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information.
<b>Orientation Year Residence Permit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you have completed a PhD program, you can apply for an Orientation Year Residence Permit for 'highly educated persons.</li><li>• You have to apply for this scheme within three years after graduation.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It allows graduates to work or search for work in the Netherlands for up to one year, <b>without</b> the need to apply for a work permit.</li><li>• You must meet the general and specific requirements, which can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>. This link also highlights the process of applying for this.</li></ul>
--	--

For more information on working in the Netherlands after study, [click here](#) and [here](#).

# ACCOMMODATION

## **GENERAL OPTIONS**

Netherlands is a densely-populated country and therefore, it is difficult to find accommodation there. Many students have to defer their studies, because they are not able to find accommodation. It is recommended that you go through the following to increase your chances of finding a suitable place to live at:

1. Start looking as early as possible (at least 3 months in advance), and ask yourself the following questions: are you willing to share a house with other people; what is your budget; is the accommodation close to your university; do you want a short-term contract or a long-term contract?
2. You should also note that many properties will be unfurnished; that could mean there are no light fixtures or flooring. Semi-furnished places will include light fixtures, flooring, curtains and some basic appliances. There are some fully-furnished places available too (but they are more expensive). Quality can also vary greatly from place to place.
3. Be prepared to compromise: Dutch houses, in general, are quite small and since housing can be expensive, you may be sharing your room with a number of other people so your space may be limited.
4. Search online -- Facebook groups, university help pages, studentenwoningweb and kamernet are all the places you can look into.
5. Be wary of scammers: make sure you meet the landlord and check out the apartment before finalizing anything. Make sure you read the contract fully before signing it. Note: a deposit will only amount to 1 month worth of rent, and should only be transferred from one bank account to the next.
6. Note: Rental contracts with a minimum duration or a set period of time are legally not allowed in the Netherlands.
7. An average room in Holland will typically cost between € 400 and € 600, per month. Rooms in a Student Hotel could be more expensive, as they have public and private housing providers. Before you finalize your agreement, check to see which bills (gas, electricity etc.) are included in your rent.
8. If there are problems with your accommodation, you should first speak to your housing provider. If you need additional assistance, you can request the housing officer or accommodation coordinator at your university.

## **On-Campus Accommodation**

Traditionally, most universities in the Netherlands do not provide on-campus accommodation. Some, however, may provide on-campus housing: it is advised that you should contact your prospective university as soon as you are officially enrolled to find out if you can get on-campus accommodation.

Should you get an offer for on-campus accommodation, it is recommended that you accept it immediately (as there are limited spots available).

### **Cities ranked according to living cost**

Your cost of living will depend on the city you are studying in. Housing in Amsterdam, for instance, is one of the most expensive cities in the Netherlands. Cheaper cities to live in include Rotterdam, Eindhoven and Groningen. Nijmegen, Utrecht, the Hague and Maastricht typically have a higher cost of living.

### **Other**

- For more information on accommodation in Netherlands, click [here](#). You can also find a list on online accommodation search engines at the bottom of this webpage.
- For more information on student life in the Netherlands, click [here](#).

## SECTION 5: CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers.

The following sources were consulted in developing this country profile:

[Code of conduct](#), [Checklist](#), [Dutch school system](#), [Education in the Netherlands](#), [Universities of Applied Sciences](#), [Research Universities](#), [Internship](#), [Orientation year for expats](#), [Orientation year](#), [Looking for a job after study](#), [Work permit in the Netherlands](#), [Work in the Netherlands](#), [Numerus fixus programs](#), [Application via Studylink](#), [Step by step plan for numerus fixus programs](#), [Studying in the Netherlands](#), [Studylink](#), [Deadlines](#), [Deadlines for Master's](#), [Studylink](#), [Education and Diplomas - IB](#), [Education and Diplomas - Pakistan](#), [Education and diplomas - UK](#), [Bachelors](#), [Universities of applied sciences](#), [Masters](#), [Dutch higher education](#), [Dutchreview](#), [Housing](#), [IND](#), [Student visa guide](#), [Scholarships](#), [Cost of living in the Netherlands](#), [Cost of living for Master's](#), [Student accommodation](#), [Living expenses](#), [Tuition fees](#), [The Independent](#), [Tuition fees and cost of living](#), [Studying for a PhD in the Netherlands](#), and [Studying in the Netherlands, tuition fees and funding](#)

Good luck!