

Immigration procedures for foreign nationals seeking work in the Netherlands

There are two admission schemes allowing certain groups of foreign nationals to spend a period of up to twelve months in the Netherlands to find a job as a highly skilled migrant. These admission schemes include the procedure for “seeking work after graduation” and the “admission scheme for highly educated persons”. The following overview of similarities and differences between these two procedures will help you determine which of these procedures you are eligible for.

	Seeking work after graduation	Admission scheme for highly educated persons
level of graduation	bachelor's or master's	master's or PhD
programmes and universities included	diploma obtained from recognized Dutch higher education institution	Netherlands: master's programme registered in CROHO, or PhD other countries: foreign university listed in the top 150 of the 2007 edition of the rankings published in Times Higher Education Supplement or by Jiao Tong Shanghai University
deadline for submitting application	immediately upon graduation, following Dutch residence permit for the purpose of 'study'	within three years after obtaining your master's or PhD degree
maximum duration of stay	one year; residence permit cannot be extended	one year, residence permit cannot be extended
access to Dutch labour market during stay	free to work, no work permit required	work only allowed if employer in possession of work permit; employer must meet all criteria for labour market test
minimum annual salary to qualify for job as “highly skilled migrant”	€ 26.605,00 gross per annum	€ 26.605,00 gross per annum

application form to be used	<p>“Application residence permit without MVV or change to purpose of stay”, can be downloaded from the IND website: http://english.ind.nl/Brochures_en_Formulieren/index.aspx#paragraph2</p>	<p>from abroad: apply for “Provisional residence permit” with Dutch embassy/consulate</p> <p>from the Netherlands: “Application for a regular residence permit for a highly educated migrant seeking employment”, can be downloaded from the IND website: http://english.ind.nl/Brochures_en_Formulieren/index.aspx#paragraph2</p>
other requirements	not applicable	attaining 35 points from the points system (see below)

Points system “Admission scheme for highly educated persons”

To be eligible for admission under the “Admission scheme for highly educated persons”, you must obtain a minimum of 35 points from the points system. Please note that for each of the 3 categories there is a maximum amount of points that can be awarded. For category 3 you can obtain a maximum of 5 points, even if – for example – you speak both Dutch and English.

Category		Points	Documents to submit
1: Education (max. 30 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD degree • master’s degree 	30 25	copy of diploma (Dutch institution) or diploma evaluation issued by Nuffic (foreign institution)
2: Age (max. 5 points)	21–40 years	5	birth certificate
3: Indicators for success in the Netherlands (max. 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • previously employed in the Netherlands (minimum 6 months) • previously studied in the Netherlands (minimum 6 months) • command of Dutch as a foreign language at A2-level • command of English at IELTS 6.0 level • bachelor’s, master’s, or PhD degree obtained in country that has signed up to the Bologna declaration 	5 5 5 5 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contract or employer’s declaration • proof of enrolment • diploma • declaration of language institute • diploma
	Maximum points to obtain	40	

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