



# WORKING WHILE STUDYING OVERSEAS?

An inventory of the possibilities for non-EU/EEA students to work in a number of countries on the basis of a student visa.

**Nuffic, Knowledge and Innovation Directorate, August 2008**

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# WORKING WHILE STUDYING OVERSEAS?

**An inventory of the possibilities for non-EU/EEA students to work in a number of countries on the basis of a student visa.**

In the Netherlands, a student from outside the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) may work a maximum of ten hours a week during the year or full-time during a particular period in the high season (the months of June, July and August). However, in order to be able to work, students must have a work permit (tewerkstellingsvergunning, TWV). In practice, employers often hesitate applying for a TWV, as the requirements laid out by the Foreign Nationals (Employment) Act (Wet arbeid vreemdelingen, Wav) are generally quite strict. For example, the job must have been advertised and priority is always given to candidates from within the European Union. However, the rules governing students (and some other groups) with a part-time job are more relaxed. Applying for the work permit in this instance is more of an administrative concern, but still can be perceived as an obstacle by potential employers with the consequence that this group of students may find it difficult to earn extra money during their studies in the Netherlands.

It is interesting to see how other countries handle this issue, as it gives insight into the situation in the Netherlands. The goal of this study is therefore to compile an inventory of the possibilities for non-EU/EEA students to obtain gainful employment during their studies abroad. The possibilities will be studied for the EU Member States, the two EEA countries<sup>1</sup>, Switzerland and four countries outside of Europe. The 26 Member States and Iceland, Norway and Switzerland were chosen due to their cooperation in the area of higher education and their increasing cooperation on migration policy.<sup>2</sup> Included in the inventory are four overseas destinations that are popular with students and extend the scope beyond Europe: Canada, the United States, Japan and Australia.

The research question in this study is:

Can students earn additional income in their country of study on the basis of a student visa (i.e., without a work permit or additional approval from the proper authorities) and if yes, how many hours can they work?

This refers to situations in which there are no additional administrative burdens for either the student or the employer, making it easier for the latter to employ a student. The original question was later split into two questions, when it appeared that in a number of countries, students could not work during the academic year, but could work during the holiday period. As this appeared to always entail a full-time job, the possibilities for full-time work exclusively during the holiday period have also been added into this report.

By 'student' a person is meant that is enrolled in a recognized higher education institution

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<sup>1</sup> Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have been excluded from this study due to its small population size.

<sup>2</sup> For further information see the Study/Traineeship Guideline (Richtlijn studie/stage): [www.ser.nl/~/media/DB\\_Deeladviesen/2000%202009/2007/b25523\\_b3%20pdf.ashx](http://www.ser.nl/~/media/DB_Deeladviesen/2000%202009/2007/b25523_b3%20pdf.ashx).

where they study full-time. The use of the term 'student visa' does, however, require further explanation. In some countries this term is legally incorrect as the visa or permit that allows the student to stay in that country is not called a 'student visa'. The term 'student visa' as used in this inventory, therefore, refers to the visa that a student from outside the EU/EEA has received from the country concerned so they can live there with the goal of studying. It is also assumed that the student complies with all other obligations to be able to stay in that country legally .







To compile this inventory Nuffic's sister organizations, embassies and official websites have been consulted. In some cases, we have also sought contact with the appropriate ministry or with an international relations department of a university in the country concerned. Information for Malta and Hungary was not available.

The results of the inventory will be presented in the following three ways:

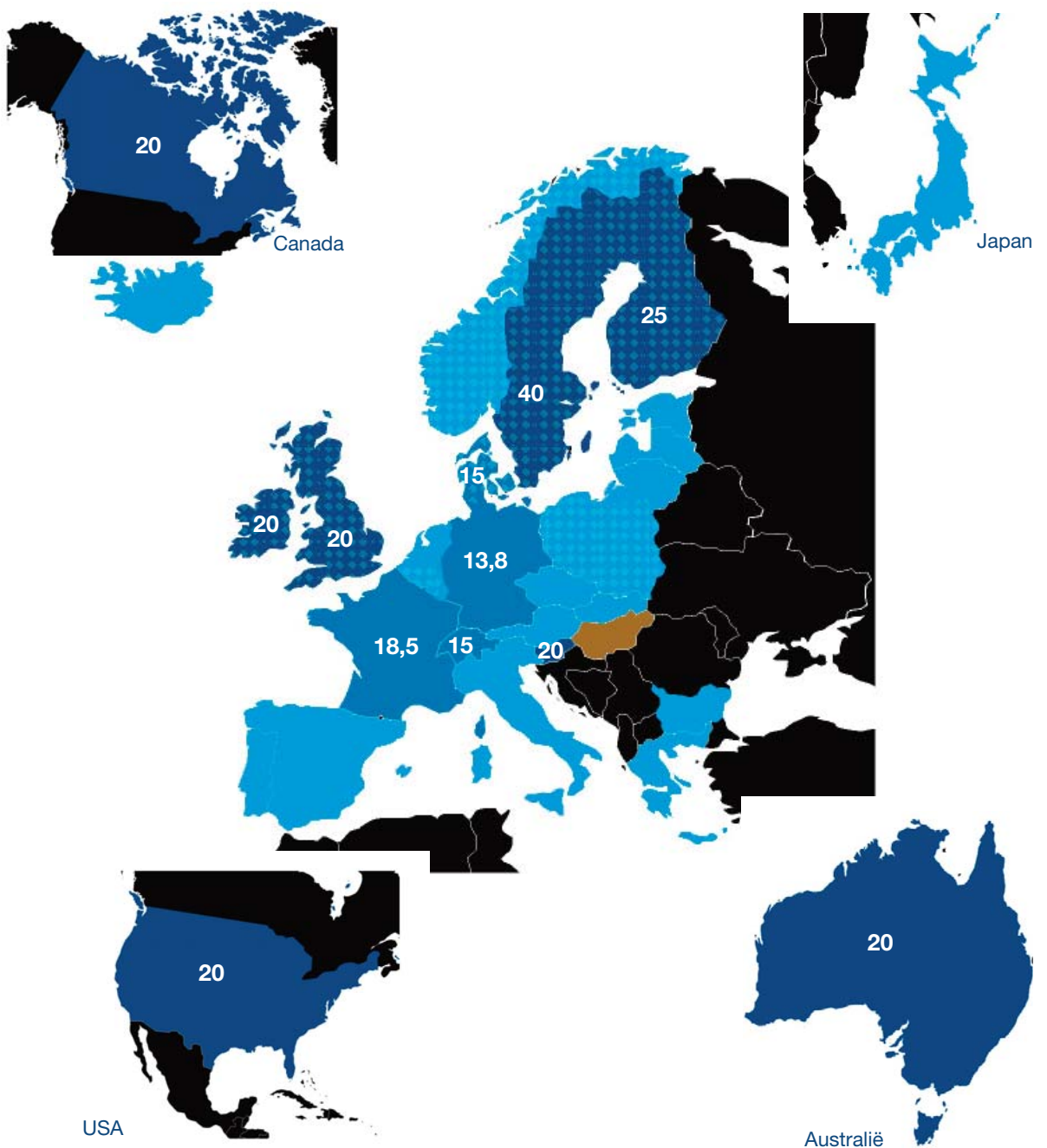
- I Geographic: an illustration of the possibilities in the countries studied
- II Classification of the countries by how many hours students can work there
- III Detailed overview of the countries in alphabetical order.

# I GEOGRAPHIC

Map 1 shows in which countries students from outside the EU/EEA may work on the basis of a student visa. A distinction is made between:

-  countries that do not allow students to work
-  countries that allow students to work 0 to 20 hours
-  countries that allow students to work 20 to 40 hours
-  countries that also allow students to work full-time during the summer
-  countries for which no information was found
-  countries that were not investigated.

Map 1: Overview of the possibilities for non-EU, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland students to work on the basis of their student visa in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Japan and Australia, including the number of hours per week.



## II CLASSIFICATION BY PERMITTED NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS

In addition to the geographical location, it is interesting to see where a student can work the most hours, and where they can work the least. That is why in Table 1 the countries are listed in descending order for the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work on the basis of a student visa. The country that allows the student to work the greatest number of hours is at the top.

Table 1: Classification in descending order of the number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work.

|    | Country        | Can students from outside the EU/EEA work during the academic year on the basis of a student visa? | Maximum number of hours per week that a student can work (during the academic year) | Can students work fulltime during the holiday period? |
|----|----------------|--|---|---|
| 1  | Sweden         | Yes  | 40  | Yes*  |
| 2  | Finland        | Yes  | 25  | Yes   |
| 3  | Australia      | Yes  | 20  | Yes   |
| 4  | Canada         | Yes**  | 20  | No  |
| 5  | Cyprus         | Yes  | 20  | Yes   |
| 6  | Ireland        | Yes  | 20  | Yes   |
| 7  | Slovenia       | Yes***   | 20  | No  |
| 8  | United Kingdom | Yes  | 20  | Yes   |
| 9  | United States  | Yes**  | 20  | Yes   |
| 10 | France         | Yes  | 18,5****  | No  |
| 11 | Denemark       | Yes  | 15  | Yes   |
| 12 | Switzerland    | Yes  | 15  | No  |
| 13 | Germany        | Yes  | 13,8****  | No  |
|    |                |  |   |   |
|    | Belgium        | No   | -   | Yes   |
|    | Norway         | No   | -   | Yes   |
|    | Poland         | No   | -   | Yes   |

### Countries where students are not allowed to work on the basis of a student visa

|  | Country         | Can students from outside the EU/EEA work during the academic year on the basis of a student visa? | Maximaal aantal uren per week dat een student mag werken (tijdens studieperiode) | Studenten mogen fulltime werken tijdens de vakantieperiode |
|--|-----------------|--|--|--|
|  | Austria         | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Bulgaria        | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Czech Republic  | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Estonia         | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Greece          | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Italy           | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Iceland         | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Japan           | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Latvia          | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Lithuania       | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Luxemburg       | No   | -  | No   |
|  | The Netherlands | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Portugal        | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Spain           | No   | -  | No   |
|  | Slovakia        | No   | -  | No   |

### Countries for which no information is available

|  |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
|  | Hungary | No information found.                      |
|  | Malta   | The law was changed during this inventory. |

\* In Sweden, students from outside the EU/EEA can work full-time the whole year through on the basis of their student visa.

\*\* In Canada, the work may only be conducted on the university campus. In the United States, the student may only work on campus in their first year and can work "off campus" after that.

\*\*\* In Slovenia students may only take work that has been arranged for them via the "student service".

\*\*\*\* This is an average per week. In France the maximum is 964 hours a year. In Germany students may work 90 days or 180 part-time days, which – based on an eight-hour work day – averages out at 13.8 hours a week.

# III ALPHABETIC ORDER

Below, listed in alphabetical order, is a systematic inventory for every country, including quotation of sources.

## Australia

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work an unlimited number of hours during the holiday period (i.e., full-time).

### ***Comments/additional information***

Since 26 April 2008, the work permit is automatically granted along with the student visa. Before then, students needed to apply for a separate work permit. For this reason Australia is not, strictly speaking, one of the countries that allow students to work solely on the basis of a student visa. However, because the work permit is granted at the same time as the student visa, applying for the work permit appears to be a pure formality as this request is always granted. Therefore Australia has been included as a country where students can work on the basis of their student visa. Also see Denmark.

### ***Source***

Information found at IDP Education Australia (IDP) – Sydney, Australia. Website: [www.idp.com](http://www.idp.com).

Australian Ministry for Immigration and Citizenship: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).

## Austria

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a work permit.

### ***Source***

The website of the Austrian Exchange Service (Österreichischer Austauschdienst (ÖAD)) – Vienna, Austria: [www.oead.ac.at](http://www.oead.ac.at).

# Belgium

## ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa, but exclusively during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

## ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Zero hours during the academic year.

## ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Full-time during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

## ***Comments/additional information***

Students can work on the basis of their student visa provided the student is following a course with a complete syllabus. An international student arriving in Belgium for the first time during the summer holidays cannot yet work as they have not followed a course with a complete syllabus.

During the academic year (outside the holidays) students cannot work on the basis of their student visa. Students can apply for a labour card C, which allows them to work a maximum of 20 hours a week. The work permit must be compatible with the student's studies.

## ***Source***

Information from the Ministry of the Flemish Community (Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap), Department of Migration and Labour Market Policy (Afdeling Migratie en Arbeidsmarktbeleid).

[www.vlaanderen.be/werk](http://www.vlaanderen.be/werk).

# Bulgaria

## ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

## ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

## ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

## ***Comments/additional information***

In Bulgaria, the student must apply for a work visa (Type D Visa) with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

## ***Source***

Information from the Bulgarian Embassy – The Hague, the Netherlands. [www.embassy-bulgaria.nl](http://www.embassy-bulgaria.nl).

## Canada

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa, provided the work is on campus (see Comments/additional information).

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

Students may only work at the university campus where the student studies. In addition to a valid student visa, the student must also be enrolled in a public higher education institution, a private institution that is financed for at least 50% by government funds, or a Canadian private institution that is licensed by the province to award diplomas.

Students may not perform paid work off campus without a student visa. To work off campus, students must apply for an “off campus working permit”. This allows the student to work 20 hours off campus and full-time during holidays and between semesters.

### ***Source***

Information from the Canadian Embassy – The Hague, the Netherlands.  
[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-europa/netherlands](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-europa/netherlands).

## Cyprus

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa (see Comments/additional information).

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the holiday period (38 hours per week).

### ***Comments/additional information***

The number of hours a student works must not jeopardize the study programme.

### ***Source***

Information from the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus – The Hague, the Netherlands.  
[www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/Embassies/HagueEmbassy.nsf](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/Embassies/HagueEmbassy.nsf).

## The Czech Republic

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a work permit from the Ministry of Employment.

***Source***

Information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs – The Czech Republic. [www.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz).

## Denmark

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa, provided that they have a work permit sticker in their passport (see Comments/additional information).

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

15 hours.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the holiday months of June, July and August (40 hours per week).

***Comments/additional information***

The work permit sticker is required and is granted with the student visa. For that reason Denmark is not, strictly speaking, one of the countries that allow students to work solely on the basis of a student visa. Because the work permit is granted at the same time as the student visa, applying for the work permit appears to be a pure formality as this request is always granted. Therefore Denmark has been included here as a country where students can work on the basis of their student visa. Out of all the countries investigated, this situation applies only to Denmark and Australia.

***Source***

Information from the Danish Embassy – The Hague, the Netherlands. [www.ambhaag.um.dk](http://www.ambhaag.um.dk)

## Estonia

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

In order to be able to work outside of university hours, the student must apply for a work permit. These are usually granted upon receipt of written permission from the higher education institution to which the student is connected.

### **Source**

Information from the Archimedes Foundation, Centre for Academic Mobility – Tallinn, Estonia. [www.archimedes.ee](http://www.archimedes.ee).

## **Finland**

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa (see Comments/additional information).

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

25 hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the holiday period (40 hours per week).

### ***Comments/additional information***

None.

### **Source**

Information from the Centre for International Mobility (Kansainvälisen Henkilövaihdon Keskus (CIMO)) - Helsinki, Finland. [www.migri.fi](http://www.migri.fi)

## **France**

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa (see Comments/additional information).

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

In France, the maximum is calculated on a yearly basis. A student may work 964 hours per year, which comes down to 18.5 hours per week.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

None.

### **Source**

The Campus France website – Paris, France. [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org).

## Germany

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa (see Comments/additional information).

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

In Germany, the maximum is calculated in days and half days. Students can work 90 full days or 180 half days (see Comments/additional information) in regular jobs.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

A half day means the student cannot work more than four or five hours on that day. The starting point of this calculation is the number of hours that is considered full-time at the place of work involved, and this is divided by two for a half day. With an eight-hour work day, this theoretically comes down to an average of 13.8 hours per week in a year.

Students that work in a field related to their studies may work a maximum of 40 hours per week, as long as the work is with an institution that is linked to the university. At the federal level, the appropriate authorities decide if the work is related to the field of study and may ask the university for advice in this regard. As this is not a formality, this possibility is not counted in the inventory.

### ***Source***

The website of the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)) – Bonn, Germany. [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

## Greece

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

A student must hold a work permit in order to be able to work in Greece.

### ***Source***

Information from the Greek Consulate – Rotterdam, the Netherlands. [www.greekembassy.nl](http://www.greekembassy.nl).

## Hungary

***No information found.***

## Iceland

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

None.

### ***Source***

The Office of International Education Iceland website – Reykjavik, Iceland. [www.ask.hi.is](http://www.ask.hi.is).

## Ireland

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the holiday period (40 hours per week).

### ***Comments/additional information***

None.

### ***Source***

The Irish Citizens Information Board website: [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

## Italy

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

None.

**Source**

A website set up by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MUIR, along with CIMEA and CINECA): [www.study-in-italy.it](http://www.study-in-italy.it).

## Japan

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a supplemental permit in order to be able to work.

**Source**

Information from the Japanese Embassy – The Hague, the Netherlands.  
[www.nl.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.nl.emb-japan.go.jp).

## Latvia

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

None.

**Source**

Information from the Academic Programme Agency (APA) – Riga, Latvia. Website: [www.apa.lv](http://www.apa.lv).

## Lithuania

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

None.

***Source***

Information from Vilnius University – Vilnius, Lithuania. Website: [www.vu.lt](http://www.vu.lt).

## **Luxembourg**

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

None.

***Source***

The Sacred Heart University – Luxembourg, Luxembourg. [www.shu.lu](http://www.shu.lu)

## **Malta**

***At the time this investigation was being conducted, the law changed and there was no information available.***

***Source***

Information from the University of Malta, International & EU Office – Malta. Website: [www.um.edu.mt](http://www.um.edu.mt).

## **The Netherlands**

***See introduction.***

## **Norway**

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa, but exclusively during the summer holiday months.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the summer holiday period (40 hours per week).

***Comments/additional information***

Students may work fulltime during the summer holiday period on a student visa. During the year, the student needs a work permit that allows them to work a maximum of 20 hours per week. The work permit can be requested from the police. The request must be accompanied by a declaration from the institution confirming that the job concerned will not be detrimental to the student's studies, and by a concrete offer from a future employer.

***Source***

Website of the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) – Bergen, Norway: [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no).

## Poland

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa, but exclusively during the holiday months of June, July and August.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the months of June, July and August (40 hours per week).

***Comments/additional information***

A student must apply for a work permit in order to be able to work during the academic year.

***Source***

Information from the Perspektywy Education Foundation – Warsaw, Poland. Website: [www.perspektywy.org](http://www.perspektywy.org).

## Portugal

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a work permit.

**Source**

Information from the Portuguese Embassy – The Hague, the Netherlands.

## Romania

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a work permit.

**Source**

Information from the Romanian Embassy – The Hague, the Netherlands. [www.haga.mae.ro](http://www.haga.mae.ro).

## Slovenia

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa provided certain conditions are met (see Comments/additional information).

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours (part-time).

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

A student may only take work that has been offered by “student services” - a national intermediary office for student jobs.

**Source**

Information from the University of Primorska – Koper, Slovenia. Website: [www.upr.si](http://www.upr.si).

## Slovakia

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a work permit.

***Source***

Information from the Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA) – Slovakia. [www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk).

## Spain

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

No, students may not work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Not applicable.

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

Students must apply for a work permit.

***Source***

Spanish Embassy website – The Hague, The Netherlands.  
[www.maec.es/subwebs/Embajadas/LaHaya/nl](http://www.maec.es/subwebs/Embajadas/LaHaya/nl).

## Sweden

***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work on the basis of a student visa.

***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

38 hours (full-time).

***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

***Comments/additional information***

The student must register with the migration service if they are staying longer than three months.

***Source***

Information from the Swedish Immigration Service – Stockholm, Sweden. Website:  
[www.immigrationsverket.se](http://www.immigrationsverket.se).

## Switzerland

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

Fifteen hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

No, the rules for the holiday period are the same.

### ***Comments/additional information***

Students may work as long as it does not cause the student to fall behind in their studies.

### ***Source***

The Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) website – Bern, Switzerland:  
[www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch).

## The United Kingdom

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa.

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours.

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the holiday period (40 hours per week).

### ***Comments/additional information***

None.

### ***Source***

The British Council website: [www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org).

## The United States

### ***Can students from outside the EU/EEA work on the basis of a student visa?***

Yes, students may work a limited number of hours on the basis of a student visa. The work must be conducted on campus for the first year (see Comments/additional information).

### ***What is the maximum number of hours that a student from outside the EU/EEA can work per week?***

20 hours (part-time).

### ***Are there different rules for the holiday period?***

Yes, students can work full-time during the holiday period (40 hours per week).

***Comments/additional information***

Students may work exclusively on campus for the first year, but can accept off-campus work in their second year.

***Source***

Information from the Institution of International Education (IIE) – New York, USA. Website: [www.iienetwork.org](http://www.iienetwork.org).

# CONCLUSION

The goal of this study was to place the Dutch policy on employment options for students from outside the EU/EEA to work in The Netherlands, in an international context. Because this study is an inventory of the possibilities in other countries, no real conclusion can be drawn, but a number of summarizing observations can be made.

The Netherlands, in north-western Europe, is mostly surrounded by countries where students can work on the basis of a student visa, with the exception of Luxembourg (where this is not possible) and Norway and Belgium (where students may only work part-time, during the summer). Sweden is the only country in the study where a student may work full-time during their entire stay.

Out of the ten EU Member States and the three non-EU Member States where students can work on the basis of a student visa, there are eight countries where a student may work full-time during the holiday period(s) on the basis of a student visa. They are: Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Sweden. In addition, there are three countries where a student cannot work during the year, but may work during the (summer) holidays: Belgium, Norway and Poland.

A number of countries have attached conditions to the possibility for students to work. In Canada, students are restricted to working on campus; in the United States, students in their first year may only work on campus and in their second year may accept off-campus work. In Slovenia students may work during the academic year, but exclusively in jobs that the student service has arranged.

This inventory did not go into a number of issues that could as well be of interest to students in terms of removing employment obstacles. Further research might, for example, shed light on the time and costs related to applying for a work permit, and could explore the experiences of students and employers in this process. Future studies could also focus on the need for additional insurance, if applicable. In the Netherlands for example, a non-EU/EEA student who decides to work part-time is obligated to take out health insurance. The costs of such insurance may be higher than what the student would earn by working a few hours a week.

For the time being the conclusion is that the Netherlands has relatively restrictive policies concerning work options for international (non-EU/EEA) students. Students can currently work more easily in many other countries, both in and outside Europe, than in the Netherlands.

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