

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 12 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 to find out which of these procedures you are eligible for.

	“Seeking work after graduation”	“Admission scheme for highly educated persons”
<i>Level of graduation</i>	Bachelor's or Master's	Master's or PhD
<i>Programmes and universities included</i>	Diploma obtained from recognized Dutch higher education institution.	Netherlands: Master's programme registered in CROHO, or PhD. Abroad: 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
<i>Deadline for submitting application</i>	Immediately upon graduation, following Dutch residence permit for the purpose of 'study'.	Within three years after obtaining your Master's or PhD degree.
<i>Maximum duration of stay</i>	Maximum stay of one year. Residence permit cannot be extended.	Maximum stay of one year. Residence permit cannot be extended.
<i>Access to Dutch labour market during stay</i>	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.
<i>Minimum annual salary to qualify for job as “highly skilled migrant”</i>	€ 26.376 gross per annum	€ 26.376 gross per annum
<i>Application form to be used</i>	“Application residence permit or change to restriction without MVV”, can be downloaded from the IND website .	From abroad: Apply for “provisional residence permit” with Dutch embassy/consulate. From the Netherlands: “Application for a regular residence permit for a highly educated migrant seeking employment”, can be downloaded from the IND website .
<i>Other requirements</i>	Not applicable	Attaining 35 points from the points system.

Points system “Admission Scheme for Highly Educated Persons”

In order 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 a maximum amount of points to be awarded, applies. 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)	▪ PhD degree	30	Copy of diploma (Dutch institution) or diploma evaluation issued by Nuffic (foreign institution)
	▪ Master’s degree	25	
2: Age (max. 5 points)	21-40 years	5	Birth certificate
3: Indicators for success in the Netherlands (max. 5 points)	▪ Previously employed in the Netherlands (minimum 6 months)	5	▪ Contract or employer’s declaration ▪ Proof of enrolment
	▪ Previously studied in the Netherlands (minimum 6 months)	5	
	▪ Command of Dutch as a foreign language at A2-level	5	▪ Diploma
	▪ Command of English at IELTS 6.0 level	5	▪ Declaration of language institute
	▪ Bachelor’s, Master’s, or PhD degree obtained in country that has signed up to the Bologna declaration	5	▪ Diploma
	Maximum points to obtain	40	