

Internationalisation at home in vocational education



By gaining international experience, students are better prepared for an internationally oriented labour market and intercultural society. Not every VET student is gaining such an experience yet, but we want to offer equal opportunities to all students. Therefore, we help schools to offer suitable activities to internationalise the curriculum. One of these is internationalisation in the classroom, school and region. In other words, *internationalisation at home*.

Through *internationalisation at home*, students learn to cooperate with people from different cultural backgrounds and are able to approach (global) challenges from different perspectives. It is the perfect way to get in touch with the international and diverse society they are a part of in their own learning environment. You can achieve this by interweaving and adding international and intercultural elements both in your students' study programme and in the activities they undertake alongside their studies.

What competences do you develop through *internationalisation at home*?

There are 3 categories:

1. International orientation

Aimed at functioning in the internationally oriented labour market. Think of:

- the right knowledge, attitude and behaviour to be able to practise your profession in an international environment
- the right knowledge, attitude and behaviour to follow international developments in your sector
- knowledge of foreign languages

2. Intercultural competences

Aimed at working, living and learning in an intercultural environment. Think of:

- knowledge of communication styles
- being able to look critically at yourself and how you see others
- self-awareness, respect and empathy
- being able to evaluate your own actions and those of others
- being able to deal with diversity

3. Personal development

Consider:

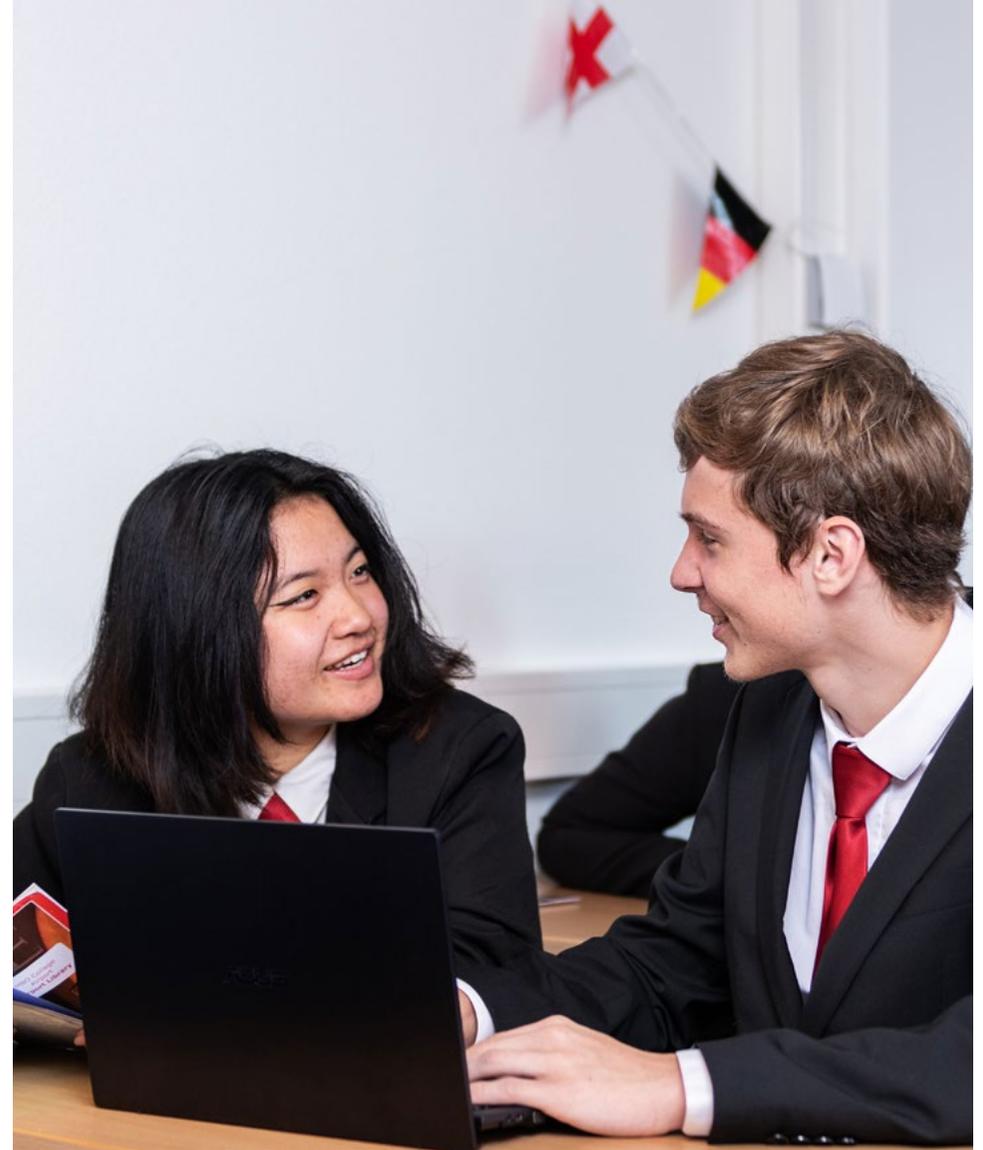
- self-knowledge
- self-reliance
- interest and curiosity

What international aspects are there in your students' future profession?

Link these to the international competences to be developed and you can then decide what activities to set up locally and nationally.



Find more details on the competences by scanning the QR code here



What activities are there?

What kind of activities can you pursue as part of *internationalisation at home*? Check the overview on the next page. Note that this is not a full overview. The scope and impact of the activities may vary and activities will not automatically lead to international skills.

Good preparation, guidance and reflection are essential. The activity you choose, depends on many things. What is suitable for your study programme? What is suitable for the level, background and interests of individual students? And what is suitable for the job market or opportunities for further education?

● Visit an international company

Study international developments in the sector at an international business or organisation in your region.

● Online collaboration

Do a project with a school or company abroad via online collaboration such as eTwinning.

● Teacher mobility

Make use of what teachers have experienced abroad while visiting a school, company or student. They can reflect on this during class.

● Guest lectures

Ask someone from an international company or organisation to give a guest lecture on the international character of the professional field and/or the sector. This can also be done online.

● Summer school

Organise a summer school in which you have your students work together with students from abroad.

● Students' digital network

When your (alumni) students have an international network, make use of this in your class or in a project.

Internationalisation at home

● Citizenship education

Add the global citizenship dimension to the Career & Citizenship course. E.g. the Sustainable Development Goals.

● Visit a cultural institution

Introduce students to other cultures, customs and faiths in order to develop their intercultural awareness. Visit a cultural institution.

● International classroom

Create a class or project which includes various nationalities and discuss how you deal with diversity. This can also be done online.

● Work placement with an internationally oriented company

Have students do a work placement at an internationally oriented company in the region, to allow them to learn about:

- the international environment of the profession
- the international environment of the sector
- multilingualism

● Internationalisation of the curriculum

Add an international element to your lessons and class. For example a marketing plan of an international company.

● Bilingual education

Develop a bilingual study programme. A bilingual VET network can support you with knowledge and expertise.

● International films or literature

Visit special international (educational) performances or watch documentaries and discuss these.



Working sustainably on internationalisation at home

By including *internationalisation at home* in the curriculum, you prevent good international initiatives from being lost and you recognise the importance of internationalisation.

Tip 1 | Inclusive approach

Offer all students the opportunity to have an international experience, whether they go abroad or not. Make use of diversity in the classroom, the intercultural environment and cooperation with internationally oriented (learning) companies.

Tip 2 | Informal too

Informal or (co-)curriculum activities in and around the school, such as workshops on intercultural communication, buddy programmes or language groups, give a boost to your internationalisation at home programme.

Tip 3 | Targeted integration

Before you get started, it is important to determine the learning outcomes. What do your students ultimately need to function in the international society and labour market? Once you have determined this, look at what form of *internationalisation at home* suits best.

Tip 4 | Existing initiatives

What are you already doing, and how can you add an international component? Hook up with colleagues working on related themes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Or add a worldly dimension to the subject of citizenship.

Tip 5 | Start a dialogue

Share good examples and discuss them. Not to convince your colleagues, but more to start a dialogue. Once you all recognise its importance, support spreads like wildfire.

Tip 6 | Ensure professionalisation

Strengthen teachers' international competences so they can implement internationalisation at home. As a teacher, you can develop international competences in different places and contexts, for example abroad.

Effective internationalisation at home happens in education itself: in curriculum development and in the interaction between teachers and students. As an international coordinator, you can help translate internationalisation policy into integration in the curriculum of the programme.



How do we help with *internationalisation at home* in mbo?

- We collect and share good examples with and by teachers.
- We provide inspiration sessions and network meetings for teachers and international coordinators.
- We help develop expertise on *internationalisation at home* in secondary vocational education, including in cooperation with vocational schools and higher education.

- We provide insight into traineeships at internationally-oriented companies in the Netherlands. We do this together with the Cooperation Organisation for Vocational Education and Training (SBB).
- Request the free 'getting started with internationalisation' toolkit via **mbo@nuffic.nl**. With this toolkit, you work in 5 steps on internationalisation (*at home*) and how to use it as a means to achieve international competences.

Want to learn more?

Please get in touch with us or go to www.nuffic.nl/en



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