

AFTER GRADUATION

If you have graduated from higher educational institution, you are allowed to spend a period of one year in the Netherlands to look for and carry out work in the Netherlands as a highly educated person.

The orientation year for highly educated persons is a residence permit aimed at retaining foreign talent for the Dutch labour market. During this orientation year, you can move freely on the Dutch labour market. This means that your employer does not need to obtain a work permit for you.

Target group

Foreign nationals from a non-EU/EEA country.

Who can apply for this purpose of stay?

Foreign nationals who have completed:

- A bachelor, master, PhD and/or Postdoctoral program in the Netherlands;
- Scientific research in the Netherlands;
- A bachelor, master, PhD and/or Postdoctoral program at a foreign top 200 university;
- An Erasmus Mundus Masters course/ Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree/ Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate or a program in line with the specific cultural policy Act or a program that was organized as part of the Development Aid Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- A higher educational program as appointed by government.

Conditions

- After obtaining your degree, you are allowed to apply within three years;
- A minimum level of English (or Dutch) applies when having graduated from a top 200 university;
- Sufficient financial means to support oneself in the Netherlands are required. This does not need to be proven at the time of application. However, should the holder of the orientation year permit require support from public funds, his/her permit will be revoked;
- A proper insurance is required when living in the Netherlands. More details can be found at: <https://www.epnuffic.nl/en/publications/find-a-publication/insurance-checklist.pdf>.

Application procedure

You may apply either in the Netherlands or from your country of residence outside the Netherlands.

While you are in the Netherlands:

- The English form can be downloaded from the IND website: <https://ind.nl/en/Forms/7523.pdf>;
- You only need to complete 7 pages of the application form (an instruction sheet is available on the website);
- You may send your application by mail to the IND, submit the application in person at one of the IND offices or apply online.

While you are outside the Netherlands:

Please contact the Dutch diplomatic post in the country of residence. They will provide you the application form and explain you the procedure.

Online application

As of 2018, the IND accepts online applications for an orientation year. In order to apply online, you will need a DigiD, an online ID that allows you to access many services and government websites in the Netherlands. You can find more information about applying for a DigiD on the following website:

<https://www.iamexpat.nl/expat-info/official-issues/digid-netherlands>

After you obtained a DigiD, you can apply for the orientation year permit on the following website:

<https://ind.nl/en/work/Pages/Looking-for-a-job-after-study-promotion-or-research.aspx>

Costs

| Purpose of stay | Entry and Residence procedure (TEV-procedure) | Residence permit without mvv |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Orientation year for highly educated persons | € 171 * | € 171 * |

* For nationals from Turkey the fee is € 57 due to a special agreement between the governments.

* Nationals from Israel and San Marino are exempted to pay the fee due the Benelux Treaty.

After Orientation year for highly educated persons

During this period when you are looking for a job, you may work in the Netherlands, irrespective of salary without a work permit (in Dutch called: tewerkstellingsvergunning (shortly TWV))

Once your orientation year is over and you have found employment as a Knowledge Migrant (in Dutch: Kennismigrant), your purpose of stay in the Netherlands will have changed. As a recognized sponsor, your new employer will need to apply for a new residence permit with work authorization as a Knowledge Migrant. A list of all companies having recognized sponsorship with the IND can be found on:

https://ind.nl/en/Documents/Public_Register_Regular_Labour_and_Highly_Skilled_Migrants.pdf

Short summary

- Can be applied within three years of obtaining a degree;
- Can be a graduate of a Dutch Educational institution or a non-Dutch Educational institution;
- Can be applied either directly to the IND, if living in the Netherlands or through the Dutch diplomatic post if living abroad;
- Residence permit is valid for one year from the date of application;
- Can work without a work permit;
- Allowed to apply more than once after obtaining different degrees (i.e. Master degree, PhD).

For further information please contact the Tilburg University Immigration Office

Visiting address: Academia building, Professor Cobbenhagenlaan 205, 5037 DB Tilburg
 General E-mail: immigration@tilburguniversity.edu
 Internet: www.tilburguniversity.edu/immigration
 Immigration visiting hours: Tuesday between 10 am and 12 pm & Thursday between 2 pm and 4 pm at Student Desk, 3rd floor of Academia building, other times by appointment only.