**Education in the Netherlands**

Dutch public education is of a very high standard, and only a very small proportion of pupils attend private schools. There are three types of education: public, private and special education. The difference is that public schools receive government funding, while private schools do not. Both types of schools are obliged by law to enrol their children at the appropriate age.

There are three types of education:

1. **Primary education**
   - This is the first stage of education, which is compulsory. Children attend primary school from the age of 4 to 12 years. There are eight year groups at primary school. Groups 1 and 2 are the youngest, and groups 1 and 2 are the oldest.
   - **Secondary education**
     - There is a total of 67 secondary education schools in Amsterdam. They can be divided into two types: general secondary education and vocational secondary education. Pupils attend secondary education from the age of 12 to 18 years. There are six types of secondary education: vmbo, havo, vwo, atheneum, atheneum and knieuw. Pupils can choose from these types of education based on their interests and abilities.
   - **Higher education**
     - This is the final stage of education, which is voluntary. Pupils can choose from three types of higher education: bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate degree. Bachelor's degree programs last for four years, master's degree programs last for two years and doctorate degree programs last for three years. Higher education programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education.

**Admission to secondary education**

Pupils receive an examination certificate to enter secondary education. This certificate is called the 'clean slate' and is used to determine the type of secondary education that matches the pupil's abilities and interests.

**Higher education**

Dutch universities offer a large amount of higher education programs. The programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education. Academic education programs are divided into two types: bachelor's degree and master's degree. Bachelor's degree programs last for four years, master's degree programs last for two years and doctorate degree programs last for three years. Higher education programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education.

**Further and higher education**

Hbo (senior vocational education and training)

Hbo courses are often specialized, and many pupils who have successfully completed hbo at secondary school can go on to do mbo. An mbo course lasts between one and four years, and the level on the mbo course is often higher than the level on the hbo course. Many pupils who have successfully completed hbo at secondary school can go on to do higher education.

**University (vwo)**

Vwo (advanced education) is the highest level of secondary education in the Netherlands. Students who have successfully completed vwo can go on to do higher education. Higher education programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education. Academic education programs are divided into two types: bachelor's degree and master's degree.

**Research university (wo)**

Research universities (wo) offer a large amount of higher education programs. The programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education. Academic education programs are divided into two types: bachelor's degree and master's degree. Bachelor's degree programs last for four years, master's degree programs last for two years and doctorate degree programs last for three years. Higher education programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education.

**International schools**

International schools are schools that are located outside of the Netherlands, but are still part of the Dutch education system. These schools are designed for pupils who are studying in the Netherlands and want to continue their education abroad. These schools are often private and receive government funding, but are not subject to the same rules and regulations as Dutch public schools.

**In-classroom education**

In-classroom education is the traditional form of education in the Netherlands. It is divided into two types: public education and private education. Public education is funded by the government and private education is funded by parents. Both types of education are subject to the same rules and regulations, but private education is often more flexible and allows for more individualized education.

**Virtual education**

Virtual education is a type of education that is delivered online. These programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education. Academic education programs are divided into two types: bachelor's degree and master's degree. Bachelor's degree programs last for four years, master's degree programs last for two years and doctorate degree programs last for three years. Higher education programs are divided into two types: academic education and vocational education.
Enrol your child at a primary school of 4 and 6?

Children aged between 4 and 6 have priority for placement at eight schools in the neighbourhood of Amsterdam. In Amsterdam there are preschools in the form of playgroups and day-care. As soon as your child is 4, he or she can start primary school. In Amsterdam there are rules and agreements on enrolment children in the Netherlands. Parents in Amsterdam must submit an application for enrolment in a primary school. There will then be an appropriate class for your child. The enrolment period lasts about three years. For children between 4 and 6, no test is necessary. The school will contact you about placing your child from his or her third birthday. You then have six months to explore possibilities, visit schools and enrol your child. At the time of enrolment you can find information on the enrolment procedure on and on every primary school in Amsterdam and compare schools. Information about the primary schools is available for placement at eight schools in the neighbourhood of Amsterdam.

Is your child younger than 4 years old?

Is your child aged 12 years or above?

Is your child between the ages of 4 and 6?

Children aged between 4 and 6 will join a regular infant class, where they will gradually learn Dutch alongside the other children.

Is your child between the ages of 6 and 12?

Enrol a child at a primary school of your choice in your neighbourhood. The school will then register the pupil at the Central Reporting Point for Newcomers, a joint initiative by primary school governing bodies. He or she will then be allocated a place in a newcomers’ class for approximately one year. The newcomers’ class will preferably be in the same district as the school at which you have enrolled your child. Your child will transfer to the school of choice after a year in the newcomers’ class.

After enrolment, the child will first be tested by the school so he or she can be taught at an appropriate level. The bridging period varies between one and three years. In the first year, the pupils have lessons in Dutch as a second language, or 18 hours a week. They also study the subjects English, arithmetic, mathematics, sports, world studies, talent development and art education.

Enrolment procedure

Pupils can be enrolled at any time of the year. You can contact the school to make an appointment. The pupil must also be present when you enrol them.

Criteria for admission to a newcomers’ class

- the pupil speaks little or no Dutch, and
- the pupil is at least 6 years old

Enrolment procedure

Parents of a child eligible for a newcomers’ class are free to choose at which school they would like to enrol that child – it doesn’t have to be a school that already offers a newcomers’ class. The school will then contact the Central Reporting Point for Newcomers. Newcomers’ classes are part of a regular primary school.

Is your child aged 12 years or above?

From the age of twelve, children are placed in an international bridging class (International zeshoekiklasse, ISK).

Information about the Dutch school system:

Email: onderwijs@amsterdam.nl

http://www.amsterdam.nl/onderwijs

International schools

There are a number of international schools in and around Amsterdam, covering a wide spectrum of learning, languages and cultures.

International Community School (public education)

International School of Amsterdam

International School Almere

International School Hilversum

International School Amsterdam

The Japanese School of Amsterdam

International schools in the Netherlands.

Further information

The Foundation for International Education in the Netherlands (Stichting Internationale Onthaal) offers a listing of all international schools and International schools in the Netherlands, as well as all independent international schools in the Netherlands.

Website: www.sic.nl

Schools with an international bridging class (age 12 and over)

The following schools offer international bridging classes for international children that are open to new in the Netherlands.

International schools

Amsterdam East

Minerva College

St. Paule School

Amsterdam Zuid

St. Marinus School

Amsterdam North West

Mundus College

Amsterdam South

Schools with bilingual education

There are several schools in Amsterdam where some lessons are given in English and others in Dutch.

De Visserschool

Little Universe

School of Understanding (Amsterdam and Amsterdam-Amstel)

Albregts Thijn Primary School

International schools

English:

http://www.hetabc.nl/

professie/leermarkt/newcomers/

en/orientatiecentrum/richting

primary-education-amsterdam.

French:

http://www.hetabc.nl/

professie/leermarkt/newcomers/

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Albregts Thijn Primary School

International schools

British School of Amsterdam (private education)

European School Bergen (private education; multilingual)

DualFuture Chinese School (private education; multilingual)

International Chinese School Letterfalt (public education)

International School Almere (public education)

International School Hilversum (public education)

Lycee Français Vincent van Gogh (private education)

The Japanese School of Amsterdam (private education)

Secondary schools with bilingual education

Various secondary schools in and around Amsterdam offer bilingual education.

Almere - OIS De Meergaarden

(VMBO havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Hermann Wassink College

(VMBO, mavo, havo)

Amsterdam - Berlage Lyceum

(havo and vwo)

Amsterdam - Stedelijk

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - DENIKI

(havo and vwo)

Amsterdam - Hermand Lyceum West

(havo and vwo)

Amsterdam - Hubertus & Bertholf

(VMBO, SG, Havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - St. Nicolaasplein

(VMBO, havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Montessori College Oost

(VMBO, havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - VTC

(havo, mavo, vwo)

Amsterdam - Kevin

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Marnix

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Hilversum

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdham - Montessori College Oost

(VMBO, havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Sarah

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - St. Pieter

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Kruispost

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Evert van der Meulen

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Bickers

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Bickers

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Vechtstede

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - De Visserschool

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Laar en Berg

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - St. Pieter ( vmbo, havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Hilversum

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Amsterdam International Community School

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - College Amsterdam

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Berlage Lyceum

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Hilversum

(havo, mavo)

Amsterdam - Vechtstede College

(havo, mavo)