

Building your future in the Netherlands - Working in the Netherlands

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Sponsor-based immigration

Most immigration is based on sponsorship

- Study (university)
 - Employment (employer)
 - Social (partner/spouse)
- Recognized sponsors <https://ind.nl/en/Pages/public-register-recognised-sponsors.aspx>
- Leiden University is also on the list.

Exceptions:

- Self-employed and search year



After graduating: Search Year / Orientation year

- Free to work
 - paid employment as well as self-employment
 - recognized sponsor as well as a non-recognized sponsor
- An actual year, or less?
- Make sure you actively search for a job or self-employment opportunities that make you eligible for a residence permit, and make the application to change well in time
- Due to processing time of applications it could be argued that you actually have 9 months to find something



Immigration after search year

Most relevant immigration schemes

- Employment
- Family reunification
- Self-employed entrepreneur
 - Start up / artist
- Permanent residency
- Nationality

Employees: Highly Skilled Migrant (kennismigrant)

- Employer should be a recognized sponsor with the IND
- Salary should match the background of the candidate and the position offered
- Income requirements:
 - ≥ 30 years: EUR 5.942 gross per month ex holiday allowance
 - < 30 years: EUR 4.357 gross per month ex holiday allowance

Reduced salary criterion for recent graduates/ search year permit holders: EUR 3.122 gross per month ex holiday allowance

- Processing time: 2-4 weeks



Other work-related residence permits (1/2)

- Blue Card Directive (EU) 2021/1883
 - Employment contract, for a minimum of 6 months employed by a Dutch employer
 - Academic degree, evaluated by Nuffic if degree is obtained from non-Dutch university, or at least 5 years of relevant work experience (for IT specialists: 3 years of experience in the past 7 years is required)
 - € 5.942,- gross per month ex holiday allowance (€ 4.754,- gross per month if recently graduated)
 - Processing time 90 days
 - No recognized sponsor needed



Other work-related residence permits (2/2)

- Researcher Directive 2016/801/EC
 - € 1.606,08 gross per month ex holiday allowance
 - Research Institute acts as (recognized) sponsor
 - Obligated to have an employment contract or host agreement with Research Institute
 - Research project must be approved by Research Institute



Family reunification (non-EU)

- Non-EU national or Dutch national residing legally in the Netherlands (spouse, registered or unmarried partner)
- Partner should have the Dutch nationality or a residence permit and should live together.
- Minimum income requirement
→ eg. Partner should earn at least € 2.294,40 gross ex holiday allowance
- Obligation to pass the integration exam abroad and within 3 years upon arrival in the NL (in case of a Dutch partner or partner with permanent residence)
- Right to work if family member is allowed to work
- Processing time 90 days



Self-employed entrepreneurs (regular) (1/2)

The business should add value to the Dutch economy
Assessed by Netherlands Enterprise Agency through scoring system
(300 points to obtain, of which 90 are required with a minimum of 30 points per category, or 45 points for Personal Experience and Business plan)

- Personal experience:
 - Educational background / Working experience
- Business plan
 - Market potential / financing
- Macro economic aspects:
 - Investments, job creation, innovation



Self-employed entrepreneurs (regular) (2/2)

- Processing time of in total 9 months
- € 1.734,57 gross profit per month including holiday allowance

Residence permit issued for 2 years

Different rules for US, Bolivian, Japanese and Turkish nationals



Self-employed entrepreneurs: start-up visa

Tailored to young entrepreneurs who need investors and advice

- Find facilitator or get accepted into a facilitator's program:
<https://english.rvo.nl/topics/residence-permit/facilitator>
- Enough funds on a Dutch bank account to support yourself during first year or financing by third party
- The facilitator, as well as the entrepreneur, must be registered in the business register (KvK)
- Thorough plan regarding organization, role of applicant, structure, development, etc
- Processing time 90 days



Self-employed entrepreneurs: start-up visa (2)

- Innovative idea (for example)
 - Agri & Food
 - High Tech
 - Chemics
 - Creative industries
 - Energy / Environment
 - Logistics
 - Life Sciences / Health
 - Water / Maritime
 - Horticulture
- Residence permit issued for one year
- After that: regular self-employment (scoring system)



Permanent Residence Permit (general)

- Five years uninterrupted lawful residence
- Sufficient income
- Integration diploma
- No criminal record or threat to public order
- Non-temporary right of residence

Residence card valid for five years, right of residence itself permanently valid.

Two types: **EU-long term residency** and permanent residency on **national grounds**. Differences in whether or not study and search years count towards 5 years and possibility to mend residency gaps.



Requirements for Dutch citizenship

- 18 years and above
- 5 years uninterrupted legal residency
- All permits count
- Holder of a valid non-temporary residence permit
- Integration: [Civic Integration Examination](#) or NT2 program I or II;
- In the past 5 years no criminal proceedings pending and/or penalty running;
- Renouncement of current nationality if possible;
- Declaration of allegiance to the Netherlands;
- Processing time up to one year;



RESIDENCY GAPS

- Apply for extension/change of permit 90 days prior to expiration date
- Residence gaps, permanent residency on national grounds and naturalization
- EU longterm residency; gaps may be mended under certain circumstances



Keep in mind:

- Make sure you lodge an application before expiration of your permit to make sure your residence is legal
- If not Highly skilled employment, look for alternatives we discussed
 - Partner
 - Self-employed / start-up
 - Researcher
 - Returning to University



Any questions?

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