

# Netherlands Orientation Year Visa

## 1 Check your postgraduation eligibility


If you have graduated within the past 3 years and if your university + degree is in the top 200 of the [general rankings](#) or [rankings by subject](#) of the following publishers (at least 2 of the 3 publishers):

- **Times Higher Education:** [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#) (general) and [Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject](#) (by subject).
- **QS:** [QS World University Rankings](#) (general) and [QS World University Rankings by subject](#) (by subject).
- **ShanghaiRanking Consultancy:** [Academic Ranking of World Universities](#) (general) and [ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects](#) (by subject).


You are allowed to combine general rankings and rankings per subject, if the rankings are by different publishers.

OR you have obtained a master's degree in the context of an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, or you have obtained an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree

Quick check using this link (but double check on all 3 publishers to make sure):

 Welcome to the Netherlands ↗  
**The orientation year permit - Welcome to NL**  
Recently graduated? The next step is for you to start your career, and that may require a different type of residency permit than the one you currently have.

Reference:


 ind.nl ↗  
**Residence permit for orientation year**  
An orientation year residence permit allows you to look for work after a study, doctorate or research. Find out what the requirements are and how to apply for the residence permit.

## 2 English (optional)

You obtained a minimum score of 6.0 on a test in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), TOEFL, TOEIC. There are 2 versions of the IELTS: Academic and General Training. It does not matter which version you have. OR [Your master's degree programme, doctoral programme or post-master's programme was in English or Dutch.](#)

## 3 Credential evaluation NUFFIC (optional)

If you did a diploma program


 www.idw.nl ↗  
**International credential evaluation**  
Studying in the Netherlands with your foreign diploma? Read here how to apply for a credential evaluation.

## 4 Apply for your VFS appointment

Make an appointment at the Dutch embassy or consulate (Netherlands embassy in New Delhi or at the consulates-general in Bangalore or Mumbai.)

Choose the option MVV - highly skilled person

Book VFS appointment:


 www.vfsvisaonline.com ↗  
**Netherlands Appointment**

## 5 Gather documents, fill in the form

These are listed in the application form.

- Make a copy of your valid passport, including the pages with your personal details and any travel stamps.
- Complete and sign the "Antecedents certificate" appendix form.
- Gather proof of your master's degree completion: • Obtain a copy of your master's degree diploma or certificate, which shows the date you completed your program. • If you don't have your diploma or certificate yet, get a "Statement on completion of study" form from your university, filled out and signed.
- If you completed your master's program in English, get a statement from your university confirming the language of instruction.

Application form link:

 PDF file ↗

## 6 On the day of dutch embassy/CG appointment

A staff member of the Dutch representation will register your application and fill in the application date on your application form. [The staff member will also fill in the details of the Dutch representation.](#)

Afterwards, you will get the form back. You will receive a confirmation of receipt with your personal V-number.

## 7 Send application to IND

Check if have you collected all required documents. Then send your application with the documents to the IND in the Netherlands. [Do this within 3 weeks](#) of the date that the Dutch representation filled in on your application form. The form explains where you need to send the application to.

The application [costs €228](#). Pay the costs within 3 weeks of the date the Dutch representation filled in on your application form.

## 8 Wait for IND Decision

The IND must take a decision within 90 days.

## 9 Collect MVV (entry permit visa for the Netherlands)

After your Orientation Year visa application is approved, you will need to [make an appointment at the Dutch embassy/consulate](#) to collect your MVV.

The embassy/consulate will then issue you the MVV, which allows you to travel to the Netherlands. Collect MVV [within 3 months of decision](#)

The MVV is valid for 90 days.

Valid passport required When the Dutch embassy or consulate places the MVV in your passport, your passport must be valid for at least another 6 months.


## 10 After arriving in Netherlands



Apply for the Orientation Year residence permit:

After arriving in the Netherlands with your MVV, you will need to apply for the actual Orientation Year residence permit.

This involves making an appointment with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) in the Netherlands to submit biometric information and collect your residence permit.

## 11 Other links

 ind.nl ↗  
**Apply for MVV and residence permit from abroad | IND**  
You need a residence permit and a provisional residence permit (MVV). You apply for the MVV and the residence permit at the same time from abroad.

 www.netherlandsworldwide.nl ↗  
**Apply for long-stay visa (MVV). Choose your country. | N...**  
If you want to stay in the Netherlands for longer than 90 days, you may need an authorisation for temporary stay (MVV).

👏 Good luck with your application!

Jacob T