

Education system

The Netherlands

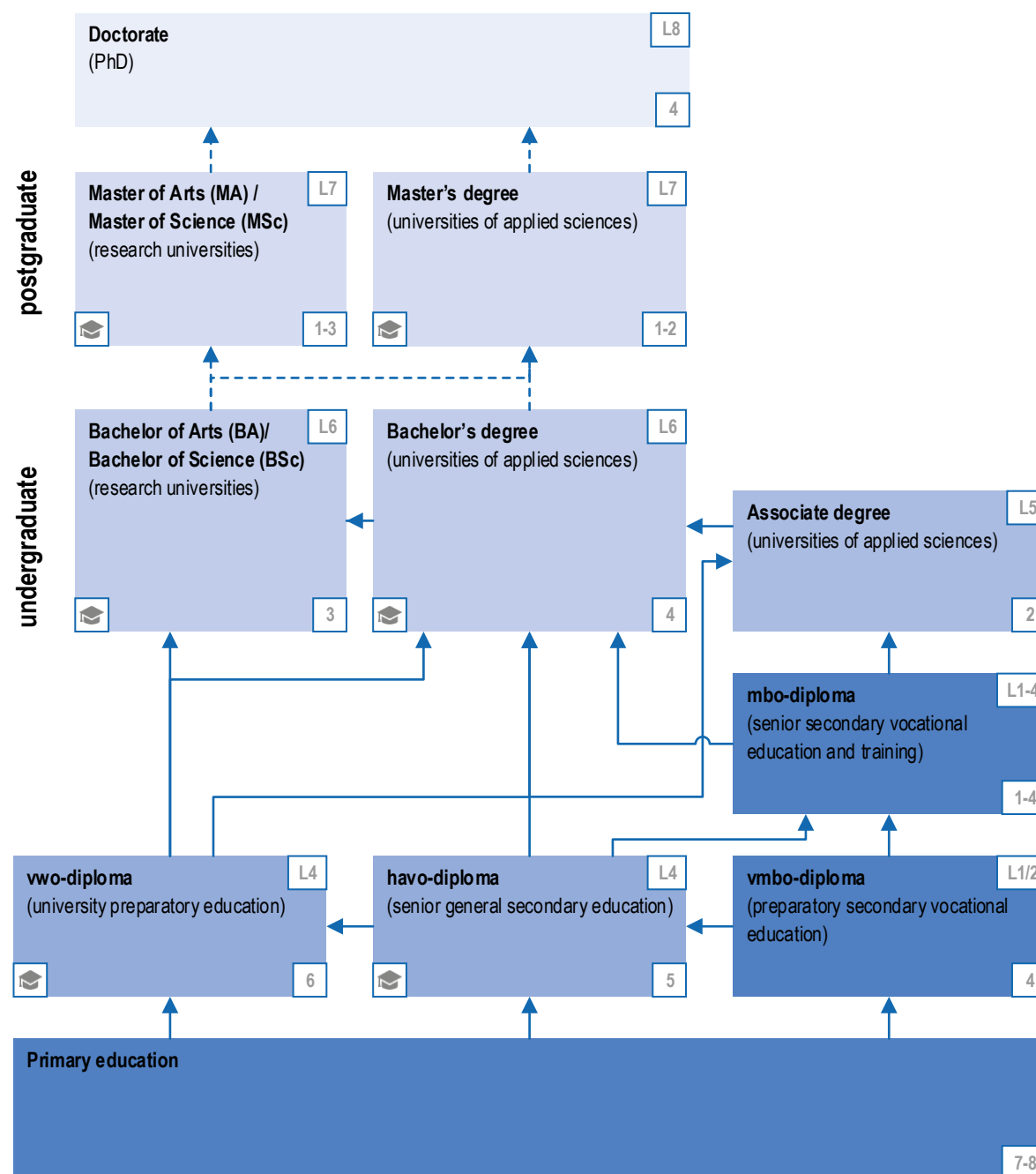
The Dutch education system
described


This document provides information about the education system of the Netherlands. It also includes the Dutch comparison of qualifications obtained in the Netherlands.





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 Education level

 Duration of education

 [Click here to view a sample of the diploma](#)

■ National Framework of Qualifications

The Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF) comprises 8 qualification levels and an entry level.

The following illustration is a simplified diagram of the Dutch NLQF:

EQF	NLQF	Dutch Qualification
8	8	Doctor
7	7	Master
6	6	Bachelor
5	5	Associate Degree
4	4+	VWO
4	4	MBO 4 / HAVO
3	3	MBO 3
2	2	VMBO kb, gl and tl / MBO 2
1	1	VMBO bb / MBO 1

Source: National Coordination Point for the Dutch Qualifications Framework NLQF (www.nlqf.nl)

■ Introduction

The Netherlands is a parliamentary democracy with a King as head of state and a Prime Minister as head of the government. The parliament is bicameral, consisting of the Senate (*Eerste Kamer*) with 75 members and the House of Representatives (*Tweede Kamer*) with 150 members. The Netherlands is divided into twelve provinces. The responsibilities of the government and the provinces are laid down in the Constitution.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) has the political responsibility for the educational system and is bound by national legislation: the Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op Hoger onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW) and the Student Grants Act 2000 (*Wet studiefinanciering 2000*, WSF 2000). The WSF was last amended in 2007, and an important result of this is that since 1 September 2007, students have been able to take their student grants abroad under certain conditions in order to obtain a higher education degree there.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is responsible to a large extent for the financing of the education system, defines the general education policy and specifies the admission requirements, structure and objectives of the education system on general lines. In addition, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Economic Affairs are involved in the content of higher education. At all levels (primary, secondary and higher education), there is a general trend towards fewer rules and regulations, so that institutions can take responsibility themselves for the implementation of government policy.

The Dutch education system consists of 8 years of primary education, 4, 5 or 6 years of secondary education (depending on the type of school) and 2 to 6 years of higher education (depending on the type of education and the specialisation). Both public and private institutions exist at all levels of the education system; the private institutions are in most cases based on religious or ideological principles.

Dutch higher education has a binary system, which means that a distinction is made between research oriented education (*wetenschappelijk onderwijs*) and higher professional education (*hoger beroepsonderwijs*). This difference in orientation has continued to exist after the introduction of the bachelor's-master's degree structure in 2002. Research-oriented education takes place primarily at research universities (*universiteiten*) and the higher professional education at universities of applied sciences (*hogescholen*). As well as the different objectives, each of the two types of education has its own admission requirements, programme duration and titles.

The language of education is Dutch, but under the influence of the Bologna process more and more study programmes are being offered in English. Education is compulsory in the Netherlands between the ages of 5 and 16.

The academic year runs from 1 September until 31 August.

■ Primary and secondary education

Primary education

Primary education is intended for children in the age group 4 to 12 and is compulsory for children from the age of 5. This type of education lasts 8 years and is provided by schools for primary education (*basisonderwijs*) or special education (*speciaal onderwijs*). The generic name for these types of education is *primair onderwijs*. Depending on the individual results and preferences, pupils move on to secondary education (*voortgezet onderwijs*). At the end of group 8, the last year of primary education, pupils select a type of secondary education on the basis of a recommendation from their school, their own preference and in many cases a national test known as the *Citotoets*. They have 2 options to choose from: general secondary education (*algemeen voortgezet onderwijs*, HAVO or VWO) or preparatory secondary vocational education (*beroepsgericht voortgezet onderwijs*, VMBO).

Secondary education

This type of education, which was called *middelbaar onderwijs* before the introduction of the Secondary Education Act (*Mammoetwet*) in 1968, is intended for children in the age group 12 to 16, 17 or 18. General secondary education lasts 5 or 6 years and is compulsory for pupils up to the age of 16. Pupils can choose between two types of education, both of which start with a junior stage (*onderbouw*). The *onderbouw* lasts 2 or 3 school years, depending on the type of secondary education. At the end of the second year, pupils in most school types receive advice on which type of education is best for them to follow.

General secondary education (HAVO or VWO)

Within general secondary education (*algemeen voortgezet onderwijs*), there are two types of education: pre-university education (*voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs*, VWO) with a study duration of 6 years, which can be taken at a *gymnasium*, *atheneum* or *lyceum* (a combination of *gymnasium* and *atheneum*) and senior general secondary education (*hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs*, HAVO), which lasts 5 years. The study programme in general secondary education concludes with a national examination in 7 subjects (VWO) or 6 subjects (HAVO). If the examination is passed, the *VWO* or *HAVO diploma* is awarded.

The *onderbouw* offers a broad range of subjects that is in principle accessible for everyone. All pupils also receive guidance about future studies and careers. In the senior stage (*bovenbouw*) (class 4 and 5 of the HAVO or class 4, 5 and 6 of the VWO), also known as *tweede fase*, education is given on the basis of subject clusters (*profielen*), with a general component that is the same for all pupils and a component of their own choice. To further the transition to higher education, all pupils must choose one of the four clusters: culture and society (*cultuur en maatschappij*), economics and society (*economie en maatschappij*), science and health (*natuur en gezondheid*) or science and technology (*natuur en techniek*). For admission to higher education, all the requirements of the chosen cluster must at least be satisfied.

The HAVO diploma is positioned at level 4 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 4 / EQF level 4).

Full description of NLQF level 4: www.nlqf.nl

The VWO diploma is positioned at level 4+ of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 4+ / EQF level 4).

Full description of NLQF level 4+: www.nlqf.nl

Preparatory secondary vocational education (VMBO)

Preparatory secondary vocational education (*voorbereidend middelbaar beroepsonderwijs*, VMBO), which replaced preparatory vocational education (*voorbereidend beroepsonderwijs*, VBO) and junior general secondary education (*middelbaar algemeen voortgezet onderwijs*, MAVO) in 1999, is vocationally oriented and lasts 4 years. Like the general secondary education, this type of education starts with a basic stage (*onderbouw*). This lasts 2 school years and offers a broad range of subjects. At the end of the second class, pupils choose a learning track (*leerweg*) and a sector. The VMBO has 4 sectors: technology (*techniek*), health and personal care and welfare (*zorg en welzijn*), economics (*economie*) and agriculture (*landbouw*). Within each sector, pupils can choose from four learning tracks (*leerwegen*): the basic vocational track (*basisberoepsgerichte leerweg*), advanced vocational track (*kaderberoepsgerichte leerweg*), the combined track (*gemengde leerweg*) and the theoretical track (*theoretische leerweg*). The theoretical track provides admission to the HAVO and to the vocational training (*vakopleidingen*) and management training (*middenkaderopleidingen*) in senior secondary vocational education (*middelbaar beroepsonderwijs*, MBO). The other tracks do not provide admission to the HAVO, but serve as a good preparation for senior secondary vocational education (MBO). Depending on the track followed, admission to MBO study programmes at various levels is possible. The study programmes in *voorbereidend middelbaar beroepsonderwijs* are concluded with a national examination. If the examination is passed, the *VMBO diploma* is awarded.

The *VMBO diploma* is positioned at level 1/2 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 1/2 / EQF level 1/2), depending on the specialisation.
Full description of NLQF level 1/2: www.nlqf.nl

Senior secondary vocational education (MBO)

Senior secondary vocational education (*middelbaar beroepsonderwijs*, MBO) prepares pupils for work or a subsequent study programme. This type of education follows on from the VMBO; the length of the study programme depends on the qualification chosen. *Middelbaar beroepsonderwijs* can be followed at regional training centres (ROCs), agrarian training centres (AOCs) and vocational schools (*vakscholen*).

Senior secondary vocational education has four training levels: qualification level 1, assistant training (*assistentopleiding*) has a study duration of an ½ to 1 year and is concluded with an *assistentopleiding* diploma; qualification level 2 basic vocational training (*basisberoepsopleiding*) has a study duration of 2 to 3 years and is concluded with a *basisberoepsopleiding* diploma; qualification level 3 vocational training (*vakopleiding*) lasts 2 to 4 years and is concluded with a *vakopleiding* diploma. The management training (*middenkaderopleiding*) at qualification level 4 lasts about 4 years and provides admission to higher professional education (*hoger beroepsonderwijs*, HBO). The specialist training (*specialistenopleiding*) is also at qualification level 4 and lasts 1 to 2 years. Before the *specialistenopleiding*, pupils follow *vakopleiding* or *middenkaderopleiding*.

Pupils in the MBO can choose from 2 learning tracks (*leerwegen*): the school-based route with fulltime education (*beroepsopleidende leerweg* - BOL) in which pupils spend at least 20% and no more than 60% of their time as interns, and the work-based route (*beroepsbegeleidende leerweg* - BBL), in which at least 60% of their time is spent working as interns. Practical experience forms an important part of the training for both learning tracks.

Further information on vocational qualifications is available in the Certificate Supplements on the website of the National Reference Point for information on vocational education. See under **Addresses**.

The *MBO diploma* is positioned at level 1-4 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 1-4 / EQF level 1-4), depending on the duration and the specialisation of the programme.
Full description of NLQF level 1/2: www.nlqf.nl

■ Admission to higher education

A secondary education diploma (*MBO diploma* at qualification level 4, *HAVO* or *VWO* diploma) is required for admission to higher education. The type of diploma required depends on the type of higher education to be attended.

Admission to a programme at a research university (*wetenschappelijk onderwijs*, *WO*) requires a *VWO* diploma or the completion of the first year of higher professional education (*HBO*), in some cases with additional requirements relating to the subjects taken.

Admission to higher professional education (*hoger beroepsonderwijs*, *HBO*) requires a *HAVO* or *VWO diploma*. For this type of education, too, additional requirements relating to the subjects taken apply in some cases. Admission to higher professional education is also possible on the basis of an *MBO diploma* at qualification level 4: a diploma from a management training (*middenkaderopleiding*) or specialist training (*specialistenopleiding*) programme in the secondary vocational education (*MBO*). In addition to admission to higher professional education, this diploma also gives exemption of the first year in some cases, provided it has been obtained in a related field of study. Admission to the (shorter) associate degree programme takes place on the basis of the same admission requirements as those for the *HBO* programme in question.

For some study programmes, such as those in art education, special skills specified by the institution itself are required. Besides this, some study programmes are bound by a *numerus fixus*, meaning that there is a maximum number of first-year students that can be admitted. This usually applies to study programmes that are very popular, while there are a limited number of places, such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, journalism or physiotherapy. Selection takes place to some extent by means of a weighted draw (*loting*), in which a higher average mark in the final school examination gives a higher chance of winning a place.

■ Higher education

In the Netherlands, there are 3 types of higher education institutions: government-funded (*bekostigde*), approved (*aangewezen*) and private (*particuliere*) institutions. Government-funded institutions (thirteen *universiteiten*, the *Open Universiteit* and more than 50 *hogescholen*) receive funds from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science or the Ministry of Economic Affairs and are entitled to award officially recognised degrees. These institutions offer study programmes for which the tuition fees are established by law. *Aangewezen* institutions, including the *Universiteit voor Humanistiek* and the *Nyenrode Business Universiteit*, are institutions that receive no funding from the Dutch government, but may still award officially recognised bachelor's or master's degrees. These institutions are not bound by the official tuition fees, but may determine their tuition fees themselves. Private institutions, for example foreign universities, are institutions that are not covered by Dutch government regulations. However, these institutions can apply for accreditation by the NVAO, provided certain conditions are met.

Research-oriented education (*wetenschappelijk onderwijs - wo*) is given at 14 Dutch research universities (*universiteiten*) in the Netherlands, including the *Open Universiteit*, but collaboration with universities of applied sciences (*hogescholen*) is becoming increasingly common. Most universities offer study programmes in various disciplines, such as economics (*economie*), law (*rechten*), medicine (*geneeskunde*), language and culture (*taal- en cultuur*), natural sciences (*natuurwetenschappen*) and public administration (*bestuurswetenschappen*); one *universiteit* specialises in agriculture and the environment and three *universiteiten* primarily offer technical study programmes. *Wetenschappelijk onderwijs* can also be followed at a University college, which is generally part of a *universiteit*. These colleges mainly offer undergraduate programmes in liberal arts.

Higher professional education is primarily offered by universities of applied sciences (*hogescholen*). HBO has 7 educational sectors: economics, health care, agriculture, teacher training, social work, arts and engineering. Within these sectors, students can choose from various educational profiles. Almost all types of study programme can be followed at universities of applied sciences, located all over the Netherlands. Some *hogescholen* primarily offer study programmes in the field of agriculture or art, or specialise in teacher training.

Finally, the Netherlands has a number of Institutes for International Education (IE institutes) with a relatively small number of students.. Most of these are part of a research university. They offer a wide range of study programmes in specific disciplines that in many cases lead to a master's degree or PhD. Further information is available on the website of the Platform for International Education. See under **Addresses**.

■ Research-oriented education (wetenschappelijk onderwijs, WO)

Research-oriented education offers study programmes with the primary objective of “independent academic participation or the professional use of academic knowledge”.

Research-oriented education is divided into three study cycles. Study programmes are divided into a bachelor’s programme of 3 years (180 ECTS) followed by a master’s programme that lasts 1 year (60 ECTS), 2 years (120 ECTS) or 3 years (180 ECTS), depending on the specialization. This can be followed by research for a doctor’s degree, which generally lasts 4 years. No ECTS credits are generally linked to this cycle.

Bachelor of Arts (BA) / Bachelor of Science (BSc)

The first cycle in research-oriented education lasts 3 years and leads to the title of Bachelor, with the addition ‘of Arts, of Science’, depending on the specialization. Students who graduate from a Law programme receive the title Bachelor of Laws (LLB). The bachelor’s programme may be divided into a first-year component (*propedeutische fase*) and a main component, and it has an academic orientation. Depending on the institution, students will focus primarily on one specialization, or on a main and subsidiary subject, known as the major / minor structure. In the third year of the study programme, students are often required to write a short final paper (*scriptie*). Every bachelor’s degree automatically gives admission to a master’s programme in a similar field of study at the same university, but a bachelor’s degree may also conclude the student’s education. Admission to master’s programmes at other institutions is also possible if this is approved by the executive board of the institution and a certificate of admission is issued. With effect from the academic year 2010 / 2011, the bachelor’s diploma is compulsory for admission to the master’s programme.

The bachelor’s degree is positioned at level 6 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 6 / EQF level 6).

Full description of NLQF level 6: www.nlqf.nl

Master of Arts (MA) / Master of Science (MSc)

The second cycle in research-oriented education lasts 1 year (for most specialisations), 2 years (engineering and scientific specialisations) or 3 years (medicine, veterinary science, pharmaceutical science and dentistry). Since the introduction of the bachelor's-master's degree structure in 2002, this cycle leads to the title of Master, with the addition 'of Arts, of Science', depending on the specialisation. Students who graduate from a law programme receive the title Master of Laws (LLM). Under certain conditions, graduates from master's programmes in research-oriented education are still entitled to use one of the traditional Dutch titles, depending on the specialisation. For most specialisations, this is the title *doctorandus (drs.)*; for engineering studies or programmes in the field of agriculture and the natural environment, this is the title *ingenieur (ir.)* and for study programmes in Law, the title *meester (mr.)*.

During the second cycle, the student specialises in a particular field and is also taught about research methods. For most specialisations, writing a final paper is a compulsory component of the study programme.

The master's degree is positioned at level 7 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 7 / EQF level 7).

Full description of NLQF level 7: www.nlqf.nl

PhD

The third cycle of research-oriented education generally lasts 4 years and leads to the title of doctor (*dr.*). A master's degree obtained in higher education can give admission to the doctoral programme (*promotie*). This primarily involves carrying out an independent research project, sometimes in combination with a study programme. The doctoral candidate (*promovendus*) writes a doctoral thesis (*proefschrift*) under the supervision of one or more supervisors (*promotoren*). After the thesis has been defended in public, the title of *doctor* is awarded. In addition, the 3 engineering universities offer third cycle programmes in technical design. These technical designer programmes have a nominal duration of 2 years, and grant direct access to the labour market. Graduates obtain the degree "Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)".

■ Higher professional education (hoger beroepsonderwijs, HBO)

Higher professional education (HBO) is a form of higher education that has a more practical orientation, and its primary objective is “the transfer of theoretical knowledge and the development of skills that are closely linked to professional practice”.

Universities of applied sciences offer both bachelor’s programmes and associate degree programmes. With effect from 1 September 2002, all initial higher professional education programmes have been converted into bachelor’s programmes. Since the introduction of the bachelor’s-master’s degree structure, it has also been possible for universities of applied sciences to offer master’s programmes. These programmes are recognised by law, provided they have been accredited by Dutch-Flemish accreditation organization NVAO. See under **Quality Assurance and accreditation**. Some universities of applied sciences still offer graduate programmes. Since the introduction of the bachelor’s-master’s degree structure, these programmes have continued to exist in their current form until such time as they are converted into master’s programmes. In most cases, this conversion has already taken place. These are graduate programmes in art education (*kunstonderwijs*) and architecture (*bouwkunde*) and the advanced teacher training programmes for special education and for teaching general subjects at all levels of secondary education.

Higher professional education is divided into 2 cycles: a bachelor’s programme lasting 4 years (240 ECTS) followed by a master’s programme of 1 year (60 ECTS) or 2 years (120 ECTS), depending on the specialisation. A master’s degree obtained at a university of applied sciences can give admission to the doctoral programme, the third cycle in higher education. The range of titles in higher professional education will be expanded in 2015.

Bachelor’s programmes

The first cycle of higher professional education lasts 4 years. Students are awarded a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (BA/BSc) or a Bachelor, with the addition of the specialisation in which the degree has been obtained (for example Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Education). Depending on the specialisation, graduates from bachelor’s programmes in higher professional education are still entitled under certain conditions to use one of the traditional Dutch titles, *baccalaureus (bc.)* or *ingenieur (ing.)*.

The study programme in the first cycle is divided into a *propedeuse* (the first year) followed by a main programme of 3 years. Students carry out a compulsory internship lasting about 9 months to acquire practical experience, mostly in the third year. On the basis of this internship, the fourth year includes a final paper or graduation project.

The bachelor's degree is positioned at level 6 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 6 / EQF level 6).

Full description of NLQF level 6: www.nlqf.nl

Associate degree programme (Ad-programme)

A short cycle also exists within the first cycle. The programme lasts 2 years (120 ECTS), forms part of a bachelor's programme in higher professional education and is completed with an Associate Degree. The Associate Degree (abbreviated AD) was introduced by law in 2007. At present, almost 60 associate degree programmes can already be followed in the specialisations behaviour and society (*gedrag en maatschappij*), health care (*gezondheidszorg*), engineering (*techniek*), economics (*economie*), agriculture and the natural environment (*landbouw en natuurlijke omgeving*) and language and culture (*taal en cultuur*). In the future, associate degree programmes leading to a teaching qualification for secondary or vocational education will probably also be offered. After obtaining an Associate Degree, students may choose whether to enter the labour market or to follow the corresponding HBO bachelor's programme: after completing an associate degree programme, students can obtain a bachelor's degree within 2 years.

The Associate Degree is positioned at level 5 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 5 / EQF level 5).

Full description of NLQF level 5: www.nlqf.nl

Master's programmes

The second cycle in higher professional education usually lasts 1 year, but in some specialisations (such as music) this is 2 years. This cycle leads to the title of Master of Arts or Master of Science (MA/MSc) or a Master with the addition of the specialisation in which the degree has been obtained, for example Master of Social Work. During the master's programme, the student specialises further in carrying out a particular profession. A final paper or graduation project forms part of the programme, with the emphasis on applied research.

The master's degree is positioned at level 7 of the Dutch Qualifications Framework (NLQF level 7 / EQF level 7).

Full description of NLQF level 7: www.nlqf.nl

■ Assessment systems

A 10-point system is used in both secondary and higher education, with 6 as the minimum pass grade. The grades 1-3 and 9 and 10 are almost never awarded.

Numerical grade	Description
10	Outstanding
9	Very good
8	Good
7	More than satisfactory
6	Satisfactory
5	Almost satisfactory
4	Unsatisfactory
3	Very unsatisfactory
2	Poor
1	Very poor

Higher education institutions use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). In this system, 60 credits represent 1 year of study and one credit represents 28 hours of study. A year of study is 42 weeks.

More information on the ECTS system is available in the ECTS User's Guide issued by the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/ects/guide_en.pdf

■ Bologna process

The introduction of the bachelor's-master's degree structure in Dutch higher education was completed in September 2003. This has given higher education a structure of 3 cycles, but the difference in orientation has remained. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) has also been introduced into Dutch higher education. More information on the implementation of the bachelor's-master's degree structure in the Netherlands is available on the official website of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA): www.ehea.info/country-details.aspx?countryId=34.

With the introduction of the bachelor's-master's degree structure, the Dutch authorities became aware of the importance of an accreditation system as a guarantee of the quality of education: the Accreditation Act (*Wet op de accreditatie*) was passed in July 2002. This resulted in the establishment of the Netherlands Accreditation Organization (*Nederlandse Accreditatie Organisatie*, NAO) in 2002. The first accreditations were carried out in 2003. A decision was made in 2005 to combine the accreditation of Dutch education and education in Flanders (the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium). From then on, the NAO became the *Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatie Organisatie* (NVAO). This organization is responsible for the accreditation of the higher education programmes. In the Netherlands, accreditation has the status of government recognition. See under **Quality assurance and accreditation**.

■ Qualification frameworks

Within the European Higher Education Area, a great deal of attention has been paid to qualifications frameworks in recent years. By describing qualifications in terms of learning outcomes, an important goal of this particular instrument is to facilitate the mobility of learners and workers as well as to facilitate the recognition of qualifications. There are currently 2 qualifications frameworks in use in the Netherlands: the Dutch Qualifications Framework consisting of 8 levels, and the National Qualifications Framework the Netherlands, consisting of 3 cycles of higher education.

NLQF

The Dutch Qualifications Framework is based on the overarching *European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning* (EQF-LLL). The EQF-LLL itself doesn't include individual qualifications, but describes the skills, knowledge and competencies associated with each of the 8 levels. Individual countries are responsible for placing specific qualifications in each of the levels to create a national qualifications framework. The qualifications placed on an NQF include those obtained in formal secondary, higher and vocational education, as well as those awarded in non-formal education and / or adult education. After completing the process of placing formal qualifications on the NQF, it is possible for that framework to be officially aligned to the overarching EQF-LLL, through an official procedure known as referencing. The referencing process is an important step, making it possible to compare the various qualification levels in different countries. The NLQF was officially aligned to the EQF-LLL at the beginning of 2012. At the same time, the National Coordination Point (NCP) was created, responsible for developing the NLQF and for positioning non-formal qualifications on the framework.

For additional information on the NLQF, including a scheme in which the NLQF is referenced to the EQF, see the NCP NLQF website: www.nlqf.nl

National Qualifications Framework the Netherlands

The National Qualifications Framework the Netherlands is based on the *Overarching Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area* (QF-EHEA), developed as part of the Bologna process. This overarching framework describes qualifications awarded in the 3 cycles of higher education, in terms of generic competencies and learning outcomes and (with the exception of the third cycle) the number of ECTS. The National Qualifications Framework the Netherlands consists of 3 cycles: bachelor, master, PhD. These 3 cycles correspond to levels 6, 7 and 8 of the EQF-LLL. In 2009 the framework was evaluated as compatible to the QF-EHEA. The Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) is responsible for monitoring the framework and keeping it up to date.

For additional information on this framework, see the NVAO website: <http://nva.com/nqf-nl>

■ Quality assurance and accreditation

In the Netherlands, the Dutch-Flemish accreditation organization NVAO is responsible for the accreditation of study programmes. The NVAO is a member of both the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA).

The main task of the organization is to monitor the quality of higher education in the Netherlands and Flanders. It does this on the basis of the tasks described in the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) and in accordance with current international accreditation practice. The task description includes monitoring the quality of existing higher education study programmes and assessing the quality of new study programmes. Higher education institutions are not required to have accreditation, but only students registered for an accredited study programme are eligible for student grants and obtain a recognised degree. The higher education institution appoints a review committee (*visitatiecommissie*, VBI) itself to assess the quality of the study programme. It is compulsory for the committee to consult independent experts. The VBI bases its assessment on the criteria established by the NVAO for the accreditation and assessment of study programmes. On the basis of the report from the VBI, the NVAO takes a decision about the accreditation of a study programme, which is valid for 6 years.

Since January 2011, the Netherlands has a new accreditation system. Beginning 2011, higher education institutions can request the NVAO to conduct an institutional quality assurance assessment to determine the extent to which the institution is capable of guaranteeing the quality of the programmes it offers. Programmes offered by institutions that receive a positive evaluation still have to be accredited, but the accreditation procedure takes less time and is not as extensive. An overview of accredited bachelor's and master's programmes is available on the NVAO website. See under **Addresses**.

Besides the NVAO website, the Central Register of Higher Education Study Programmes (*Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs*, CROHO) can also be consulted if you wish to check if a programme is accredited. The CROHO register lists all the accredited programmes offered by both government-funded and approved higher education institutions. More information can be found on the website of the *Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs* (DUO). See under **Addresses**. If a bachelor's or master's degree programme is not registered in CROHO, the quality of the programme is not assured by the Dutch quality assurance system. The quality may however be assured by the accreditation system of another country.

Additionally, the Netherlands has an instrument that has the objective of guaranteeing the quality of the internationalization of Dutch higher education: the Code of Conduct (*Gedragscode Internationale Studenten*). This code of conduct came into force in Dutch higher education with effect from 1 May 2006. An institution that signs the code of conduct undertakes to keep the rules stated in the code for 'good practice' in relation to the recruitment and admission of foreign students and the provision of information and education to foreign students. A national committee monitors compliance with the requirements stated in the code of conduct. A list of the higher education institutions that have signed the Code of Conduct can be found on the website of DUO, which acts as administrator of the Code of Conduct register. See under **Addresses**.

■ International treaties

The Netherlands signed the Lisbon Convention in 2002 and ratified it in 2008. In addition, the Netherlands has signed a number of multilateral agreements, particularly at a European level, on the recognition of study programmes and qualifications. The Netherlands has made bilateral agreements with Germany and Austria, among others, on the recognition of higher education qualifications.

■ Addresses

www.nuffic.nl

Website of the Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education, which is also the Dutch ENIC / NARIC.

www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ocw

Website of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).

www.vsnu.nl

Website of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU), the umbrella organization of research universities in the Netherlands.

www.vereniginghogescholen.nl

Website of the *Vereniging Hogescholen* (former *HBO-Raad*), the umbrella organization of universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands.

www.knaw.nl

Website of the KNAW, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (*Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen*).

www.nwo.nl

Website of the NWO, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific research (*Nederlandse organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*).

www.nvao.com and <https://www.nvao.com/recent/publications/european-and-national-qualifications-frameworks>

Websites of the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO), including an overview of accredited programmes and information on the National Qualifications Framework the Netherlands.

www.nlqf.nl

Website of the National Coordination Point NLQF (NCP).

www.ib-groep.nl/zakelijk/ho/croho/croho.asp and www.internationalstudy.nl

Websites of the *Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs* with the CROHO register and with a list of institutions that have signed the Code of Conduct.

www.nuffic.nl/internationalstudents

Website provided by Nuffic with detailed information about studying in the Netherlands.

www.pieonline.nl

Website of the Platform for International Education (PIE) with information about the Institutes for International Education.

www.s-bb.nl

Website of SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.

<http://nlgrp.nl/certificaatsupplement.html>

Website of the National Reference Point for information on vocational education, including information on Certificate Supplements.

■ Diploma Supplement

The introduction of the Diploma Supplement (DS) was regulated by law in the Netherlands in 2005. In 2014, the majority of all students will receive the European version of the Diploma Supplement with their final diploma.

More information on the Diploma Supplement is available on the website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc1239_en.htm.

■ Composition of file

Diplomas for secondary education consist of a certificate, list of subjects and a list of grades.

Higher education diplomas also consist of more than one page: a certificate of the award of the degree and / or title, a list of grades stating the results of the examinations and in some cases a separate list of subjects.

■ List of higher education institutions

www.vsnu.nl

Website of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) with a list of the research universities in the Netherlands.

www.vereniginghogescholen.nl

Website of the *Vereniging Hogescholen*, the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (former *HBO-Raad*) with a list of all universities of applied sciences.

 *Havo-diploma*

Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs

DIPLOMA

De ondergetekenden verklaren dat

geboren te 's-Gravenhage

met gunstig gevolg heeft deelgenomen aan het eindexamen hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs

conform het profiel

aan het te

welk examen werd afgenomen volgens de voorschriften gegeven bij en krachtens artikel 29 van de Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs.

Ondertekening	Plaats	Datum
	's-Gravenhage	juni 2012
_____	_____	_____
Examensecretaris		Locatiedirecteur

Handtekening van de kandidaat		

*Niet gebruikte regels zijn ongeldig gemaakt

DOORHALINGEN EN/OF WIJZIGINGEN MAKEN DIT DIPLOMA ONGELDIG

Havo-diploma - transcript

CIJFERLIJST

Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs

De ondergetekenden verklaren dat

geboren te 's-Gravenhage

heeft deelgenomen aan het eindexamen hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs

conform het profiel aan het te 's-Gravenhage

Natuur en Gezondheid

Dit examen werd afgenomen volgens de voorschriften gegeven bij en krachtens artikel 29 van de Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs.

Vakken waarin examen is afgelegd		Cijfers voor*		Eindcijfers*	
		schoolexamen	centraal examen	in cijfers	in letters
Vakken van het gemeenschappelijk deel	Nederlandse taal en literatuur	5,7	6,3	6	Zes
	Engelse taal en literatuur	6,1	5,5	6	Zes
	lichamelijke opvoeding (gemeenschappelijk deel)	V			Voldoende
	culturele en kunstzinnige vorming	V			Voldoende
Combinatiecijfer				8	Acht
Vakken van het profieldeel	wiskunde A	7,0	8,7	8	Acht
	natuurkunde	6,3	7,6	7	Zeven
	scheikunde	6,9	6,8	7	Zeven
	biologie	5,8	6,2	6	Zes
Vakken van het vrije deel	aardrijkskunde	6,8	6,2	7	Zeven
	tekenen	7,1	6,2	7	Zeven
Onderdelen van het combinatiecijfer	maatschappijleer			7	Zeven
	profielwerkstuk			8	Acht

Titel / onderwerp van het profielwerkstuk: Smeltpunten en fases van chocola	Vakken waarop het profielwerkstuk betrekking heeft: scheikunde	Beoordeling: 8
--	--	-------------------

Uitslag: de kandidaat is voor het eindexamen geslaagd

Ondertekening	Plaats 's-Gravenhage	Datum juni 2012
	Examensecretaris	Locatiedirecteur

*De vermelding 'V' in plaats van een cijfer betekent 'vrijstelling voor dit vak'.
Niet gebruikte regels en vakken in de tabel zijn ongeplaatst gemaakt.

DOORBALINGEN EN/OF WIJZIGINGEN MAKEN DEZE CIJFERLIJST ONGELDIG

Vwo-diploma - transcript

CIJFERLIJST VOORBEREIDEND WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERWIJS

De ondergetekenden verklaren dat

geboren 12 januari 1978 te Helmond,
heeft deelgenomen aan het examen Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs conform
het profiel Economie en maatschappij
aan het Twents Carmel College, locatie Lyceumstraat
te Oldenzaal

Dit examen werd afgenomen volgens de voorschriften gegeven bij en krachtens artikel 29 van de Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs. De kandidaat heeft examens afgelegd in de onderstaande vakken en heeft de daarachter vermelde cijfers behaald.

vakken waarin examen is afgelegd	cijfers voor		eindecijfers	
	school-examen	centraal examen	in cijfers	in letters
vakken van het gemeenschappelijk deel				
1. Nederlandse taal	6,7	7,1	7	zeven
2. Franse taal 1	6		6	zes
3. Duitse taal 1	6		6	zes
4. Engelse taal	6,4	7,2	7	zeven
5. geschiedenis 1	7		7	zeven
6. algemene natuurwetenschappen	7		7	zeven
7. maatschappijleer	7		7	zeven
8. lichamelijke opvoeding 1				voldoende
9. letterkunde	7		7	zeven
10. culturele en kunstzinnige vorming 1				goed
vakken van het profieldeel				
11. geschiedenis	7,3	7,8	8	acht
12. aardrijkskunde	7,2	6,4	7	zeven
13. wiskunde A1,2	6,2	5,1	6	zes
14. economie 1,2	5,8	6,8	6	zes
15. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
16. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
vakken van het vrije deel				
17. management en organisatie	6,9	7,7	7	zeven
18. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
titel / onderwerp van profielwerkstuk: De Betuweroute: top of flop?			beoordeling:	
vakken waarop het profielwerkstuk betrekking heeft: aardrijkskunde			goed	
Uitslag: De kandidaat is voor het eindexamen geslaagd				

Plaats Oldenzaal

De secretaris van het eindexamen:


B.G.H. Arends

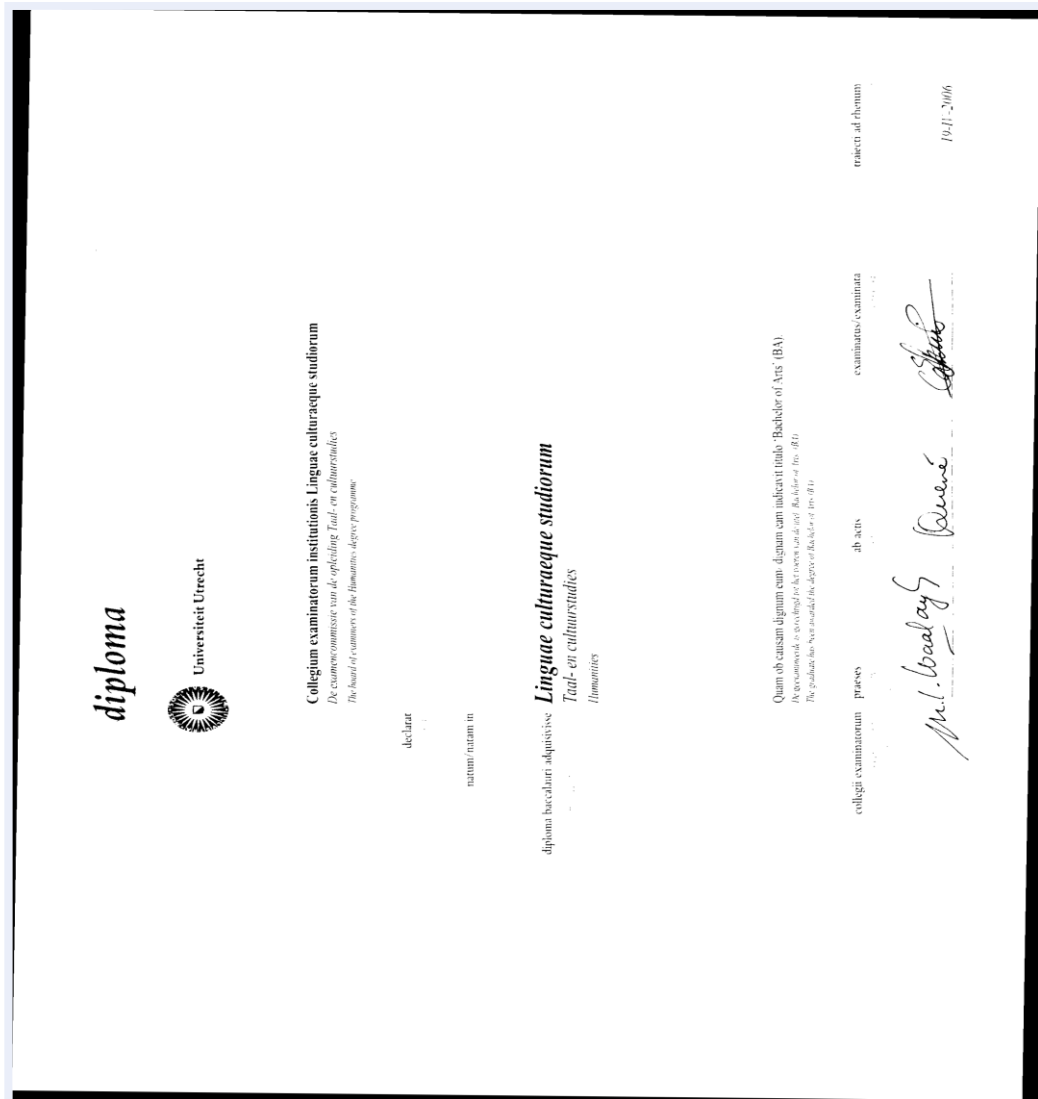
Datum 25 juni 2002

De directeur:


B.A. Kokhuis

Doorhalingen en/of wijzigingen maken deze cijferlijst ongeldig.
Niet gebruikte regels en vakken in de tabel zijn ongeldig gemaakt.
De vermelding "Vr" in plaats van een cijfer betekent "vrijstelling voor dit vak".
D1034

■ Diploma bachelor's programme - university




Bachelor's programme - university (transcript)

Student	:			
Geboortedatum	:			
Opleiding	:	Taal- en cultuurstudies		
Examendoel	:	Bachelor		
Hoofdrichting	:	Amerikanistiek		
Examendatum	:	19-04-2006		
Judicium	:	Geslaagd		
Resultaten:				
Cursus	Naam	Datum	Resultaat	
200200712	MODERNE KUNST IN DE VERENIGDE STATEN	04-02-2003	6,3	7,5
200200333	ETNISCHE LITERATUREN EN CULTUREN IN DE VS: AFRO-AMERIKAANSE LITERATUUR EN CULTUUR	01-04-2003	7,3	7,5
200200319	BASISCURSUS KUNSTHISTORISCH ONDERZOEK	17-06-2003	9,0	7,5
200200186	KENNIS, LETTEREN EN MAATSCHAPPIJ I; DE LETTEREN ALS WETENSCHAPPEN	30-06-2003	6,0	7,5
200200794	MANIFESTING BLACKNESS: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT, 1965-1975	15-07-2003	7,3	7,5
200200336	DE CONSTRUCTIE VAN EEN NATIONALE IDENTITEIT: AMERIKAANSE LITERATUUR EN CULTUUR TOT 1900	20-11-2003	7,5	7,5
200200548	AMERIKA IN WORDING: AMERIKAANS GESCHIEDENIS EN CULTUUR TOT 1900	12-12-2003	6,5	7,5
200300321	OP ZOEK NAAR AMERIKA. INLEIDING IN DE AMERIKANISTIEK.	24-02-2004	7,0	7,5
200300297	NEW JEWISH AMERICAN FICTION IN THE CONTEXT OF MULTICULTURALISM	02-03-2004	8,0	7,5
200300716	CONSUMERS AND/OR CITIZENS - AMERICAN WOMEN 1860 - 1920	29-04-2004	7,0	7,5
200201023	INDIVIDUEEL ONDERDEEL GES	02-07-2004	7,0	7,5
200300290	INTERDISCIPLINAIRE BENADERINGEN TOT DE AMERIKAANSE CULTUUR: AMERIKAANSE CULTUUR IN DE JAREN 60	02-07-2004	7,0	7,5
200300823	TAALVERWERVING 1 SPAANS	28-02-2005	VR	7,5
200400673	TAALVERWERVING 2 SPAANS	28-02-2005	VR	7,5
200200755	EINDWERKSTUK BA ENGELS	15-03-2006	8,0	7,5
Totaal aantal studiepunten			112,5	
Examenkandidate verkreeg op grond van haar vooropleiding een forfaitaire vrijstelling van 75 ECTS.				

■ Diploma master's programme - university

diploma		Universiteit Utrecht			
		Collegium examinatum institutionis Studiorum Americanorum			
		<i>The board of examiners of the American Studies degree programme</i>			
		declarat			
		natum/natam in			
		diploma magisteri adquisivisse			
		Studiorum Americanorum			
		<i>American Studies</i>			
		quod pertinet ad studia			
		<i>American Studies</i>			
		Quam ob causam dignum eum iudicavit titulo 'Master of Arts' (MA)			
		<i>The examiners judge appropriate to confer on the student 'Master of Arts' (MA)</i>			
		<i>The graduate has obtained the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.)</i>			
		collegii examinatum	præses	ab actis	examinatus - examinata
					
					tractati ad hunc
					30 June 2006

International diplomasupplement master's programme – university (page 1)

Universiteit Utrecht 

UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT MASTER

The purpose of this international diploma supplement is to provide additional information about university education in the Netherlands in general and academic programmes of Utrecht University alumni in particular. It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is given. General information about primary, secondary and higher education in the Netherlands and information about Utrecht University is added.

THE HOLDER OF THIS QUALIFICATION

Family name(s):	
Given names(s):	
Date and place of birth:	
Student Identification Number:	

QUALIFICATION RELATED INFORMATION

Kind of qualification: Master of Arts (MA)

Name of the institution administering studies
Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Name of qualification as it is listed in the Utrecht University Record of Studies
American Studies

Name of the programme
American Studies
(academic/research/educational master)

Language of instruction
Dutch or English

Official duration of the programme
The official duration of the programme is 1.0 years. The programme yields 60 ECTS.
(1 ECTS = 28 study hours)

Access requirements to the master programme
Holders of a Dutch bachelor diploma or a legalised and verified equivalence of this diploma with adequate knowledge of the English language have direct admission to Master programmes.
Depending upon the master programme chosen, certain subjects in bachelor programme are mandatory (additional exams might be required).

International diplomasupplement master's programme – university (page 2)

Universiteit Utrecht



Access to further study

A Utrecht University master degree makes a student eligible for a subject related PhD.

Accreditation

Accreditation by right through the Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO)

PROGRAMME AND RESULTS INFORMATION


Individual programme results

The following list specifies the programme the student has attended, including the grades and ECTS credits the student obtained. For a further explanation of the grades used by Utrecht University, please refer to appendix 2.

PROGRAMME:


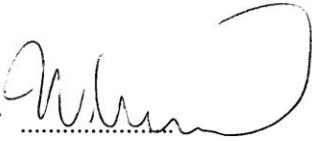
0263125 Courses and seminars	date	grade	ECTS
IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATES: AMERICAN STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINARATION AND ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATE	01-02-2005	7.5	15.0
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES: THEORIES OF AMERICAN CULTURE	08-02-2005	7.5	7.5
University New Hampshire Arts since WWI	06-03-2006	7.0	10.0
University New Hampshire Foreign relations of the US	06-03-2006	7.3	10.0
University New Hampshire Read Modern American History	06-03-2006	7.8	10.0
DIRECTED READING/DIRECTED RESEARCH TUTORIAL	13-04-2006	7.0	7.5

International diplomasupplement master's programme – university (page 3)

Universiteit Utrecht 

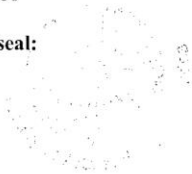
SUPPLEMENT CERTIFICATION

By the Examination Board

Signature:  

chair secretary

Date: 30 June 2006

Official stamp or seal: 


APPENDIX:

1. Utrecht University
2. The Education System in the Netherlands

Further information

- Utrecht University PO Box 80125 3584 CS Utrecht (The Netherlands) web site:	www.uu.nl
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences	www.minocw.nl
- NUFFIC: (=Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education)	www.nuffic.nl
- VSNU (= association of universities in the Netherlands)	www.vsnunl.nl

■ Diploma bachelor's programme – university of applied sciences



<p>Supplement ArEZ Institute of the Arts</p>	<p>The conferred: Bachelor of Dance (BD4)</p>	<p>The Chairman of the Board of Examiners: Hilt Svavairdottir</p>	<p>The Examination Candidate: Rosa Visser</p>
<p>Name: [redacted]</p>	<p>Professional status: Bachelor</p>	<p>The Secretary to the Board of Examiners: John Bellefrendal</p>	<p>Remarks: Arnhem, February 28, 2004</p>
<p>Place and date of birth: [redacted]</p>	<p>Date of new examination: February 28, 2004</p>	<p>Date of admission: September 1, 2000</p>	<p>Accreditation: Valid from September 1, 2002 to December 31, 2007 in accordance with Article 17a.14 of the Dutch Higher Education and Academic Research Act</p>
<p>Field of study: Dance</p>	<p>Specialisation: dancer</p>	<p>Length of programme: 4 years, full-time</p>	<p>Course workload: 240 credits</p>
<p>Place and date: Arnhem, February 28, 2004</p>			


■ Bachelor's programme - university of applied sciences (transcript)

Programme subjects	
Graduation Subjects	Classical Ballet (pointe work or boys' class) 8
	Modern (Graham Technique) 7
	Modern Dance 9
	Jazz 7
Other Practical Subjects	Partnering graduated
Dance Theatre Subjects	Improvisation/Composition graduated
	Drama 7
Theory Subjects	The History of Dance 8
	Knowledge of the Physical Aspects of Dance 7
	Music graduated
	Intercultural lectures graduated
Theatre Practical	Individual Work graduated
	Repertoire / Projects graduated
	Work placement: Dansgroep De Meesters Rotterdam graduated
Stage presentation	graduated



Dit afschrift (of copie) stamt overeen met het origineel.
 Datum: 10 JUN 2007

Diploma graduate programme – university of applied sciences

Conservatorium van Amsterdam	
Getuigschrift Hoger Beroepsonderwijs <i>Certificate of Higher Professional Education</i>	
<small>(ex artikel 7.11 van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek) (Higher education and research act, article 7.11)</small>	
De examencommissie van het Conservatorium van Amsterdam <small>The Examination Board of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam</small>	
belast met het afnemen van het afsluitend examen van de Voortgezette opleiding Muziek <small>entrusted with administering the final examination of the Advanced programme Music</small>	
Afstudeerrichting <small>specialization</small>	<i>Zang Klassiek</i>
verklaart dat <small>declares that</small>	
geboren op <small>born</small>	te <small>in</small>
dit examen met goed gevolg heeft afgelegd in het jaar 2003 <small>has satisfied the requirements of the above examination in the year</small>	
De studielast van de opleiding bedraagt 120 studiepunten (European Credits). <small>The study load of the programme is 120 European Credits.</small>	
Een diplomasupplement maakt deel uit van dit getuigschrift. <small>A diploma supplement is part of this certificate.</small>	
Het examen bevatte de in het diplomasupplement genoemde vakken. <small>The examination comprised the subjects listed in the diploma supplement.</small>	
Amsterdam, 4 juni 2003	
De examencommissie <small>Examination Board</small>	
voorzitter <small>chairman</small>	<i>M. A. de Koning</i>
secretaris <small>secretary</small>	<i>J. Bruijn</i>
Datum van accreditatie van bovenbedoelde opleiding: 31 december 2001. <small>Date of accreditation of the above programme: December 31 2001.</small>	
Bovenbedoelde opleiding is opgenomen in het Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs ex artikel 6.13 WHW. <small>The above programme is listed in the Central Register of Higher Education Study Programmes (Higher education and research act, article 6.13)</small>	
	
Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten 	

Diplomasupplement graduate programme – university of applied sciences

CONSERVATORIUM VAN AMSTERDAM

Diplomasupplement

behorende bij het Getuigschrift Hoger Beroeps onderwijs (afsluitend examen) als afgegeven door de examencommissie van het behorende tot de Certificate Higher Professional Education (final examination) as issued by the Examination Board of the

Conservatorium van Amsterdam

naam
name

geboortedatum
date of birth

geboorteplaats
place of birth

opleiding
field of study

afstudeerrichting
specialisation/main subject

duur van de opleiding
length of programme

studielast
study load

datum van accreditatie van de opleiding
date of accreditation of the programme

verleende graad
degree

datum afsluitend examen
date of final examination

vakgebieden <i>subjects in programme</i>	studiepunten <i>credits</i>
Hoofdvak <i>Main subject</i>	120.00
totaal aantal studiepunten <i>total amount of credits</i>	120.00
waarvan elders behaald <i>transcript of credits</i>	

Amsterdam, 04-06-2003


voorzitter examencommissie
Chairman Examination Board

secretaris
Secretary Examination Board

Amsterdamsche Hogeschool voor de Kunsten

Conservatorium van Amsterdam

Diploma master's programme – university of applied sciences

 **Conservatorium van Amsterdam**
Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten

Getuigschrift Hoger Beroepsonderwijs
Certificate of Higher Professional Education

De examencommissie van de hbo-masteropleiding Conservatorium van Amsterdam
The Examination Board of the Master's programme Conservatorium van Amsterdam
verklaart dat *declares that*

geboren *born* te *in*
met goed gevolg heeft afgelegd het afsluitend examen van de opleiding
has passed the final examination of the programme

Master
afstudeerrichting *specialization*

Piano

De studielast van de opleiding bedraagt 120 studiepunten (European Credits).
The study load of the programme is 120 European Credits.


De geëxamineerde is gerechtigd tot het voeren van de graad
The examinee has been awarded the degree

Master of Music


Het bijbehorende diplomasupplement bevat de examenonderdelen.
The accompanying diploma supplement lists the subjects on which the examinee was examined.

Amsterdam, 22 september 2011

Namens de examencommissie *Examination Board* geëxamineerde *examinee*



Commissie der Examinatoren *Commission of Examinators*



De opleiding is geaccrediteerd door de Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatie Organisatie.
The programme is accredited by the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders.

De opleiding wordt verzorgd door de Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten en is
geregistreerd in het Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs.
*The programme is offered by the Amsterdam School of the Arts and is listed in the
Central Register of Higher Education Study Programmes.*