

Dutch student grants and loans system

*Students from an EEA country** may apply for either a student grant within the Dutch student grants and loans system or a tuition fee allowance. It is not possible to apply for both forms of financial assistance simultaneously. The exact terms and conditions for financial assistance are:

Terms and conditions

Full-time students may apply for a student grant, which includes a student travel card (OV-studentenkaart). Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a citizen of an EEA country
- You must be a full-time student on a higher education course in the Netherlands which is eligible for a student grant
- You must have at least 32 hours of employment per month
- You must have an employment contract for that work
- You must be under the age of 30 when you apply for a student grant (you may continue to receive the grant up until you turn 34, but only if the period during which you receive the grant is uninterrupted)
- You must hold a Dutch bank account in your own name.

The allocation of the grant will depend on the student working a sufficient number of hours, and may not continue beyond the period of their employment.

If you are an EEA-citizen and you have lived in the Netherlands for at least 5 years (continuously), then it's not required to have at least 32 hours of employment per month.

What exactly is a student grant?

A student grant is a performance-related scholarship. Students will first receive this in the form of an interest-bearing loan. Based on your academic record, this loan may be converted into a grant, whereby the accrued interest will be waived. The number of years for which you are eligible for such a grant depends mostly on the degree you are awarded within the set degree period (diplomatermijn). All higher education courses have a degree period of 10 years, starting from when you first receive a student grant.

Duration of the student grant

You may receive a student grant for a maximum of 48 months for a one-year Master's degree programme, 60 months for a two-year Master's degree programme and 72 months for a three-year Master's degree programme. If you have already received a student grant for a previous degree programme in the Netherlands, the number of months for which you received the grant will be deducted from the maximum number of months. Whatever programme you are enrolled in, you may still take out a loan from the Informatie Beheer Groep (IB-Groep) for a maximum of 36 months after your student grant ends.

What are the academic performance requirements?

You must obtain your Master's degree within the stipulated degree period. Students who fail to meet this requirement will have to repay the student grant in full, including interest. They will also have to repay the sum of 78.35 euro (in 2006) for every month that they held a student travel card. However, students who receive a Bachelor's degree are not required to repay the student travel card held during their Master's degree programme.

Non-EEA countries are not eligible for student grants or tuition fee allowances.

Do you not meet the requirements? In special cases, a student might be entitled to the regular student grant. See the nationality chart of the (www.ibgroep.nl/InternationalVisitors/Welcome.asp)

* EEA countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. This arrangement also includes Switzerland.