

**** Disclaimer****

We are not licensed immigration advisers and we do not intend any of our content or communications to be taken as legal advice. We compile information and make that content more accessible with cohesive break-downs and collections. All information we make accessible is public information, information from government and international sources, that anyone could find. Our goal is to help people make the most confident and well-informed decision for their own needs and safety; and we do that by combining information with experience. We offer lists of immigration advisors, attorneys, and other organizations that may be of help as part of our information and services.

Making A Decision

Migrating

Residence Permit Vs. Asylum

1. Temporary Residence Permit

PROCESS: There are a few types of Residence Permits; the ones that are pertinent to us are Paid Employment and Student Residence Permits. You need to have a sponsor (Employer, University, Family member) to submit your resident Permits.

You *can* decide to fly to the Netherlands and begin looking for a job there. You have 90 days while in the Netherlands to apply for the permit before you are considered being there illegally. Keep in mind, **this takes away your chances of successfully seeking asylum.**

* It is worth noting that possibly leaving the NL and then returning could give you back the ability to seek asylum, but its risky.

Paid Employment Permits

- Requirements:
 - You have a valid passport or other travel document.
 - You do not pose a danger to public order or national security. Everyone over the age of 12 must completely fill in an Appendix Antecedents Certificate and enclose it with the application. In this certificate you indicate whether you have ever committed an offence or crime: <https://ind.nl/en/forms/7601.pdf>
 - You meet the income requirements (see link).
<https://ind.nl/en/required-amounts-income-requirements#application-for-a-residence-permit-to-work-in-paid-employment>
 - Your employer's company or organization is registered in the Commercial Register of the Chamber of Commerce (in Dutch: Kamer van Koophandel or KvK). This applies only if such registration is required under the Commercial Register Act 2007 (Hrw 2007).
 - Your employer pays you a normal salary under the collective labour agreement that applies to your organisation or company.
 - Your employer arranges the right housing for you. (yes, when you are hired for the purpose of a work permit, your employer will be arranging your accommodations. There are many regulations to ensure that the space is livable, comfortable, and hygienic!)
- Collect Documents
 - **NEED MORE INFO**

- Apply
 - Use one of these Application
 - <https://ind.nl/en/residence-permits/work/paid-employment-residence-permit-only#application-forms>
 - Your employer must apply to the IND for the residence permit. This can also be done if you are not yet in the Netherlands.
 - Or you may apply to the IND yourself.
 - You or your employer will apply in writing by post.
 - Employer may need work permit as well

- Pay Application Fees
 - Initial Application is € 405,00 (\$424.88)
- Decision
 - The IND has a max 90 day period to make a decision. The decision can be extended if, for example, they need more info or something wasn't filled out correctly
 - You will receive the decision in a letter. The decision will be positive or negative.
 - Positive decision: you will get a residence permit.
 - Negative decision: you will not receive a residence permit. You can object against this decision.
- Collect Permit
 - When the residence permit is ready at an IND desk, you will receive a letter. You must make an appointment to collect it.

Student Permits

- Requirements
 - You have a valid passport or other travel document.
 - You do not pose a danger to public order or national security. Everyone over the age of 12 must completely fill in an Appendix Antecedents Certificate and enclose it with the application. In this certificate you indicate whether you have ever committed an offence or crime: <https://ind.nl/en/forms/7601.pdf>
 - You meet the income requirements. (see link).
<https://ind.nl/en/required-amounts-income-requirements#application-for-a-residence-permit-to-work-in-paid-employment>
 - You have proof of registration or temporary proof of registration as a student at a university or institute of higher professional education (in Dutch: hoger beroepsonderwijs or HBO).
 - Your study programme is accredited: this means that it has been recognised by

Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders or NVAO (in the Netherlands) or the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education or EQAR (Europe).

- Your educational institution is a recognised sponsor with the IND.
- You will enroll in a full-time study programme.
- You meet the income requirements.
- Every year you make enough progress in your studies. This means that you obtain at least 50% of the credits for each study year.
- Documents
 - The educational institution has a list of documents you need. Collect all documents before your educational institution submits the application.
- Apply
 - Your educational institution submits the application for your student residence permit.
- Pay Fees
 - 243,00 (\$254.85)
- Decision
 - The IND has a max 60 day period to make a decision. The decision can be extended if, for example, they need more info or something wasn't filled out correctly
 - You will receive the decision in a letter. The decision will be positive or negative.
 - Positive decision: you will get a residence permit.
 - Negative decision: you will not receive a residence permit. You can object against this decision.
- Collect Permit
 - When the residence permit is ready at an IND desk, you will receive a letter. You must make an appointment to collect it.

Considerations

- Pros Highlights
 - 30% tax ruling. (mostly for “highly skilled” workers. Here's more info) <https://www.expatica.com/nl/finance/taxes/the-dutch-30-ruling-explained-101641/>
 - Better Chance of Integration
 - Better Option for those who meet the requirements
 - Can bring pets with easily
 - If denied, is not bared from entry and other options can be explored
- Cons Highlights
 - Will not receive many accommodations
 - Many more requirements and more complicated
 - More costly
- Extenuating Circumstances

- None at the moment.
- Costs
 - Application Fees
 - Flights
 - 2-3 months living expenses (recommended)
 - 1st and last months rent for residence (if not provided by employer)
- Contact
 - <https://ind.nl/en/residence-permits>
 - <https://ind.nl/en/service-contact/contact-with-ind>

2. Assylum

The process won't start until you have reached the Schiphol Airport

There are two possibilities. First, I will list the process of the usual procedure for those who come from a country that is considered “unsafe.” Since the USA is considered “Safe” as of 1/27/25, I will then add the accelerated procedure that takes place for those who come from a “safe” country of origin.

Normal Procedure

- 1. Application, Identification and Registration
 - Report to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee at Schiphol Airport
 - Pre-Registration
 - Receiving basic information about you
 - Identification and Registration
 - Identification
 - You'll be asked for documents about your identity, journey and the story behind your asylum application. Then, the KMar examines whether your documents are genuine. You will answer questions about your origin. This is how your identity and nationality are shown.
 - Registration
 - They will take your passport photos and fingerprints. Your identity, passport photos, and fingerprints are stored in a national computer system. These details are needed to handle your asylum application. You apply officially for asylum by signing an asylum application on paper.
- 2. TB test - Does not apply

- 3. Application Interview
 - The application interview is an interview with a staff member of the IND. You answer general questions, for example about yourself and your journey to the Netherlands. You also briefly explain the reason why you are applying for asylum.
- 4. Rest and Preparation Time
 - there will be 6 days to recover from your journey. During this period, you will receive
 - information about the asylum procedure;
 - help from a lawyer;
 - a medical declaration for use during their asylum procedure.
- 5. Procedure Starts (usual day-to-day of procedure)
 - Day 1: Detailed interview
 - In this interview with an IND staff member, you will explain why you are applying for asylum. An independent and impartial interpreter will provide the translation. Independent and impartial means the interpreter has no influence on your asylum application.
 - At a special interview, the asylum seeker can explain what they experienced in their country of origin and/or why they had to leave. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) will arrange an interpreter for this interview. The asylum seeker can call on the assistance of a lawyer or a representative of the Dutch Refugee Council. During the interview, the asylum seeker can speak **freely**. The IND can ask critical questions if necessary.
 - Afterwards, the asylum seeker is sent a report of the interview. Together with their lawyer, they may send the IND corrections or additions.
 - Asylum is for well-founded fear of persecution based on;
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Nationality
 - Political Opinion
 - Certain Social Groups (LGBTQIA+, Disabled, etc...)
 - Evidence of Reasons for Fear OR past persecution are helpful
 - Social Media
 - News
 - Legislation
 - Records
 - Personal Statements
 - Witness Statements
 - Day 2: Discussing the detailed interview and Assessment of Application ■ You speak with your lawyer. The lawyer will check together with you whether the

report of the detailed interview is correct, and inform the IND of errors and additions.

- The IND will assess the application based on:
- the asylum seeker's story (facts and credibility);
- the security situation in the country of origin.

○ Day 3: First decision

- An IND staff member reads what you said to the IND and your lawyer's response to you. After that, the IND decides whether you will obtain an asylum residence permit. There are 3 possibilities:
- You will obtain a temporary asylum residence permit. This is stated in a decision.
- The IND will continue handling your application in the Extended Asylum Procedure (VA).
- The IND is planning not to give you a temporary asylum residence permit. This first decision is written in a letter and is called an intended decision.

○ Day 4: Response to the decision

- You speak with your lawyer about the rejection of your asylum application in the intended decision. Do you not agree with the rejection? Your lawyer can explain in a viewpoint (letter) to the IND why you do not agree.

○ Days 5 and 6: Second decision

- The IND staff member reads your viewpoint and sees whether the intended decision must be changed. There are 3 possible outcomes:
- You will still obtain a temporary asylum residence permit. This is stated in a decision.
- The IND will continue handling your application in the Extended Asylum Procedure (VA).
- You will not obtain an asylum residence permit and you may have an entry ban imposed on you. This is stated in a decision. With help from your lawyer, you can appeal against this decision at a court in the

Netherlands. Accelerated Procedure

- Accelerated Procedure's main characteristics

- Short and fast asylum procedure.
- You stay and sleep in a reception centre.
 - You have 1 interview with the IND about your identity, nationality, travel route and why you are applying for asylum. Do you already have protection in a different EU/EEA country or Switzerland? In that case the interview will only be about why you left that country. The IND will take a decision after the interview.
- What if more information is needed before the IND can take a decision? In that case your asylum procedure will continue in the General Asylum Procedure (AA/AA+) or Extended Asylum Procedure.

- If the IND rejected your asylum application you can appeal to a Dutch Court. You are usually allowed to wait for the outcome in the Netherlands and you often still have a right to reception. Your lawyer will help you with your legal action.
- If the court agrees with the IND decision you must leave the Netherlands immediately. Your right to reception stops and you usually get an entry ban. You will move to a reception centre in order to return to your country of origin. Or you will be placed in a foreign nationals detention if the government cannot remove you from the country.
- If the court does not agree with the IND decision, you enter the Extended asylum procedure. And the IND will take a decision again.

Considerations

Pros Highlights

- You will be accommodated until you can get on your feet.
- Temporary housing includes meals
- You will be given an initial medical evaluation to determine past diagnosis, current complaints, medications, and other valuable information where the medical teams will discuss the next steps and set up appointments.

Cons Highlights

- **If you are denied asylum, you will be barred from entry into the EU for two years** ●
- Pets are welcomed into the Netherlands if requirements are met (see “pets”) but whether they are accepted into the government housing while awaiting approval is unclear. We will have people that may be able to come pick the pets up if needed, but can’t currently verify if that’s allowed.

Extenuating Circumstances

- Where USA stands in the “safe” vs “unsafe” list in the future

Costs

- Plan Tickets
- Application and all that is entailed is free
- The first few months of living expenses in temporary housing are covered

Contact

- +31 70 214 02 14
- [https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-asylum-and-migration/contact-us#:~:text=within%20the%20Netherlands%3A%201400%20\(local,31%2070%20214%2002%20](https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-asylum-and-migration/contact-us#:~:text=within%20the%20Netherlands%3A%201400%20(local,31%2070%20214%2002%20)

Other Considerations

- Family Reunification

- Resident Permit

- Immediate family members can apply for Reunification Resident Permits where you will be the sponsor

- Asylum

- Family Reunification is also welcomed for family of those who successfully claimed asylum.

- More info: <https://ind.nl/en/about-us/background-articles/family-reunification>

- Getting EU citizenship

- Process

- Live in Netherlands consecutively for 5 years with residence permit and renew permit on time every time.

- Heavily refrain from illegal and criminal activity

- During 5 years, you work on civic integration in preparation for the civic integration exam.

- Knowledge of Dutch society

- Speaking competence

- Listening competence

- Reading competence

- Writing competence

- Newcomers (5 year residence) will be given the exam on the A2 level. Basically “beginner”.

- Take Civic Integration Exam and receive diploma

- Renounce current (American) Nationality

- Attend your Naturalization ceremony
 - You must be willing to make the declaration of solidarity during the naturalization ceremony. You hereby declare that you are aware that the laws of the Kingdom of the Netherlands also apply to you.
- You are now an EU citizen

Deciding Where to Live

- Cities (some of the best)
 - Amsterdam
 - <https://www.expattarrivals.com/europe/netherlands/amsterdam/pros-and-cons-moving-amsterdam>
 - Rotterdam
 - <https://www.expattarrivals.com/europe/netherlands/rotterdam/pros-and-cons-moving-rotterdam>
 - The Hague
 - <https://www.expattarrivals.com/europe/netherlands/hague/moving-hague>
 - Utrecht
 - <https://www.expattarrivals.com/europe/netherlands/utrecht/moving-utrecht>
 - Leiden
 - <https://housenix.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-living-in-leiden/>
 - Groningen
 - <https://aroundtheworldwithme.com/pros-and-cons-of-living-in-groningen/>
 - Maastricht
 - <https://housenix.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-living-in-maastricht/>
 - Eindhoven
 - <https://expattarrivals.com/europe/netherlands/eindhoven/lifestyle-eindhove>

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- Nijmegen

- <https://housenix.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-living-in-nijmegen/>

- Avoid these

- Bible Belt Cities: The fact that they're cities and territories makes it hard to look up specific ones, but just look up and see if it's in the bible belt, and google will give you your answer

Employment and/or Education

Jobs

- Job Sites

- <https://www.jobinthenetherlands.com/english-speaking-jobs-in-the-netherlands/>
- <https://www.expatica.com/nl/working/finding-a-job/finding-jobs-in-the-netherlands-102331/>
- <https://www.welcome-to-nl.nl/jobs/>

Resumes/Interview

School

- Types

- Research Universities
 - Education is more theoretical and scientific.
 - The emphasis is on obtaining critical and analytical thinking skills in order to conduct research in a specific field.
 - Fewer contact hours and more course material to study independently.
 - Typically takes three years to complete, but usually does not include an internship.
 - Prepares for an academic, research or professional role.
- Universities of Applied Science
 - Education is more hands-on and profession-oriented.
 - The emphasis is on obtaining skills and knowledge that can immediately be put into use in the professional field.
 - More contact hours and more learning through doing projects.
 - Typically takes four years to complete and always includes an internship.
 - Prepares for a professional role.

- Average Fees (for International Students)
 - While fees are fixed and low for citizens, international students pay more, and it isn't fixed. Applied Science degrees tend to be cheaper.
 - Fees are still much lower than American tuition
 - <https://www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/studies>
 - This is a great guide to look up specific programs to gauge the cost of the degree
- Scholarships
 - NL Scholarship (formerly Holland Scholarship): The national Scholarship for non-Dutch Students
 - For non-EEA students, this scholarship programme offers a one-off payment of €5,000 to students applying for a full-time bachelor's at an institution participating in the scheme.
 - There are many other scholarships, but they are university-specific. Here is a current list.
 - <https://scholarshiproar.com/netherlands-scholarships-for-international-students/>
- Best University Options
 - <https://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/europe/netherlands/guide>
 - Research Universities
 - TU Delft
 - <https://www.tudelft.nl/en/>
 - Erasmus University Rotterdam
 - <https://www.eur.nl/en>
 - Leiden University
 - <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en>
 - Radboud University
 - <https://www.ru.nl/en>
 - University of Amsterdam
 - https://www.uva.nl/en/home?utm_source=iamexpat.nl&utm_medium=referral
 - University of Groningen
 - <https://www.rug.nl/>
 - Utrecht University
 - <https://www.uu.nl/en>
 - Universities of Applied Science
 - <https://www.iamexpat.nl/education/studying-netherlands/dutch-higher-education/hogescholen>
- Working while in School
 - Students will need a work permit
 - Can only work **either** no more than 10 hours a week throughout the year, or

full-time in June, July, and August – but not both

Apartment Searching (If not by Employment)

- Accommodations Guide: (Housing is called “Accommodations” in Netherlands)
 - https://www.reddit.com/r/StudyInTheNetherlands/comments/10gv88g/the_ultimate_guide_to_finding_student/

Credits and Loans

- There are a lot of things to consider when it comes to moving abroad while still having U.S. loans, especially if you plan to renounce your citizenship at some point. The following information is what I can get from personal experiences, as there’s no definitive answer as to whether you should keep paying on them or not.
- Private Debt
 - If you are abroad and the amount is not millions of dollars, then it would likely be very difficult and expensive for a collector to actively pursue you for repayment.
 - It is important to note that you would still have the obligation in the original country, and if you ever return, you will still have that obligation (the creditor could serve notice when you are in the country).
 - Extradition (removal from one country to another for court proceedings / criminal investigations) is usually reserved for criminal charges, not typical financial issues.
- Government Debt (I.e. Student loans)
 - Government Debt is more important to continue to pay. It seems that renouncing citizenship with Government debt can be tricky.

Taxes and Tax Obligations

- Taxes are a lot, so I have a great article laying out information about tax obligations: <https://www.greenbacktaxservices.com/country-guide/expat-taxes-for-netherlands/> ○ Essentially, it looks like there is a treaty to ensure that expats are not burdened with double taxation (taxes to two countries). The purpose of going to the Netherlands is to become a resident, so don’t get “resident” and “Citizen” mixed up.

- <https://www.expertsforexpats.com/country/usa/finance-and-money/what-happens-to-my-401k-when-i-move-abroad/#:~:text=As%20a%20result%2C%20the%20401k,monies%20as%20you%20need%20to.>

Opium Act

- The Opium Act makes it illegal to bring certain medications across the Dutch border. This does include **Stimulants (Ritalin, Adderall) and Anxiety Meds (Benzos)** ● If you are prescribed one of these meds, you will need to fill out a medical certificate to legally carry these meds with you.
 - <https://www.government.nl/topics/medicines/medicines-and-travel/applying-for-a-schengenverklaring-or-a-medical-certificate-to-travel-outside-of-the-netherlands-with-restricted-medication>

Pets

- Pets are allowed to come with! There are some requirements to consider:
 - the animal must be at least 15 weeks old
 - the animal must be vaccinated at 12 weeks old
 - after the animal has been vaccinated, you must wait 21 days before bringing it to the Netherlands
 - the animal must be microchipped and have a EU pet passport.
 - For migrants outside of the EU, a health certificate is required.
 - Info on the process:
 - <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-netherlands>
- Options
 - Taking on flight to NL
 - When flying, you can either pay to have your pet checked in the cargo or if it is a small pet, you can pay a fee to have them as a carryon. These options differ between airlines. Delta allows pet carryons for \$200 to the NL. American Airlines looks like they don't allow pet carryons for transatlantic flights.
 - If you take them on the flight, be sure to double check requirements including size of pet and type of crate as well as prices. Here are the links for Delta and American Airlines for more info:
 - <https://www.delta.com/us/en/pet-travel/international-connection-pe>

[t-travel](#)

- <https://www.aa.com/i18n/travel-info/special-assistance/pets.jsp>

- Shipping them to your location

- If you have a family member or a trusted friend they can stay with for a bit, there are services that offer to ship your pet to your address internationally. While this sounds scary, I'm seeing some great reviews of a few of these companies. PetRelocation seems to be the highest scored.

This is a great choice if you are claiming asylum and don't want to risk your pet not being accepted.

- <https://www.petrelocation.com/>

Criminal Record

- There are a lot of stipulations about having a criminal record, but it looks like that if it wasn't violent, sex, or drug related then it's unlikely they'll care. As far as drugs go, it also is clear that they will weigh the charge based on **Dutch law at the time of the infraction**. Weed, for example, has been decriminalized since 1976, so a possession charge won't red flag your application. This link explains very well how to determine your position with a criminal record.

<https://www.mynta.nl/en/knowledge-base/moving-to-the-netherlands-with-a-prior-criminal-conviction>

- “the IND will not automatically reject an application for a residence permit from someone with a criminal background if any of the following apply:
 - Twenty years have passed for crimes that are punishable in Dutch law by more than six years imprisonment
 - Ten years have passed for violent and drug crimes punishable in Dutch law by six years or less
 - Five years have passed for other crimes not mentioned in the first two points.”