

## TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE DELIVERED ON NOVEMBER 10, 2018 (FORUM 2)

Focus: Securing Admissions and Scholarships in The Netherlands.

Presented by:

 Scholar Esther Ewaoluwa (Animal Science, WUR)

Moderator:

 Scholar Michael Frimpong

### Post Graduate Application and Timeline

Applications in The Netherlands for most courses start in September/October. Some courses, though few, start in February. You can easily visit respective school websites to know when application for your choice of study starts, whether in September or February; albeit, most start in September.

Currently, application form is out for those who want to study in The Netherlands come next year, 2019. Application closes between February and May. For those who need scholarship, application closes in February. For those who want to study by self-sponsoring, application closes in May

### Things to Note when Applying for Admissions and Scholarships

- Prior to getting a scholarship, it is imperative to apply, first, for admission into schools in The Netherlands. The admission application is initiated by creating a **studielink** account.
- In the course of applying for admission, a method of payment has to be indicated on the application form (scholarships, as applicable in this case). An invitation is sent via email to prospective candidates having good grades, affirming the move to apply for scholarships.
- Scholarships differ, depending on the funds available in the country and the scholarship bodies. Some are full scholarships, where every expenses are covered e.g. **OKP** (Orange Knowledge Programme), formerly called **NFP**. So also, some cover part of the tuition, and for some, you would only need to pay the expenses for your transportation to the country.

- Requirements for admission include: Transcript (unofficial/students' copy will suffice), proof of English, Statement of Purpose, and Degree Certificate.

The Netherlands accept MOI (Medium of Instruction) in lieu of proof of English Language Proficiency. MOI is a letter to indicate you have been taught in English all through the time of your study in the previous institution. MOI is way cheaper and can be gotten from your alma mater.

Getting the admission is hitch-free, once you meet the requirements, however, when applying for scholarships, **OKP**, to use an example; an **EMPLOYER STATEMENT** is required. This document is crucial as it determines whether or not a candidate will be handed the scholarship. It is expected of every graduates to have been absorbed into a sector, be it a university or, probably, companies where such document can be given out.

## **The Netherlands Visa Application Process**

Once selected for scholarship, visa application is processed by the school for every scholar. No form of interview is conducted and the respective schools keep you posted regarding every steps to be taken further. Unequivocally, visas have to be collected either at Benin republic or Ghana.

## **Opportunities in The Netherlands**

If you're on a scholarship, you're not allowed to work. only study, but an allowance of about 850-950 Euros is being paid, including house rent. Consequent upon concluding your study, you are expected to return to your home country, however, you can stay back for a year more to search for job. You can also decide to apply for a PhD after your masters depending on the kind of supervisor you had in the course of your graduate study.

## **Generic Questions and Answers**

**Q.** Is there any application fee required for admission?

**A.** No, everything is absolutely free.

**Q.** Can one apply to any school that offers one's course, with the hope that we will get a scholarship even when no scholarship is advertised?

**A.** All schools have scholarships. At least all schools have **OKP**, which is organized by the government. So, yes, apply for admission and wait for them to invite you having indicated scholarship as method of payment in the application form.

**Q.** Can one apply to several schools (same discipline)?

**A.** Besides law, no two universities would offer the same course. So, automatically, you can't apply for the same course in different universities within the Netherlands. Moreover, there's a high risk of getting disqualified, should such action be taken.

**Q.** can one be allowed to work after PhD before returning to the home country?

**A.** After PhD, there are so many opportunities. You can decide to work in or outside the country. Also, they pay their PhD students amply.

**Q.** Does everyone speak English there?

**A.** 70% of Dutch speak English.

**Q.** what's the link to register on studielink?

**A.** The university you are applying to would provide the link.

P.S: For more information, endeavour to visit the website of your prospective school of choice. Also, where difficulty is experienced in the course of your application, look out for contacts (Phone Numbers, Emails etc.) on the school website, and table down your complaints, it shall, usually, be attended to.

Edited and Compiled by **JOE AVERAGE VI**

For The International Scholarship Forum