



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Destination Netherlands

Using your Cambridge
qualifications to study
in the Netherlands

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About us

Cambridge Assessment International Education prepares school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of the University of Cambridge.

Our Cambridge Pathway gives students a clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19. Schools can shape the curriculum around how they want students to learn – with a wide range of subjects and flexible ways to offer them. It helps students discover new abilities and a wider world, and gives them the skills they need for life, so they can achieve at school, university and work.

Cambridge Assessment English

Our sister organisation, Cambridge Assessment English, help millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world. They provide the world's leading range of qualifications and tests for learners and teachers of English. Globally recognised by more than 20 000 leading universities, employers and governments, these research-based assessments are a mark of excellence that open doors.

Find out more about Cambridge Assessment English recognition by visiting:
[cambridgeenglish.org/recognition](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition)

A pathway to university success with Cambridge International

Cambridge qualifications help you develop the knowledge, understanding and skills you need to achieve success at school, university and beyond. Cambridge International AS & A Levels are recognised by higher education institutions across the Netherlands. They are valued by Dutch universities as academically rigorous qualifications that give you the skills to succeed at university and in the workplace.

Cambridge qualifications prepare you for the next stage of your educational journey. We believe it is essential to make sure that students holding Cambridge qualifications do not just get into university, but that they are well prepared to succeed in their studies and are well equipped with the necessary academic skills.

Cambridge learners have been admitted to a variety of universities in the Netherlands – you can learn more about the types of universities in the Netherlands on page 2.

Did you know?

- International students come from more than 160 different countries to study in the Netherlands.
- Some of the world's biggest multinationals, including Philips, Heineken, KLM, Shell, ING and Unilever, are Dutch. Many offer opportunities and placements, and the Dutch government allows international graduates to apply for an orientation year – a residence permit of one year to find a job or to start a business within three years of graduation.
- There is a central database of courses in the Netherlands where you can search the courses offered and find the best options for you. Discover more at www.studyfinder.nl



Please note: All information is correct at the time of publication. For the latest information and statements from universities accepting Cambridge qualifications, search our recognition database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch

Why choose the Netherlands?

There are many reasons to study for your bachelor's degree in the Netherlands. The higher education system is well regarded, offering widely recognised qualifications, a global student community and a great quality of life.

University courses are taught in either Dutch or English and there are a wide range of subjects to choose from.

There are two main types of university in the Netherlands: Research Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences.

There are 14 Research Universities offering an academic setting, typically with a three-year undergraduate programme.

Universities of Applied Sciences (36 in total) offer programmes that focus on the practical applications of arts and sciences. Courses usually take four years to complete and often also involve internships or other practical work experience.

In addition, the Netherlands also has University Colleges. These offer honours programmes in a smaller, usually residential environment with a strong international focus. University Colleges offer a Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum and are linked to a Research University.



Which course is right for you?

Choosing the right university course is a very important decision. We suggest that you:

- take time to research the options that are on offer
- think about the type of university you are most interested in
- consider the location of the university
- look at the choice of activities on offer
- understand the costs, including course fees, accommodation and living expenses.

This information is available on university websites. Many universities have specialist advisers who can support you with your choices. You can also find further information at www.studyinholland.nl

What are the entry requirements for Dutch universities?

Academic requirements

Research Universities usually require Cambridge learners to present a total of six different subjects – three at Cambridge International A Level and three at Cambridge IGCSE™ – to be considered for admission to bachelor programmes. The grade requirements vary according to the university but many require all subjects to be at Grade C or above. Subject requirements must be met and this varies between programme and university. It is important to check directly with the university as not all subjects satisfy the requirements.

University Colleges (honours colleges) take a holistic approach to admissions but usually require a minimum of three Cambridge International A Levels and three Cambridge IGCSEs.

Universities of Applied Sciences typically require Cambridge learners to present a total of six different subjects – two at Cambridge International AS Level and four at Cambridge IGCSE – to be considered for admission to bachelor programmes. There may be a minimum grade requirement, often at Grade C or above, and students must also satisfy any subject requirements, which vary according to the programme.

Language requirements

With numerous courses taught in English, universities have a minimum level of English language proficiency. For students applying to study in Dutch, a minimum language level is also required. The acceptance of English language tests varies between universities, and some applicants will be exempted on the basis of certain educational diplomas. You should check directly with the universities you are interested in applying to for further information.



How do I apply to study at a university in the Netherlands?

There are several ways to apply for a programme in the Netherlands and so it is important to check the programme details. You typically apply in two steps, with the central application and registration service for the Netherlands, Studielink, and with the university directly, which makes admissions decisions.

Before applying for a bachelor's programme, it is important to check the entry requirements (including any subject-specific requirements) and if the programme is taught in English or Dutch.

Next, check application deadlines. These will vary according to the programme, with the most competitive courses usually having the earliest deadline. Numerus Fixus courses are programmes where places are limited and where the number of students applying usually exceeds the places available. In this case, additional selection takes place, which is different from that of a regular study programme. You may only apply to two Numerus Fixus programmes in one year.

The early-bird deadline for some University Colleges is 1 December, for Numerus Fixus courses is 15 January and for most other programmes is 1 May.

You should then prepare your documents – your school will be able to help you with this. Universities may require information and transcripts regarding your current and previous education, proof of language proficiency and a scan of your passport. If you have not yet completed your Cambridge International AS & A Levels, a statement of enrolment from your school confirming your enrolment, the qualifications and subjects you are taking and the expected completion date will usually be required.

You are then ready to start the main part of the application process. You will first need to register with Studielink, the online application and registration service for universities in the Netherlands. If you have a DigiD, you will log in with this.

In your Studielink account, you can have a maximum of four active applications, including a maximum of two for Numerus Fixus programmes. You will need to complete the section about your previous and current education, and select the programme(s) you wish to apply to.

Once you have completed all relevant sections in your Studielink account, you should submit your application by clicking the 'Confirm' button.

Studielink may then pass your information to the universities you have applied to. They will review your application and assess whether your previous education makes you suitable for the programme you have chosen. Many universities will require additional information at this stage. Many use their own online application system where you may need to create an account and upload your documents. This varies between universities, so please check to make sure you follow the correct process.



If you have met the minimum criteria for the programme you have applied for, you may be admitted or conditionally admitted to the course if you have not yet completed your exams. Conditional admittance means you need to meet the condition for admission, which can be found in your decision letter.

You will need to respond to your application, which will typically be to accept your offer at your chosen university. You will need to complete your registration (including adding any documents that may still be required) and pay your tuition fee before starting your studies.

For further information and support with the application process, visit www.studielink.nl or contact the universities you plan to apply to directly.



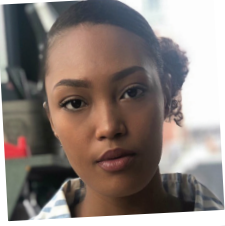
What happens when I receive my Cambridge exam results?

It is important to check with your chosen university what information they will need to confirm your enrolment. Admission to Dutch universities is conditional upon completion of your high school studies, and so universities will require proof of your achievement in your Cambridge International AS & A Levels. Some universities may accept this electronically, while others may require a certified copy. Universities may also require proof of your language ability, in either Dutch or English, and so it is important that this certification is also included.

Cambridge International also offers a priority results service, allowing educational institutions to receive your provisional statement of results directly on results release day. For further information on this service, visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/results

Student success stories

Hear from former Cambridge students

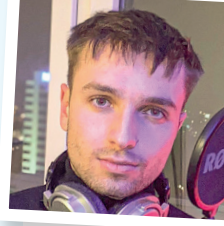


Alisa Adams

Course: Politics and Law
School: Chisipite Senior School, Harare, Zimbabwe
University: University College Roosevelt, the Netherlands.

Alisa is a former student of Chisipite Senior School, Harare, Zimbabwe. She is currently studying Politics and Law at University College Roosevelt in the Netherlands.

“I have realised that my Cambridge International A Level studies prepared me well for my university education. The workload was high, but getting used to that level of commitment to my studies made the transition to university so much easier for me. Additionally, the subjects I studied for both my Cambridge O Levels and International A Levels taught me skills and gave me knowledge which I still use at university.”



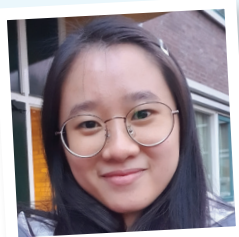
Andrei Popescu

Course: International Business Administration
School: The International School of Paphos, Cyprus
University: Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Andrei is a former student of the International School of Paphos, Cyprus. He is currently studying International Business Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

“While Cambridge International A Levels certainly helped bring my level of critical thinking, global mentality and analytical skills to a high level, I was not prepared for such a great level of self-study and independence. Nevertheless, attending lectures regularly and keeping up on the reading and assignments is more than enough for staying on track. Cambridge International A Levels are great because you go into a subject in a lot of depth before you even start university. Cambridge qualifications also teach important lessons in critical thinking, working discipline and punctuality, regardless of which courses you take.

I strongly recommend studying in the Netherlands. The student life is great and there are so many opportunities here for students.”



Arister Yew

Course: Liberal Arts & Sciences
School: Sunway College, Malaysia
University: University College Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Arister is a former student of Sunway College, Malaysia. She is currently studying Liberal Arts & Sciences at University College Utrecht in the Netherlands.

“The depth and richness of the Cambridge International A Level syllabus built a strong foundation for my bachelor’s degree. Cambridge International A Level examinations typically ask challenging questions which demand higher-level

thinking skills based on learned concepts. Through these examinations, I realised the importance of having an in-depth understanding of concepts and of being able to apply the fundamentals in order to solve complicated questions. According to my biology lecturer, Cambridge International A Level examinations are high quality and hard work is essential to achieve good results. By adopting similar studying strategies and techniques, I can now handle my university studies in the Netherlands where it is a great pleasure to be able to study. Overall, I had a fruitful and enriching journey through my Cambridge qualifications, which helped me transition to becoming a degree student in the Netherlands.”



Farina Shaaban

Course: Biomedical Sciences,
Life Science and Economics
School: The International
School of Zanzibar, Tanzania

University: University College Roosevelt,
the Netherlands.

Farina sat Cambridge examinations as a private candidate at the International School of Zanzibar, Tanzania. She is currently studying Biomedical Sciences, Life Science and Economics at University College Roosevelt.

"Sitting for Cambridge International A Levels after just a year of self-study was not easy but worth it: it taught me academic discipline, gave me an internationally recognised qualification and made my first year of college a lot more manageable. My favourite part of the Cambridge International A Level course was its focus on problem solving.

At university, my introductory courses were a smooth continuation from my previous studies and sometimes a more detailed recap of Cambridge International A Level material. This allowed me to spend more time adjusting to my new environment."



Wei Liam Yap

Course: Economics
School: Methodist College,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
University: Tilburg University,
the Netherlands.

Wei is a former student of Methodist College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is currently studying Economics at Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

"I chose Cambridge International qualifications mainly because they are very widely accepted among universities across the world. My studies definitely helped me tremendously, giving me really good exposure to subjects I am interested in and therefore paving the way for my future. As the qualifications are recognised by most universities, I did not have to worry about the range of universities I could choose from, as long as I achieved the required results.

As Cambridge qualifications are generally quite challenging they have prepared me for my university studies and they have definitely given me an edge. For example, most of the Cambridge maths syllabus is useful in my university course where many students in my class have struggled.

Cambridge International qualifications give students a better understanding of the subjects they are studying, which helps them choose their major in university. If you haven't decided where to study, Cambridge qualifications are a good option as they are a stepping stone to enter most universities."

Cambridge International AS & A Level recognition

Leading universities and employers worldwide value and recognise Cambridge qualifications as evidence of academic ability.

Cambridge International's recognition database lists worldwide institutions that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. It is regularly updated with new recognition statements, so you can see where your Cambridge qualifications are accepted. There are many more institutions not listed in the database that accept Cambridge qualifications and we always recommend you check with your chosen institution directly. To see the latest information, or to search for your chosen institution, go to www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch

Here are some examples of the official recognition that Cambridge qualifications have received from higher education institutions in the Netherlands.

Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Erasmus University Rotterdam welcomes applications from students holding Cambridge International A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs.

Students generally require three Cambridge IGCSEs at Grade C or above plus three Cambridge International A Levels (that is, six different subjects in total) to be considered for admission to undergraduate degree programmes.

Hotelschool, The Hague

Two Advanced Levels (A Levels) in relevant subjects such as business studies, languages and geography combined with at least four GCSE subjects at Grades A*, A, B or C.



HZ University of Applied Sciences

HZ University of Applied Sciences welcomes applications from students holding Cambridge International AS Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs.

Students generally require four Cambridge IGCSEs at Grade C/4 or above plus two Cambridge International AS Levels (that is, six different subjects in total) to be considered for admission to undergraduate degree programmes.

Leiden University

Leiden University welcomes applications from students holding Cambridge International A Levels. Students generally require three Cambridge International A Levels in general, academic subjects with Grades A–C plus three Cambridge IGCSE subjects at Grade C or above to be considered for admission to undergraduate degree programmes.

Tilburg University

Entry to bachelor programmes at Tilburg University requires at least three Cambridge International A Levels in general in academic subjects with Grades A*–C, plus three GCSE subjects with Grades A*–C (six different subjects in total).

University College Roosevelt

Three academic A Levels with Grade B or higher (IGCSE Maths is sufficient for admission, though a Maths A Level is recommended for those with an interest in science, engineering and economics).

University of Amsterdam

The University of Amsterdam welcomes applications from students holding Cambridge International A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs.

Students generally require three Cambridge IGCSEs at Grade C/Grade 4 or above plus three Cambridge International A Levels (that is, six different subjects in total) to be considered for admission to undergraduate degree programmes. These requirements are comparable to the Dutch VWO diploma.

Dutch universities that accept Cambridge qualifications



Online help

You can find answers to frequently asked questions about Cambridge exams and services at www.cambridgeinternational.org/help

Simply type your question into the search box, or use the menu to guide you.

Contact us

You can email us at info@cambridgeinternational.org or call us on +44 1223 553554.

We are available 24 hours a day, 6 days a week.

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