

# GREENHEART TRAVEL

# High School Abroad

## Netherlands



Curriculum Guidelines





## OVERVIEW OF THE NETHERLANDS' SCHOOL SYSTEM

High School in the Netherlands is called Voortgezet Onderwijs. After 8 years of Primary school, Dutch students will choose between general and vocational education:

Preparatory vocational education (VBO, 4 years)	=	Senior secondary vocational education (MBO)
Junior general secondary education (MAVO, 4 years)		
Senior general secondary education (HAVO, 5 years)	=	Higher professional education
University preparatory education (VWO, 6 years)	=	University

### Subjects in the Netherlands

Exchange students are generally placed in 4 HAVO or 4 VWO (the equivalent of 10th grade) or in 5 VWO (the equivalent of 11th grade). There is a compulsory common core curriculum to each of the different schools during the first three years. All the students will study the following subjects: Dutch, other Languages, Sciences and Biology, Mathematics, Geography, History, Physical Education, the Arts.

The rest of the curriculum will depend on the *Profielen* the student chooses. Students in the HAVO School and VWO School will choose one of the 4 tracks or *Profielen*:

- Science and Technology
- Science and Healthcare
- Economics and Society
- Culture and Society

They may also combine Science and Technology with Science and Healthcare as well as combine Economics and Society with Culture and Society.

In each track, students will study the core subjects mentioned above, as well as specialized subjects and elective subjects (corresponding to the *Profielen* chosen).

## Academic Calendar

The length of the school year depends on the area the school is located; on average it runs from August to July, and it is divided into terms. Almost all the subjects are taught during the whole school year.

The vacation periods also depend on the location of the school. There is a one week vacation in October, 2 weeks in December to January for Christmas, 1 week in February, 1 week in May and the summer vacations at the end of the school year are in July. High Schools in the Netherlands are open Monday through Friday.

## Schedule

On average a school day in the Netherlands starts at 8:15 am and ends at 2:30 pm with a 15 minute break in the morning and a 45-minute break for lunch. Unlike in the US, the subjects are not repeated everyday but are given 2 or 3 hours a week.

## Extra-curricular Activities

Dutch high schools do not usually offer extracurricular activities. It is possible to participate in activities like sports, music or art by joining a club in your community.

## Transcripts

Exchange students will receive a certificate that proves they did participate in the exchange program. If they want a formal transcript, they need to ask for it themselves. The school will decide to deliver it or not, depending on the efforts the students put into their work and participation during the school year.

## Tutoring

Usually, extra-tutoring is not available. Students may ask their teacher to direct them to somebody who would be willing to give extra-classes, but it is not common.

## Exams and Results

Exchange students are not graded on the same level as their Dutch peers; they especially are not graded on the same level while they are developing their Dutch language skills. In the Netherlands, the grading scale goes from 1 to 10. 10 is the highest grade, 6 is the minimum pass, and 1 the lowest grade.

### U.S./Netherlands High School Grading Scale:

GRADES		MEANING	
USA	Netherlands	Dutch Term	English Term
A	10-9	<i>ultmuntend, zeer goed</i>	excellent, very good
B	8-7	<i>goed, ruim voldoende</i>	good, amply sufficient
C	6-5	<i>voldoende, bijna voldoende,</i>	sufficient, almost sufficient
D	4-3	<i>onvoldoende gering</i>	insufficient, low
F	2-1	<i>slecht, zeer slecht</i>	bad, very bad

## What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

## Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.