



Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en
Wetenschap

EU and EEA students Tuition fees loan 2011-2012

Do you come from a country in the European Union or a country in the European Economic Area or Switzerland? Then you may apply for a loan for your tuition fees. In this brochure you find information about the conditions, and how to apply.

The options

In the Netherlands, students in university or higher vocational education (hbo) are required to pay tuition fees for each academic year. If you are from an EU or EEA country or Switzerland, and have enrolled in a course in the Netherlands, you qualify for a tuition fees loan for the period you are registered in the academic year 2011-2012.

Tuition fees loan

EU/EEA students who are not entitled to full funding of their studies for a higher educational course in the Netherlands, are entitled to part of the funding of the 'studiefinanciering', namely the tuition fees loan. The tuition fees loan is a monthly loan intended specifically for the

payment of tuition fees. You repay the loan after your graduation or after you have finished your study.

The tuition fees loan is a form of student finance. The months in which you receive a tuition fees loan count as months used for student finance. Should you subsequently become entitled to the full funding of your studies, then the months in which you received a tuition fees loan will be deducted from your entitlement to the full student finance.

The amount of the tuition fees loan

In the Netherlands there are two forms of tuition fees, namely statutory tuition fees and institutional tuition fees.

The government sets the amount of the statutory tuition fees every year; in 2011-2012 the statutory tuition fees are € 1,713. The educational institution sets the amount of the institutional tuition fees for each course. When you comply with the conditions for a tuition fees loan, then you can always borrow the amount of the statutory tuition fees. You can obtain a higher tuition fees loan only when you pay institutional tuition fees that are in excess of the statutory tuition fees.

Note: when you are required to pay institutional tuition fees, then you may borrow a maximum of five times the statutory tuition fees.

Conditions

You may apply for a tuition fees loan if you:

- are a national of an EU country (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, or Sweden), an EEA country (Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein), or have Swiss nationality, or if you received the status of EU-citizen through marriage or the forming of a family
- take a course in the Netherlands that qualifies for Dutch student finance
- pay tuition fees for that course in the Netherlands
- do not qualify for Dutch student finance under the nationality rules
- do not receive a form of study grant from your own country.

Your age

- if you are 18 years or older when your degree program begins, then you may be entitled to a tuition fee loan from the first month you start with your program. If you are under the age of 18, you qualify from the first quarter after you have started your degree program.
- if you turn 30 during your study, you are still entitled if you meet a number of conditions:

- you must have started your education in the Netherlands before your 30th birthday.
- you must have received a tuition fees loan or a student grant for the degree programme before your 30th birthday.
- you must apply for and receive a loan every year.
- you must not interrupt your study in the Netherlands.

Perhaps you qualify for student finance

Are you a national of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, and are you taking a course in the Netherlands? If so, you may be entitled to (full) funding of your studies (in Dutch: 'studiefinanciering') and a tuition fees loan. However, you will need to comply with one of the following conditions:

- you work in the Netherlands or
- one of your parents or your spouse/registered partner works in the Netherlands and is a national of an EU/EEA country (other than the Netherlands), or Switzerland or
- you have resided in the Netherlands for at least five years without lengthy breaks.

You can also check the nationality chart on www.duo.nl. More information about student finance is available there as well.

What you have to do

Apply in time

You must apply for a tuition fees loan by completing the form *Application loan tuition fees for students from EU/EEA countries* and sending it to DUO, together with the requisite documents. You can download the application form from www.duo.nl. The explanatory notes to the form explain exactly which documents you need to enclose with your application. Apply in good time. Do you wish to receive a tuition fees loan as from 1 September 2011? If so, then you must apply before 1 February 2012. If you apply at a later date, then you will receive less tuition fees loan.

Terminating your study

If you terminate your degree programme in the Netherlands, then you must inform DUO in writing. The tuition fees loan is intended for a full year of study. You receive the tuition fees loan in monthly instalments. If you terminate your studies and deregister early, then the tuition fees loan allocated to you will be adjusted accordingly. You will be notified of this adjustment.

Pay back

You always have to pay back the tuition fees loan, also if you do not finish your course or if you leave the Netherlands. Make sure you inform DUO of your new address.

Two years after terminating your study, you have to start paying back. If you do not have sufficient income to pay your monthly term, you can apply for a reduction of your monthly term.

A tuition fees loan is a regular loan. You always have to pay back a loan after your degree programme.

What DUO does

Assessment of the application

DUO assesses if you are entitled to a contribution for tuition fees. If you are, you will be informed that you will be paid the contribution. We will also inform you if you do not qualify for a contribution.

Verification of the information supplied

DUO will verify afterwards if you were indeed entitled to the amount paid out to you. DUO will therefore check with the school or university if you were registered there. DUO regularly receives requests from other countries to check if foreign students have been paid a contribution for tuition fees by DUO. DUO complies with the Personal Data Protection Act (Wet bescherming persoonsgegevens).

Getting what you are entitled to

The funds DUO manages and pays out are government funds. DUO ensures that all students get what they are entitled to. Nothing more, nothing less. For this reason we ask you to supply your details in full and in time.

Appeals

If you do not agree with the decision taken by DUO, you can lodge an appeal. In some cases, there is no need for an appeal procedure because a different solution to the problem may be found. Therefore, always contact DUO first. If, after that, you still wish to lodge an appeal, you must do so within six weeks after the date specified on the notification (the decision) you received from DUO. For more information about lodging an appeal, please go to the DUO internetsite or read the brochure on objections and appeal (only available in Dutch).

Contact

Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions after reading this brochure, go to www.duo.nl. You can also reach us via the Infoline.

If you prefer personal assistance, you can visit one of our service offices.

Please remember to keep your citizen service number at hand if you contact DUO. You will find this number on the contribution notification.

Please send forms and letters to:

Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs


Tuition fees loan EU/EEA

Postbus 50021

9702 BA Groningen

The Netherlands

Are you looking for a job or do you want to study in Europe? Then check out www.europass.nl. There you will find handy means to find a job or work placement, such as a European CV. Europass, for a clear presentation of your skills!



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