



# EURAXESS country in focus:

## The Netherlands

The Dutch government follows a 'top sector' approach where nine areas have been prioritised, including Agri-Food, Horticulture, High-Tech, Energy, Logistics, Creative industries, Life Sciences and Health, Chemicals, and Water. The government, private sector and academia together form a 'Golden Triangle' also known as 'Triple Helix' model, in which interaction is highly encouraged. In The Netherlands, the private sector is a major contributor to overall research and development expenditure and there are strong links between academia and industry.

**The Netherlands is a small country in Western Europe with a rich cultural tradition, great higher education, and an open-minded and pioneering people. Although small, The Netherlands has a strategic position in Europe as a gateway for goods and services but also as fertile ground for spreading new ideas across the continent, and beyond.**

The Dutch research environment is among the best in the world. A study conducted for the European Commission – related to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – places the Dutch research system among the very best in terms of openness, excellence, and attractiveness.



### Dutch research, development and innovation systems

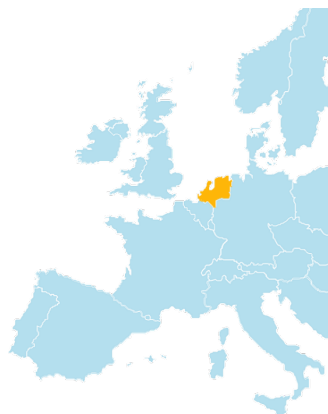
Public-sector research institutions in The Netherlands include 14 universities and several other institutes, e.g. KNAW Institutes<sup>1</sup>, Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO) Institutes, Large Technological Institutes (GTIs)<sup>2</sup>, TNO<sup>3</sup> Institutes, and a number of other state-owned research and advisory centres. Eleven of the Dutch universities are rated in the top 200 of Times Higher Education Rankings. Together, these universities and institutes form the backbone of the research and innovation (R&I) landscape in the country.

In 2022, Dutch institutions published 89,019 publications. The Netherlands also has a great citation score, ranking fifth in the world for all scientific fields except engineering. For social sciences, The Netherlands has the highest citation impact score of all countries. The total number of European patents with Dutch origin in 2023 was 2,750 (it peaked in 2019 with a total of 4,326 patents).

<sup>1</sup> So called because KNAW acts as the umbrella organisation for these institutes.

<sup>2</sup> Conducting applied research in aerospace, water management, hydraulic engineering, maritime research, and energy research.

<sup>3</sup> TNO stands for Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research which is an independent body focusing on applied science.



## Research excellence in The Netherlands

The Netherlands is very successful in securing European research funding both from the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA [video](#)) and the [European Research Council](#) (ERC). In order to promote research excellence, NWO offers two types of funding: 1) the 'Innovation Research Incentive Scheme' for talented, creative researchers who engage in innovative research, which provides three types of grant ([Veni, Vidi, Vici](#)) geared to different stages in a researcher's career; and 2) the annual [Spinoza Prize](#) offered to three or four excellent researchers who stand out with groundbreaking research conducted in The Netherlands.

## Recruitment opportunities

### *Public-sector recruitment*

The Netherlands offers various recruitment opportunities for international candidates. All university research positions open to international researchers are listed on the job EURAXESS portal ([www.euraxess.eu](http://www.euraxess.eu)) and on the Dutch platform for academic exchanges ([www.academictransfer.org](http://www.academictransfer.org)). The research institute AMOLF also lists vacancies for young researchers (<https://amolf.nl/work-at>).

### Scholarships

For scholarship programmes, refer to the following website: [www.studyinnl.org/finances](http://www.studyinnl.org/finances)

### PhD positions

The Netherlands is an attractive destination to pursue a PhD degree where it is not regarded as study but as serious research and doctoral candidates are often paid. A PhD from a Dutch university is highly regarded because of the recognised academic standards. Indeed, The Netherlands ranks second worldwide in terms of publications per researcher and resulting impact. Almost all PhD positions are linked to a university, but PhD candidates may find place at other institutes or even in industry (more information at [www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/phd](http://www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/phd)).

### *Private-sector recruitment*

Many Dutch companies, both large multinationals as well as smaller firms and SMEs are continuously looking for a range of talent (graduates, masters, PhDs) with specialist knowledge. Many of these companies are located in organised hubs. For example '[Brainport](#)' in Eindhoven is well known as Europe's leading high-tech region, and 'Health Valley' which is a network of 700 organisations working on innovation in the healthcare space.





There are various **funding agencies** in the Netherlands – The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Dutch Technology Foundation (STW), The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMW), and The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), which offer various grants and fellowships for individual researchers.

#### FactCards

Academic Transfer has set up a great tool to accommodate international researchers coming to the Netherlands. Info at <https://factcards.nl>

## Funding opportunities

NWO provides [a range of grants](#) for researchers, from PhD candidate level onwards. [Veni](#) is a popular grant for international researchers who have recently obtained their PhD to conduct independent research and develop their ideas for a period of three years. KNAW has several funding instruments such as academy funds and prizes (see [www.know.nl/en/funds-and-prizes](http://www.know.nl/en/funds-and-prizes)).

## Important information for incoming researchers

The Netherlands belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support to incoming researchers and their families in key areas such as visas, housing, schooling, etc. Nuffic is the national coordinator of the Dutch network (additional information at [www.euraxess.nl](http://www.euraxess.nl)).

The Netherlands has **flexible immigration procedures** for researchers and highly educated individuals. The host institution usually takes care of residence permit applications, which are typically dealt with swiftly and include a free work permit for research activities. Partners are also taken of during this procedure and receive a residence permit allowing them access to the labour market (no work permit required).

For those wanting to develop their career in The Netherlands without securing a job yet, there is an option to take an '[orientation year](#)'. This allows access to The Netherlands and the Dutch labour market for a year to people with a Masters or PhD at a top-200 ranked university.

## Contact information in The Netherlands

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