

2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program for U.S. Teachers (Fulbright DA)

The Netherlands Country Profile

Partner organization: [Fulbright Commission the Netherlands](#)

Eligible program dates: January – June, 2021. Teachers going to the Netherlands will start their programs in mid-January. Program lengths can vary. Applicants are encouraged to consider staying for at least four months.

Language requirement: None

Host organizations: Fulbright Commission the Netherlands strongly encourages applicants to research possible host organizations and faculty advisors before submitting your application (put this information in Question 8 of the inquiry project section). Any Dutch university could be considered as a host organization. Dutch universities of applied sciences may also be an option, but they are not research-oriented and rarely have courses in English.

Dependent information: An allowance of \$2,000 per eligible dependent will be provided as part of the Fulbright DA grant. In addition, fellows with school-aged children will receive a tuition assistance allowance of \$5,000.

Applicants with dependents must be aware that all children are required to attend school in the Netherlands from the age of five. Homeschooling and virtual schools are not legal in the Netherlands. It is possible to enroll your children in an international school, but the tuition fees will not be covered by your grant. Furthermore, it can be a challenge to place your children into a regular Dutch school unless they speak Dutch. It is advised for applicants to do their own research regarding their dependents prior to applying.

Country overview

The Netherlands is a small country in western Europe with just over 17 million inhabitants. As densely populated as it is, the Netherlands is very well managed with practicality firmly built into the structure of Dutch society. The education system reflects this practicality with a focus on directing students from a young age into different school pathways.

Educational system overview

The education system in the Netherlands has three levels:

- Primary education (eight years, generally ages four-12)
- Secondary education (four-six years, depending on the type of school, generally ages 12-16/18)





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Teacher Exchanges

- Higher education (age 18+, with research-oriented universities and professional education in the universities of applied sciences)
- Education is compulsory for all students aged between five and 16 years of age. For a more detailed description, please review the [Dutch Education System Overview](#) by Nuffic.
- For additional information, you can read through the website of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for [primary education](#), for [secondary education](#) and for [higher education](#).
- Teachers are trained at universities of applied sciences (primary education and secondary education) and research universities (secondary education).

Possible topics of interest to U.S. educators

U.S. educators may be interested in the various educational streams that make up the core structure of the Dutch education system. Vocational education in the Netherlands is often an area of interest for American educators (especially Technasiums for STEM education, or agricultural vocational schools).

The current “hot topics” in education in the Netherlands often revolve around language use and internationalization. Higher educational institutions are engaged in an ongoing debate about the pros and cons of “internationalization at home” and the increase in English language programs versus the decrease in Dutch language programs. This conversation has also spread to primary and secondary education, as more schools are building bilingual curriculums.

The Fulbright Commission in the Netherlands welcomes all inquiry project ideas, regardless of whether your desired inquiry project touches upon these topics or not.

Overview of all Dutch research universities: vsnu.nl/en_GB/dutch-universities.html

Overview of all Dutch universities of applied sciences:
www.verenighogescholen.nl/hogescholen

