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## LEARNING THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Being able to communicate in the language of one's temporary home country makes life much easier and can help to open the door to possible employment opportunities. Recently, a basic knowledge of the Dutch language has also recently become, for some, a prerequisite for obtaining permission to stay in the Netherlands.

Because there are such an large number of language schools and institutes, each offering a wide range of courses at many different levels and because



information in English is sometimes difficult to find on some websites, we have put together this abbreviated list of possibilities. We hope that these brief entries, arranged alphabetically by location, will save you time and help you evaluate your options.



## WHAT THE BOOKLET CONSISTS OF

The first part of the booklet deals with the Dutch language as a requirement, either for obtaining permission to stay in the Netherlands (*Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf*) or for purposes of work or study. It also explains what the NT2 examination is and how you can go about obtaining this qualification.

The second and main part of the booklet consists of a list of language schools/institutes. The list is by no means comprehensive, and the amount of information given varies, but we have tried to check that all of the contact details in the booklet are accurate.

The third part is an acknowledgement of the sources we have consulted. other ACCESS information booklets that are available for purchase is also included.

## 2. PART I - DUTCH LANGUAGE AS A REQUIREMENT



### Entering the Netherlands

From March 2006, anyone who requires a temporary residence permit (*Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf*) in order to enter the Netherlands, will have had to pass an oral civic integration examination (*Basisexamen : inburgering*), taken in his home country at the Dutch Embassy/Consulate in his or her home country. For clarification : foreign nationals who are nationals of an EU/EEA country, or of Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Switzerland and United States of America, or who are temporary knowledge migrants do not have to fulfil this requirement.

The oral examination consists of two parts. The first part is a test of your knowledge of Dutch civil society : the second part is a test of the candidate's ability to follow and speak (not read or write) the Dutch language. A practice

kit for preparing for this exam (*Kennis van de Nederlandse samenleving*) can be ordered via the Internet at a cost of 65 Euro from [www.naarnederland.nl](http://www.naarnederland.nl). It includes a CD to help practice the Dutch language.

A registration form for the the civic integration examination abroad can be found at: <http://inburgeringsformulier.minbuzamail.nl/civic/en/>

The general Dutch Immigration and Naturalization (*Immigratie-en Naturalisatiedienst*) website is: [www.ind.nl](http://www.ind.nl) ; Telephone number, from overseas: +31 (0)20 889 3045



### **Obtaining the certificate NT2 for studying or working in the Netherlands**

- The Dutch government has developed an examination known as the NT2 (*Nederlands als tweede taal*).
- If you have no knowledge of Dutch you would first attend one of the language schools/institutes and advance step by step until your instructor is certain that you have reached this level.
- The NT2 is available at a lower and at a higher level called Programma I and Programma II respectively. Programma I is for those wishing to work below management level. Programma II it is intended for those planning to study at college or university or to work at management level. To follow Programma II It is not necessary to have first completed Programma I. Both programmes consist of four sections: reading, listening, speaking and writing. Each section can be studied separately and a certificate will be issued upon passing each section. After acquiring all four certificates the diploma will be awarded.
- The examinations are held three times a year at various locations in the Netherlands. You need to have registered and to have paid the registration fee before a certain date, to be able to sit the examination.



## LEARNING THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

For more information contact:

*Informatie Beheer Groep*

Afdeling Examen diensten

Postbus 30155

9700 LG Groningen

Tel: (050) 599 9933

[www.ib-groep.nl](http://www.ib-groep.nl)



To order a registration form contact:

[www.ib-groep.nl](http://www.ib-groep.nl) or

*IB-Groep Infolijn: (050) 599 7755*

For mock exam papers contact:

*CITOGroep Klantenservice*

Postbus 1034

6801 MG Arnhem

Tel: (026) 352 1111

Fax: (026) 352 1135

Email: [klantenservice@cito.nl](mailto:klantenservice@cito.nl)

Mock exam papers can also be downloaded from: [www.expertisecentrumnt2.nl](http://www.expertisecentrumnt2.nl)



### Training for the NT2

There are some language institutes which specialise in coaching candidates for the NT2 exams. A free brochure listing these institutes can be requested by phone on: (020) 525 3844.

Many of the language schools listed in chapter 4 also offer coaching for this exam.

### 3. PART II - DUTCH LANGUAGE FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT, CAREER ADVANCEMENT OR HOBBY

#### Introduction

**E**ven if you do not wish to obtain the diploma you might just want to learn some Dutch to make shopping easier, meet new friends or simply feel more at home. There are four types of language institutes in the Netherlands:

- Private institutes, universities and colleges
- International schools (*scholengemeenschappen*)
- The “*volksuniversiteit*” (Institute for adult education offering opportunities for further development and training in languages). These offer good Dutch language courses at reasonable rates.
- The ROCs (*Regionaal Opleidings Centrum*) whose courses are subsidized and are therefore generally heavily subscribed. Attendance at an ROC may require compliance with certain criteria e.g. a valid residence permit, an address in the locality of the school, unemployed status etc.



Between them these institutions offer a large variety of courses from elementary courses to advanced courses for professionals. Some courses have official accreditation. Most are offered on a part-time or full-time basis (even at the workplace). Most require attendance at a language laboratory, but some offer electronic tuition at a distance. You can choose between individual or group instruction, and most schools will tailor their course to your needs.



## How do you begin?

**O**nce you have decided which school/institute to approach, you need to confirm the dates when new courses start, what textbooks you might require, and what the course fee will be.

If you know a little Dutch already you will be required to register for an intake interview (payment of a fee may be required) at the school of your choice. After the interview, the staff will be able to advise you about the appropriate level of study for you, and will work out a course timetable to suit your needs and give you an estimate of the course fee.



## Private lessons

**T**here is also the option of taking private lessons. Usually given at the teacher's home, they are available at all levels and may not be as expensive as you think. Please ask at ACCESS for more details.



## Classes for children

**T**here are courses specifically for children from age 4 - 11. See Lorre Language Clubs at

[www.lorrelanguageclubs.nl](http://www.lorrelanguageclubs.nl)

Tel: (071) 576 2013.

Email: reuser@euronet.nl

## Internet sources that could be useful

1. A free online Dutch language course and useful downloads can be found at: [www.taalthuis.com](http://www.taalthuis.com)
2. A list of Dutch Language schools that is compiled by Expatica can be found at:  
[www.pccitalen.nl](http://www.pccitalen.nl)
3. A list of all institutions offering training for the NT2 and other examination can be found at: [www.expertisecentrumnt2.nl](http://www.expertisecentrumnt2.nl)
4. For independent learners who have little contact with native speakers there is an e-mail community called “Dutch - English study group” at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DUTCH-ENGLISH-STUDY-GROUP>
5. [www.volksuniversiteit.nl](http://www.volksuniversiteit.nl)  
This website contains Dutch courses running in different cities around the Netherlands which are not mentioned in the list below.
6. [www.Language-learning.net](http://www.Language-learning.net)  
A website to find your own particular Dutch course.

## **4. LIST OF LANGUAGE SCHOOLS WITH CONTACT POINTS AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION BY LOCATION**

(We have used Dutch place names, but have included English translations of the name of the institute where appropriate.)

### **AMSTERDAM**

#### **Berlitz Language Centre**

Weerdestein 205a

1083 GN Amsterdam

Tel: (020) 622 1375

[www.berlitz.nl](http://www.berlitz.nl)

Berlitz offers a variety of courses including group, semi-private and individual instruction as well as a “total immersion programme”. Courses can be tailored to any level, from beginner to advanced, and the centre offers courses during the day-time and evening.



## LEARNING THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

### **British Language Training School ("BLTC")**

Oxford House, N.Z. Voorburgwal  
328E

1012 RW Amsterdam

Tel: (020) 622 3634

Fax: (020) 626 4962

Email: [bltc@blte.nl](mailto:bltc@blte.nl)

[www.bltc.nl](http://www.bltc.nl)

Intensive language courses are offered at all levels including general and business, small groups and individual. NT2 exam courses are also offered. Group courses begin throughout the year in January, May and September. All courses can be taken during the daytime or evening.

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### **European Language Centre**

Hogehilweg 15

1101 CB Amsterdam Zuidoost

Tel: (020) 609 7970

Fax: (020) 609 79 63

Email:  
[info@europeanlanguagecentre.nl](mailto:info@europeanlanguagecentre.nl)

[www.europeanlanguagecentre.nl](http://www.europeanlanguagecentre.nl)

This Centre is a professional training institute with a business focus. Flexible intensive tailor-made courses within the Amsterdam region are offered either at the institute, in-company or at home. All levels are taught, from beginner to advanced. Also offered is a package deal including eighty hours of private lessons and a "Dealing with the Dutch" cultural awareness programme. All courses may be total immersion or intensive residential.

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### **Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT Royal Tropical Institute)**

Mauritskade 63

1092 AD Amsterdam

Tel: (020) 568 87 12

Fax: (020) 668 45 79

[www.kit.nl](http://www.kit.nl)

KIT offer special training for business and government bodies in all aspects of communication and enculturation.

**Taal, Den Hartog & Zevenbergen**

WG Plein 566  
1054 SJ Amsterdam  
Tel: (020) 685 1562  
Fax: (020) 685 1562  
Email:  
info@taaldenhartogzevenbergen.nl  
[www.taaldenhartogzevenbergen.nl](http://www.taaldenhartogzevenbergen.nl)

This is a language institute that specializes in teaching Dutch as a second language. Courses accommodate all levels and abilities. Individual, small group and company courses are offered as well as exam training for NT2 II. They also have teachers in Alkmaar, Haarlem and The Hague.

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**ARNHEM**

**Elsevier Talen** see Elycio Talen  
Kronenburgensingel 505  
6831 GM Arnhem  
Tel: (026) 361 2843  
Fax: (026) 361 3452  
[www.elyciotalen.nl](http://www.elyciotalen.nl)

Elycio Talen is CEDEO certified and offers business-focused language and communication courses. Levels - from beginner (elementary) to intermediate and small groups and individual classes are offered. In addition, intensive programmes with certificate on completion (50 hours in ten weeks) can be taken.

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**DEN HAAG /THE HAGUE**

(see also Voorburg )  
[www.haagstaalkompas.nl](http://www.haagstaalkompas.nl)

A publication, "The Hague language compass" (*Haags Taalkompas*) lists available courses and can be collected from municipal contact centres or public libraries.



## LEARNING THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

### **The British School in the Netherlands**

#### **I.E.C.**

Tarwekamp 3

2592 XG Den Haag

Tel: (070) 315 4080

Fax: (070) 315 4081

[www.britishschool.nl/iec](http://www.britishschool.nl/iec)

Their International Education Centre has Dutch courses “Dutch Language for Adults” on levels 1 - 7, starting twice a year (February and September). At the completion of the level 7 course students can take the NT2 exam. Also offer a Beginners Level 1 intensive course of 11 lessons during the day.

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### **BABEL Den Haag**

Prinsegracht 40

2512 GA Den Haag

Tel: (070) 335 5263

Fax: (070) 381 4373

Email: [info@babel.nl](mailto:info@babel.nl)

[www.babel.nl](http://www.babel.nl)

Private individual lessons are given in a language laboratory and include beginner to advanced levels. NT 2 exam training is also offered and a teacher is always on hand to give out material, answer questions and assist with test taking. CEDEO approved. Also offers conversation classes, beginners to advanced, 10 lessons of 1 hour each, once a week. One can attend a free sample class.

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### **Dutch for expats**

Witteburgerweg 190

2244 CJ Wassenaar

Tel: (070) 514 02 25

Fax: (070) 511 75 50

E-mail: [info@dutchforexpats.nl](mailto:info@dutchforexpats.nl)

[www.dutchforexpats.nl](http://www.dutchforexpats.nl)

Dutch classes at beginner, intermediate and advanced level on weekdays in small groups (6-10 students). Classes cover conversation, grammar, Dutch culture and traditions.

**Mondriaan College (ROC)**

Brouwersgracht 50  
2512 ER Den Haag  
Tel: (088) 666 3740  
Email: [info@rocmondriaan.nl](mailto:info@rocmondriaan.nl)  
[www.rocmondriaan.nl](http://www.rocmondriaan.nl)

Open enrolments for higher educated foreigners as well as a tailor made program (TAAL OP MAAT ). The Tailor made course consists of an individually arranged program during a pre-determined number of weeks.

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**EINDHOVEN**

**ROC Eindhoven**  
Sterrenlaan 10  
5631 KA Eindhoven  
Tel: (040) 269 4000  
Email: [info@roceindhoven.nl](mailto:info@roceindhoven.nl)  
[www.roceindhoven.nl](http://www.roceindhoven.nl)

They have a course “Dutch for non-native speakers”. To register, contact *Infocentre*, School for Adult Education, Tel: 040 269 4444. There are also locations in Best, Cranendonck, Eersel, Neunen, Valkenswaard and Veldhoven.

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**GRONINGEN**

**Universiteit Groningen**  
Language Centre, Harmoniegebouw  
1st floor  
Oude Boteringstraat 44  
9712 GL Groningen  
Tel: (050) 363 9111  
Fax: (050) 363 5886  
Email: [languagecentre@rug.nl](mailto:languagecentre@rug.nl)  
[www.rug.nl/languagecentre](http://www.rug.nl/languagecentre)

The *Universiteit* offers intensive, semi-intensive and extensive Dutch language courses including NT2 exam training. Certificates are awarded after successful completion of the course. Also available is a Dutch Studies programme which introduces students to the Dutch language, culture, history and art.



## LEARNING THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

### HAARLEM

#### **ISLA Languages**

Uit den Bosstraat 14

2012 KL Haarlem

Tel: (023) 532 3610

Fax: (023) 532 2974

Email: [info@isladam.com](mailto:info@isladam.com)

[www.isladam.com](http://www.isladam.com)

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Courses include group and individual, all levels from beginner to advanced and intensive or extensive. Instructors are also willing to give courses at corporate locations. Also offered are culture courses and NT2 exam training.

### LEIDEN

#### **Universiteit Leiden**

Inter Consultancy Bureau, Leiden University,

Rapenburg 70

2311 EZ Leiden

Tel: (071) 527 2727

Fax: (071) 527 5499

Email: [info@icb-leiden.nl](mailto:info@icb-leiden.nl)

[www.icb-leiden.nl](http://www.icb-leiden.nl)

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The language consultancy is affiliated with the university; however, Dutch language courses are open to non-students. Daytime and evening group courses at all levels are available as well as custom-made courses. The consultancy also offers acculturation and intercultural management courses.

### MAASTRICHT

#### **Berlitz Schools of Languages B.V. Maastricht (Berlitz)**

Brouwersweg 100

6216 EG Maastricht

Tel: (043) 346 7231

[www.berlitz.nl/en/maastricht/default.html](http://www.berlitz.nl/en/maastricht/default.html)

Courses are available at all levels and include group, semi-private and individual instruction, daytime or evening. A total immersion programme is also available.

**Talencentrum Universiteit Maastricht**

Sint Servaasklooster 39  
6211 TE Maastricht  
Postbus 616  
6200 MD Maastricht  
Tel: (043) 388 3950  
Fax: (043) 325 7246  
Email: talencentrum@languages.unimaas.nl  
[www.languages.unimaas.nl](http://www.languages.unimaas.nl)

Dutch language courses are available at all levels; for groups or personalised and are open to non-students. Other available courses include NT2 exam training, “Crash Course in Dutch” (summer and winter programmes) and tailor-made “Language for Specific Purpose” (LSP) courses for professionals, individuals and groups. Beginners courses are offered for native German, Scandinavian & Afrikaans speakers.

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**NIJMEGEN**

**LTC (Language Training Centre)**

St. Canisiusseingel 27  
6511 TG Nijmegen  
Postbus 373  
6500 AJ Nijmegen  
Tel: (024) 323 7349  
Fax: (024) 360 1660  
Email: info@ltc.nl  
[www.ltc.nl](http://www.ltc.nl)

LTC is a CEDEO approved language institute with a business focus. Practical tailor-made language and communication training is offered for individuals or business professionals.

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**RIJSWIJK**

**Elycio Talen**

Verrijn Stuartlaan 42c  
2288 EM Rijswijk  
Tel: (070) 399 2471  
Fax: (070) 399 4499  
Email: form on the website  
[www.elyciotalen.nl](http://www.elyciotalen.nl)

Elycio Talen is CEDEO approved and offers business-focused language and communication courses. Levels range from beginners to intermediate and small groups and individual classes are offered. In addition, intensive programmes with certificate on completion (50 hours in ten weeks) can be taken. There is a distance education option via the TMM method.



## LEARNING THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

### ROTTERDAM

#### **Albeda College (ROC)**

Rosestraat 1101-1103  
3071 AL Rotterdam  
Tel: (010) 290 1010  
Email: [albeda@albeda.nl](mailto:albeda@albeda.nl)  
[www.albeda.nl](http://www.albeda.nl)

This offers vocational and language training, day and evening sessions. Also there is a “*Inburgerings*” course aimed at newcomers and others who are not sufficiently conversant in Dutch. There are about 20 locations in Rotterdam.

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#### **Dutch Language Institute ITHA**

Mathesserlaan 253  
3021 HD Rotterdam  
Tel: (010) 425 4579  
Email: [info@itha.nl](mailto:info@itha.nl)  
[www.itha.nl](http://www.itha.nl)

Flexible intensive Dutch language programmes are on offer at all levels and are primarily business-focused.

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#### **ITA Talencentrum**

Scheepmakershaven 29 A  
3011 VA Rotterdam  
Tel: (010) 411 88 65  
Fax: (010) 411 75 58  
Email: [info@ita-talencentrum.nl](mailto:info@ita-talencentrum.nl)  
[www.talen-centrum.nl](http://www.talen-centrum.nl)

Business language training of Dutch at every level.

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#### **Language Partners**

Beursplein 37  
3011 AA Rotterdam  
Tel: (010) 405 2345  
E-mail: [info@languagepartners.nl](mailto:info@languagepartners.nl)  
[www.languagepartners.nl](http://www.languagepartners.nl)

“Dutch for non-Dutch” language, Dutch Social Life and Culture, Dutch legal language and Dutch Business or managerial courses are offered for groups and individuals.

**THE HAGUE** see Den Haag

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**UTRECHT**

**Babel Taaltrainingen**

Lucasbolwerk 5

3512 EG Utrecht

Tel: (030) 232 4040

Email: info@babel.nl

[www.babel.nl](http://www.babel.nl)

Language programmes are tailor-made with a business focus. Also offered are regular group “Dutch as a Foreign Language” courses at beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. If you have a U-pass you qualify for a 20% reduction in class fees.

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**Capita Language Services BV**

De Hoogt 2-4

3951 KB Maarn

Tel: (0343) 431 303

Email: info@capitalanguage.nl

[www.capitalanguage.nl](http://www.capitalanguage.nl)

Capita Language Services is a CEDEO approved institute which offers tailor-made “Dutch for Expats” language programmes with a business focus for individuals and groups.

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**Linguarama Nederland**

Cenakel Convent

Amersfoortsestraat 18

3769 AR Soesterberg

Tel: (0346) 3325 75

Email: soesterberg@nl.linguarama.com

[www.linguarama.nl](http://www.linguarama.nl)

Courses include individual intensive courses with a business focus, corporate group programmes, intercultural and residential programmes and language for specific purposes e.g. presentations, report writing and policy documents.



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**VOORBURG**

**Mondriaan College voor Educatie  
(ROC)**

Oranje Nassaustraat 1b

2271 SJ Voorburg

Tel: (070) 300 47 30

[www.rocmondriaan.nl](http://www.rocmondriaan.nl)

Offer open enrolments for higher educated foreigners as well as a tailor made program (Taal op maat) which consist of an individually arranged program during pre-determined numbers of weeks.



### Books and internet sites consulted

- [www.expatica.com/nl/survival/education/dutch-language-schools-23581.html#2](http://www.expatica.com/nl/survival/education/dutch-language-schools-23581.html#2)

- Informatie Beheer Groep

“Staatsexamens Nederlands als Tweede Taal”

An 11 page pdf file (in Dutch) can be printed out from the IBH website [www.ib-groep.nl](http://www.ib-groep.nl)



**ACCESS also has information booklets covering the following topics in printed form (for purchase) or for free download from the ACCESS website.**

- Banking
- Childcare and playgroups
- Food from home
- Health care
- Housing and accommodation
- Inheritance and wills
- International primary and secondary education in the Netherlands
- Marriage , registered partnership, cohabitation and ending a relationship
- Obtaining a driving license in the Netherlands
- Public Transport
- Social Security
- Starting your own business
- Telephone, internet and television
- The Post Office
- Vocational and higher education
- What to do when leaving the Netherlands



## ACCESS

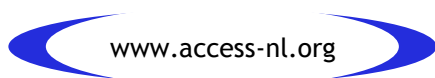
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2511 BT, The Hague  
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Help Line : +31(0)70 346 2525

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1077 WV, Amsterdam  
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Email: [helpdesk-ams@access-nl.org](mailto:helpdesk-ams@access-nl.org)  
Help Line : +31 (0)20 423 32 17

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*This Information booklet is intended to give comprehensive and general information. ACCESS did everything possible to ensure that the information is correct and up to date. We cannot accept any responsibility for the information that might have changed.*

*If you need more information about this subject, please contact the organizations listed in this booklet or look at the websites mentioned.*