

- FAQs -

**Are you a refugee or newcomer to the Netherlands and are you interested in studying at HAN?
Below you will find answers to the most frequently asked questions.**

Admission

1. Am I eligible for admission to a Dutch-language Bachelors course at HAN?

You are eligible if you meet the following criteria:

a. You've completed a programme similar to Dutch MBO level 4, HAVO or higher.

- Do you have your diploma?

Refugees who arrived in the Netherlands after 1 January 2015 can have their diplomas accredited by the International Credential Evaluation (www.idw.nl). A credential evaluation determines the value of your foreign diploma in the Netherlands. If you arrived in the Netherlands before 1 January 2015, you will have to pay for this accreditation yourself. If you are a client of the Foundation for Refugee Students UAF (Stichting voor Vluchteling-Studenten), the UAF will cover these costs.

- If you cannot present your diploma (e.g. because you were unable to take it with you when you left your country of origin), you will need to take a 21+ entrance exam. This exam determines whether you meet the education requirements. Refugee students who are younger than 21 may also participate in this exam.

b. You've passed all four components of the NT2 State Exam, Programme II: reading, listening, speaking and writing.

It's important that you pass all four components to give you the best possible start at HAN.

c. You can demonstrate that you lawfully reside in the Netherlands.

This is always the case for refugees with a residence permit. If you don't have a residence permit but your asylum procedure is still ongoing, you are also considered a lawful resident. You will, however, have to prove this by submitting your W-document from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). Some degree courses may have additional admission requirements that apply to all students wishing to enrol. Visit the HAN website for more information about course-specific requirements.

2. Am I eligible for admission to a Dutch-language Masters course at HAN, in Dutch?

You are eligible if you meet the following criteria:

a. You have a Bachelors degree or a diploma at a comparable level.

If you don't have a Bachelors degree but think you possess the necessary knowledge and skills based on your previous education or experience, contact the course coordinator listed on the HAN website.

b. The same admission requirements apply to both the Bachelors and Masters courses: NT2 State Exam, Programme II and proof of lawful residency in the Netherlands (see 1b and 1c).

Some degree courses may have additional admission requirements that apply to all students wishing to enrol. Visit the HAN website for more information about the specific education requirements for the different Masters courses.

3. I prefer to study in English. What are the academic requirements for an English-language degree course at HAN?

If you wish to enrol in an English-language degree course, you do not have to pass the NT2 State Exam, Programme II. You do, however, have to meet the English proficiency requirements at HAN. You can demonstrate your proficiency with one of the following English language certificates:

- IELTS of 6.0 or higher
- TOEFL of 80 or higher
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
- Business English Certificate (BEC or higher).

The same additional admission criteria apply as with Dutch-taught degree courses: relevant prior education and lawful residence in the Netherlands.

Money

4. Am I entitled to a student grant?

You are entitled to a student grant from the Education Executive Agency (DUO) for a full-time or work-study degree course if you have a (provisional) residence permit and if you are younger than 30 at the time of application. For more information about the study grant, visit <https://www.duo.nl/particulier/studiefinanciering/index.jsp>.

5. I'm not entitled to a student grant. Are there other student loan options?

Under certain circumstances, you will still be able to take out a student loan to cover your tuition fees. This is known as a **lifelong learning credit**. You can apply for this credit if you are:

- between 30 and 55 years old when the lifelong learning credit is first granted and enrolled in a full-time, part-time or work-study course at a university or university of applied sciences;
- younger than 30, hold a Bachelors degree or Masters degree and are enrolled in a second degree course at a university or university of applied sciences;
- younger than 30 and enrolled in a part-time degree course at a university or university of applied sciences.

If another institution is paying for part of your tuition fees or course fees, you can request the lifelong learning credit for the remaining amount. For more information about the lifelong learning credit, visit <https://www.duo.nl/particulier/levenlanglerenkrediet.jsp>.

6. What other financial support options are available?

HAN has a collaboration agreement with the Foundation for Refugee Students UAF, which helps refugees find appropriate work and education and supports them financially, for instance by loaning the money for the tuition fees. We advise refugees interested in studying at HAN to contact the UAF via their website: <https://www.uaf.nl/home/vluchteling>.

7. Can I keep my government benefits while I study?

This depends on the municipality in which you live. Some municipalities have more generous policies, while others are stricter. In recent years, the UAF has signed covenants with different municipalities to improve these policies. These agreements stipulate that refugees must be given

the time, opportunity, and possibility to prepare for their studies while retaining their benefits and being exempt from the obligation to apply for jobs. One option is to enrol in a preparatory year or courses.

If you are older than 30 and you are not entitled to a student grant (but you may be eligible for a lifelong learning credit, see question 4), you can also choose to enrol in a part-time degree course. This will allow you to study and work at the same time. The UAF has signed agreements with some 40 municipalities, including Arnhem, Nijmegen, Wageningen, Apeldoorn, Deventer, Zutphen, Brummen, Lochem, and Zwolle.

Preparatory programme

8. Does HAN offer a preparatory programme or a transition year?

Yes. HAN Language Centre offers courses that will help you prepare for the NT2 State Exam Programme II. For more information, visit www.han.nl/nt2. HAN also offers the Language and Prep Year in both Arnhem and Nijmegen. This programme will prepare you for a Bachelors course at HAN or another university of applied sciences. The Language and Prep Year will also prepare you for the NT2 State Exam, Programme II, help you develop the necessary study skills, and help you choose the right degree course. It includes classes in English and mathematics and elective courses, such as physics, chemistry and economics.

You are eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- you recently reached Dutch B1 proficiency;
- you speak English at the A2 level;
- you hold a foreign diploma at the intermediate vocational or higher general secondary level (Dutch MBO-4 or HAVO);
- you have the necessary funds (e.g. an integration loan from DUO);
- you did not complete an MBO or Bachelors programme in the Netherlands;
- you are a client of the UAF.

Would you like more information about the Language and Prep Year? Visit www.han.nl/taalschakeljaar or email your questions to schakeljaar@han.nl.

9. Is the Language and Prep Year mandatory for enrolling in a HAN degree course?

No, it is not mandatory. You can also enrol in a degree course without following the Language and Prep Year, assuming you meet all other criteria.

Other questions

10. Does HAN offer extra support or guidance to refugee students during the degree course?

Yes. HAN is committed to making refugee students feel at home and complete their studies successfully. HAN therefore offers the following provisions for refugee students:

- refugee students are invited to meet with one of the student counsellors at the beginning of the degree course. These student counsellors are aware of the different issues of relevance to refugee students. They serve as the primary point of contact for questions and referrals to other HAN facilities.

- you will be given 25% more time to complete your exams during the first two years of your Dutch-taught degree course and you may also use a dictionary during exams.
- for the duration of your studies, you can make free use of all training programmes offered by HAN Study Success. These programmes and courses focus on personal development, language, and study skills. One of these courses is a Dutch language course at the C1 level.

11. I'm having a hard time choosing a degree course. How do I make the right decision?

Choosing a degree course in the Netherlands may be different from choosing a course in your home country. It is your choice, and the system and your family play a smaller role. This can make it harder to choose the right programme. There are so many options and you don't want to make the wrong decision. HAN can help in several ways. Visit <https://www.han.nl/landing/studiekiezen/>. The UAF is also a great source of information. Visit the UAF website and download the step-by-step plan to help you make the best choice. To download the plan, visit <https://www.uaf.nl/Portals/13/STUDIEKEUZE%20IN%20NEDERLAND.pdf>.

12. How do I enrol for a degree course at HAN?

You can enrol for a course via www.studielink.nl. The UAF created a document explaining Studielink step by step: https://www.uaf.nl/Portals/13/files/organisatie/Studielink_stap_voor_stap.pdf.

13. I want to get to know HAN a bit better before I enrol. Is this possible?

If you'd like to learn more about HAN at your own pace and have a personal conversation with HAN employees, sign up for one of the meetings we organise specifically for refugee students. The next meeting will be held in mid-December 2018. You can register for this meeting during the Open Day at the HAN Study Success stand. Alternatively, you can send an email to refugees@han.nl.