

OKP information for applicants

OKP

On 1 July 2017 the Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) entered a new phase as a new programme under the name Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP). OKP is initiated and fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Aim of OKP

The Orange Knowledge Programme aims to advance the development of the capacity, knowledge and quality of both individuals as well as organisations both in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education and in other fields related to the priority themes in the OKP partner countries.

OKP April 2018 Short Course & Master deadline

After formal publication of the subsidy and policy outline in the Dutch Staatscourant, the OKP April 2018 deadline will be confirmed. Please note that until that time, adjustments can still be made to comply with the policy outline.

The April deadline 2018 for short courses and master's is open to candidates from the [OKP partner countries](#).

The other eligibility criteria can be found below.

For whom: Criteria

A OKP scholarship is intended to supplement the salary that you should continue to receive during the study period in the Netherlands. The allowance is a contribution towards your costs of living such as tuition fees, visa, travel, insurance etc. If applicable, the scholarship holder is expected to cover the difference between the actual costs and the OKP scholarship amount.

The scholarships are awarded in a very competitive selection to highly motivated professionals who are in a position to introduce the newly-acquired skills and knowledge into their employing organisation.

You must meet a number of criteria that support the aim of the OKP to be eligible for a scholarship.

Eligibility criteria:

- One must be a professional and a national of, and working and living in one of the countries on the OKP Country list valid at the time of application;
- One must have a current employer's statement that complies with the formal Nuffic has provided. All information must be provided and all commitments that are included in the formal must be endorsed in the statement;
- One must not be employed by an organisation which can be expected to have their own funds for staff development, e.g.: a multinational corporation (e.g. Shell, Unilever, Microsoft) a large national and/or a large commercial organisation; a bilateral donor organisation (e.g. USAID, DFID, Danida, Sida, Dutch ministry of Foreign affairs, FinAid, AusAid, ADC, SwissAid); a multilateral donor organisation (e.g. a UN organisation, the World Bank, the IMF, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, IADB); an international NGO (e.g. Oxfam, Plan, Care);
- One must have a current employer's statement which complies with the Nuffic format. All information must be provided and all commitments, which are included in the Nuffic format, must be endorsed in the statement;
- One must have a government statement that meets the requirements of the country in which the employer is established (if applicable);
- One must have an official passport valid at least three months after the submission date of the registration form by the candidate.

How to apply

Before you apply, make sure you review the eligibility criteria carefully and check whether your employer is willing to nominate you for the scholarship.

When you are certain that you are eligible for a OKP scholarship, you can start making the necessary preparations for your application.

The deadline for application opens 1 February 2018. The closing date differs per institution. For more information about the closing date, please contact the institution directly.

Follow these steps to apply:

1. If you want to apply for a OKP scholarship for a short course or Master's in the Netherlands, you need to first find a course that is eligible for the scholarship. You can find the eligible courses in our [study programme database](#), specifying in the search criteria: 'NFP qualified – Yes'.
2. Contact the Dutch higher education institution that is offering the course for information on:
 - course content
 - the application deadline (deadlines can differ per Dutch institution)
 - the application and selection procedures
 - the online application form and the supporting documents
3. Prepare your application and the supporting documents¹
4. Submit your online application via the Dutch institution offering the course

For any questions on the application -and selection procedures please contact the Dutch institution directly.

Selection procedure

If your application meets all the course admission requirements and the OKP eligibility criteria, you can be nominated by the Dutch institution for a scholarship. If your application is nominated by a Dutch institution; the steps are as follows:

- The Dutch institution will submit a grant request to Nuffic requesting funding for eligible applications.
- The Netherlands Embassy will check the applications on their eligibility, and will assess the applications based on the eligibility criteria and the Embassy country focus areas.

¹ *With your online application, you will be asked to upload a valid passport copy, a current statement from your employer, and depending on your country of employment; a government statement.*

- Only eligible applications will be taken in to further consideration. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected.
- The selection will be determined by the available deadline budget, the number of applicants and the quality and suitability of the applications.
- The scholarships are awarded in a competitive selection to highly motivated professionals who are in a position to introduce the newly-acquired skills and knowledge into their employing organization.
- Candidates whom have been nominated will be informed of the outcome of the selection by the Dutch institution.