

## HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL, OPEN, CONNECTED SOCIETY

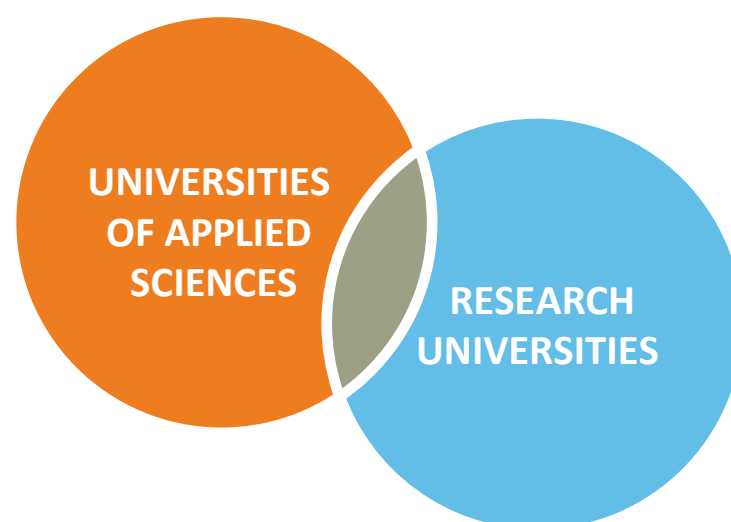
The Netherlands is a leading knowledge economy with a strong international position and a world-class reputation. The high educated inhabitants enjoy good quality of life in a safe and secure environment. The Netherlands is known for the quality of its higher education offering a high educated workforce to industry, a great collaboration partner to knowledge institutions and an interactive, challenging learning environment to students. The two-tier system offers a broad spectrum of educational programs and a continuum of high quality research from fundamental research to applied research and science. The Netherlands puts strong emphasis on transparent quality assurance both for higher education and research. The system offers great opportunities for collaboration between research universities and universities of applied science bringing out the best of both. The degrees offered provide the knowledge and skills for lifelong learning.

### UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

- Mission: higher professional education and applied research with a clear orientation towards professional practice.
- Universities of Applied Sciences offer high quality bachelor and master programs.
- Every study program is based on a professional profile, established in close collaboration with employers in respective fields.
- Research at Universities of Applied Sciences has a high societal impact, is demand-driven and undertaken in cooperation with different stakeholders: SMEs, business and the public sector.

### RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

- Mission: academic education, research and knowledge valorization (assuring impact of knowledge in society): Education and research are closely interwoven.
- All research universities offer outstanding undergraduate and graduate degree programs: bachelors – masters – PhDs.
- All Dutch research universities are placed in the major worldwide rankings making them part of the top-2% of the world. Large number of publications with high impact (citations).



## OPEN

The Netherlands is characterized by an open mind that welcomes the unknown and approaches challenge in a creative way. Dutch society is now home to over 200 different nationalities. This makes the Netherlands a melting pot of cultures, opinions and views. To the Dutch sharing knowledge and seeking cooperation is preferable to holding your cards to your chest, because they believe that seeing the bigger picture works to everyone's advantage.

The Netherlands has a teaching and research culture in which freedom of expression, intellectual independence, curiosity and the right to question are paramount. The Netherlands has received international praise for its teaching style, which is interactive and student-centred. The teacher will act as a facilitator and guide in the learning process. Students work in groups to analyze and solve specific problems. Entrepreneurial qualities such as creativity, self-sufficiency and personal initiative are encouraged. For PhD candidates and professors this means they are given the opportunity to define their research independently and to collaborate in multidisciplinary teams.

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## CONNECTED

Dutch people are entrepreneurs and discoverers. According to the World Economic Forum the Dutch economy remains one of the most sophisticated and innovative in the world. An excellent education and training system coupled with a strong adoption of technology and an excellent innovation capacity result in highly sophisticated businesses. Also, The Netherlands are an frontrunner in preparing students for the (inter)national labor market. As a result the Netherlands has a very low youth unemployment rate: the labor market participation of youth in the Netherlands is twice as high as the EU-average. Furthermore, the unemployment of higher education graduates is amongst the lowest. Regionally there is a close cooperation between the higher education institutions and industry, giving students many opportunities to gain relevant experience during one's studies. Many Universities of Applied Sciences have professors who have a strong network in the business community and many courses contain real business cases which allow students to solve real time, real life problems. Also, work placements and internships are strongly emphasized in the study programmes.

Dutch researchers have a strong international reputation and are known to be good cooperators. The Dutch higher education institutions typically have a broad network and strong collaborations with industry: locally, regionally, in Europe and in the world. The openness of the system is unique, with plenty opportunity for academic research collaboration with other universities (internationally and nationally). Examples of this are their joint research with international top institutes and sharing facilities such as laboratories. International researchers will experience how self-evident collaboration is for the Dutch. Since the Netherlands is a small country, all higher education institutions are within a three hour drive , which makes it fairly easy to 'visit the neighbors' and exchange knowledge. A flight to the capital cities London, Paris, Brussels and Berlin takes less than one hour.

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## **INTERNATIONAL**

Since its independence in the 17th century The Netherlands was able to flourish because of its trade overseas. Nowadays The Dutch are still very internationally oriented, which is shown by their command of English. The Netherlands is an interesting destination for ambitious international students, international researchers and knowledge intensive companies.

Dutch higher education offers a very broad range of English taught programs at all levels (Bachelor's, Master's, PhDs). As a non-English-speaking country, the Netherlands is unique in this respect. International students who study in The Netherlands take part in a truly international classroom which includes a good mix of students from home and abroad and an approach to content that integrates the students' cultural backgrounds into the teaching. For international staff this implies working in an international team at a knowledge institution with a strong international position and reputation: all Dutch research universities are in de top of the four major worldwide rankings, which makes the Dutch universities part of the top 2% of the world.

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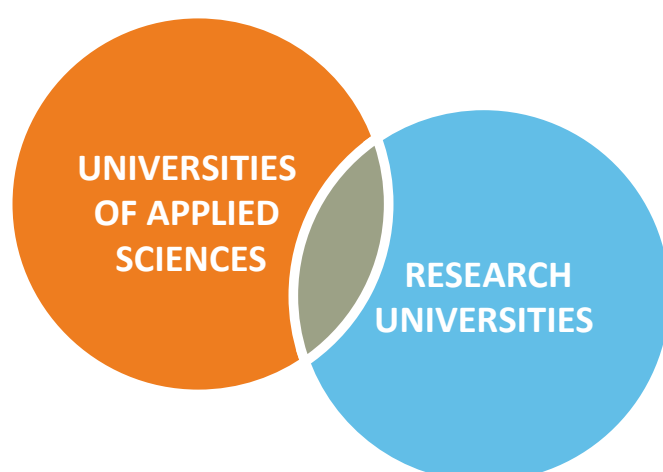
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