



Basic Civic Integration Examination Abroad

Naar Nederland

You want to live with your partner in the Netherlands. Before you can go to the Netherlands you must pass the *Basic Civic Integration Examination Abroad exam* (abbreviated to: *Basic civic integration examination*). You can read all about the *Basic Civic Integration Examination* in this brochure.

Integration in the Netherlands

If you want to live in the Netherlands, you will need to do the following:

- You must learn the Dutch language. This will make it easier for you to get on in the Netherlands.
- You must learn what the Netherlands is like. And how we associate with each other in the Netherlands.
- You must take part in society. By working or doing voluntary work, for example. You could also take a training course, become a member of an association or simply by maintain contact with the neighbours.

We also refer to this as 'integration' or 'civic integration'.

Do you also have to take the Basic Civic Integration Exam?

Whether you are obliged to take the civic integration examination depends on aspects such as your age or your nationality.

See the website of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service ([IND](#)) to find out whether the Basic Civic Integration Exam is mandatory for you.

You can also call the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND).

Telephone: 088 - 0430 430 (local rate)

From abroad: +31 88 0430 430

What if you can't take the exam?

Some people can't take the exam. Because of their health, for example.

Do you want to know whether you need to take an exam? If so, see: www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nieuw-in-nederland/vraag-en-antwoord/kan-ik-ontheffing-krijgen-voor-een-inburgeringsexamen.html

Passing the Basic Civic Integration Examination Abroad

To be allowed to live in the Netherlands, people from outside the EU usually need a permit. In order to obtain this permit, you must first pass the Basic Civic Integration Examination Abroad.

What form does the Basic Civic Integration Exam take?

The exam consists of 3 parts:

1. *Speaking proficiency* - you must be able to speak Dutch.
2. *Reading proficiency* - you must be able to read Dutch.
3. *Knowledge of Dutch society* - you need to know how we associate with each other in the Netherlands. And what the rules are in the Netherlands.

More information about the exam can be found at

www.naarnederland.nl.

Preparing for the Basic Civic Integration Examination

You can prepare for the civic integration examination with the official self-study package: *Naar Nederland*. In this package you will find everything you need to prepare for the exams: speaking proficiency, reading proficiency and knowledge of Dutch society. You can download this package free of charge or order it for € 25.00 via the website www.naarnederland.nl.

The package is available in 33 languages.

The website also contains [sample exams](#) to practise with.

Where can you take the exam?

- At a Dutch embassy
- At a Dutch consulate

When you [sign up](#) for the civic integration examination, you will be able to see whether there is an embassy or consulate in your country. Is there no embassy or consulate in your country where you want to take the civic integration examination? In that case you will have to go to another country. You can choose where to take the exam when you sign up.

How to sign up

Fill in the [application form](#).

The exam costs € 150 for all the parts together. You can also take individual exams. For example, if you have failed a part. *Speaking proficiency* costs € 60. *Reading proficiency* costs € 50. *Knowledge of Dutch Society* costs € 40.

What happens after your registration?

Once you have registered for the civic integration examination, you will receive an e-mail from the Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs (DUO). This will explain how you can pay. Once DUO has received your payment, you will receive another message from DUO. This states that you can make an appointment for your exam. You make the appointment with the embassy or consulate.

Would you like to know more about the Basic Civic Integration Examination? If so, see www.naarnederland.nl.

Do you have any questions? If so, call the central government via number: 1400.

If you are calling from abroad: + 31 77 4656767.

You can also ask your question via www.rijksoverheid.nl.

What happens on the day of the exam?

- You arrive on the agreed date and time.
- You must take with you to the exam the confirmation you received from DUO.
- Also take a recent colour passport photo that complies with the [Dutch requirements](#).
- Report to the reception desk.
- Present your passport. Other *proof of identity* is also allowed.
- The employee makes a copy.
- Your fingerprints are taken.
- All your details are entered into the computer.

What form does the exam take if you take all the parts consecutively?

- Explanation of the section *Knowledge of Dutch society*.
- Completion of the section *Knowledge of Dutch society*. The maximum duration of the exam is 30 minutes.
- Break.
- Explanation of the *reading proficiency* part.
- Completion of the *Reading proficiency* part. The maximum duration of the exam is 35 minutes.
- Break.
- Explanation of the *speaking proficiency* part.
- Completion of the *Speaking proficiency* part. The maximum duration of the exam is 30 minutes.

You take the exams on a computer. You don't have to write. All in all, you will be at the embassy or consulate for about two hours.

When have you passed the exam?

You have passed if you have a pass mark for each of the three parts. You will be informed whether you have passed separately for each section. Have you failed a part of the exam? In that case, all you have to do is retake that part.

When will you know the results?

You will receive the results from DUO within eight weeks. But it usually takes less time. Have you passed all parts of the exam? If so, you can proceed with your temporary residence permit application. There are other rules that you must comply with in order to apply for a temporary residence permit. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) can provide you with more information about this: Go to www.ind.nl

You can also call: 088 - 0430 430 (local rate) If you are calling from abroad: +31 88 0430 430

You must apply for a temporary residence permit within one year of passing the exam.

Have you missed the deadline? If so, you will have to take the exam again. We count from the day you passed the last part of the exam.

What if you don't pass the exam?

You can take the exam again at any time. However, you will need to [re-register for the Basic Civic Integration Examination](#) and pay again.

Would you like to know more about the exam?

If so, see www.naarnederland.nl. Or do you have any questions? Then call the central government: call 1400. If you are calling from abroad: + 31 77 4656767. You can also send us an e-mail. Go to www.rijksoverheid.nl.

Integration in the Netherlands

Once you are living in the Netherlands, you must continue to integrate. This makes it easier for you to participate in Dutch society and gives you a better chance of getting a job. That is why you still have to pass the Civic Integration Examination in the Netherlands. Would you like more information about this? If so, see: www.inburgeren.nl.