

Dutch Caribbean brochure

Information for students from Aruba, Curaçao, Sint
Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba

2025-2026 academic year

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Welkom in Nederland!

Are you seeking new creative opportunities, and do you want to improve your artistic skills in a dynamic interdisciplinary environment? Come study at ArtEZ University of the Arts! Every year we welcome students from all over the world to our visual arts, architecture, fashion, design, music, theatre, creative writing, dance and art education departments.

With locations in Arnhem, Enschede and Zwolle, ArtEZ is one of the major art institutes in the Netherlands. In addition to approximately 3000 students, ArtEZ employs 900 lecturers and other staff.

In this PDF document you'll find all the information you need before coming to ArtEZ and for just after your arrival. Please read it thoroughly, because it contains important instructions and documents. Perhaps it is not the most fun thing to read, but consequences might be far-reaching if you forget one of the crucial steps of preparation.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at StudentAffairs@ArtEZ.nl. We look forward to meeting you at ArtEZ!

#1 BEFORE LEAVING

#1.1 Admission requirements

We are really happy that you have chosen our university to develop your talent and passion. If you have not done so already, start the application process by signing up for the course of your choice in Studielink. You can find the link on the page of the course. Below, we will take you through what follows in the admission procedure.

Admission to the course of your choice

Each ArtEZ course has its own procedure to decide whether your artistic talent meets the criteria as set forth by the department. You might have to do an audition, show your portfolio, take an entrance exam, go through an interview, or a combination of these. Check our website for the admission criteria of each course. You can also contact the departments themselves for more information regarding your admission procedure.

More information: [Courses | ArtEZ University of the Arts](#).

Previous education

- To be eligible for a study in higher professional education (in Dutch: hbo) you are required to have successfully completed senior general secondary education (havo), pre-university education (vwo), senior secondary vocational education level 4 (mbo-4), or an equivalent level of education.
- For a master's programme the minimum requirement is a completed bachelor's programme in the Netherlands or a foreign bachelor's degree of the same level.

Are you unsure if your diploma will be sufficient to study at ArtEZ? You can perform a preliminary check of your previous education level by consulting Nuffic, the authority on Dutch education equivalences: [Education systems | Nuffic](#)

We will be consulting Nuffic when checking your diploma after your artistic admission. Note that our evaluation will determine whether you will be enrolled or not, your own preliminary check is only an indication!

Please send us a copy of your diploma and a list of your grades no later than 31 August or, if you need a visa or residence permit to study in the Netherlands, no later than 31 May. If your diploma is not in the Dutch, English or German language, then you must also supply us with a certified translation in Dutch or English.

Language requirements

You will need to prove your language proficiency no later than 31 August or, if you need a visa or residence permit to study in the Netherlands, no later than 31 May. There are a few different ways in which you can do that. You can find out what level is required and which certificates we accept to fulfil the language requirements on our website: [Language requirements | ArtEZ University of the Arts](#)

If you apply for a study programme for which Dutch is the main language of instruction and Dutch is not your first language, we strongly advise you to take a course in your home country.

Payment of tuition fees

Paying the tuition fees on time is compulsory for enrolment at ArtEZ. You can read more about this in section #1.2 of this brochure.

ArtEZ can enrol you once we have received the following:

- passport
- diploma & transcripts of previous education
- language certificate
- tuition fees

Visa and permit

If you have an [EU/EEA nationality](#), you do not need an entry visa and/or a residence permit to study in the Netherlands. If you have a different nationality and you do need an entry visa and /or a residence permit, ArtEZ must apply for it. In that case, please contact Student Affairs and we'll provide you with the information about the visa and permit procedure. More information can be found on the website of the [Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service \(IND\)](#).

#1.2 Finances

Tuition fees

For new students with an [EU/EEA nationality](#) (for example a Dutch nationality), or a Swiss or Surinam nationality, the statutory tuition fee for 2025-2026 is € 2.601. Go to [our website](#) for more information about the tuition fees.

If you have already obtained a Dutch bachelor's degree and you've applied for another bachelor's degree at ArtEZ, your tuition fee is higher. The same rule applies when you already have a Dutch master's degree and apply for another master's program at ArtEZ. If you want to be sure what the tuition fees will be in your situation, use the [tuition fee calculator](#) on our website.

Your tuition fees must be paid no later than 31 August. After being admitted to ArtEZ, you will receive (or have received) a letter with detailed information about the payment of tuition fees. Tuition fees are adjusted each year. Tuition fees for the following year are usually announced around November.

Budget plan

Studying abroad can be expensive. Use this [worksheet](#) to see how much money you expect to spend each month (you do not need to upload the document if you use it as an personal indication). Also take a look at the average costs of living in the Netherlands. Check the video [Financial Plan | Study in NL](#) to find out more about the living expenses.

Scholarships

ArtEZ does not provide scholarships for new students with an EU/EER nationality. If you have a non-EU/EER nationality, you might be eligible for the scholarships that are offered at ArtEZ. Check our website for the requirements: [Financial matters | ArtEZ University of the Arts](#)

#1.3 Student finance

If you are enrolled as a student in university, higher vocational education, or secondary vocational education, then you could be eligible for student finance. You must be a Dutch national or have the same rights. Check for more information the website [Student finance | DUO](#).

We have an overview of other financial arrangements that may be of interest on our website: [Financial arrangements | ArtEZ University of the Arts](#)

#1.4 Housing

Are you planning on moving to Arnhem, Enschede or Zwolle for your study at ArtEZ? All three cities have a lot to offer for students. In the Netherlands, students do not live on a campus, and ArtEZ does not provide any form of housing. As a student you have to find your own housing. Please do not underestimate the challenge of finding accommodation, as it is often a long process. On this page we will give you some tips for your search.

Housing Crisis

In the Netherlands there is a national housing crisis. This means that there is a great shortage of housing, including student housing. The number of available rooms (in all the three cities ArtEZ is located) is far too low. So start your orientation on housing **months before** coming to the Netherlands. We kindly ask you to take these circumstances seriously before coming to the Netherlands. It could be that none of the options for finding a place has worked for you, and you have not found a permanent place before you travel to the Netherlands. If that is the case, there is nothing we can do to help you when you arrive here.

More information

- For more information about housing, go to [Housing for immigration](#). If you have more questions, please send an email to StudentAffairs@ArtEZ.nl.
- You can also find more information about living in the Netherlands at [Study in NL](#).
- Check this video: [Student Housing in the Netherlands | Study in NL](#)

#1.5 Preparing your stay in the Netherlands

BSN with application for student finance

Are you applying for student finance to study in the Netherlands? And do you have the Dutch nationality but no Citizen Service Number (BSN) yet? Then you receive a BSN when you apply for your student finance. With your BSN, you can arrange a number of things in the Netherlands, even if you are not in the Netherlands yet. To apply for student finance, go to [DUO](#).

You receive your BSN by post from the National Office for Identity Data (RvIG). With your BSN, you can apply for and activate a DigiD. You need your DigiD, among other things, for your student travel product and to log in to [Mijn DUO](#).

BSN without study finance

Not applying for student finance? Then you can only apply for a BSN in the Netherlands. You then receive a BSN after registration in the Personal Records Database (BRP) of the Dutch municipality where you are going to live. See #2.2 for more information.

Registration at the municipality

Within 10 days before departure, deregister from the population register of the island where you live. This is compulsory. When you deregister, state in which municipality in the Netherlands you are going to live. Take the proof of deregistration with you to the Netherlands, this is one of the documents you need for the registration in the Netherlands.

Within five days of arriving in the Netherlands, you are required to register in the BRP of the municipality where you are going to live (see #2.2).

Please check the website [Information for students from Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the Caribbean Netherlands for registration in the Personal Records Database | RvIG](#) for the complete information about preparing your stay in the Netherlands. On this website you will also find useful links and important addresses.

For an overview of all the steps you have to take, download this [PDF](#).

#1.6 Insurance

If you don't have proper insurance, medical expenses can be very high in the Netherlands. That's why everyone living or staying in the Netherlands is **obliged** by Dutch law to have a healthcare insurance. Being uninsured means you risk a huge fine.

You must arrange your own insurance. You should never be uninsured, not even for a short period of time. Before your arrival in the Netherlands, please check that you are insured according to the Dutch health insurance requirements.

Our insurance partner Aon offers student insurances. Their 'ICS Complete+' is an insurance package for international students. It covers medical costs (urgent dental help included), repatriation, liability, home contents and baggage, accidents and legal aid. Please check the [Aon website](#) for more detailed information. Here you can apply for the insurance as well.

Important to note

- If you get a (part-time) job or a paid internship, your international (student) insurance is no longer valid. A paid internship is regarded as a job if it pays [the Dutch minimum wage](#) or more. You must switch to Dutch basic healthcare insurance; even if you are insured in your home country. See also #2.5
- If you need to switch to Dutch basic healthcare insurance, you might be eligible for compensation from the Dutch Tax Office (Belastingdienst). This is called healthcare benefit (zorgtoeslag). This benefit makes the expensive basic healthcare insurance a lot more affordable. Unfortunately, the application website is only in Dutch. You can call the Tax Information Line for help: [Tax Information Line](#). Alternatively, you can make an appointment with a student counsellor.

More information

- The website [Study in NL](#) gives you useful information about insurances in the Netherlands in general and has a helpful checklist.
- Check this video: [Applying for health insurance | Study in NL](#)
- Please contact the [Student Affairs Department](#) if you have any questions about medical insurance.
- If you want to know more about health care and insurances in the Netherlands, you can find information for international students here: [International students | Zorgverzekeringslijn](#)

#1.7 Webinars

To help you prepare for your move to the Netherlands, we will schedule two webinars you will be able to join. Student Affairs will inform you about the dates when they are set. You will be allowed to ask questions during all events.

First webinar: Discussion on moving to the Netherlands and Dutch culture

In this meeting, we'll be joined by ArtEZ students who will share their experiences and opinions on moving to the Netherlands for their studies. They will discuss what they think is most important to prepare well in advance and how to go about it. The topics of this webinar are open to what our students wish to tell you, but we will definitely discuss housing and finances from their point of view.

Second webinar: The formalities of moving to the Netherlands

Our second webinar discusses what we have also listed in this brochure; all the formal sides to moving abroad. It will be especially important for non-EU students who need a residence permit to study here, as they will be obligated to have or do these things. Some topics we'll discuss are insurances, residence permits and getting a bank account. The webinar offers a different format to this brochure and our website, but most importantly allows you to directly ask questions!

#2 UPON ARRIVAL

#2.1 Introduction activities

Introduction programme for all the new students

To give all the new bachelor students a warm welcome at ArtEZ, there is an introduction period a week before the start of the academic year. Each ArtEZ location organises its own introduction programme. We strongly advise you to join this, as it is the best way to get to know ArtEZ and make friends in your new hometown! You will receive an invitation for the introduction days by email.

Welcome programme for new international students

For international students, there will be welcoming programmes per city. They will be organised separately or will be integrated in the introduction programme for new students. The welcoming programmes will take place sometime during the two weeks before the start of the academic year. During this welcome programme you will get information about practical issues such as opening a bank account, registration at the municipality and the Dutch healthcare system. But there will also be time to get to know other international students and have fun together. Keep a close eye on your email for the invitation for the welcome programme!

#2.2 Registration at the municipality

If you stay in the Netherlands for more than 4 months, you are required to register in the BRP. You have to do this within 5 days after signing your rental contract, at the municipality where you are going to be living. Check the municipality website to make an appointment. If you do not have a tax- and social security number (in Dutch: BSN = burgerservicenummer) yet, you will receive one after registering.

Students from Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Dutch Caribbean must deregister from the PIVA population registry. Deregistration from the PIVA register is a precondition for registration in the Personal Records Database (BRP).

Do you register at a different Dutch municipality than the one you specified when deregistering? Your personal data are then forwarded to another municipality. This may lead to a delay of several weeks in your registration in the BRP.

Important note: In most municipalities, you will need to bring a valid passport, your rental contract, and your birth certificate (translated in English, German, French or Dutch) with you to your registration appointment.

More information

- Go to the website of your municipality: [Arnhem](#), [Zwolle](#), [Enschede](#)
Unfortunately, the website of your town may not be entirely in English. You can ask a fellow classmate to help you make an (online) appointment at city hall or contact the [Student Affairs Department](#) so we can help you.
- Check the [Dutch government website](#) for more information. On this website you will also find useful links and important addresses. You can also download this [PDF](#) for a complete overview.
- Check this video: [Registering with the municipality and getting your BSN | Study in NL](#)

#2.3 Dutch bank account

We strongly advise foreign students to open a Dutch bank account. This makes it easier to pay for things such as food, transport, living, utilities, rent, phone, internet etc. You normally need a BSN number to open a Dutch bank account. If you do not have a BSN yet, you can open a bank account with the [ABN AMRO](#). Read also this [factsheet](#) for more information. However, you must provide your BSN within 120 days after opening your account. Read more about how to obtain a BSN number in #1.5 or #2.2.

If you already have a bank account in a country that is a member of SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area), it is not strictly necessary to open a Dutch bank account. You are advised to contact your own bank for more information.

Usually, the required documents to open a Dutch bank account are a proof of enrolment at ArtEZ (you can get this at the Student Affairs Department), a proof of residence, and a social security number (see section #1.5 or #2.2). We advise you to check the exact requirements on the bank's website.

#2.4 Medical care in the Netherlands

Emergency care

In case you are in immediate need of an ambulance, the police or the fire brigade, call 112. This is the national toll-free emergency phone number.

General medical care

If you are in need of medical help, you go to a GP (General Practitioner/family doctor). Do not go to the Emergency Room at a hospital, unless there is an emergency.

You must register with a GP in your area as soon as you are settled, even if you do not need a doctor right away. We also advise you to register with a pharmacy as soon as you are settled. You can ask the GP for a good pharmacy in the area.

If the GP thinks that further medical examination is necessary, they will refer you to a specialist, often located at the hospital. This is customary in the Netherlands.

If you forget to cancel a scheduled appointment, the GP will charge you for an unattended medical consultation, so make sure you inform the doctor at least 24 hours in advance if you are not able to go!

More information

- You can find more information about health topics and healthcare in the Netherlands via [GPinfo](#).
- Check this video: [General practitioner | Study in NL](#)

#2.5 Working in the Netherlands

If you want to work in the Netherlands, **it can change your insurance situation!**

You are advised to take this into consideration before starting a job. You are legally obligated to take out a Dutch basic health insurance if you are not yet insured that way when you start your job. If you are incorrectly insured or uninsured, you risk a fine!

Financial aid

International students working alongside their studies are often entitled to financial aid from the Dutch government. This is meant to compensate the costs of the Dutch health insurance. Visit the [Dutch Tax Administration website](#) for more information about the criteria you must meet to receive this healthcare benefit.

More information

- Go to [Insurance | Study in NL](#) to read more about healthcare insurance.
- Check this video: [Work while studying | Study in NL](#)
- Check the video [Volunteer while studying | Study in NL](#) if you want to work as a volunteer while studying.

#2.6 Public transport

A typical Dutch form of transport is... a bicycle! You have never seen more bicycles anywhere else. We recommend buying a second-hand bike once you have arrived in the Netherlands. Useful websites for buying a second-hand bike could be [Marktplaats](#) (the Dutch version of Ebay) or [Scalabikes](#) (only in Dutch). Also, most towns have a group on Facebook where you can exchange or buy cheap second-hand stuff.

Instead of buying a bike, you can rent one as well. The company [Swapfiets](#) offers a special long term bike rental service for students in Arnhem, Zwolle, Enschede and a lot of other Dutch cities. You pay a monthly fee for a bike, and if it is broken you can easily swap it for a working bike without extra costs.

For longer distances you can use public transport such as bus and train. The Dutch public transport infrastructure can take you almost anywhere in the country. Most Dutch people own a so-called OV-chipcard which can be used for all forms of public transport. You can buy an OV-chipcard from any NS (Nederlandse Spoorwegen = Dutch Railways) ticket machine or service counter as well as in most supermarkets and bookstores (Primera, AKO, Bruna). You can also use your bankcard, credit card or phone to check in and out.

Please note: The Dutch Railways offer various [discount options](#). You need a personal OV-chipcard to make use of the discount, which is only available if you have a Dutch bank account. More information about the Dutch Railways: [NS.nl](#).

More information

- Go to [Travelling with the OV-chipkaart](#) for more information about the OV-chipcard.
- Check this video: [Public transport | Study in NL](#)

#3 WHO IS THERE FOR YOU?

#3.1 Student Affairs Department

You can contact the Student Affairs Department about anything to do with your studies in general. For example, we provide support and guidance with regards to:

- visa applications
- admission procedures/requirements
- insurance
- financial matters
- ArtEZ Scholarship and NL Scholarship
- exchange

Student Affairs Department

ArtEZ University of the Arts

Visit: Onderlangs 9, 6812 CE Arnhem, the Netherlands

Post: P.O. box 49, 6800 AA Arnhem, the Netherlands

Online: StudentAffairs@ArtEZ.nl or www.ArtEZ.nl

Phone: 0031 26 35 35 650

#3.2 Student counsellor

Every ArtEZ location has its own student counsellor - the person you can talk to whenever you encounter personal issues. Here are some examples of matters you can discuss with them:

- I feel homesick, what should I do?
- There are certain subjects in my study programme that I find really hard, how can I discuss this with my teacher?
- I don't get along with my roommate, can you help me?
- I'm running out of money; can you advise me?
- I have dyslexia; can ArtEZ help me with that?
- I'm feeling depressed and lonely. What can I do?

You can find the contact information on our [website](#).

Where can you go if you need extra help or support?

Do you wish to talk to someone outside ArtEZ? In Zwolle and Arnhem, you also have the possibility to contact [RE:Link](#) (website is only in Dutch) or the [Arnhem Student Point](#) (ASP). The ASP also organizes activities where you can meet (international) students from all the universities in Arnhem.

#3.3 Study Career Coach

Do you need some extra help during your studies? The study career coach can help you with all your study-related questions. For example, time management, setting priorities, or improving your study skills. Perhaps you are facing difficulties that you would like to discuss or maybe you need special support due to a disability. Do contact your study career coach. They can talk you through challenges or possibly refer you to resources that could help you successfully complete your studies. To find out who your study career coach is, contact the course office of your study program.

#3.4 External confidential counsellors

ArtEZ has two independent confidential counsellors who are external to ArtEZ. They can be contacted if, during your studies, you encounter a problematic situation that you want to resolve with the help of an external party. The confidential counsellor can advise you on how best to tackle the situation and help you identify a strategy that best suits you and the situation. The confidential counsellor is a member of the [Landelijke Vereniging van Vertrouwenspersonen](#) (National Association of Confidants) (only in Dutch) and is bound by the confidentiality code. You can find more information about the confidential counsellors on our [website](#).