

Personal Consultations (PC) for new international arrivals:

An opportunity to give personal attention to new employees, and their partners/families as they arrive and settle in the Netherlands. Guiding them towards support, and showing you care by investing in this possibility.

PCs are provided by experienced volunteers who have themselves navigated the process of finding a new and fulfilling life in the Netherlands. They are intended to manage expectations, highlight how things are done in the Netherlands, what can be expected (and not) and provide guidance on who/where to turn to when questions arise, as they do.

FORMAT

They will take place, by appointment only, at the ACCESS main office in The Hague, Laan van Meerdervoort 70, Monday-Friday between 10am and 4pm, or at the Expat Centre Utrecht or other locations in the Netherlands upon appointment.

Main purpose: provide an independent, neutral and confidential environment in which new arrivals will feel welcomed, have the chance to ask all their questions and go away with a clearer picture of what they can expect their lives to be like in the Netherlands, and where they can turn to for future questions.

Each PC session will be for a maximum of 2hrs per couple/individual, to be scheduled through the ACCESS Office Manager with at least one week's notice. They will be provided with written info/leads/links/suggestions as well as a copy of 'Ready, Steady Go Dutch'; Your first steps Guide and the most recent issue of the ACCESS Magazine as well as the Xpat Journal. Any follow-up questions they may have can always be attended to by ACCESS' existing support structure: Helpdesk or THIC. However, with their permission ACCESS will follow-up with them by email or phone, within two weeks of the PC to inquire about how they are doing.

It would be helpful if ACCESS knew beforehand a few details of people coming in order to ensure as best a fit with the volunteers who will provide the Personal Consultation. [i.e. country of origin; single/family; children – ages; previous expatriate experience; languages]. Of course, if they have specific questions these too would be good to know ahead of time, however, since when you arrive, 'you don't know what you don't know' this is by no means a requirement. If a specific language is required, we will endeavour to facilitate this, but in principle all PCs will be conducted in English.

FINANCING

To be determined on a case by case basis depending on number of internationals expected within a calendar year. The fee includes a general contribution to ACCESS which helps ensure that we are there, at any point after someone has arrived to support them further, thus also being partners with your own HR Department and the time spent answering questions we are experienced in dealing with. Needless to say, volunteering opportunities for the non-working partner are also available to accompanying partners¹.

ADDITIONAL ACCESS SERVICES

Other ways of supporting your new arrivals could be:

- ACCESSing the Netherlands (morning or afternoon in-house tailored presentation including cultural introduction to the Dutch) or
- Welcome to the Netherlands (30 minute what to expect of/in your life in NL) or
- Welcome to The Hague programme (free morning programme including tour of the City Centre) offered by the City of The Hague together with ACCESS four times per year.

Ready, Steady, Go Dutch is a must-have resource for anyone planning on settling in the Netherlands, or who has been here a little longer.

This innovative English-language publication is a handy 100-page paperback full of tips, tricks, and testimonials from expats and internationals, who have already “gone Dutch”.

The book has been compiled from the experiences of some 150 people from all over the world.

The ACCESS Magazine Returning to print after a three year hiatus, the ACCESS magazine is a quarterly lifestyle publication, written by members of the international community, designed to inform and help build bridges between the international and local communities.

The Xpat Journal is the premier magazine for expatriates in the Netherlands and is published 4x/year and covers Health; Housing; Employment and Education matters and includes a comprehensive Art Diary of events and activities in the country.

Your first steps Guide is a compact information resource for the first things which need to be done upon arrival and includes relevant resources for the rest of the time living in the Netherlands.

¹ Given ACCESS’ own recruitment and selection criteria we cannot guarantee that all accompanying partners will be selected to become volunteers.