

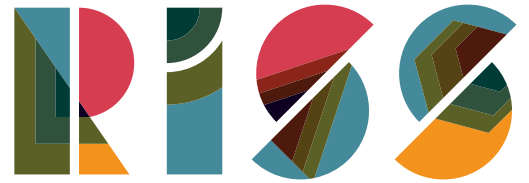


A

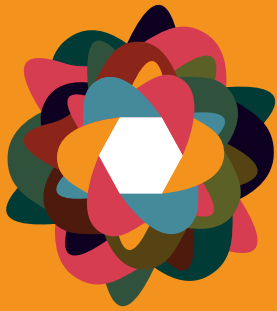
How water made the Netherlands

2021
Winter

In this issue | Dutch history | The royals | The hidden Hague |
Finding mental health help | Being an entrepreneur | Cocktails for winter |
Free to pick up |



**ROTTERDAM
INTERNATIONAL
SECONDARY
SCHOOL**



RISS Rose Programme

RISS is thrilled to announce an exciting new programme where students will learn **vital life skills through hands-on activities.**



Check out the special page on our website!



Mr. Murphy's Kitchen





The City of the Future, Now



You're Not Thinking, You're Just Being Logical



Life Through a Lens

Follow us on:  

Admissions information: admissions.riss@wolfert.nl
+31 (0)10 890 77 44 | riss.wolfert.nl



Dear ACCESS readers



Steve Voyce

ACCESS Editor

editor@access-nl.org

Whether in the architecture of Amsterdam and The Hague, Rotterdam's modernist post-war buildings, the winding medieval streets of smaller cities and towns, or when travelling past the huge, flat, prehistoric landscapes, the Netherlands feels steeped in history. But how much do we know about the actual history of this place we choose to call home? And how does it affect life today?

Our Cover Story is written by Joe Wegecsanyi and Julian Smith, currently undertaking the daunting task of relating the full history of this swampy, but fertile, land in enlightening podcast episodes. Joe and Julian approached our Cover Story as they do their humorously-delivered, smart, brilliantly researched and written podcasts. Their article traces how man's struggle with taming water has shaped this area of north-western Europe up to this day. It's an excellent article and a great entry point into Dutch history.

Elsewhere in this issue, we look at the modern Dutch royal family—Sandra Silva finds out their contemporary history, and how many Willems there were. We also ask how Dutch history is taught in secondary schools here—is it different in Dutch and international schools? And what is the Dutch Historical Canon?

If you're looking for things to do during the winter months, you couldn't do better than take a trip to Rotterdam to see the shiny new Depot, home for a museum's collection. The building is pretty impressive—and is proving a little controversial. Or if you find your-

self in The Hague, why not take a step away from the main tourist spots? In our Travel section, Lynette and Richard Croxford have combined writing and photography to reveal some lesser-

known, fascinating slices of history worth investigating. For those who like their history in book-form, we also review an absolute classic that fictionalises a darker moment of Dutch history. It's worth a read.

Counselling has always been at the core of ACCESS. In our Health & Wellbeing article Jacqueline Pemberton spoke to some counsellors and people who have received counselling about finding good mental healthcare in the Netherlands as an international. It's a really informative article and one we are particularly proud of.

Season's greetings from all at ACCESS



How ACCESS supports internationals

Our helpdesks respond to questions about coming to, as well as living and settling in the Netherlands.

This is free of charge. Consult the ACCESS website for days and times: access-nl.org.

Find our helpdesks in:

- The Hague, City Hall, Atrium
- Amsterdam, IN Amsterdam – World Trade Center I-Tower, ground floor
- Amstelveen Municipality - online consultations only, appointments.access-nl.org/amstelveen
- Leiden, Stads Kantoor Leiden, Bargelaan 190
- Utrecht, IWCUR – International Welcome Center Utrecht Region, Stads Kantoor Utrecht, Stadsplateau 1, 2nd floor

ACCESS Counselling Service Network

We provide an on-call counselling service for referrals through our Counselling Service Network.

ACCESS Childbirth Courses

Our courses are designed for new parents and are offered either as a weekly class or as a one-day intensive course in The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, as well as online.

ACCESS Training Network

Our trainers provide coaching and consulting in areas such as careers, behavioural change, ADHD, and writing, among others.

ACCESS Partners and Patrons

Our commercial and municipal partners and patrons invest in us, so we can support you—the international community.

Contact



access-nl.org



helpdesk@access-nl.org



+31 85 400 03 88

Join ACCESS on

Facebook



Instagram



Magazine



Colophon

Publisher

Stichting ACCESS

Editorial content

editor@access-nl.org

Advertising

070 345 17 00

fnd@access-nl.org

Editor

Steve Voyce

Assistant Editor

Nancy Kroonenberg

Design & Layout

M-space | graphic designers

Printer

Printall AS, Tallin

Cover image

Liliana Vargas-Meleza

Contents images (clockwise)

Gemma Chua Tran, Liliana Vargas-Meleza, Richard Croxford, Jesson Mata, Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen, Iris van den Broek

This issue of ACCESS magazine would not have been made possible without the kind and help of Alexandra Belicova, Olivia van den Broek, Lynette & Richard Croxford, Paul Fitzpatrick, Katarina Gaborova, Allyson Kukel, Giulia Quaresima, Sandra Silva, Lysanne Sizoo, Louisa Stewart & Julie Taylor, Carolyn Tabak, Tracey Taylor, Deborah Valentine, Liliana Vargas-Meleza, Kim van der Velden, Joe Wegecsanyi & Julian Smith



43



18



15



8



23

ACCESS

Winter 2021

Vol. 34 No. 3

Circulation: 6,500

Also available online at: magazine.access-nl.org

Contents

- 6 **ACCESS** Counselling Service Network
- 8 **Cover Story** That sinking feeling
- 15 **International Community** Taking care of your own business
- 18 **Arts & Entertainment** Bowled over by art
- 23 **Travel** The Hague's fascinating histories
- 26 **Schools**
- 28 **Review** The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi
- 31 **Dutch Lifestyle** An Oranje tree
- 35 **Health & Wellbeing** Everybody hurts
- 41 **Food** Winter sun
- 43 **Education** We're all history

Copyright ACCESS 2021

All rights reserved. No part of the ACCESS Magazine may be used in any form without explicit permission in writing from the Publisher. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication was correct at the time of going to press. However, ACCESS and its writers cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information included.

ACCESS Counselling Service Network

ACCESS was established in 1986 to support the mental wellbeing of the English-speaking community living in the Netherlands.

BY OLIVIA VAN DEN BROEK-NERI

The ACCESS Counselling Service Network (CSN) was set up to help guide internationals in choosing professional support. Some of our counsellors share their experiences about being part of CSN.



PHOTO: CHRISTINA WOCINTECHCHAT

Member
of ACCESS
Counselling
Network

Lysanne Sizoo

Practice Locations: Nederhorst den Berg (The Riverside Practice), Amsterdam, Hilversum (Coachhuis)

Nationalities: Dutch/English

Language skills: English, Swedish, Dutch

zensan.nl/en

Raised in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, Lysanne holds a UK Council for Psychotherapy accredited Psychotherapy Master's. She is licensed by the Dutch National Federation for Healthcare (NFG). She travelled and lived abroad for 30 years and joined the CSN in October 2020.

Being a part of the network has helped Lysanne professionally. "It has helped build my practice and hopefully will also be a way of connecting with other internationally-oriented colleagues in the form of an intervision group," she says.

"I love the expression 'unity in diversity' and it applies to ACCESS as a whole and CSN in particular," she says.

"The structures that have been put in place work well," she says. "The additional feature where it is easy to see who is and isn't taking clients has been really helpful."

Katarina Gaborova

Practice Location: The Hague

Nationalities: Slovak/Australian

Language skills: English, Slovak, Czech, basic Italian, Dutch

psychologistinthehague.com

Katarina is a psychologist in a private practice who supports predominately couples and adults. Born in Slovakia, she was introduced to ACCESS 10 years ago when Googling for an international organisation that has a network of expats and also people working in her field.

“I like that ACCESS provides a roof to different departments, and collects knowledge and information that can be shared with internationals,” she says. “Ten years ago it was, of course, a smaller organisation and it’s so lovely to see it growing, expanding and how professional it is.”

Katarina recommends the CSN, of course, ACCESS Magazine, ACCESS childbirth courses, and particularly presentations about raising bilingual children. “I attended birth classes when I was pregnant.” As she found the bilingual parenting lecture beneficial, she would like to see ACCESS offer more workshops and lectures.

The CSN has two on-call counsellors available from 8:30 to 20:30 daily, except on weekends and public holidays. Katarina has enjoyed being an on-call counsellor and walking expats through the process of finding a therapist. “It is nice knowing that people are helped with finding a therapist,” she says.

Through the network, Katarina has received support and information, but she would always like more. “I would like training from some of the team,” she says. “I would find it interesting to learn more from their expertise.”

Carolyn Tabak

Practice Location: The Hague

Nationalities: British/Austrian

Language skills: English and French

 psychologies-unlimited.com

A psychological therapist with 29 years of experience, Carolyn moved to the Netherlands in 2007 and soon after, became involved with ACCESS. “I was impressed and wanted to join the CSN,” she says. She joined the CSN in 2008.

Carolyn describes ACCESS as, “an invaluable resource supporting expats with all aspects of living in the Netherlands including their mental health.”

About CSN

The ACCESS Counselling Service Network (CSN) consists of licensed professionals with practices all over the Netherlands, which regulates itself and is coordinated by an ACCESS Focal Point. Counsellors are men and women who are psychologists, mental health counsellors, and social workers from different cultural backgrounds. All counsellors have a minimally a Master’s level degree with at least two years supervised work experience. They offer a variety of expertise in different areas.

In addition to English, a number of ACCESS counsellors speak other languages including Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Italian and Hebrew. All are personally familiar with the expatriate experience in one way or another.

All referrals and counselling services are confidential. Fees are set by the individual counsellors.

For more details about the ACCESS Counselling Service Network (CSN) and how to join the network, go to access-nl.org/counselling/counselling-network

Carolyn enjoys being part of a supportive community of professionals.

“Some clients are straightforward to help, others more complex and require more or a different kind of help than we can offer,” she says. “It’s never dull!”

“Those looking for psychological support can reach out to us either by phone or by filling in an online contact form,” she says. “We aim to respond within 24 hours, do a brief assessment of their needs, and refer them on to an appropriate therapist in our network.”

Carolyn offers advice to those who do not feel that they need therapy, “you don’t need to be struggling to come to therapy,” she says. “It can also help you grow and develop.” «

About the author

California-native Olivia van den Broek-Neri works as Project Coordinator Communications & Events at Holland Expat Center South in Eindhoven, and was previously an ACCESS volunteer.

That sinking

How the Dutch sank and saved the Netherlands

BY JOE WEGECSENYI AND JULIAN SMITH



PHOTO: EUGENIYA BELOVA

There are few landscapes as identifiable as that of the Netherlands. However, it could just as easily be called a waterscape. Sitting in a window seat on a plane landing at or taking off from Schiphol Airport, you might have seen it—cloud-cover permitting, of course. The meandering rivers, the green blocks of soggy land separated by muddy canals and ditches, and a row of dunes down the coast all lend to an overwhelming understanding of why it's called the 'nether' lands. They most certainly are low.

feeling



PHOTO: MIKA KORHONEN

Wet, wet, wet

In the west and north especially, the Netherlands is a huge wetland, a place where land and water meet and interact. As such, the norms, values and cultural growth of the people who moved and settled here have often reflected their engagement with the rivers that flow from far-away mountains and the seas which consistently pummel the coastline with an ancient ferocity.

The earliest text mentioning this area comes from the 4th century BCE (Before Common Era) by the Greek adventurer Pytheas of Massalia, who sailed up the western coast of Europe to the Baltics. Of this boggy, swampland corner of the continent he wrote, “more people died in the struggle against water than in the struggle against men.” So, why and how did such a soggy place come to host the robust societies of the Netherlands? The two most important contributing factors to this were the natural geographic processes that formed the land and the impact of humans on the land itself.

Ice, ice

Around 200,000 years ago, most of north-western Europe, including the North Sea, was covered in thick ice. Powerful glaciers pushed eastwards, creating the hills and valleys which today straddle the border between Germany and the Netherlands. When the climate warmed, those valleys then hosted rivers feeding from the Swiss mountains into the North Sea. Around 8,500 years ago, melting ice caused the sea level to rise enough that the British Isles became separated from the continent by the North Sea. The Netherlands transformed into a coastal region, with sand dunes running north-south along its western edge and winds and tides creating a constantly shifting coastline.

Sphagnum, it was really something

Peat moss started to grow in the wet, soggy, low-lying areas, creating a landscape known as a *veen* (fen). The fen eventually grew high enough that it became disconnected from the groundwater. This is a problem »

From dijk to waard

A map or list of place names of any part of the Netherlands can tell you a lot about that location's history of dealing with water.

- dijk – a protective wall constructed to defend against water (e.g. Zaan dijk)
- dam – a barrier designed to restrict or limit the amount of water passing through a point. (e.g. Volendam)
- veen – a landscape dominated by mosses (e.g. Hoogeveen)
- plas – a place that accidentally formed into a lake after the removal of peat caused subsidence (e.g. Vinkeveense Plassen)
- drecht & -voort – indicating a place where a river could be forded or crossed (e.g. Dordrecht)
- meer, -vliet & -waard – signalling the existence (or prior existence) of a large body of water, such as a large lake, a sea or a riverway (e.g. Heerhugowaard)

for most mosses, but not for sphagnum. Sphagnum continued to grow, filling and overflowing the landscape, similar to a muffin top expanding out of a cake tin. By the first millennium BCE, people settled upon this undulating, rolling, spongy sphagnum to take, reclaim and borrow land from the marsh, sea and rivers.

Although the north and west of the Netherlands was flood prone, it was fertile. Some of the earliest interventions humans made to help settle this area were by the Frisian people. Around 500 BCE, they first constructed *terpen* or *wierden* (dwelling mounds) – human-made hillocks where settlements could be built above the high-water line. If there was a flood,



farmers would protect their cattle on the higher safety of the hill and simply wait until the water receded. As the sea level continued to rise over the centuries, dwelling mounds were enlarged, both in height and width, some up to fifteen metres over the rest of the land!

Drain the swamp

By the 10th century CE (Common Era), the territories of the low countries were dotted with small fishing villages, farming settlements, churches, abbeys and monasteries. The first primitive dikes were built by joining dwelling mounds together to control the flooding. A strict social hierarchy had developed where the majority lived as peasant-class workers, paying homage and taxes upwards to a land-owning minority elite. The members of this upper-class nobility administered regional rule.

From about 1050 CE, in exchange for the back-breaking work required to make the land habitable, as well as a small tribute to the counts of Holland and Guelders, and the bishops of Utrecht, peasants would be granted their freedom and ownership of the land.

To utilise the land, settlers needed to drain the swamp – they were allocated a block of land along a river or creek, and the right to reclaim the area behind it out to a certain distance. Large blocks of peat were cut out of the spongy surface creating long, parallel ditches, which ran at ninety degrees down to the river. Water from the bog would drain through those ditches, towards the river and on to the sea. The landscape created was one of long, skinny strips of land, called *akkers*, each belonging to a different family, all of the same length, as defined by the administration, with water on either side. *Akkers* neatly parcel up the countryside to this day.

For peat's sake

Removing peat created farmable land and the peat was a valuable fuel commodity – when dried it can be burned for a lengthy time. However, removing so



PHOTO: MAARTEN RUS



God created Holland, but the Dutch sank it

much peat had the long-term impact of allowing oxygen to seep into the fen below causing it to rot, so the great rolling carpet of lush, green bog began to deflate. This example of human-made climate change means that, ever since, the Netherlands has been sinking.

In combination with a rising sea-level, this has spelled periodic catastrophes in the forms of massive floods. A popular saying goes that “God created the world, but the Dutch created Holland”. A more accurate one might be that “God created Holland, but the Dutch sank it”.

In order to combat the rising waters, around the year 1100 the first larger dikes were created. Projects like these had to be communal efforts. In West-Friesland, various smaller dikes were joined together to create

a coherent system called the (West-Frisian Encircling Dike). Construction was completed around 1250 and turned West-Friesland into a protected area between the North Sea and the Zuiderzee. During a gigantic deluge in 1287—the St Lucia’s Flood—up to 80,000 people were killed in Holland and Friesland. The people of West Friesland were mostly spared, however, thanks to the ring dike.

Dijkgraaf generator

The scale of these works required regional cooperation and the first regional public bodies were created. These would become known as *Waterschappen* (waterboards) or *Hoogheemraden* (high local councils), which managed the construction and maintenance of water management systems such as dikes, dams and ditches. At the head of these hydro-hierarchies was a *dijkgraaf* (dike reeve—the local official). »

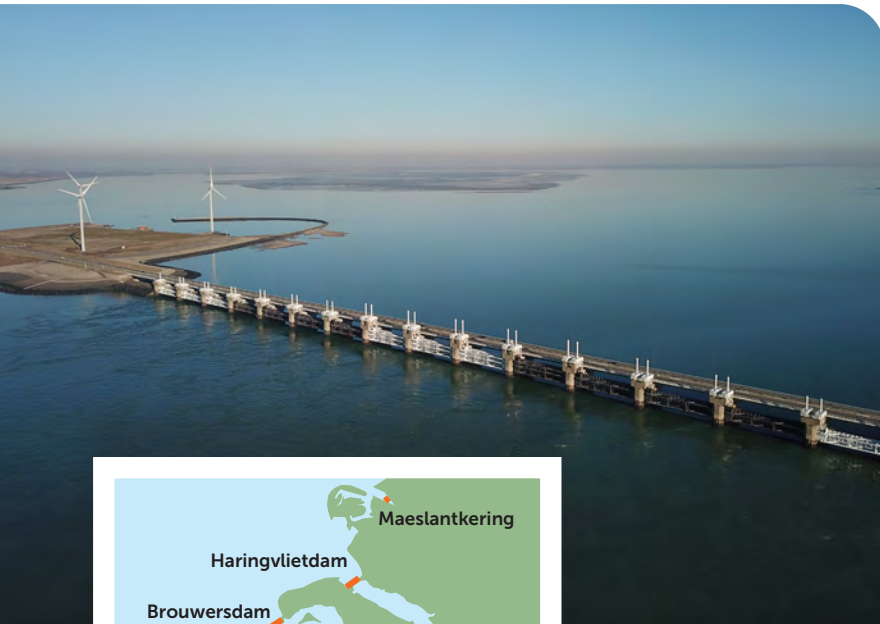


PHOTO: CYCLETOURS HOLIDAYS

How did a soggy place come to host the robust societies of the Netherlands?

through coastal dikes in Holland, Zeeland and Flanders. The resulting All Saints' Day flood killed up to 20,000 people, with numerous towns in a prosperous area called Saeftinghe simply swept away.

Things would only get worse for Saeftinghe. In 1574, Dutch soldiers broke open one of the remaining dikes and purposely flooded the area to help defend Antwerp from Spanish troops, completely inundating Saeftinghe. What remains is a salt-marsh, whose thriving biodiversity makes it a popular spot for tourists. The only reminder of the villages that were once there is the name, *Verdronken land van Saeftinghe* (the Drowned Lands of Saeftinghe).

When the levee breaks

Floods are not consigned to the distant past. The most recent great flood was the *Waternoodsramp* on the evening of 31 January-1 February 1953, during which the dikes of Zeeland were breached at 67 different points. The resulting flood devastated farmland and killed more than 1,800 people in Zeeland alone. This compelled the construction of a complex series of dams, dikes, locks, gates and storm-surge barriers in Zeeland, collectively known as the Delta Works. Completed in 1997, the Delta Works radically cut the amount of shoreline exposed to the violent seas in Zeeland by around 700 km., reducing the amount of dikes needing to be maintained.

Climate change and rising sea levels means that the whole system will need to be modified and updated before long, as the seas continue to pummel the Dutch coast. This relationship between humans and water remains as important as always and has



There was also a college of judges for judicial dike-related matters, such as handing out fines for lack of dike maintenance, and an administrative body that established who would play which role in all of

the necessary work. Land owners were primarily responsible for dikes around their property and the responsibility for commons was shared accordingly. The dike reeve would visit landowners three times a year—in spring to see what repairs needed to be made, in summer to see if the repairs were completed and to levy fines if they were not, and in the autumn to see what repairs had to be made before winter. If the landowners could not afford repairs, the dike reeve could loan the money at high interest, making it a profitable public service.

Stormy weather

Despite this cooperation, living in the Netherlands in the pre-industrial age was perilous with regular flooding catastrophes. On 1 November 1570 a massive storm surge in the North Sea saw giant waves break

been a part of the fabric of the low countries for so long—it echoes within Dutch culture and social interaction. Perhaps the best example of this is the process of poldering.

Levelling up

A polder is a piece of land that lies below surrounding water levels. Polders are often situated where former lakes have been drained, and abound through the Netherlands. An engineer named Jan Adrianszoon played a major part in the proliferation of polders. Under his supervision, in 1612 the Beemster Lake, north of Amsterdam, became the first lake in recorded history to be drained using windmills. Jan Adrianszoon became so synonymous with emptying water that he adopted the moniker Leeghwater—meaning ‘empty water’. He was also an early proponent of poldering the Haarlemmermeer, a lake which had grown dangerously large due to subsidence caused by peat farming and threatened nearby Amsterdam. The Haarlemmermeer was eventually drained in the 19th century, providing the location upon which Schiphol Airport was eventually built. When planes land at Schiphol today, they touch down at around three metres below sea level.

Come together

Water management in the Netherlands, from the times of building humble dwelling mounds to the modern engineering marvel of the Delta Works, has always demanded a communal effort. It requires cooperation between rival parties who might otherwise have had little interest in working together. After all, flood waters do not discriminate in who they wash away.

As such, the idea of poldering has come to express a process and manner of compromise and consensus based decision making, prevalent in wider Dutch culture. Each and every participant is given fair and equal room to present their opinion on whichever topic or matter is at hand. While this can mean business meetings in the Netherlands take a long time, it is a fundamental process by which group



PHOTO: ROB OO

decisions are made, whether in large corporations, housing unions, squatting communities or even the Dutch parliament.

As the Netherlands, and the world, once again faces an existential threat in the form of climate change and rising sea levels, the process of poldering will have to continue if the Dutch wish to keep their heads safely above water through the 21st century. «

About the authors

Joe Wegecsanyi and Julian Smith are Australian expats living in the Netherlands, who have spent a decade working in European tourism, culture and history communication. They are the founders of Republic of Amsterdam Radio www.republicofamsterdamradio.com, which aims to communicate Dutch history to an English-speaking audience. Their flagship podcast is History of the Netherlands www.historyofthenetherlands.com which is available on every podcast app.



Curious



Connected



Compassionate



The International School
of The Hague

www.ishtehague.nl

Curious, Connected
and Compassionate

Inspiring personal excellence in a strong and diverse community

Taking care of your own business

What is it like to start your own business in the Netherlands?

PHOTO: THIS IS ENGINEERING-RAENG



Did you know...
At start of 2020, the Netherlands had more than two million businesses.

BY STEVE VOYCE

So, you've moved to the Netherlands, or you've been here for a while, and you've got a great idea for a business making and selling a new kind of left-handed scissors, or a self-heating teacup, or you simply want to set up as a self-employed web designer. But where do you start? As an international, away from your home country, things might seem overwhelming at first.

But don't fear. The Netherlands is a great place to start a business.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2020 just over 17 percent of the workforce in the Netherlands was self-employed, and women account for 36 percent of the total number of entrepreneurs—a figure that has grown by almost half in the last five years.

Starting out

Alexandra Belicova, who works for Startup-Amsterdam—an initiative by Gemeente Amsterdam—iamsterdam.com/en/business/startupamsterdam—says that for anyone starting as a freelancer, “the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, the KvK, is the first step, where you register as an *Eenmanszaak* (one person business).”

The KvK can also help entrepreneurs by walking them through which legal entity to choose, setting up in business, any legal and financial aspects, and potentially connect them to advisors and mentors, and will help non-EU entrepreneurs.

The co-directors of online business managers Blue Ninja Business Support blueninja.eu Louisa Stewart and Julie Taylor agree, “the KVK website is really useful and has lots of good content. We also run a Facebook group of over 250 entrepreneurs that support each other as it can be quite confusing and lonely starting up on your own.” Blue Ninja helps businesses ready to expand, provide advice and guidance, and support the implementation of changes.

Allyson Kukel, founder of Rooted in Calm rootedincalm.com—which helps people and organisations on their journey toward cultivating a deeply authentic, calm life—got help from a business coach. “Setting up a business always takes longer and is often more difficult than you envision,” she says. “I had to do a lot of re-working. In retrospect, I should have got my business coach sooner.” »



PHOTO: WOCINTECHCHAT.COM

Going it alone?

KvK - The Chamber of Commerce (KvK) is the official and independent administrative body for businesses, and has lots of advice and inspiration, in English, online kvk.nl/english

Government information for entrepreneurs - The Dutch government has comprehensive, and regularly updated, information about starting a business at business.gov.nl

ACCESS - Find answers to all your questions about starting a business in the Netherlands at access-nl.org/dual-careers-netherlands/starting-a-business

Paul Fitzpatrick of Bike & Bite bikeandbite.nl, which takes travellers on delicious food tours in Rotterdam and Delft, says “if I did it all again I would look for a really good bookkeeper and discuss all the ins and outs of the business finances.”

Before you begin

While everyone setting up a business in the Netherlands needs to register it with the KvK, Belicova says “you can do a lot before that.

Develop a business plan, and find partners-in-crime in love with the idea to help you build the business. Start small, test your concept, focus on serving the first 100 customers, don't think about revenue immediately, invest in an online presence and start building momentum.”

“At StartupAmsterdam we curate lists of relevant hubs, communities and events for people who are thinking of starting a business in Amsterdam,” says Belicova, “to get a feel of the local scene and get more connected before actually taking the plunge. For Kukel, creating her website got her going, but while prepared, she was still surprised by “the amount of work being a one-woman-show would be.”

Getting a break

Kukel says, “give yourself a break, you are going to make mistakes and get things wrong, and that is okay.” She grew up in California, has lived in seven countries across three continents, and now resides in Leiden where she set up her business a year ago.

“It was hard, but I would definitely do it all again,” she says.

“At the beginning clients came to us via word of mouth, which was excellent,” say Stewart and Taylor, natives of Australia and England respectively.

“In 2020 we were lucky enough to secure one of the Starters International Business coaching vouchers paid for by the Dutch government (RVO). The coaching helped us make our offering more understandable and our coach nominated us for our first award—NBCC Entrepreneur of the Year Award, which we were runner up.” Blue Ninja also received free marketing support from Team Horizon based in Leiden.

Kukel got support from the Women’s Business Initiative International womensbusinessinitiative.net, Leiden Expat Centre expatcentreleiden.nl/en and attended “every free Facebook, LinkedIn or Zoom session I could and collected a great deal of information.” Fitzpatrick “benefited from taking part in entrepreneurship workshops organised by our bank.”

The paperwork

The Dutch startup visa scheme makes it possible for ambitious entrepreneurs from outside the EU, EEA or Switzerland to apply for a temporary residence permit for the Netherlands. It gives entrepreneurs one year to get their innovative business started. Applicants need will need an innovative idea, enough funds to prove they can stay in the Netherlands and a startup visa facilitator who will ‘vouch’ for their business idea and business plan. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) ultimately decides whether a non-EU founder will get the visa. The visa can get extended based on growth metrics the business is showing, so non-EU entrepreneurs need to work a bit harder to run a business.

However for non-Dutch but European entrepreneurs, the process is fairly straightforward—everyone, of course, needs a citizen service number (BSN), and the KvK or government websites can help with any other paperwork (see sidebar).

Things might seem overwhelming at first, but the Netherlands is a great place to start a business

Learning the language

While it’s not a necessity to speak Dutch to start a business here—particularly if your product or service serves a mixed, non-location-specific userbase—it is definitely an advantage. All legal paperwork, and any other supporting services from renting an office to getting a bank account, will be in Dutch. “Having at least one person who understands Dutch on the team,” says Belicova, “is definitely an advantage.” Kukel agrees, “At least in the long term, speaking Dutch is a necessity.”

There is always room to expand into the local market, though. “We focus on the English speaking market as we’re not native Dutch speakers,” say Blue Ninja, “but we have just signed up our first Dutch client and we’re looking forward to working with her.”

Why not?

The Netherlands has many government and local organisations to help businesses in all stages of their journey, “their expertise can help you shape your business idea better,” says Belicova.

Kukel found herself made redundant “at the start of the pandemic and I thought it was the right moment to strike out on my own.” She hasn’t looked back. Fitzpatrick is “still loving it,” and Stewart and Taylor say, “if you have a great business idea, you have your finances in place and you know people will buy your product or service, just go for it, get started!” «

About the author

Steve Voyce has lived in the Netherlands for over 20 years and for the past 11 has been self-employed. He would recommend it to anyone.

The Depot – Bowled over by art

A stunning new structure in Rotterdam contains a museum's whole collection of art, made accessible to everyone.

BY KIM VAN DER VELDEN

PHOTOS: DEPOT BOIJMANS VAN BEUNINGEN

On 6 November 2021 Rotterdam witnessed the dramatic unveiling ceremony of the Depot of Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, the world's first publicly accessible art depot. In the presence of King Willem-Alexander energetic abseilers performed stunts on the mirrored façade of the imposing 40-metre high cauldron-shaped building.

Five floods

The previous depot was in the basement—prone to flooding—of the museum, also located on Rotterdam's Museumpark. Director of Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Sjarel Ex fought for over ten years to realise his new depot plans. The purpose of his mission was to save the art collection from water damage, to make it accessible to all visitors, and to preserve it for future generations.

Since Ex was appointed in 2004, the previous depot had flooded five times, culminating in two floods on 13 October 2013. This proved the last straw when,



PHOTO: OSSIP VAN DUJVENBODE

if emergency pumps could not be started again because of a power outage, Ex was asked to decide whether to save the book collection or the art collection. He chose to sacrifice the books, but luckily the emergency services managed to get the pumps working. On his bike home he shouted to himself “Never again! There has to be a solution now!”

Not a fortress

Ex could have chosen a classic depot concept—similar to many museums around the world—one housed in a building often far away from the museum itself, with high security and only accessible to vetted staff members. But Ex and his team were convinced that the artworks in the depot should be visible to the public. “It would be an amazing way to come into contact with art in a sensory and physical way.”

This vision is in contrast with many museums, where often only a tiny percentage of the total collection is available to the public at any given time. For example, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City shows less than five percent of its total collection to the public. A survey conducted by the Volkskrant in February 2016 amongst 41 Dutch museums revealed similar numbers—on average only 7.7% of the total museums’ collections was on show to the public.

The building’s stunning exterior façade is comprised of 1,664 mirror panels

Recently, however, more museums are looking for creative solutions to expose more of their art and exhibits to the public by partnering and exchanging pieces, and by making parts of their depots accessible to wider audiences.

The Depot is the first to take this further, by making the building itself an art piece. »



PHOTO: IRIS VAN DEN BROEK

Museum Boijmans van Beuningen

The collections of Frans Boijmans (1767-1847) and Daniel George van Beuningen (1877-1955) form the basis of Museum Boijmans van Beuningen founded in 1849. The collection has grown to over 151,000 pieces—dating from the Middle Ages until contemporary art.

While the museum is being renovated (due to open again in 2028), highlights of the collection are displayed in the Depot. Other pieces are on display in partner museums in the Rotterdam area or are part of a global traveling exhibition—starting in New Zealand—about the Surrealism movement. The museum also uses its pieces to support educational and social development programmes to democratise art in schools and the city.

Find out more about the museum and Depot at boijmans.nl/en

Facts about the Depot

- The building’s exterior façade is comprised of 1,664 mirror panels.
- You may need to wear a white coat when accessing certain areas of the depot. This is to keep those areas as dust free as possible to protect the art pieces.
- Rainwater is being used to flush the building’s toilets as a sustainable way of using less water. The water is stored in the basement.
- One of the nicknames locals have given the Depot is *de pot*, which means ‘the bowl’ in Dutch.
- Local brewery “Brouwerij Noordt” has brewed a special Depot beer for restaurant Renilde located on the 6th floor of the building.
- The roof-park of the Depot contains 75 specially-bred birch trees and 20 pine trees, which were hoisted one-by-one up to the roof. The roots are braided together to be able to withstand Dutch wind storms.
- The Depot was recently awarded Public Building of the Year at the Architectenweb Awards 2021.



PHOTO: OSSIP VAN DUIVENBODE

An inspiring sugar bowl

The Depot was designed by Winy Maas of internationally-renowned architecture agency MVRDV (also responsible for designing Rotterdam's Markthal). MVRDV focuses not only on design, but also on research into urbanity and landscape architecture.



PHOTO: IRIS VAN DEN BROEK

Come into contact with art in a sensory and physical way

When asked whether he still has the original sketch of the building's design, Maas told his company website, "there wasn't really a sketch, it was more a moment when we sat down with the team and we were discussing what kind of building it should be, and there was a sugar bowl in the middle of the table and that was an eye opener: we started discussing how we could design a building you could walk around. That inspired the bowl shape."

The idea for a round building worked very well spatially—a round building has a smaller base, so it takes up less ground space in the Museumpark. The curvature of the building makes it more inviting, "because you can see around the corner," says Maas.

When asked why the building's façade is reflective, Maas responds, "the main idea is a landscape architectural one: How do you make a park bigger? In densely populated areas like a city you want to



PHOTO: IRIS VAN DEN BROEK



PHOTO: ROB BECKER

make the world a little bigger and mirroring can help increase that effect.” Once Ex had formulated his vision for the Depot and Maas and his team had created the design, the construction could start.

Building the building

In March 2017 the first pile entered the Museum park ground. The building’s foundation is comprised of 276 piles, each 28.5 metres long, which were not driven into the Museum park ground, but ‘turned’ so as not to cause noise and vibration nuisance for the surrounding residents.

In September 2019 another celebratory milestone—the highest point of the Depot at 39.5 metres—was reached. This was celebrated with the traditional *pannenbier*—a Dutch construction custom to celebrate the reaching of the highest point of a building with (*dak*)pannen bier (roof tile beer).

While the Museum itself is being renovated and will re-open again in 2028, the Museum’s pieces have been moved into the Depot.

How to visit the Depot

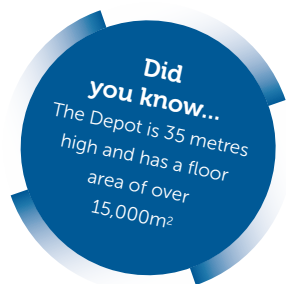
After the grand opening ceremony, the Depot opened its doors to the public and is expecting to receive over 90,000 visitors per year.

All tickets must be reserved online in advance. The Depot is wheelchair accessible and service dogs are welcome.

There are three ways to visit the Depot—book a tour with a guide, to see the workshops and vaults; book a tour behind the scenes, to see the installation rooms as well as the loading and unloading rooms; or explore the pieces and showcases on display by yourself.

Visitors can use the Depot’s app to scan QR codes of the art pieces for more information—focused on how and with what material each piece is made and how it got into the collection.

The entrance ticket also allows access to the roof-park to enjoy city views. Access to the roof is free of charge after 5 pm. «



About the author

Kim van der Velden has already had a walk around the Depot’s exterior, was deeply impressed with the building alone and cannot wait to see inside.



Setting the Standard

International After School & Holiday Care

Book a
visit
today!

Zein's After School Care programme provides a worthy and enjoyable extension to your child's day. Filled with a variety of structured and unstructured sports, projects and activities, the programme meets the interests of all the children in our care. We recognize the uniqueness of each child and their need to relax, refresh and engage in a homelike environment at the end of each formal school day. Therefore, our caring childcare teachers ensure every child feels welcomed as they have fun with friends!

As the trusted childcare partner of the international schools in The Hague, Zein provides:

- ✿ A welcoming and homelike environment;
- ✿ English-only and bilingual (Dutch-English) groups;
- ✿ A wide variety of age-appropriate themed activities in an engaging programme;
- ✿ Snacks & (warm) meals prepared with organic products from Ekoplaza;
- ✿ Professional childcare teachers with international backgrounds;
- ✿ Full day multi-activity and themed day camps during all school holidays;
- ✿ A sophisticated & award-winning approach to childcare.

DAY CARE ✿ AFTER SCHOOL CARE ✿ PRE-SCHOOL ✿ HOLIDAY CAMPS

Zein International Childcare, the #1 choice for internationally-minded families

The Hague's fascinating histories

With a forgotten airport, warring squatters, van Gogh's drinking spot and a true genius, The Hague has lots to offer beyond its tourist hotspots.

BY LYNETTE CROXFORD

Flying history

While we might know Rotterdam/The Hague Airport as an alternative to Schiphol, many may not know that just outside The Hague, in the sprawling suburb of Ypenburg, there once was another airfield with a considerable history.

Built for civilian airplanes in the 1930s, at the time the airport was almost the same size as Schiphol. During the Second World War, the airfield was first commandeered by Dutch military and then under German control it was a base for launching V1 rockets.

Entrepreneur Fritz Diepen bought Ypenburg in 1947 and began Aero-Holland, a private airline, but two accidents saw its closure in 1949. Diepen went into selling and repairing aircraft, eventually merging with Fokker—also located at Ypenburg—in the mid-fifties.

A walk in time

From royalty to world leaders, the airport had many famous visitors during its time—including Belgian King Leopold III, President Dwight Eisenhower and President Charles de Gaulle. In 1957 all commercial activities stopped and by 1968 it was deactivated as an airbase. In 1982 the airport was stood down as a 'sleeper' base and in September 1991, the Air Force flag and the national flag were lowered a final time, with four F16s performing a 'low pass' as a last salute. »



PHOTO: THE HAGUE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES



PHOTO: THE HAGUE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

Created a social commune where 200 people lived

Blue Attack

As peaceful as The Hague is today, it hasn't always been. In the 1980's, a group of squatters moved into the former tax authorities building on the Buitenoim aiming to create their own community.

Calling it *De Blauwe Aanslag* (the Blue Attack) after the blue envelopes the Dutch tax authorities use to send mail, the squatters created a kind of social commune where 200 people lived and others came to eat, make music and discuss politics. Around 1988, the city council began a massive redevelopment plan for The Hague and by 1992 revealed plans to build a ring road around the city. *De Blauwe Aanslag* was in the path of the redevelopment plans. The squatters campaigned and held a protest which ended in violence when the council offices were attacked, several people were seriously injured and arrests made.

In 1995, it was announced that the council would go ahead with building the road. The squatters lost their battle finally in 2003 when they were forcibly evicted by the police. Ironically it took more than 10 years for the land to be reused after demolition of the building.

Van Gogh's genever?

Vincent van Gogh was partial to a glass or two of genever, and it was rumoured that he was spotted at the Van Kleef Distillery in The Hague. This was probably true, since he lived just down the road from it for the four years that he resided in the city. Lambertus Theodorus van Kleef opened his distillery in 1842, which operated in the same location until 1986 when the doors closed.

The Hague

Looking for more information about living in The Hague? Go to [access-nl.org](https://www.access-nl.org) or call +31(0)85 4000 338

PHOTO: THE HAGUE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES



PHOTO: RICHARD CROXFORD



PHOTO: RICHARD CROXFORD



PHOTO: MUSEUM BOERHAAVE

A true genius from here in The Hague

After extensive renovation, it reopened in 1995 and is the only distillery of its kind that continues to produce genever today.

The interior at Van Kleef is small and enchanting, like taking a walk back in time. An astonishing array of beverages are on display featuring the traditional genever, gin, vodka and liqueurs. Also restored is the Museum van Kleef with its authentic distilling equipment and copper stills.

The Hague's prodigy

Christiaan Huygens was born in The Hague in 1629 to a prominent family. He was a gifted mathematician who studied law and mathematics at the University of Leiden, and then at the Orange College of Breda. Huygens worked in mathematics on the calculus of probabilities, and in physics he contributed towards the landmark Huygens-Fresnel principle and proved the law of conservation of momentum.

Huygens also developed a wave theory for light, published in 1678, and calculated the laws of reflection and refraction. In astronomy, while observing Saturn he discovered a new satellite orbiting it—which he named Titan—and deduced that he was viewing a ring around the planet due to the elongated shape.

In 1656 Huygens patented his first design for a pendulum clock. His book *Horologium Oscillatorium sive de motu pendulorum* in 1673 described the theory of pendulum motion. Huygens was a true genius from right here in The Hague. «

About the authors

Richard and Lynette Croxford were born in South Africa and moved to South Holland 10 years ago. They have two daughters and enjoy photography, running and exploring cities on foot.

Schools: heart of the community

Amsterdam

• Amity International School Amsterdam

Admissions: +31 20 345 44 81
admissions@amity.amsterdam
amityschool.nl



IBPYP*Candidate School MYP/DP. Not-for-profit international school surrounded by green spaces. Students ages 3-15. Focus on inquiry, creativity and independence.

The Hague

• British School in The Netherlands

Admissions: admissions@britishschool.nl
britishschool.nl



Primary*GCSE/A level*IBDP*IBCP. International school for 3-18 years, 80+ nationalities. Inspiration & challenge for the whole child, creating global citizens who can build a better world.

Amsterdam

• Winford Bilingual Primary School

Admissions: +31 20 751 66 50
info@winford.nl
winford-bilingual.nl



Winford Bilingual Primary School offers high quality bilingual primary education. Our students follow the Dutch, UK, and IPC curricula. Located in Amsterdam, Leiden and Haarlem.

The Hague

• European School The Hague

Admissions: +31 70 700 16 00
info@eshthe Hague.nl
europeanschoolthe Hague.nl



The European School The Hague inspires students to be responsible, future focused and proactive citizens of Europe and the world. #Positivity #Ambition #Respect

Delft

• International School Delft

Admissions: +31 15 285 00 38
or +31 15 820 02 08
admissions@internationalschooldelft.org
internationalschooldelft.com



IB PYP * IBMYP * will add IB DP. Young growing IB world school for 3-16 yrs. Caring international staff & community, focus on Innovation & Design.

The Hague

• German International School The Hague

Admissions: +31 70 354 94 54
info@disdh.nl
disdh.nl/en-us



Founded 150 years ago, DISDH has a strong commitment to promoting the German language and culture within the community.

The Hague / Wassenaar

• American School of The Hague

Admissions: +31 70 512 10 60
admissions@ash.nl
ash.nl



From a single classroom in the early 1950s, to nearly 1,300 students, the ASH journey is rich with history and experiences that connect our community through the decades.

The Hague

• HSV International School

Admissions: +31 70 318 49 51
id.admissions@hsvdenhaag.nl
hsv.nl



Preschool*Primary*Special Education. International Primary School offering international education to children aged 3-11 years old. Four locations in different areas of The Hague.

Academic institutions are communities of families, staff, students and support teams—the people ACCESS has been serving for more than 35 years. Below are the institutions who invest in us so we can continue to serve internationals throughout the Netherlands.

The Hague

- **International Waldorf School of The Hague**

Admissions: +31 70 783 00 30
 info@iawsth.org
 internationalwaldorfschool.nl



IWSTH distinguishes itself through the integration of cognitive and artistic education. Our balanced educational approach addresses learning that occurs with the head, heart and hands.

The Hague

- **International School of The Hague**



Admissions: +31 70 328 14 50
 ishthehague.nl

IPC* IBMYP* IBDP*IBCP. We offer children aged from 4-18 high quality international education, inspiring personal excellence in our strong and diverse community.

Hoofddorp

- **Optimist International School**

Admissions: +31 23 303 59 24
 info@optimist-international-school.nl
 optimist-international-school.nl



We offer an engaging and inspiring learning environment, where students follow the inquiry based International Primary Curriculum and National Curriculum for language and maths.

Rotterdam

- **Harbour International**

Admissions: +31 10 448 22 66
 veroniquez@harbouribsr.nl
 harbourinternational.nl



Primary International school for 4-11 yrs. Differentiated curriculum, a safe and caring environment help foster and develop all children's potential.

Rotterdam

- **Nord Anglia International School Rotterdam (NAISR)**

Admissions: +31 10 422 53 51
 admissions@naisr.nl
 nordangliaeducation.com/rotterdam



We open doors to learning and provide life-changing experiences that inspire and enable every child to flourish, now and in their future lives. Children from 3-18 on one site.

Rotterdam

- **Rotterdam International Secondary School (RISS)**

Admissions: +31 10 890 77 44
 admissions.riss@wolfert.nl
 riss.wolfert.nl



Moving countries is hard but choosing the right school for your child should not be. We welcome all your questions about admission at RISS. Speak to you soon.

Boarding

- **Eerde International Boarding School**

Admissions: +31 529 45 14 52
 admission@eerdeibs.nl
 eerde.nl



Eerde is the only international school in the Netherlands with day school and boarding facilities. Offering a safe place on its estate to focus on study, activities and socialising.

The Hague

- **Can we help you?**

Contact: Deborah Valentine
 edirector@access-nl.org
 access-nl.org



Schools help us, and we help them. They are communities of staff, parents and children. Together, we are a large part of the international community. Join us?

The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi

BY GIULIA QUARESIMA

The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi (*De zwarte met het witte hart*) is the first novel by Arthur Japin, published in the Netherlands in 1997 and widely translated.



The novel tells the story of two princes—cousins—Kwasi and Kwame, sent in 1837 from their homeland in West Africa to the Netherlands, and the court of Willem II, to receive a ‘Christian education’. In fact, they are a guarantee in a business transaction between the Dutch and Ashanti kingdoms.

The tale is crafted as a memory written—at the beginning of the twentieth century—by Kwasi in old age on the Dutch East Indies island of Java. The elderly prince looks back on his extraordinary life lived as ‘a black man with a white heart’.

Recalling their lives before and after their arrival in the Netherlands, Japin tells how the two cousins experienced events in opposite ways. While Kwasi tried to adapt by establishing good relationships with the court and the royal family, Kwame chose to stand out. Both failed to reach their original social status because they were neither *black* nor accepted as *white*. Strangeness, separateness and a sense of not belonging are threads of the novel.

Unaware of such comparisons until his encounters with white people, the colour of Kwasi’s skin and his origins remained barriers to settlement in his new world.

The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi

By Arthur Japin

Published by Penguin Vintage

ISBN: 9780099287872

Available to purchase at the American Book Centre abc.nl

“The first ten years of my life I was not black. I was in many ways different from those around me, but not darker. That much I know. Then came the day I became aware that my colour has deepened. Later, once I was black, I paled again.”

Later, when attempting to seek his fortune in the Dutch East Indies, Kwasi found his progress blocked by institutional racism. He learned that an official government mandate blocked him based on the principle of ‘noblesse de peau’—that “the pre-eminence of a white skin over black and of the moral and intellectual supremacy of the white race over all others, (...) would be seriously undermined if Aquasi [Kwasi] Boachi were appointed to any post of authority which is the preserve of white men.”

The history

Japin spent eight years in archives and locations in Africa, Weimar (Germany) and Indonesia and the result of this enormous research transforms historical facts into literature. During his research, Japin discovered the story of Badu Bonsu II, a Ghanaian prince who rebelled against the Dutch overlords in 1837. This became the inspiration for his novel.

Strangeness and a sense of not belonging are threads of the novel

Aquasi (Kwasi in Dutch) Boachi, born in 1827, was the prince of Ashanti and eldest son of Quakoe Dua II, king of an empire of millions on the border of the Dutch Gold Coast, a colony on the west African coast, where Ghana is today. Kwasi and his cousin’s expatriation was part of an agreement between King Quakoe and Major General Vermeer—on behalf of the Dutch government. As part of this agreement, the two boys were taken as ‘hostages’ to the Netherlands to be educated. Indeed, Kwasi went on to study mining engineering at the Royal Academy in Delft.

Arthur Japin

Japin first trained as an actor in Amsterdam. He was also briefly an opera singer at De Nederlandse Opera. He has won almost every prestigious prize in Dutch literature and hosted the Dutch adaptation of the British TV panel game QI.

In Indonesia, as a black mining engineer, Kwasi’s title had *buitengewoon* (extraordinary) added—a ‘special’ label that made it impossible for him to get any managerial position because of his skin colour. In a colony where people of colour were oppressed, there was no place for a black person to be above whites.

When this became clear to Kwasi, he resigned from his position and requested to the minister of colonies to be compensated for the failure to fulfil promises made to him. When the minister rejected his request, Kwasi managed to get King Willem III to pay a monthly allowance of 500 guilders and to receive 710 hectares of wasteland on Java in leasehold.

Reception

This fictional biography has been well received. The author successfully integrated documents, letters and journals in order to build a novel that feels authentic. It is testament to, as Michael Pye wrote in the *New York Times Book Review*, “a telling fragment from the saga of displacement that Europe’s empires imposed on other peoples’ bodies and souls.”

In the journey of Kwasi and Kwame, Japin explores the issues of culture shock, injustice, sense of strangeness, racism, and of the gains and losses found in an attempt to assimilate. These are topics that remain relevant and make this book highly recommended to anyone who looking for a well-written historical novel. «

About the author

Giulia Quaresima lives in The Hague and in her free time she likes baking and, of course, reading many books.

International divorce in the Netherlands

If you've already made the decision to get divorced, the next step is discovering your options.

While many divorce arrangements must still be agreed, the good news is that obtaining a divorce is easier in the Netherlands.

Yes you can

Most of the time it is possible to get divorced in the Netherlands, even if you are not a Dutch national and even if you were married in another country. This means that a Dutch judge has jurisdiction to rule on your divorce; it does not determine which law will apply.



GMW
lawyers

070 361 50 48
www.gmw.nl/en

International

Depending on the national and international rules that apply to your specific situation, you may get divorced in the Netherlands, but have a foreign country's law apply to your divorce.

The law which applies to your divorce will determine your rights and obligations, so it's extremely important. The financial consequences of marriage and divorce differ per country. For example, if a foreign law applies to determining maintenance, you may not be entitled to maintenance or have only a limited right under that foreign law. If you can get divorced in more than one country, applications will be treated on a "first come, first served" basis. So if you wish to get divorced in the Netherlands, you must apply for divorce in the Netherlands first.

Together or apart

If you and your spouse both agree on getting divorced and you can negotiate the terms of your divorce, then you can file a joint petition for divorce. This is the fastest way to get divorced.

If you cannot reach an agreement on the terms of your divorce, then you can file an individual petition for divorce with the help of a lawyer. This will not affect your rights.

No-fault

You do not need to provide a reason to get divorced in the Netherlands and all divorces are considered no-fault. All that is required is that at least one party asserts that the marriage has irretrievably broken down. No separation period is necessary and you can file for divorce while still living in the same house.

Divorce process

1. Confirm that you can get divorced in the Netherlands.
2. Find a lawyer. (You cannot represent yourself.)
3. Get the best possible divorce, including specific agreements about children. A parenting plan is required.
4. Go through the legal process of a divorce.

Experts in international divorce law

Need advice?

GMW lawyers has a team of family law experts who can assist you in English and help you navigate even the most complex divorce. Call us on 070 361 50 48 or visit gmw.nl/en for more information. «

Susan Meijler is an experienced family law expert at GMW lawyers. Susan handles complex divorces with an international character, including financial settlement of the community property or prenuptial agreement, alimony, custody, care arrangements and legal aspects of (international) relocations.

An Oranje Tree

How much do you know about the Dutch monarchy? When did it start and where do they come from? Is it all queens and men called Willem?



PHOTO: NICOLAAS PIENEMAN

BY SANDRA SILVA

The Kingdom of the Netherlands dates from 1815, when in the aftermath of the First French Empire the country regained its independence, and the Congress of Vienna decided that the northern and southern provinces should be united. Previously its provinces had been mostly governed by members of the House of Oranje-Nassau, whose descendants still reign today.

Willem I (1772-1843)

Reigned from 1815 until his abdication in 1840

Willem I proclaimed himself as the King of the Netherlands on 16 March 1815. During Willem's reign, and following the Constitution of 1815, the *States General* were divided into two chambers,

The *Eerste Kamer* (First Chamber or Senate or House of Lords) appointed by the King and the *Tweede Kamer* (Second Chamber or House of Representatives or House of Commons) elected by the Provincial States. Fifteen years later, Willem I experienced the first big change within the country with the 1830 independence of the Catholic and industrial Belgium, which was recognised internationally by the Treaty of London in 1839.

Willem II (1792-1849)

Reigned from 1840 until his death in 1849

The reign of Willem II is known for the new constitution of 1848, responsible for turning the Netherlands in a real *parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy*. The *Eerste Kamer* became elected by the Provincial States and the *Tweede Kamer* became elected directly via *census suffrage* (in 1917 universal male suffrage was introduced and in 1919 women got the right to vote). Implementation of political ministerial responsibility (the ministers, and not the monarch, are responsible for the acts of the government) as well as freedom of speech, press, association, assembly and education were also key points of this constitution and are still in effect today.

Willem III (1817-1890)

Reigned from 1849 until his death in 1890

Willem III was known for his autocratic manners and temperamental mood. His second wife, the German Princess Emma of Waldeck and Pyrmont, was 41 years his junior. Queen Emma acted as regent during the last three years of her husband's reign when he became seriously ill. Their daughter Wilhelmina succeeded to the throne as her elder brothers from her father's first marriage had already passed away. »

Wilhelmina (1880-1962)

Reigned from 1890 until her abdication in 1948

Wilhelmina came to the Dutch throne in 1890 at age 10 under Queen Emma's *regency*. Her reign started with the end of the personal union between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Under the Nassau Family Pact (1783), Luxembourg was bound by the semi-*Salic law* which allowed *inheritance* by females or through the female line only upon absence of male members of the *dynasty*. Therefore, *Adolphe* of Nassau, a distant relative, became the Grand-Duke of Luxembourg. To this day Luxembourg remains an independent state with its own monarchy.

Wilhelmina managed to secure the Netherlands' neutrality during World War One. In a previous visit to Germany, the German Emperor Willem II told Wilhelmina, "my guards are

Did you know...
Wilhelmina reigned for almost 58 years, making her the longest-serving Dutch monarch.

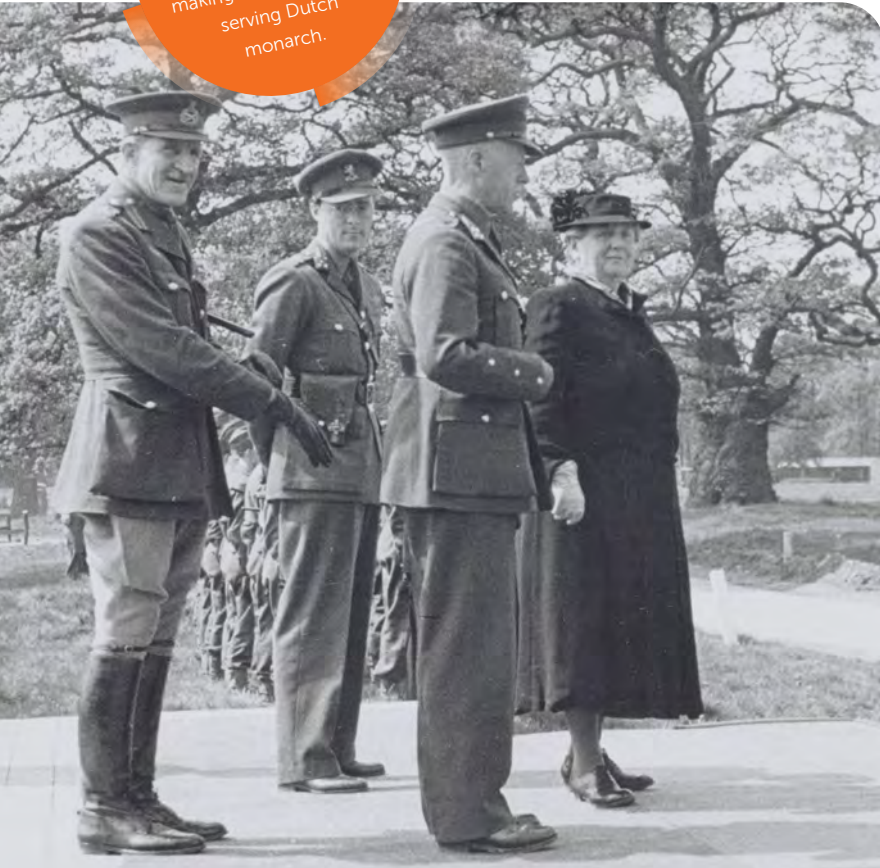


PHOTO: NATIONAAL ARCHIEF

seven feet tall and yours are only shoulder-high to them," to which the Queen smiled politely and famously replied, "quite true, Your Majesty, your guards are seven feet tall. But when we *open our dikes*, the water is ten feet deep!" Wilhelmina is mostly remembered for her role during World War Two. Initially, many Dutch people felt disappointed by her quick withdrawal to *London*, but in time she proved to be of great moral support to the population and the resistance in occupied Netherlands. She frequently addressed the nation via the radio, calling *Adolf Hitler* "the arch-enemy of mankind." Churchill described her as "the only real man among the governments-in-exile" in London.

Juliana (1909-2004)

Reigned from 1948 until her abdication in April 1980

Juliana, who was the grandmother of the current King Willem-Alexander, reigned from 1948 until 1980. She was more informal than her mother and preferred to be addressed as *Mevrouw* (Dutch for Mrs.) rather than 'Majesty'. Juliana studied at Leiden University between 1927 and 1930 and married the German Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld in 1937.

After returning to the Netherlands, Juliana expressed her gratitude to Canada for their wartime hospitality by sending the city of Ottawa thousands of tulip bulbs. She and her daughters had lived there while Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Bernhard were in London. She promised Ottawa an annual gift of tulips during her lifetime to show her lasting appreciation.

On 27 December 1949 at *Dam Palace* in Amsterdam, Queen Juliana signed the papers that recognised Indonesian independence, and on 25 November 1975, her eldest daughter and future queen, representing her, attended the independence ceremony of *Suriname* held in the new nation's capital *Paramaribo*. During her reign, Queen Juliana showed a great interest in social issues. In recognition of her services to society, she was awarded an honorary doctorate in social sciences from Groningen University in 1964.

She was of great moral support to the nation

Beatrix (1938-)

Reigned from 1980 until her abdication in 2013.

Princess Beatrix, who received her Master's *degree in Law* from *Leiden University* in 1961, married *Claus von Amsberg (1926-2002)*, a *German* diplomat, in 1966. Due to Prince Claus' service in the *Hitler Youth* and the Nazi armed forces in Germany during the war, their wedding day in Amsterdam saw many protests. On the way to the church, a smoke bomb was thrown at the coach, which made world news. Beatrix's investiture day (30 April 1980) was also a day of protests, this time against poor housing conditions with the slogan "*Geen woning; geen kroning*" (No home, no coronation).

On May 16, 1996, Beatrix received the international Charlemagne Prize (established in 1949 to recognise people who have made a special contribution to European unification) for her commitment to European unification. Beatrix's reign saw important changes—on 1 January 1986, *Aruba* seceded from the *Netherlands Antilles* and became a separate constituent country in the Dutch Kingdom. Twenty-four years later, on 10 October 2010, the Netherlands Antilles were *formally dissolved*—the *new municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba* and the new constituent countries of *Curaçao* and *Sint Maarten* were established in their places.

Willem-Alexander (1967-)

Current monarch

Willem-Alexander was invested on 30 April 2013. Like his mother and grandmother, he studied at Leiden University, and in 1993, passed his Master's degree in history. From 1997 until his investiture in 2013, the King was involved in water management in the Netherlands and abroad, becoming in 2006 the chairman of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation.



PHOTO: ROB C. CROES

Willem-Alexander enjoys flying; he holds a pilot's licence and used to fly for KLM as a 'guest pilot'. You may have heard his voice during a flight.

Willem-Alexander, a king with three women as his predecessors, will be followed by his eldest daughter, Princess Catharina-Amalia, her 18th birthday being 7 December 2021. «

About the author

Sandra Silva is a Portuguese language teacher and city guide living in Almere, who is passionate about photography, travel, art, history and storytelling. sandrastours.nl and Instagram [@sandrastoursnl](https://www.instagram.com/sandrastoursnl)



A unique offering

Dutch language and culture education at ISH Primary



In response to changes in education, particularly within language education, The International School of The Hague's (ISH) ground-breaking Primary Dutch have been working for the past four years to develop a new Dutch language curriculum, in consultation with leading language expert Eowyn Crisfield crisfieldducationalconsulting.com. This was designed to address the growing urgency for education to be adapted to the needs of the child, leading the way for Dutch being taught in other schools around the world.

This new curriculum uses the languages children already speak when they come to our school to build connections with the Dutch language, the Netherlands, and its history and culture. The curriculum is therefore built around the idea of being able to use and connect Dutch in daily life, giving it context both inside the classrooms and outside school.

Staying current and meaningful

"It is rewarding to see the children so engaged. Knowing a child might feel more at home in this country, no matter how long they stay is a big win." Monique Oomes

That children are responding is evident in one of the topics they learn in Year 6 - "Wie is de baas?" (Who is the boss)? Here they learn about democracy in the Netherlands and other political systems. They set up elections and debates in Dutch, using the opportunity to have rich conversations at home about how things work in their country of origin, compared to the Netherlands.

Our Dutch department will often find ways to connect the topics covered in the Dutch lessons to those covered in other areas of the curriculum. Currently, for example, in Year 5, children are working on a unit called "express yourself" where they find creative ways to inform their teachers and classmates about issues they find important. This connects perfectly with their work in Dutch lessons "laat je stem horen - let your voice be heard", an attribute that's certainly celebrated in Dutch life, allowing children to talk about those things they are passionate about in Dutch as well.

Use and connect Dutch in daily life, giving it context inside the classrooms and outside school

Keeping the child and their Dutch experience central to the development of the curriculum means that with the arrival of children throughout the year, bringing new dynamics and challenges, our Primary Dutch teachers can evolve the curriculum and make sure it stays current and meaningful. «

070 328 14 50
ishthehague.nl

Everybody hurts

Finding **good** mental **healthcare** in the Netherlands



PHOTO: BEN WHITE

BY JACQUELINE
PEMBERTON

Living in another country can be a rewarding, life-changing experience, but it is not without its difficulties. Many internationals underestimate how confronting life in a foreign country far away from close family members and their usual frame of reference can be, and the impact this can have on mental health. Unquestionably the pandemic added to this.

According to a survey in the Netherlands conducted by the International Community Advisory Panel (ICAP), 70% of respondents said the pandemic negatively impacted their mental health, and 17% were unsure where to find help.

Megan, an international who sought help, says, “locals benefit from deep roots with peers and established communities, while internationals spend their energy trying to find and cultivate a new community for themselves. It can be quite draining.”

ACCESS can help

“The easiest path for me to find mental healthcare that would properly address my needs as an international here, and in a language I am most comfortable in expressing myself, was through ACCESS.” Megan says.

ACCESS was established in 1986 to support the ‘mental well-being’ of the English-speaking international community. “Internationals suffer the same life challenges as nationals, but have to cope without a self-evident support network. This makes them resilient and resourceful,” says ACCESS Counselling Service Network (CSN) member Lysanne Sizoo, “but can also lead to feelings of loneliness and powerlessness.”

Today ACCESS has two counsellors on call every weekday (see sidebar) to provide a referral for anyone seeking help with their mental health. The CSN consists of licensed professionals with practices all over the Netherlands, offering a variety of expertise »

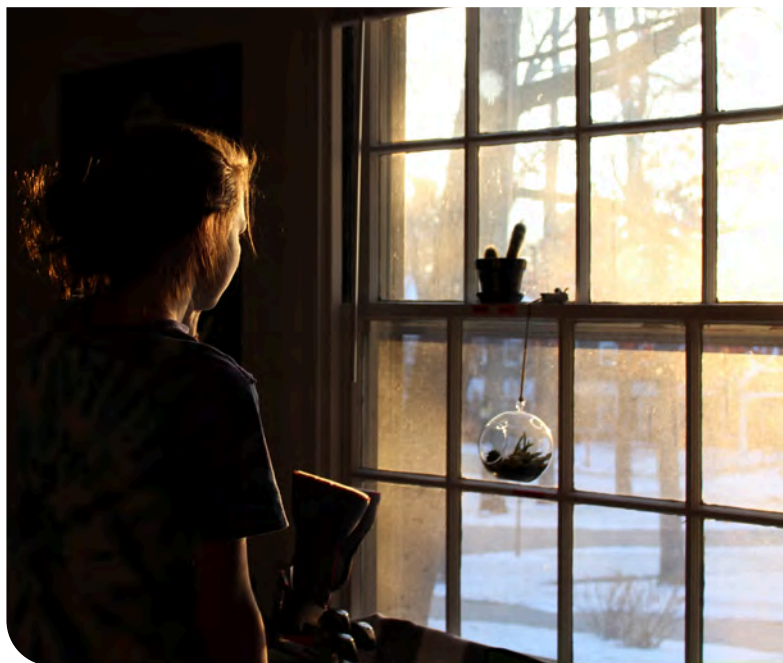


PHOTO: KATE WILLIAMS

in different areas. In addition to English, a number of ACCESS counsellors speak other languages including Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Italian and Hebrew. All are personally familiar with the expatriate experience in one way or another.

In the last year or so, ACCESS has seen a significant jump in visits to their CSN-related webpages. From 2020 to the third quarter of 2021, the *Counsellor on call* page doubled in visits and the *Meet the counsellors* page rose by 25%.

Important

Anyone experiencing acute issues should always contact their huisarts first. Anyone experiencing extreme emotional distress to the point of harming themselves should contact the specialist suicide prevention line in the Netherlands by calling 113 or going to [113.nl/english](https://www.113.nl/english)

Help is here

ACCESS provides free referrals to professional mental healthcare support through its Counselling Service Network access-nl.org/counselling

Young people

If you have a child under the age of 18 with mental health problems, find information at [government.nl/topics/mental-health-services/question-and-answer/my-child-has-mental-health-problems](https://www.government.nl/topics/mental-health-services/question-and-answer/my-child-has-mental-health-problems)

Reaching out

Professional help with mental health issues may be covered by your health insurance. It is advisable to check with your insurance company before you seek help. A course of counselling may be covered by your medical insurance policy although *eigenrisico* (own risk) still applies—you may initially have to pay some of the amount yourself. You will need a referral letter from your huisarts (GP). “The GP is the primary healthcare provider with increasing responsibilities such as the possibility of a counsellor who is attached to the GP practice (*praktijk ondersteuner*),” says Sizoo.

Your huisarts will be able to recommend a professional, but you can also look for private help yourself. Persephone Proutuli, a therapist at Expats in Therapy, says, “ask your circle for recommendations, search online, call a few practices and ‘shop around.’ Focus on the therapist’s education. If the first contact doesn’t feel right, then it’s not the right person—trust your gut.”

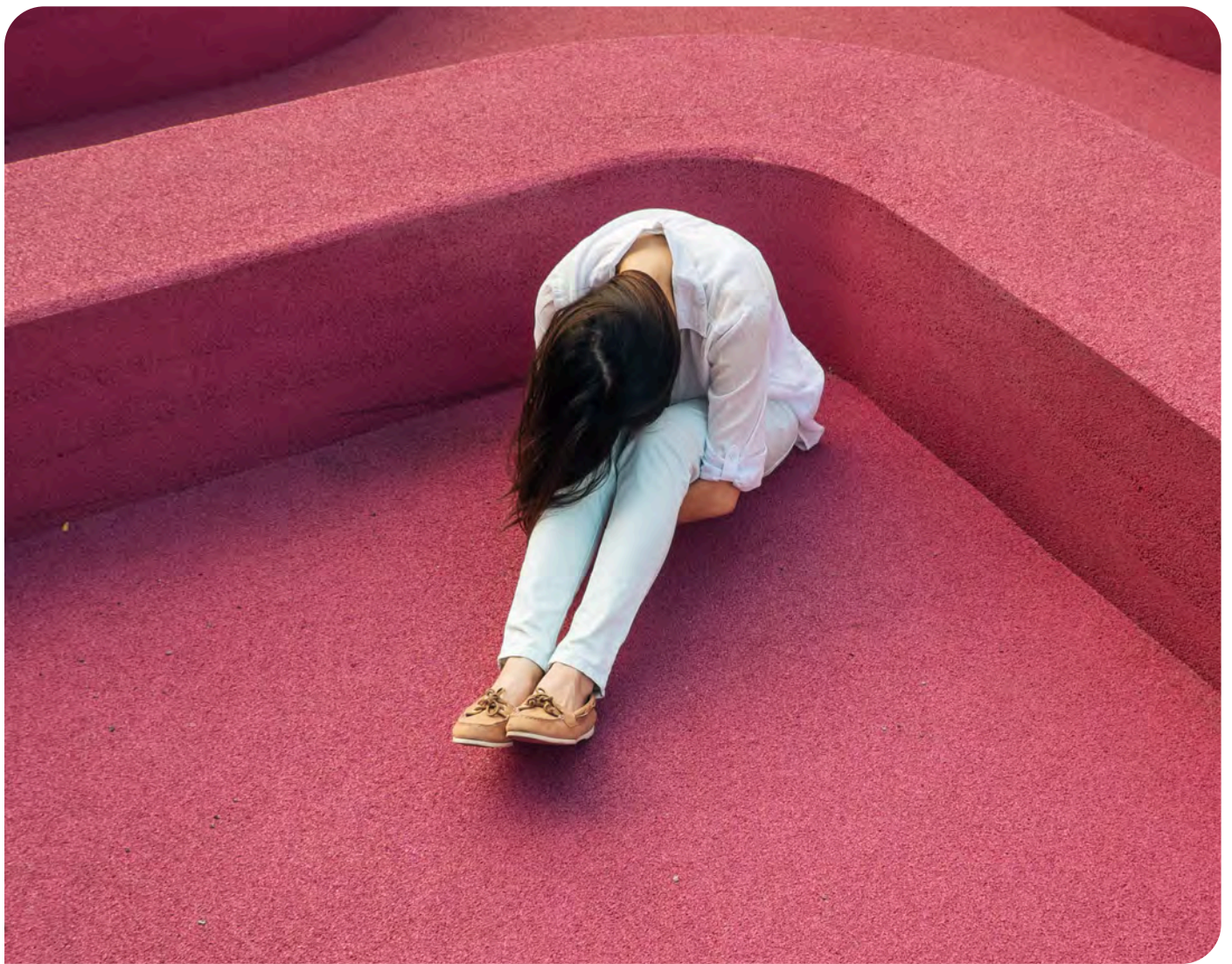
Expat blues

“Do not feel embarrassed about saying you are in a bad place,” says Rachel, an international who experienced stress and depression as a result of difficult life events. “Once you start to speak openly about needing help, most people are willing to help you. Reach out to organisations like ACCESS for confidential advice.”

“Talking with an impartial partner can lead to insights you couldn’t see for yourself through the fog,” adds Megan “I’ve wondered too many times whether my decision to move here was brave or crazy or stupid. But I never doubted that seeking professional help was the right thing to do.”

Lost in translation

Even for internationals who speak Dutch, feeling comfortable talking will often mean a professional who can communicate easily. “When it comes to emotional and mental issues,” Rachel says “it is easier for people to communicate in their native language—to articulate and express how you think and feel.”



The easiest path to find mental healthcare was through ACCESS

“What was important was to find someone with whom I felt comfortable, had the right experience I was seeking, and who was able to communicate easily in English even though I had reasonable command of the Dutch language,” she adds.

While getting help with mental health issues has become less of a taboo, this—along with the pandemic—can also mean that help is less accessible. This is particularly an issue for internationally-focussed mental health professionals. But if someone really needs help and, because of availability,

only a Dutch psychologist is available, everyone we spoke to agrees that they should start there rather than delay in getting help.

More acceptance

While mental health is increasingly being talked about openly, the pandemic has seen that “so many more people have been in need of support,” says Proutuli. “I see a lot more couples and a lot more men than before.” Sizoo adds, “expats who arrived in the Netherlands during the pandemic were not able to make the connections at work or socially that they would normally make. The natural adjustment has been disrupted.”

“There is nothing to be ashamed of,” says Bauke Bult, a Dutch psychologist who also works with English-speaking clients. “It is quite normal to seek help from a psychologist, and to tell friends about it.” »



EXPATHELP

RELOCATION • IMMIGRATION • HOUSING • EDUCATION

Your local immigration, relocation and housing experts.



IMMIGRATION/VISAS

- Highly Skilled Migrant (HSM)
- HSM Recognized Sponsor
- Dutch American Friendship Treaty (DAFT)
- Intra-Company



RELOCATION

- Registration with the municipality to obtain BSN
 - Opening a Dutch bank account
 - Referrals to Dutch healthcare system
 - Full settling-in services



HOUSING

Your one point of contact into the Dutch housing market. Whether renting or buying our housing experts will guide you through the entire process.

CONTACT US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION TO DISCUSS YOUR PERSONAL RELOCATION AND HOUSING NEEDS!

WWW.EXPATHHELP.NL

INFO@EXPATHHELP.NL

+31206614670



CELEBRATING THE PAST CREATING THE FUTURE

www.britishschool.nl

For anyone struggling but having difficulty finding a professional, there is help online for mental health issues. “In the past two years it has been a lifeline for many,” says Sizoo, “and as a result we have become more and more skilled in working online. Many of us who used to work only face-to-face now offer a combination of the two.”

Protouli agrees, but “the client has to take it as seriously as they would take in-person therapy. Therapy is not just about talking, it’s about being, experiencing.” CSN member Katarina Gaborova says that during the pandemic, “people became more comfortable with ‘e-health’”.

Finding support from the community, while not a replacement for professional help, can also benefit. “Being part of a group and a community that shares experiences and support can be very helpful,” says Gaborova.

Help for young people

“As difficult as it is for adults to navigate the system,” Helen cautions, “it can be hard for children and young people to find help. Almost all the parents of older children I spoke to told me that their children had been in a crisis situation during the pandemic.” According to one counsellor, mental healthcare for young people can be “patchy and not enough”.

Bult says concerns about school and the future, problems with family dynamics, and a lack of socialisation with peers during the pandemic have led to stress and an increase in depressive disorders in young people, and acknowledges that while the system is not perfect, things are improving. Gaborova points out that there might be more types of support for young people “via their GP, school or college, or the *consultatiebureau* (paediatric consultation office)”.

It works

“I would certainly encourage anyone to talk to a trusted person about their struggles,” says Rachel. The most important thing is to seek help. Everyone



PHOTO: REMI WALLE

I never doubted that seeking professional help was the right thing to do

we spoke to agreed that there is no need to feel embarrassed. “I am still benefiting from my treatment,” says Helen. “Many people don’t have a safe space to express their emotions, doubts and fears and a good therapist can provide this.”

For Rachel, her therapy meant, “I was better equipped and had access to the necessary tools that allowed me to stay grounded and support others during the pandemic lockdowns.” «

(Names have been changed to protect confidentiality)

About the author

Jacqueline Pemberton is a British-Australian freelance writer living in the Netherlands.

The Benefits of Studying History

We all live in the present and we plan for the future – but to know exactly where you’re going, you first need to understand where you have come from. For that you need an appreciation of history.

Here are six benefits your child will enjoy if they learn history in school.

1 Develop an understanding of the world

The rich history of the world helps us to paint a detailed picture of where we stand today. Children can learn about the pillars upon which different civilizations were built, including cultures and people different from their own.

2 Become a more rounded person

Tap into the vivid realm of history. There are many vital lessons, both good and bad, to be learned. In the modern global world, an understanding of how past societies have integrated is key to humanity improving in the future.

3 Understand identity

For many of us, looking back at significant people and how they’ve contributed to where we are today is a way of establishing our own identity. Finding who we are and what mark we can make on the world is a huge part of childhood. Allowing children to learn about figures and events from history is one way of facilitating that.

4 Become inspired

Historical stories can also serve to inspire individuals to greatness. History remembers brilliant people and heroic acts that have shaped the world. A huge amount of motivation can be gained from learning about inspirational events from the past. It only takes one great history lesson to light up a child’s imagination and spur them on to great things.

5 Learn from mistakes

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana’s quote is one of academia’s most cited and paraphrased lines, and explains perfectly why everyone should study history. The past is filled with warning signs and we must learn from mistakes made and resist and question if we see similar patterns emerging.

6 Develop transferable skills

History is a respected academic pursuit that challenges students’ intellect and helps to develop the ability to think critically. To question and evaluate information is a skill that applies to workplaces in many industries, and history is one of the best subjects for stimulating and developing this ability.

To visit Nord Anglia International School Rotterdam and see how we deliver an outstanding history curriculum, reach out on admissions@naisr.nl. «



NORD ANGLIA
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
ROTTERDAM

Find out more
www.naisr.nl
admissions@naisr.nl



Winter sun

End the year with a colourful Caribbean cocktail!

BY TRACEY TAYLOR

Many of us enjoy the winter wonderland at this time of year. But for others, it's the tropical climes that hold more appeal. Far-away shores, blue seas, warm sands, and cocktails...

The Caribbean and the vibrant Netherlands Antilles—Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, and the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba—are a melting pot of cultures influenced by cuisines and traditions from across the globe. Curaçao gives its name to a colourless liqueur flavoured using the dried peel of a bitter citrus fruit (lahara) found on the island—the blue, green, red, and orange varieties are a result of food dye.

'Shake things up' when enjoying a toast, or marking the new year by bringing a little of the Caribbean into your home with a Curaçao cocktail. As they say on the islands, Salú! «



Mai Tai

.....

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
- 25 ml White rum
- 25 ml Golden rum
- 10 ml Orange Curaçao
- 2 teaspoons almond syrup
- 1 dash Angostura bitters
- 2 handfuls of ice cubes
- Fresh mint sprig, to garnish (optional)



Blue Lagoon

Ingredients

.....

- A few handfuls of ice cubes & some crushed ice
- 100 ml Blue Curaçao
- 100 ml vodka
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 orange, juiced
- 1 lime, juiced
- 8 maraschino cherries and 1 teaspoon of the syrup
- 200 ml soda water

Put ice cubes in a large jug and pour in the Curaçao, vodka, fruit juices and syrup from the cherries. Stir until the outside of the jug feels cold. Half-fill four hurricane glasses with crushed ice, then strain in the cocktail. Top up the glasses with soda water, gently stir and garnish with the cherries.

Put all ingredients (except mint) into a cocktail shaker. Fill with ice, then shake to combine everything. Fill a rocks glass with fresh ice and strain the Mai Tai into the glass using a cocktail strainer (or any kitchen sieve!) Garnish with the sprig of mint (if using).

About the author

Tracey Taylor lives in Maastricht with Dave and their cat, Little Tubbs. Tracey is Irish and an aspiring photographer. She also writes a (cat) blog and hosts a weekly expat talk show. [@traceytaylor_nl](#) | [@taylormade.theblog](#) | [@littletubbs_thecat](#) | [@themaastrichtedition](#)

The equestrian life at Eerde IBS

Did you always dream about horseback riding competitively while studying? Fulfil this dream in the most beautiful part of the Netherlands!



While attending school and living on Eerde campus, riders get to train and nationally and internationally compete under the guidance of coaching staff at stables close to school.

The stables are located just a few minutes away from Eerde campus, which is also in highly concentrated showing area. They offer training for national and international riders.

Bring your own horse or use the stable's horses. Besides training, instructors will also teach how to care for, keep and manage riding competitively, all next to succeeding in school. Trail riding is also possible, through the beautiful and tranquil tree lined Eerde country estate.

+31 529 45 14 52
admission@eerdeibs.nl
eerde.nl/welcome

The collaboration between the stables and Eerde allows students to become accomplished equestrians and excel in academics. The combination of two organisations creates a unique program to fit the needs of the equestrian athlete while providing a world class education. At Eerde, we help individuals find success. We will provide a plan to succeed in your life as a rider and focus on your education.

At Eerde IBS you also have access to our gym and fitness equipment, with a wide range of ways to stay active—from yoga, walking, cycling to team sports like football and basketball.

Education at Eerde IBS

Our range of programmes offers students from age four to 19 the opportunity to follow a fully international education, and our teaching-based on the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) – encourages students to develop a 21st-century connected mindset and advanced creative thinking skills.

It is our mission is to help students develop into successful and responsible young adults with strong global connections; in possession of life-long learning skills and friendships.

Providing the opportunity to develop academically, athletically, artistically and to achieve their full potential. Through offering a healthy environment, where personal development and diversity are valued, we aim to develop students who have the confidence, ambition and skills they need to make a positive difference. «

Please contact us through: admission@eerdeibs.nl or +31 529 451 452 or check us out at eerde.nl

We're all history

History is just history, right? It's just a list of things that happened, surely? We all remember history lessons from school—learning the kings and queens, the revolutions, the presidents, the battles and the treaty dates. But has the way history been taught in schools changed? And importantly for internationals in the Netherlands, how is Dutch history taught in schools? And is Dutch history even taught in international schools here?

BY THE ACCESS
MAGAZINE
EDITORIAL TEAM

“Historical knowledge has an influence on people in shaping the present and also the future,” says teacher at Nord Anglia International School Rotterdam (NAISR) Gül Uyar. “Learners are expected to analyse and think, but also to form their own opinions—with strong arguments—that will influence the path of their life.”

It matters

Recent public debate over how colonialism, slavery, and women are portrayed in world, and local, history has altered the way history is thought about on many levels. Has this been reflected in Dutch and international schools?

Miguel Heilbron, co-founder of The Black Archives, a collection of books, archives and artefacts representing black and ‘other marginalised’ perspectives on the past, told DutchNews.nl in 2019, “not only in the Netherlands, there’s often a dominant perspective, often a ‘Western’ perspective.”

“This is something we want to confront and challenge,” he added. “When we only know one perspective, this can be problematic. There are so many others that are relevant to know if you want to understand our society but also the world today.”

“We have to respond to the necessary changes in our society,” says Uyar. “And we want to make sure that students can put themselves in the situation and not just learn the factual knowledge—such as years and important events or famous people. History is lived and recorded by people. We can use this life experience to set our own learning goals in forming and taking the responsibility for our own development.” »



PHOTO: BROOKE-CAGLE



A unique, multilingual education for an extraordinary future.

◦ English ◦ Dutch ◦ French



The European School of Mol is open to all students aged 3 - 18. A relaxed, family feel pervades our leafy 20-hectare campus, which is located just 45 km from Eindhoven. Our school bus service ensures easy access.

Europawijk 100, 2400 Mol, Belgium • www.esmol.be • pr@esmol.be • +32 14 563 111

FEEL LIKE YOU'VE LIVED HERE YOUR WHOLE LIFE

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS AT
IAMSTERDAM.COM/FEELINGATHOME

 WATCH THE VIDEO SERIES!



Gemeente  Amstelveen

Perhaps it is simply a case of education establishments needing to catch up with current thinking. Which it is. Researchers for *Historisch Nieuwsblad* magazine in 2020 found that, for example, while men outnumber women in Dutch school history books ten to one, “most history methods are well formulated and modern,” and “recent public debates have been given more space in school books.”

It is important for young people growing up and developing in a country to know and understand more about its history

Out of the canon

Created in 2006, and widely taught in Dutch primary and secondary schools, the first Dutch Canon of History was comprised of fifty ‘windows’ into the past, each of them housing notable events, people, and concepts. In 2019 it was updated—after a year of revision—to represent “more women and more diversity, less ‘Holland’ and more of the provinces.” The Canon supports the Dutch education system, by expanding historical knowledge and insight among students. The aim is to revise it again after ten years.

International schools in the Netherlands take a slightly different approach. History lessons are integrated into the educational themes and enrich the content. “Learners are supported to explore the content from multiple perspectives. The international mindedness and understanding of a culture becomes meaningful,” says Uyar.

At the British School in the Netherlands (BSN), according to their curriculum guide, history “lessons will also develop students’ understanding of historical concepts such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, and the significance of events.

History lessons will encourage students to consider the impact of historical events on the present day.” Their history curriculum—like most international schools in the Netherlands—focuses on western European history.

Perspectives

While in Dutch schools in the Netherlands the educational content is determined by the government, international schools tend to reflect the needs of their international students. Often families will only stay in the country for a few years before moving on, so curricula tend to mirror a more ‘international perspective’. International schools often offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme—an international qualification recognised around the world, based on the notion of studying a broader range of subjects. History within this has a more international flavour.

Dutch schools follow the Canon for history lessons. For students of international families who are settling in the Netherlands for longer, this might hold more interest. After all, it is perhaps important for young people growing up and developing in a country to know and understand more about its history.

The way history is thought about and taught is developing and reflects current thinking, in both international and Dutch schools. “We try to offer the knowledge in its entirety,” says Uyar, “and have it further enriched by discussions and recent research.” While there will always be dates and names to learn, it is positive and affirming to see that the context of history, and everyone who was involved in it, is gaining more importance. «

International schools

Find out more about NAISR at nordangliaeducation.com, and BSN at britishschool.nl. Both schools are ACCESS partners.

IAMEXPAT JOBS

The most popular job board for internationals in the Netherlands



IamExpat Jobs helps recruiters attract skilled internationals and provides expats with a targeted, English-language job board.

Get your next big adventure started.

APPLY NOW!



IAMEXPAT
JOBS

www.iamexpat.nl/career/jobs-netherlands

Looking for international talent?

With IamExpat jobs you can hire international candidates faster. Publish your vacancies now!

www.iamexpat.nl/career/job-posting-employer-netherlands



International preschool True Colors Delft



The place to have fun and grow

At True Colors in Delft we offer preschool for children from 2½ to 4 years of age. This latest addition to the international childcare offered by True Colors is unique in the region and will provide children with qualified childcare in English and Dutch.

More information
Regina Stork
E-mail: regina@truecolorschildcare.com
Phone: +0031(0)6 2940 9644

www.truecolorschildcare.com/new-preschool



BOEZEMVRIEND BREASTFEEDING CENTER

Consultations (live, by phone or email), Courses, Coaching
Boezemvriend Overtoom 205 Amsterdam www.deboezemvriend.nl

The history of the International Waldorf School in The Hague



How a living room on the Columbusstraat was home to the first Waldorf school in the Netherlands

Inspired by Austrian philosopher and social reformer Rudolf Steiner, the first Waldorf school was opened in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany.

After a lecture in The Hague in 1922, two attendees approached Steiner to ask permission to start a Waldorf school in the city. On 9 September 1923 ten children and three teachers came together in a living room in Columbusstraat—the house of one of the pupils—the first Waldorf school in the Netherlands.

Only seven years later pupils and teachers moved to a large purpose-built school on the Waalsdorperweg, which still houses the Vrije School Den Haag today.

The International Waldorf School The Hague (IWSTH) sits comfortably within the existing infrastructure of international education in The Hague.

Although Waldorf schools are located globally, they follow the Waldorf pedagogical philosophy whilst staying close to their home culture and language.

At IWSTH the Waldorf curriculum is used and taught in English, allowing children to move within both the international school system and other Waldorf schools throughout the rest of the world.

In 2017 the school's management recognised a demand for an International Waldorf School available to non-Dutch speaking children who move around the world with their parents. Following a thorough study, the Ministry of Education in the Netherlands granted permission (and funding) to establish the school. School principal Niels Schieman explains there is a clear demand from families whose children don't have Dutch as their mother tongue.

In 2019 Waldorf education celebrated its centenary, which was marked within the schools' community. One project was a correspondence between the schools. The Vrije School in The Hague compiled a box of 1100 postcards (one for each school in the network) with messages, stories and illustrations made by the pupils. Every Waldorf school received one of these postcards, and in turn, the school received postcards back. These were displayed in school alongside a world map, with a location pin to show where each postcard came from. Schieman says, "this is a tangible image of our global community—the connectivity and solid foundation of the Waldorf tradition, built on 100 years of a grassroots movement." «

To read a longer version of this article, please go to internationalwaldorfschool.nl/news/the-history-of-waldorf-education-in-the-hague



+31 70 783 00 30
info@iwsth.org
internationalwaldorfschool.nl

Thank you for helping ACCESS

Government & Patrons

We thank and acknowledge the following for their support and trust.

- Amstelveen Municipality • City of Delft • European Medicines Agency (EMA) • The Hague International Centre
- Expat Centre Leiden • IN Amsterdam • International Welcome Centre Utrecht Region • Sapienza Consulting • TU Delft (Coming to Delft Services)

Dual Career Support

For the particular needs and interests of accompanying spouses/partners the following may be of value.

- Angela Fusaro • Business Breakfast • Caitriona Rush
- Caroline van den Bogaard • Colleen Reichrath-Smith
- Connecting Women • Empower Amsterdam • Giovanna Manto • Janet Rodenburg • Marie Dewulf • Natália Leal
- O'ona Souissi • Rawia Liverpool • Teresa Moynihan
- Toastmasters of The Hague • Veena Joseph • Volunteer The Hague • Women's Business Initiative International

Relocating

Whether you are planning a relocation to the Netherlands, or have recently arrived and are getting settled.

- ABN AMRO • Expat Help • FVB De Boer • GMW Advocaten (Legal Expat Desk) • Mynta Law Immigration Lawyers
- Prijsvergelijken

Childcare

Daycare, after-school care and support for your children.

- Big Ben Kids • Johanne Bade • Kinderopvang 2SAMEN
- Sunshine Au Pair • True Colors Childcare • Vertaalbureau Urgent Vertalen • Villa Bloom • Zein Childcare

Housing

The services of these partners speak for themselves – and cover your housing needs.

- !WOON • Expat Help • Expat Mortgages • My Dutch Mortgage Online • MLP Real Estate • Student Experience

Healthcare

Another category which speaks for itself, and includes members of our ACCESS Trainers Network.

- De Boezemvriend • Chitra Natarajan • Jac Rongen
- Jacinta Noonan • Linda Bosma Malley • Meida van Baal
- Molly Bijl • Nina Bogerd • Ria Wiertz • Sandra Delgado Quist
- Truus Gale

Learning & Education

For children as well as adults, includes language centres/schools.

- American Book Center • ABC English • American School of The Hague • Amity International School Amsterdam
- Beatriz Laus • British School in the Netherlands • Direct Dutch Institute • Eerde International Boarding School
- European School of The Hague • German International School The Hague • Hannah Behrens • Harbour International
- Helga Evelyn Samuel • HSV International • International School Delft • International School of The Hague • International Waldorf School The Hague • Lelia Spada • Nord Anglia International School Rotterdam • Optimist International School • Rotterdam International Secondary School • SPEAK
- Winford Bilingual Primary School • Ute Limacher-Riebold

Counselling Network

- Angelika Matthias • Ann Kuis • Caroline van Diest
- Carolyn Tabak • Claire Boers-Stoll • Cristina Baroncelli
- Drew Puxty • Elisabetta Ibernì • Jeanine Souren
- Joanne B Rahusen • Jutta König • Karolina Fotyga
- Katarina Gaborova • Lysanne Sizoo • Mariza Thanapoulou
- Marquerite Gallagher • Nuria Maldonado Bellido
- Ophirah Toff • Patric Esters • Robin Roberts • Rosie Glicklich
- Sivan Weinstein • Stephen Davies • Sylvia Silberg

Acknowledging our Partners, Counsellors, Trainers & Volunteer Managers
ACCESS is grateful for many things, not the least, the work of our strong and diverse volunteer community. They do the work – but the partners invest in us so that we are able to carry out our mission to serve the international community. Should you make use of them, do mention ACCESS referred you. Should you wish to help us serve the international community and include you in our acknowledgements, get in touch with prd@access-nl.org.

NEW Helpdesk

While the Covid period has left many thinking there are fewer people coming, or we are able to do less – nothing could be further from the truth at ACCESS. By the end of October 2021 we had already – though all our helpdesks – surpassed the numbers of people we assisted in 2020. And the numbers keep growing.

It is therefore with tremendous pleasure we share our most recent agreement: to help the City of Amstelveen further support their international community, at least online for now. On Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00-14:00, people can make an appointment with us for a half-hour chat with their questions about getting settled in Amstelveen.

You can make an appointment here:

 [appointments.access-nl.org /amstelveen](https://appointments.access-nl.org/amstelveen)

Anyone interested in volunteering with us, and helping fellow residents of Amstelveen can attend an ACCESS Information Session:

 access-nl.org/volunteering-for-access

Looking for additional information?

Be sure to check the following expat centres' websites for localised information sessions about living in the Netherlands:

- **IN Amsterdam**
iamsterdam.com/en/our-network/in-amsterdam
- **Expat Centre Leiden**
expatcentreleiden.nl/en
- **The Hague International Centre**
thehagueinternationalcentre.nl
- **International Welcome Centre Utrecht Region**
welcome.utrechtregion.com/en

For additional information, please visit: access-nl.org

Management Team

Executive Director Deborah Valentine

Operations Manager Qin Cai

Project Manager Utrecht Luciana Fonseca

Project Manager Amsterdam Tiina Weman

Project Manager The Hague Rawia Liverpool

Project Manager Leiden Aishwarya Raman

Childbirth Preparation Courses Coordinators

Bintou Keita and Jodie Crockford

Computer Services Manager John Pellet

Finance Department [open]

Communications Manager [open]

Magazine Editor Steve Voyce

Volunteers' Newsletter Editor Lisa Nield

Social Media Coordinator Sylvia Radovan

Website Editor Nazlina Quadir

Website Master Sabeen Imran

Website Coordinator [open]

Helpdesk Manager Alessandra Gatta

Training Coordinator Antonio Gutierrez

Rota (Schedule) Coordinator Georgiana Nicolcea

Volunteer Resources Manager

Sara Silva Santos

Relationship Managers Karen Hennessey

Massaro and Crescence Martimort

Public Relations / Events Manager

Carolina Isola

Information Research Manager Mauren

Lopez Pons

Statistics Manager Queenie Escanuela

Counselling Services Network Coordinators

Qin Cai and [open]

Community Education Manager Pamela Herrera

Executive Board

Chairman Gary Hays, Valshebnik Consulting

Godelijn Boonman (GMW Advocaten), Coen

Wilms, Lucas Hendrikse, Roy Fu, Lowri van der

Linden (observer)



PHOTO: KAT STOKES

Seeking writers

Would you like to write for this magazine?

We are always on the look-out for writers to join our team. You don't need to have had your work published previously, just be passionate about writing.

ACCESS magazine is published three times a year. Each issue has a circulation of 6,500 printed copies which are distributed at various locations and is available online at the ACCESS website.

All our contributors are volunteers and benefit from working with an editorial team and seeing their final work in print. The editor solicits assignments and determines the right fit for the magazine. Writers who have been accepted are welcome to pitch article ideas.

Anyone interested in contributing to the magazine should send an email with writing samples to the editor at editor@access-nl.org.

The editor, with the ACCESS Communications team, reserves the right to determine appropriate candidates and contributions.

Community & Media Partners

Our community partner groups and initiatives are listed below for additional support and information. Looking for something else, missing your community?

Get in touch with our Helpdesk so we can help you further.

- American Women's Club of The Hague • Amsterdam Mamas • Broadcast Amsterdam • Delft MaMa • Dutch Buzz • Dutch News
- ExpatINFO Holland • Expatriate Archive Centre • Expats Utrecht • Expat Republic • Expat Spouses Initiative
- Families in Global Transition • Here in Holland • i am not a tourist (IANAT) bv • IamExpat
- International Community Advisory Panel (ICAP) • International Locals Amsterdam • M-space Graphic Designers
- STET (English Theatre) • TheHagueOnline • Xpat Media



LEARN,
LIVE AND
DEVELOP

EERDE
INTERNATIONAL
BOARDING SCHOOL
NETHERLANDS



- Day school, flexible and full boarding options
- Internationally accredited Primary and Secondary education

- Unique and stimulating learning environment
- Highly qualified educational staff

**ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO DISCOVER THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL
ALLOW US TO PROVIDE THE PATHWAY**

curriculum

accreditations

official partner of



RIJKS MUSEUM

www.eerde.nl • admission@eerdeibs.nl



NORD ANGLIA
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
ROTTERDAM

OUR IB ACADEMY

36.9
AVERAGE IB SCORE



TOP 3
IB SCHOOL IN THE NETHERLANDS*



100%
OF OUR GRADUATES ACCEPTED
INTO THEIR FIRST CHOICE UNIVERSITY



Choose Success.
www.naisr.nl

*According to independent ranking of IB Schools undertaken by IB-Schools.com and Education Advisers Ltd