Delight in Dutch culture as a high school exchange student in this charming land!

Semester and full-year programs available: www.pax.org/us-students
Did You Know?

If you don’t speak Dutch, don’t worry. Most Dutch speak English (and German or French)!

Do you enjoy physical activity? So do the Dutch, who revere and excel at several sports, including soccer, speed skating, and tennis. Maybe, you’ll even be lucky enough to ice skate Amsterdam’s famous canals!

Get used to riding a bike—it’s one of the most popular forms of transportation. Streets on which cyclists have priority over cars are common.

If you love to travel, you’re in luck: Belgium, Germany, France, and other European destinations are a short train ride away!

Picture This!

While you may envision old-fashioned windmills and colorful tulips when you think of the Netherlands, there is much more to this gorgeous western European gem, ranked as one of the “happiest” countries on Earth!

Although the terms “Netherlands” and “Holland” are often used interchangeably, Holland (home to Amsterdam) comprises two of the country’s western provinces. “Netherlands” means “low country”—aptly named since much of it lies at or below sea level.

Despite its relatively small size, the Netherlands is big in many ways: it has Europe’s largest port (Rotterdam); is one of the most densely-populated countries; and is the world’s second largest exporter of food and agricultural products.
Live it Up

Adjusting to life here will be easy if you consider yourself independent. The Dutch value self-reliance over dependency and modesty over showiness. Also known for being direct and honest, the Dutch speak their minds easily. They like to convince people to share their views, yet aren’t offended when others express their opinions.

This straightforward approach to life is even expressed in their cuisine: you’ll enjoy lots of seasonal vegetables (the potato reigns year-round), some meat, and dairy—Gouda is just one of their great cheeses!

Keep Learning

You’re certain to find Dutch high school life intriguing. Education here is oriented toward students’ individual needs and backgrounds, and annual assessments help determine their educational paths. A student’s field of study becomes more specialized over time, and again, being independent is expected and helps students to move forward.

While classes are of course taught in Dutch, you can always ask teachers for instructions in English. Many high schools split their hours with 80 percent of the week slated for regular classes with the remainder of time being “open” for students to choose from attending classes in which they need help or to which they want to devote more attention.

Dutch schools sponsor a limited number of clubs, but you’ll find many extracurricular activities to join outside of school—just ask a classmate!
## Dates and Costs

- **Duration:**
  - 10 months (academic year)
  - 5 months (semester)
- **Start dates:**
  - August
  - January (spring semester)
- **Cost:**
  - $8,500 (academic year)
  - $7,000 (semester)

## Terms of Participation

- Between the ages of 15 and 18
- Currently enrolled in a U.S. high school
- GPA of C+ or better
- No Dutch language requirement

## Application Deadline

- April 1: fall semester or academic year
- September 1: spring semester

## What's Included?

- Student selection interview
- Guidance through visa process
- Selection and preparation of host family
- High school enrollment
- U.S. pre-departure orientation
- Medical insurance
- Local support and progress reports
- 24-hour emergency support

## What's Not Included?

- International and local airfare
- Visa application fees
- School fees (textbooks, lunch, etc.)
- Personal expenses, souvenirs, incidentals
- Transportation to and from school
- Phone cards or cell phone
- Online Dutch language course
- Bicycle

## How Does It Work?

- Visit pax.org/us-students for details on compiling application packet
- After application materials received and reviewed, student interview arranged
- Application packet sent abroad for final acceptance by partner organization
- Student matched with host family and school
- Student guided through visa process
- Details of exact host family, school, and community shared with student
- Correspondence between student and host family begins
- Pre-departure orientation session in the U.S.
- Arrival orientation in the Netherlands

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* Costs are not inclusive of obligatory Dutch arrival orientation (€450), online Dutch language course (€90), or Dutch partner administration fees (€808).