

Generic information for students about NFP II

Netherlands Fellowship Programmes

The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) promote capacity building within organisations in 51 countries by providing training and education through fellowships for professionals. The NFP is initiated and fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the budget for development cooperation.

The NFP has 3 sub programmes for individual fellowships: master's degree programmes, short courses and PhD Studies. In addition, there are separate funds for alumni activities and Tailor-Made Training.

Read more about the alumni activities on the [website of the Holland Alumni network](#).
Read more about Tailor-Made Training on www.nuffic.nl/tmt.

The aim of the NFP

The overall aim of the NFP is to help increase both the number and the competencies of skilled staff at a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organisations. You have to be nominated by your employer to be eligible for the fellowship. There also has to be a clear need for training within the context of your organisation.

The NFP is meant for professionals who are nationals of and work and live in one of the 51 NFP countries. The countries have been classified into two categories (I and II). Category I countries are priority countries and will receive more fellowships.

Candidates have to be nominated by their employer to be eligible for the fellowship. There also has to be a clear need for training within the context of the organisation.

Each embassy has its own focus area to support the development goals of the Netherlands in each NFP country. The overall objective is to spend 35% of the budget on grants and study programmes in food security and private sector development.

The fellowships are further prioritised as follows:

- 50% of the budget is for applications from Sub Sahara Africa.
- 50% of fellowships has to be awarded to female applicants.

The fellowship

An NFP fellowship is intended to supplement the salary that you should continue to receive during the study period in the Netherlands. The allowance is a contribution towards your costs of living, the costs of tuition fees, visas, travel, insurance and thesis research. If applicable, the fellowship holder is expected to cover the difference between the actual costs and the amount of the personal NFP allowances.

The fellowships are awarded in a very competitive selection to highly motivated professionals who are in a position to introduce the newly-acquired skills and knowledge into their employing organisation.

For whom

Criteria

You must meet a number of criteria that support the aim of the NFP to be eligible for a fellowship.

To be eligible you:

- must be a professional and national of, and working and living in one of the countries on the NFP country list
- must have an employer's statement that complies with the format Nuffic has provided. All information must be provided and all commitments that are included in the format must be endorsed in the statement.
- must not be employed by an organization that has its own means of staff-development. Organizations that are considered to have their own means for staff development are for example: multinational corporations (e.g. Shell, Unilever, Microsoft), large national and/or a large commercial organisations, bilateral donor organisations (e.g. USAID, DFID, Danida, Sida, Dutch ministry of Foreign affairs, FinAid, AusAid, ADC, SwissAid), multilateral donor organisations, (e.g. a UN organisation, the World Bank, the IMF, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, IADB), international NGO's (e.g. Oxfam, Plan, Care).
- must have an official and valid passport
- must not receive more than one fellowship for courses that take place at the same time
- must have a government statement that meets the requirements of the country in which the employer is established (if applicable)

How to apply

Seek academic admission as early as possible to allow us to process your application in time. The academic admission process for a PhD study is an individual track.

Prepare your fellowship application

If you are certain that you are eligible for an NFP fellowship and you have collected all the necessary information and documentation, you can start with your application.

In the application you need to give personal details, for which course you want to register for an NFP fellowship as well as motivational statements. You also need to upload:

- a copy of a valid passport
- a statement from your employer
- a statement from your government (if applicable for your country)

The application you submit must be complete with all the required documentation according to the required formats. The application must be submitted online through the candidate registration form before the fellowship application deadline. Applications that are not submitted according to the required process and format will not be accepted.

Fellowship application deadlines

Each master's degree programme and short course is listed under a specific fellowship application deadline.

Deadlines:

Academic application deadline	Open for	Fellowship deadline
To be determined	Masters	To be determined

Registration form

Use the online candidate registration form to apply:

[available around February 2015]

Fellowship selection process

Only a maximum number of candidates can be considered for a fellowship. Therefore the process has a preliminary step. This step is to decide which candidate will be considered for an NFP fellowship.

If a candidate is considered for a fellowship his or her application will be assessed. The Netherlands embassy will check the application on the eligibility criteria. If eligible it will be further assessed.

The above leads to a ranking of all eligible applications. The selection method takes the NFP policy principles (women, Sub Sahara Africa, food security and priority countries) into consideration.

About the eligibility check

If your application does not meet the eligibility criteria it will be rejected regardless of any effort, time and money you put into it.

If your application is eligible it will be assessed by the Netherlands embassy on:

- the degree to which you fit into the target group of the programme
- how well you would be able to implement the newly-acquired knowledge in your daily work;
- to what extent the knowledge will contribute to the development of your home country. Your application will be assessed according to the country focus an embassy may have set. If for example you submit an application for an NFP fellowship in the field of Health Sciences while Agriculture is a country focus, your chances of obtaining a fellowship will decrease.
- how well your plans for the time after returning to your employer are described and how easily they can be implemented.

After the selection

You will be informed about the outcome of the selection by mail or email. If your application is successful, we will contact you by mail or email to make all necessary (logistical) arrangements.

We will make payments to you for the duration of your fellowship.