Information for prospective candidates with a non-Dutch education: application for September 2019

In the Netherlands the number of applications for the bachelor programme in Medicine, and in Leiden also for the bachelor programme in Biomedical Sciences, is higher than the number of places available. Approximately 8000 candidates seek admission to the bachelor programmes in Medicine in the Netherlands while nationwide 2700 places are available. As of 2017 candidates seeking admission need to participate in a ‘selection procedure’. Selection procedures differ per university and consist in Leiden of 2 separate selections days with tests and interviews. The selections days take place in February and March with approximately a 4 weeks interval.

The BSc in Medicine and the BSc in Biomedical Sciences in Leiden are so called "quota programmes". Each year 315 places for Medicine and 70 places for Biomedical Sciences are available at Leiden University Medical Center and prospective students - even when admissible - are not automatically guaranteed a place. All candidates need to participate in the selection procedure which takes place on 2 separate days. Make sure you will meet all the requirements of the program before participating in the selection procedure to prevent possible nonrefundable cost on tickets etc.

In addition to a regular vwo-diploma [the Dutch diploma of the ‘resumed-scientific-education’ examinations], prospective students who wish to enter the selection procedure must submit sufficient knowledge in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics and need to submit proficiency in Dutch and English.

Not all Dutch candidates with a vwo-diploma may participate in the selection procedure. Only candidates who possess a vwo-diploma with the Science profile Nature & Health (and in addition the subject Physics) or the Science profile Nature & Technology (and in addition the subject Biology) can participate directly. All other candidates with a Dutch vwo-diploma need to pass additional examinations in the missing subjects in the year following their graduation.

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Registration procedure

The registration procedure is executed by Studielink operating on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Education. In order to participate in the selection procedure, participants must first obtain a recognized (Dutch or non-Dutch) level of education. If you possess a non-Dutch diploma you may participate in the selection procedure if your diploma has been recognized by the University as being equal to the required Dutch two-diploma including all science subjects (see ‘Letter of Admission’). All candidates for the program in Medicine may register for one selection procedure for Medicine per year, candidates for the program Biomedical Sciences may register for two programs with a selection procedure. Subsequently you may apply twice for the selection procedures of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in Leiden and three times for each program in the Netherlands.

Selection procedure Medicine / Biomedical Sciences

As of 2014 candidates for the program Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in Leiden must participate in the Selection procedure. Registration for the procedure closes on January 15th, 2019. Please note that prior to this date registration needs to take place in Studielink. For information on the Selection procedure please check the website of the University Leiden.
Letter of Admission (Beschikking)

If your preliminary education is a non-Dutch education, you need to submit an application to the university to obtain a (conditional) 'Letter of Admission' through the online registration system of the University. After uploading all relevant documents, the faculty of Medicine will evaluate your diploma and/or prior education and compare these to the requirements of the programme. You will receive a 'Letter of Admission' or a 'Conditional Letter of Admission'. If you do not yet meet the requirements, you will receive either a conditional letter of admission in which is stated which part of the requirements you do not yet meet and which certificates you need to acquire or a 'Statement of Refusal' with additional information on how to meet the requirements in future year.

Sufficient or not yet sufficient in the required subjects

If you possess a non-Dutch diploma you must be able to show that sufficient marks also meet the acquired level for the subjects essential to Medicine or Biomedical Sciences are part of your diploma. The required subjects are Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, English and Dutch. If you do not yet meet the requirements you must sent proof that you are participating in supplementary examinations in the Netherlands. For information about courses, examination dates and the books, contact the Centrale Commissie Voortentamens (www.ccvx.nl) The "Voortentamens" (pre-examinations for admission to medical studies at Dutch universities) are held under the auspices of the collaborating Dutch universities. All candidates who sit their final school examinations between February-July 2019 while one (or more) of the required subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics) is not included in the examination programme, will need to remedy these deficiencies before the start of the program on September 1st, 2019. If this deadline cannot be met candidates are advised to apply for next year’s selection procedure and use the in-between (gap) year to pass the missing examinations and follow a Dutch Language course.

Dutch language requirements

If you possess a non-Dutch diploma you must sent proof that you have sufficient mastery of the Dutch language by passing the examination of ‘Dutch as a Second Language’ (Nederlands als Tweede Taal, NT2, level II) before August 15th, 2019. If ‘Dutch as a first language’ is part of your examination program you may be exempted from additional test. Courses and examinations in the Dutch Language may be taken at the Language Centre of the Leiden University or at one of the centers of ‘Staatsexamen NT2 Nederlands’. Take note that during the summer the dates and locations for the language-examinations must be booked well in advance.