

Explanation of the Dutch Marking and Credit Points System

Marking system

The Dutch marking system runs from 1 (very poor) to 10 (outstanding).
The lowest pass mark is 5.5 (minimum pass); marks 9 and 10 are rarely given.

Explanation of marks

10	outstanding
9	excellent
8	very good
7	good pass
6	sufficient
5,5	minimum pass
5	and lower, insufficient
P	Pass (or V = voldoende)
F	Fail (or O = onvoldoende)
WD	Withdrawn
I	Incomplete (may still be completed according to Departmental guidelines)

Study load - credit points

The study load is specified in European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credit points. An academic year consists of 60 credit points. One credit point is equivalent to 28 hours work and includes lectures/tutorials, reading, preparing for tests, exams, the writing and assessment of papers, etc. The weight of each varies from course to course.

Course levels

Dutch university programmes do not contain the general education component which is characteristic of most American UG programmes. Students in the Netherlands specialise in their major subject from the start.

As a result of the Bologna Declaration, the former Doctoraal system has been transformed into a Bachelor/Master degree system consisting of three-year Bachelor's degrees and Master's degrees which take one or two years to complete.

With the new degree system has come a level indication system in which each course/project is assigned one of six levels from 100 to 600. This range covers everything from introductory work to original research.

Please see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/exchange-study-abroad-students/your-stay-at-leiden-university/ec-and-grading-information> for further details.

Note in particular that Law courses in Leiden, despite being undergraduate courses from the American point of view, should on the whole be considered JD level courses when compared to the US system.

Drs. J. 't Hart
Director Student and Educational Affairs