





1 Health, care, culture and sport

2 Engineering and construction

3 Agriculture and food

4 Business, ICT and hospitality

## MBO colleges

The MBO sector consists of VET colleges comprising multidisciplinary VET colleges (ROCs in Dutch), agricultural VET colleges (AOCs in Dutch) and specialised vocational colleges offering programmes for one specific industrial branche. All VET colleges have a strong regional orientation and function.

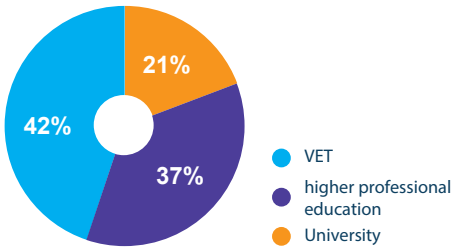
The number of students in the work-based learning pathway versus the school-based learning pathway slightly fluctuates according to the economic situation. In both the school-based and the work-based pathways and on every training level, all students need to spend part of their time on work placements in recognized learning companies in order to obtain a diploma. The duration of the courses varies from six months to four years, depending on the level, the earlier achieved competences and other requirements of the course.

## The Dutch education system

With the implementation of the WEB, the act on Vocational Education and Training, the two learning pathways in VET (work-based and school-based) were put in the same qualification framework. The school-based option with full-time education is called the BOL system and the work-based pathway, offering a combination of work and study, is called BBL. Both learning pathways offer programmes on four different levels.

- level 1** entry level
- level 2** basic vocational training
- level 3** full professional training
- level 4** middle-management and specialist training

### Students per educational level



Source: Onderwijs in cijfers 2018

## Adult education

Adult education is accessible for adults from the age of 18 onwards and offers various programmes for their development. Adult education offers, for example, introductory courses for immigrants coming to the Netherlands, language and literacy courses at various levels (NT2) and second-chance secondary education. It plays a major role in integration issues and contributes to social cohesion.

## Education and courses on contract basis

The colleges also offer education and courses on a contract basis, such as refresher courses and in-service training for employees and training programmes for the unemployed. This type of education provides for lifelong learning opportunities.

## Relation to the EQF

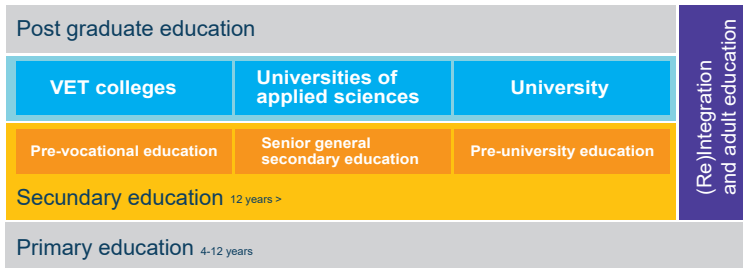
There is a generic classification of the MBO levels to the European Qualification Framework. Generally, the four VET levels correspond with the first four levels of the EQF. It is, however, possible to come to a different classification for a specific qualification, if there is clear evidence for doing so. In that case certain Dutch level 4 qualifications have the possibility to become referenced to the EQF 5 level. The level 4 qualifications offer access to follow up studies at the universities of applied sciences for an associate degree or a bachelor programme.

## Connection with the labour market

Among the Dutch educational sectors, the MBO sector maintains the closest relations with the labour market. Colleges have frequent contacts with companies and organisations where students work or obtain their work experience. Regional trade and industry maintain solid relationships with the colleges about the quality and content of the courses on offer. These contacts between colleges and companies are extremely important in ensuring a close match between the education that colleges offer and the skills that companies need.

On the national level, the needs of trade and industry are brought in line with the education and training programmes through the 'Foundation of Vocational Education and Labour Market' (SBB), where social partners and education are equally represented. Together they advise the Minister of Education about the core subjects of the VET system, such as the qualification structure, the examinations and the requirements of the work placements periods.





*System of education and training*

## Internationalisation in the MBO sector

The globalisation of the labour market is developing rapidly. The international mobility of workers is increasing and Dutch society encompasses a great variety of nationalities and cultures. As a result, the international dimension in education has become increasingly important for the MBO sector. The EU ambitions to make Europe smarter, greener and more sustainable with a strong social cohesion, gives the European VET sector a crucial role in achieving these targets. The current international labour market demands highly

skilled and international competent workers who are able to participate in lifelong learning. It is the mission of the MBO Raad to support and advise its members in achieving these goals.

## The Netherlands

Situated on the North Sea coast, the Netherlands shares borders with Germany and Belgium and forms a gateway to Europe. Due to its geographical position, strong international orientation is a main feature of the country since many centuries. This attitude is reflected in our vocational system.



The 'MBO Raad' is the Netherlands Association of VET colleges. The association represents all government funded colleges for secondary vocational education and training and adult education in the Netherlands. On behalf of its members, the MBO Raad promotes the collective interests of the sector, including educational innovations. The MBO

Raad supports common activities of the colleges and acts as an employers' organisation

In order to advocate the interests of the VET sector on the European level and to promote international cooperation, the MBO Raad is a member of the European Providers of Vocational Education and Training (EUproVET) and the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE).

### For more information

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