



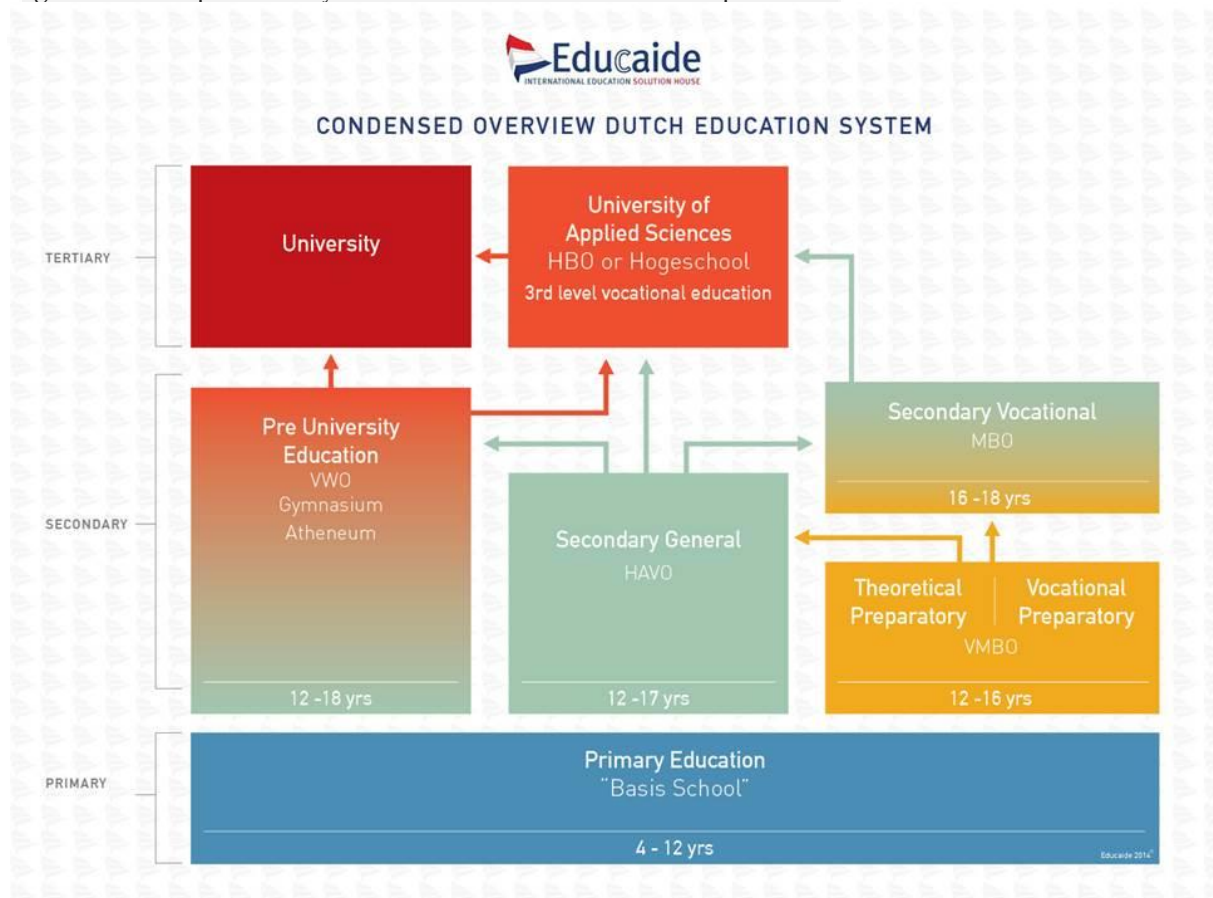
## Schooling in The Netherlands

by Willemijn van Oppen, Principal of EDUCAIDE

Education is the key to making an expatriation successful: if the kid is happy, the spouse is too, so the expat can focus on the job and find a happy family at home!

Under Dutch law, education is mandatory for all children of all nationalities residing in The Netherlands from five to eighteen years of age, and should be completed with a diploma.

Dutch schools are divided into public (non-denominational) schools, where your child can enrol if you live in the same postal code, schools with a religious orientation and/or schools with a different curriculum such as e.g. Montessori or Waldorf, and private schools. With the exception of a few, all schools are government-funded and are thus paid for via taxes. However, parents will be requested to pay a set fee per year for "extras" such as e.g. outings or special projects. This fee varies from school to school. In order to be able to gather more information on the Dutch educational system, you may watch the following video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hes7RfuNqvU>.



As you will notice from the above chart, children have to make a choice on the type of secondary education at the age of 12. This means that children who do not master the Dutch language well enough, will end up in a VMBO school, which often can lead to frustration.

## International Education

In order to make international education more accessible, the Dutch government started subsidizing international departments at regular Dutch primary and secondary schools throughout the country. Nowadays, you will find next to the private international schools, also subsidized international education at so-called 'Dutch International Schools', which feature an international curriculum, taught in English according to the international standard at a relatively low (but mandatory and non-negotiable) fee compared to private schools..

The qualifications for admission to these schools are set by the Dutch Ministry of Education.

Students may be admitted who originate from:

- A **non-Dutch** family staying in the Netherlands for a limited period of time with an expatriate status;
- An internationally mobile Dutch family, whose children have been largely educated abroad, and for whom an international education will be more advisable to ensure continuity;
- A Dutch family bound for an international assignment, whose children will be switching from education in Dutch to English. This transition is limited to a period of one year.

## Curriculum

International primary schools offer either the International Primary Curriculum or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program. At the secondary level there are two different international middle years curriculums available; the IB Middle Years Program and the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education. All international schools offer the IB Diploma Program in the final two years of high school. The IB Diploma is widely recognized as providing a well-balanced pre-university education and is an accepted entrance qualification for top universities around the world.

Private schools may have different curriculums for both junior and senior secondary school, however both the American School of The Hague and the British School in the Netherlands give students the opportunity to follow either the national curriculum or the IB-DP in the final two years of high school. (For more information on curricula check [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org);

[www.internationalprimarycurriculum.org](http://www.internationalprimarycurriculum.org) ,

<https://fieldworkeducation.com/curriculums/middle-years> and

<https://cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/overview> ).

All Dutch International Secondary schools offer the IB Diploma Program in the final two years of High School.

The ISH The Hague also offers the IB Career-related Program in Business. More schools consider to implement the IBCP in Business too.

The British School in the Netherlands offers the IBCP in Business and Hospitality.

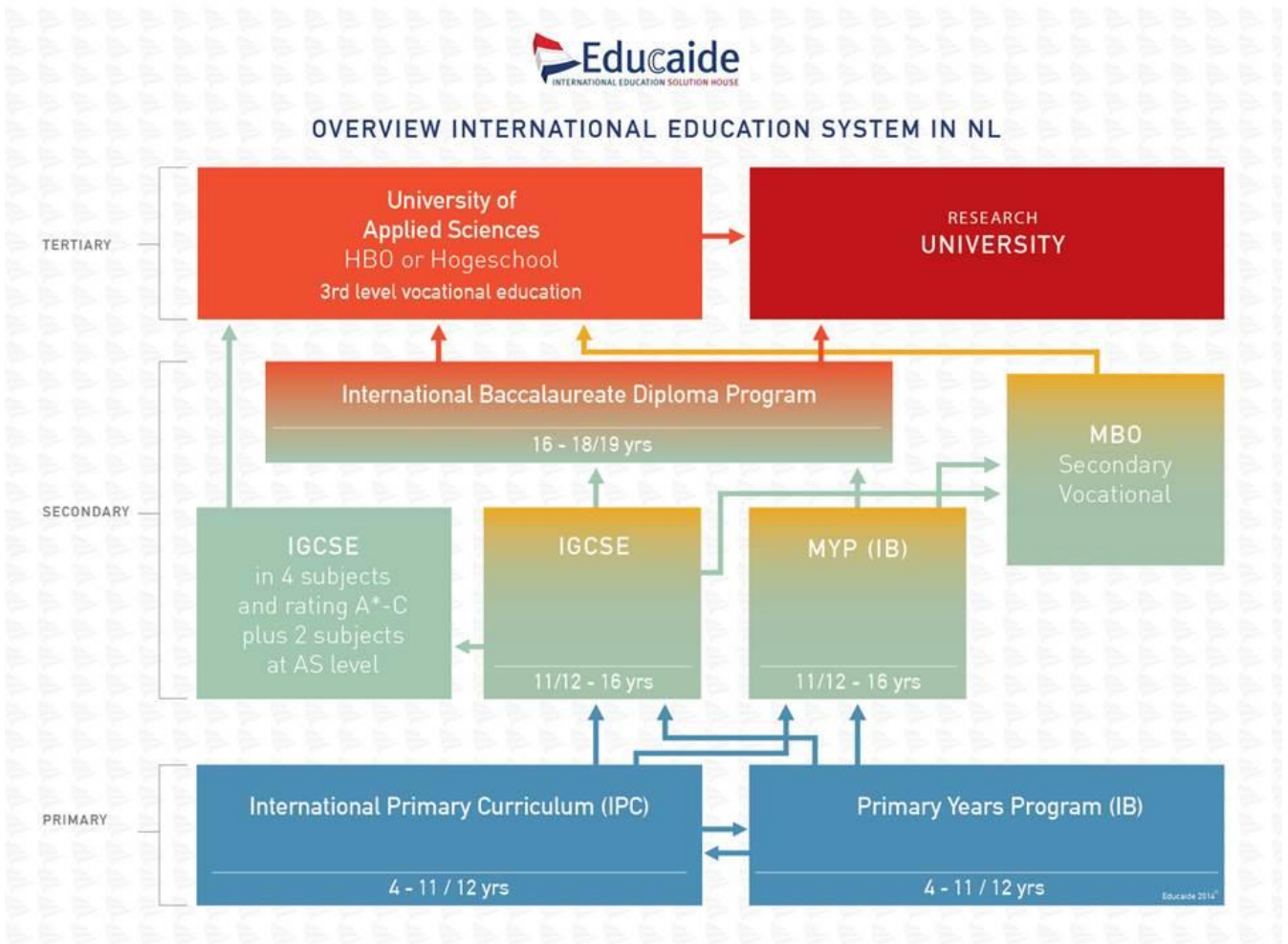
## Locations

You will find Dutch international schools in Maastricht, Eindhoven, Arnhem, Enschede, Groningen, Utrecht, Hilversum, Laren, Almere, Amsterdam, Hoofddorp (Primary), Leiden region, Den Haag, Delft (primary, will start a Secondary school in August 2019 with MYP 1 and 2), Rotterdam and Breda. The RLWassenaar will start with MYP 1 and 2 (Grade 6&7) in September.

The private international schools can be found in the Randstad area (Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam), and in Eerde, Ommen.

There are two international Boarding schools who offer the IB Diploma program: the Eerde IBS and the United World College Maastricht. A Boarding House for internationals, BasBouwlust, can be found in The Hague.

A complete updated list of international schools can be found at [www.educaide.nl](http://www.educaide.nl).  
The website of the International Parents Students Support Group in the Netherlands, in which parents of Dutch International Secondary schools are organized, is [www.ipssg.nl](http://www.ipssg.nl).



### SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION MBO

If a student has successfully completed the (I)GCSE or IB-MYP but is not admitted to the IB-Diploma Program, the MBO (3-4 years) might be a good option. In The Netherlands students can follow several English language programs in e.g. Business and Hospitality ([www.mbo-raad.nl](http://www.mbo-raad.nl)).

Students with the (I)GCSE Diploma (with at least 4 subjects at A\* - C) plus GCE (with two subjects at AS-level) are eligible for admission to the universities of applied sciences (in Dutch 'Hogeschool' or 'HBO'; see below).

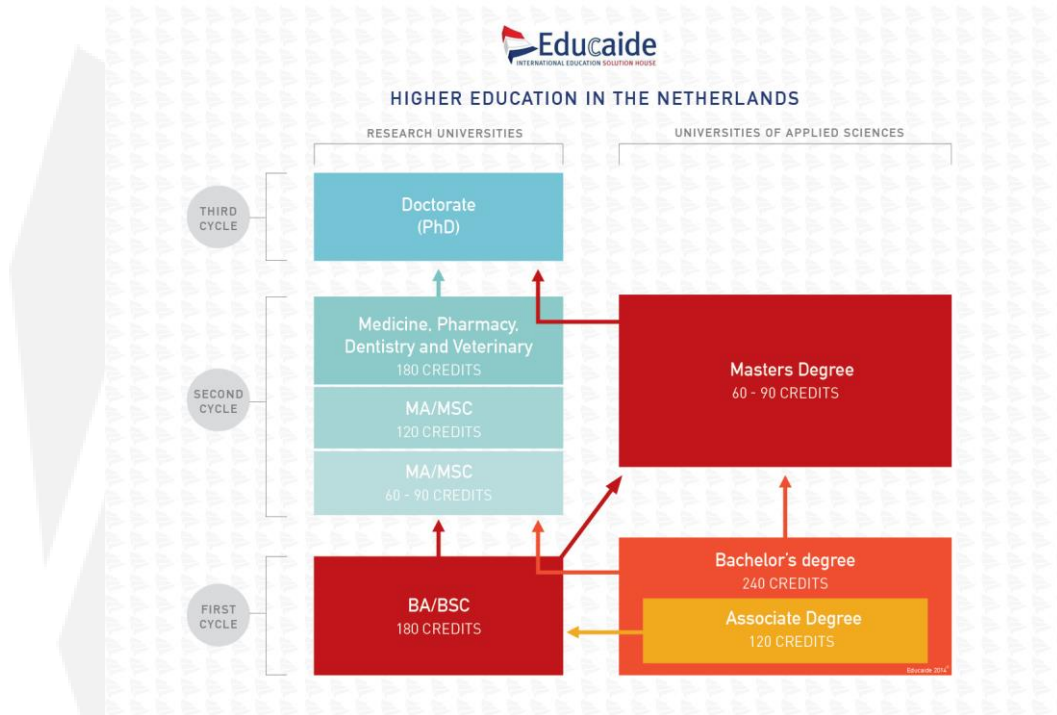
The IB-Organization has developed a new curriculum, the IBCP (Career-related Program, [www.ibo.org/ibcp](http://www.ibo.org/ibcp)) as an alternative of the IBDP for the final two high school years.

The British Secondary School in Voorschoten already offers this program in Business and Hospitality, and The ISH The Hague in Business. More schools consider to offer the IBCP too.

## THIRD LEVEL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

### HBO, Hogeschool or University of Applied Sciences

Throughout the country many 'hogescholen' or 'universities of applied sciences' offer programs in English. You may visit [www.vereniginghogescholen.nl/kennisbank/english/artikelen/list-of-universities-of-applied-sciences](http://www.vereniginghogescholen.nl/kennisbank/english/artikelen/list-of-universities-of-applied-sciences) for more information.



## UNIVERSITIES

In The Netherlands academic education or third level degree- education (universiteit) is offered in Maastricht, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Nijmegen, Wageningen, Enschede, Groningen, Utrecht, Amsterdam (UvA, VU), Leiden (also with a campus in Den Haag), Delft, Rotterdam (with campus in The Hague), and Middelburg.

More information about (English Language) higher or third level education can be found at the websites of the NUFFIC (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education), ([www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl)), the Study Portals ([www.studyportals.eu](http://www.studyportals.eu)), and DUO ([www.duo.nl](http://www.duo.nl)).

## MORE INFORMATION

In order to be able to gather more information on various topics you may visit the following websites: [www.access-nl.org](http://www.access-nl.org), [www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl), [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl), [www.sio.nl](http://www.sio.nl), [www.ipssg.nl](http://www.ipssg.nl), and [www.educaide.nl](http://www.educaide.nl).

If you would like to start you own business in the NL, you may visit **W:** [Business.gov.nl](http://Business.gov.nl) and/or

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BusinessGovNL> for more information.



Willemijn L. van Oppen-Stuyt, Principal

P.O.Box 96911, NL-2509 JH Den Haag

T +31 (0)6 559 88 998

E [info@educaide.nl](mailto:info@educaide.nl)

I [www.educaide.nl](http://www.educaide.nl)