

Opportunities beckon in the land of tulips

A multi-cultural nation, the Netherlands is known for its high standards of education, and it was the first non-English speaking country to offer international degree programmes in English.

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For those keen on pursuing higher studies in Europe, the education system of the Dutch that stress on internship and focus on interactive learning and workshop may be a good option. Known internationally as the knowledge centre, the universities in the Netherlands offer 1,391 bachelors, masters and Ph.D programmes in English.

Speaking at the seminar on Study in Holland, organised at Anna University recently, Ms. Sudha Sudeep of Study in Holland Desk, Chennai, highlighted the various aspects of the Dutch education system. "The Dutch were the first non-English speaking country to offer degree programmes in English, making it the most preferred choice for many international students who wish to pursue education in Europe," she pointed out. International students may not face the problem of lan-



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guage barrier because 95 per cent of the inhabitants of the Netherlands speak English.

Advantages

"As a multicultural country, the Netherlands (also known as Hol-

land) opens up many opportunities for international students," she says. The Netherlands has won 15 Nobel prizes so far and their international study programmes in the area of agricultural sciences, medicine, civil engineering and remote sensing are

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well known worldwide. "The country has received international acclaim for its ground breaking Problem-Based Learning system, which trains students to analyse and solve practical problems independently through emphasis on self-study and self-discipline," Ms. Sudeep says.

Education in the Netherlands is not free, but when compared to countries such as the U.S, the U.K or Australia, it is reasonable. "Annual tuition fee in Dutch higher education institution is approximately 1,500 Euro for students from the European Union. For the international students, it is higher," says Ms. Sudeep.

Since 2006, the Code of Conduct with respect to international students in Dutch higher education has been into effect and it sets out standards for Dutch higher education institutions in their dealing with international students. Only those institutions that have signed up for the Code of Conduct are allowed to recruit international students.

Requirements

Ms. Sudeep says that Indian students desirous of doing their mas-

ter's or Ph.D in the Netherlands can directly establish contact with the university that has signed the Code of Conduct.

Students must submit their IELTS or TOEFL marks. "In the Netherlands, doctorate degrees or PhD is offered only in the research institutes. Students must start looking out for a PhD supervisor, i.e, a professor who will support the applicant's proposal

Useful weblinks


The Netherlands has 14 Research universities and 41 Universities of Applied Sciences. For general information on, log on to Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education, www.niffic.nl. For more details on international degree programmes: www.internationalstudy.nl. To get an idea about tuition fee, visit: www.studying.nl. For those who are looking for information regarding PhD programmes: www.reaca-reers.nl or www.vsnunl.nl. Funding and scholarships offers can be tracked at: www.grantfinder.nl

COMING UP

- Bharathidasan University, Tiruchi, invites applications for admission to M.Phil. (full-time and part-time) programmes in various disciplines conducted at the university departments and affiliated and autonomous colleges. www.bdu.ac.in; last date: August 12.
- Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Mysore, offers two-year M.Sc. in Sericultural Technology course. www.csrtimys.res.in; last date: August 3.
- Applications are invited for KVPY fellowships from school and college students interested in research career. www.iisc.ernet.in/kvpy; last date: September 11.
- NCERT announces National Talent Search Examination for the year 2010. Students in Class VIII are eligible to apply. State-level screening test will be conducted on November 8. www.ncert.nic.in.
- The Next Management Aptitude Test (MAT) will be held on September 6 (online test September 7) across the country. Apply for online registration before August 10.
- The Centre for Distance Education of the Bharathidasan University invites applica-

tions for admission to B.Ed. programme through distance education mode (two years). Entrance Test will be held on September 20. www.bdu.ac.in; last date: August 10.

- Apply for CBSE scholarships for Plus-Two or professional education. www.cbse.nic.in; last date: July 30.
- Kerala Agricultural University has introduced five-year integrated M.Sc. biotechnology programmes for Plus-Two Science students. www.kau.edu; last date: July 31
- School of Health Sciences, University of Calicut, has invited applications for M.Sc. medical biochemistry, M.Sc. (MLT), M.Sc. medical microbiology courses. www.universityofcalicut.info; last date: July 31.
- Kerala University provides online admission facilities for postgraduate courses conducted at all affiliated colleges through single window system. www.keralauniversity.edu; last date: July 29
- Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Kerala, Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram, has invited applications from first-class graduates in any discipline with computer proficiency for admission to one-year full-time PG diploma in e-Governance programme. Last date: July 31.



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