

Abroad Experience' **TOP TIPS** for what to take care of before applying to jobs in the Netherlands



Before diving into your applications and clicking the “send” button, there are a number of to-do’s that are worth checking off your list before you apply on the Dutch market. Following the steps below will make your job search more effective & successful-saving you tons of frustration! Don’t forget to get in touch with our dedicated recruitment team at Abroad Experience Recruitment (abroad@abroad-experience.com) for more information & step by step support.

- **Work permit:** Are you a non-EU citizen? Then you will need a valid work permit in order to apply for jobs in the Netherlands. Recruitment agencies usually only work with you if you have a valid work permit because their clients can only candidates with a valid work permit.

If you need visa sponsorship, please visit the following website from the IND with a list of companies in the Netherlands that offer sponsorship: <https://ind.nl/en/Pages/public-register-recognised-sponsors.aspx>

Additional information can also be found here: <https://ind.nl/en/Forms/3086.pdf>

- **A citizen service number: ‘Burgerservicenummer’ (in short: BSN):** If you would like to work in the Netherlands you are obliged to obtain a BSN number. Make an appointment at your local municipality to register to be entered into the system. You can only get a BSN number if you have a valid Dutch address already.
- **A Dutch bank account:** Please check out our blog article on our website about opening a Dutch bank account for more information.
- **A Dutch phone number:** You will need a Dutch phone number in order to open a bank account. A Dutch phone number also makes it easier for companies to reach you once you applied and will show stability.
- **A Dutch health insurance:** Every employee in the Netherlands needs a Dutch health insurance.
- **Housing:** It is easier to find a job in the Netherlands if you have already found accommodation. The housing market in the Netherlands is a tough cookie. Companies know that it can take candidates up to several months to find accommodation. If you are already located in the Netherlands while applying for jobs and have stable accommodation, then you are more likely to be invited for interviews. If you are not yet in the Netherlands but have a network here/ friends/ family who you can stay with until you find housing, make sure to mention this in your cover letter and on your CV.

- **An NS card:** Are you planning on going to your future job by public transport? Very likely your employer will cover your commuting costs and will ask you to get an 'abonnement'- a monthly prescription via the Dutch railways. The easiest is to apply for a Yellow NS card which is personalized. It usually arrives via mail a couple of days after your purchase. Once you have the card it is easy to add a prescription for your commute, which will be reimbursed by your employer. Some companies give NS business cards though. A personalized NS card is also needed if you wanted to rent an NS bike.
- **Consider getting a bike:** Everyone in the Netherlands bikes! Research has shown that there are way more bikes than people in the Netherlands, thus on average people even own several bikes to get around! If you end up working in the city you live, then a bike is an easy way of getting to work or to the nearest station
- **Start learning the Dutch language:** You would not want to end up feeling like a long-term tourist in your new home country, would you?
- **Remember your why:** Always think of your 'why' when you apply for a job so that your applications are focused on your goals, expectations and long-term plans.
- **Keep your location in mind:** Companies do not consider applicants who live far away or at least will always prefer candidates who live close by. Make sure to ask yourself ahead of applying for jobs in the Netherlands where you would like to live and apply to companies that are within a 45-60 minute maximum commuting time.