

**Our ultimate
checklist:
6 signs that
you are ready
to move to the
Netherlands
for your career**



Are you ready to be an expat and to take the bold step to move to the Netherlands for your career?

Here are 6 ways how to find out if you are ready to relocate and to make the Netherlands your new home in your next career step.

We invite you to go through each checkpoint to see if there are action steps you still need to take before you are ready for your relocation:

- **You did your research and know what you want:** You have a clear reason for why you want to move to the Netherlands and it goes beyond the simple reason that you have heard that Amsterdam is supposed to be beautiful and you enjoy riding a bike. What is your underlying WHY for moving to the Netherlands? The clearer you become about your expectations and your purpose, the more you can research if the Netherlands meets those needs for you.

Moving to the Netherlands does not only mean that you need to bring certainty of why you want to live here but also to know what you want out of your career. What kind of job opportunity are you looking for? Do you want to work full-time or part-time? What industry do you feel inspired to work in? Would you like to work remotely or in an office setting? Ask yourself powerful questions and become as detailed as possible about what it is that you seek. The clearer you are, the better your focus will be in your job search and the more you can attract the right opportunities into your career in the Netherlands.

- **You have arranged a valid work permit for the Netherlands:** This is an important one! If you are not an EU-citizenship you have taken the necessary steps to arrange a work permit for the Netherlands. Arriving to the Netherlands without a valid work permit as a non-EU citizen makes it challenging to start a thriving and sustainable career. Make sure to take the necessary pre-steps while still being abroad. A great way to get started with this is by having a look at the list of visa sponsorship companies of the IND. <https://ind.nl/en/Pages/public-register-recognised-sponsors.aspx>
- **Your gut feeling tells you that it is the right time for a new adventure:** If you have been holding off your move to the Netherlands because of personal circumstances or the global Covid 19 pandemic but you had already prepared and planned everything you needed for your big move then now is the time for you to dive into the deep end and listen to your gut feeling. You know what's best for you. Maybe you always wanted to move abroad and have visited the Netherlands several times, which confirmed that you can see yourself building a career here. Moving abroad is a wonderful opportunity for personal growth!

- **You feel ready for a change and are committed to grow:** Moving abroad means that you need to step outside of your comfort zone. You feel ready to make changes, to embrace uncertainty, new challenges, a different language, and a new culture. You are somebody who thrives in a different culture and loves to experience new things. You do not shy away from upcoming challenges and trust the journey. You love meeting new people and engaging in a new surrounding.
- **You are prepared to speak Dutch and to integrate into the Dutch culture:** Start before you're ready! Don't wait until you have arrived in the Netherlands to explore the Dutch language. There are many online language courses, self-study books and interactive phone apps to start learning the language. The Netherlands is home to many international companies that offer multilingual job opportunities, so Dutch is not always necessarily needed. But speaking Dutch is always a big plus, not only for your job but also for integrating with colleagues and locals.
- **You have connections in the Netherlands:** The housing market in the Netherlands is a challenging one- there are many people who are looking for housing, so it takes time to find accommodation upon arrival. If you have friends/family in the Netherlands, great: this will hopefully give you an opportunity to have a roof over your head until you find own housing. If you do not have connections in the Netherlands yet, make sure to take the time to travel to the Netherlands before your moving date to attend accommodation visits. Finding housing is a lot easier in the Netherlands if you are physically present on Dutch ground to be available for home visits. Come with realistic expectations: Many people who newly arrive in the Netherlands rent an Airbnb place in the beginning until they find permanent housing.
- **You come with a growth mindset:** Moving abroad is very exciting and an unforgettable experience. You approach that next chapter in your life with confidence, trust and positivity. You are ready to do what it takes to evolve in the Netherlands. You are ready to apply to jobs, attend interviews in a new setting and believe in yourself. You are able to adapt, handle setbacks and continuously show curiosity towards what's possible for you.

Was there any checklist item amongst the ones above that is currently still holding you back from relocation? Reach out to us if you have any questions. A lot of your questions are answered in the 'frequently asked questions' section on our website too. Our mission is to help international jobseekers build a thriving & fulfilling career in the Netherlands. What's holding you back? Contact us for any concerns you may have or any challenges you are currently facing in terms of your relocation. We will help you seek the answer and will redirect you to the right source if needed.

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