

Learning objectives

In the course 'Discover Dutch: Dutch Language and Culture', you will learn to speak and understand the Dutch language at a basic level, CEFR A1. At the end of this course you will be able to join a basic conversation, using general expressions and basic sentences. For example, you will be able to meet and greet in Dutch, order a meal or a drink in the campus pub, go shopping, say whether you like something or someone, which you can practice in real life!

The cultural part of the course will allow you to learn about the Dutch and their culture within an international context. Besides the essentials of Dutch history and culture, you will discover recurrent themes in Dutch history and find out how the natural environment shaped Dutch society and vice versa.

Method and course content

In the course '*Discover Dutch*' you will learn to speak and understand the Dutch language at a basic level (Common European Framework of Reference CEFR level A1). The course is very interactive in nature. You will work on your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, including vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar. During classes you will use video, audio and computer software. And of course, you will practice a lot in small groups, which is a fun and effective way to try your newly learnt sentences. At home you prepare online for the classes, to ensure you know the vocabulary needed to perform the tasks in class. After class you practice online what you discovered in class. NT2 (DSL)¹ lecturers teach our language classes and will personally guide you through the program.

'Discover Dutch' is not only a language course, however. You will also learn about Dutch culture and society. In this part of the course you will explore some of the highlights of Dutch history and culture: what was so special about that famous Dutch 'Golden Age' and have the Dutch really always battled against the water? We will also discuss the stereotypes that exist about the Netherlands and Dutch culture and place them within a historical context. Some of the stereotypes you may have had before starting the course, considering the tolerant and liberal attitude towards drugs, sexuality and immigration in the Netherlands, might be in need of some serious reevaluation afterwards!

Required level of education

Anyone who has completed secondary education (comparable to havo/vwo in the Netherlands) is welcome. If you don't speak any Dutch at all, some knowledge of the English language (A2 level) is necessary.

Passing grade

The grade for this course is based on the final Dutch language test, consisting of 5 parts:

- Writing (10 points)
- Listening (10 points)
- Reading (10 points)
- Vocabulary (10 points)
- Culture (10 points)

Speaking will be evaluated on active participation during the classes and will lead to a *pass* or *fail* result. This result doesn't influence the final grade, but will be printed on the certificate. For the final grade you will be granted a grade in the scale 1-10; passing grade is 5,5 (=D).

Passing the test will allow you to start in the second level of our evening classes, level 1.2.

¹ NT2: Nederlands als tweede taal = DSL: Dutch as a second language

How is the amount of EC-credits calculated?

Students who will be rewarded their 6 EC-credits will:

- have been present at all classes (100% attendance policy)
In case of absence please inform your teacher and copy your student advisor at Semester in Amsterdam in the message. Being late more than 15 minutes is counted as absent.

and

- have completed at least 80% of the homework at 80% score (book, online and writing assignments in Dutch and /or English)

and

- pass for the Dutch language tests at A1:
 - The language test contains the following skills: *Reading, Listening, Writing, Vocabulary* (test method will be explained during the course);
 - You will be granted a grade in the scale 1-10; passing grade is 5.5 (the calculation of the Dutch grade to an American grade will be done by International Office)

and

- pass for the culture part of the course by attending all culture classes and by:
 - making exercises per culture class (5 points in total) and
 - giving an adequate presentation & pitch about the Dutch culture (in English) (5 points)
 - adequate meaning: PowerPoint / Prezi / ... of at least 5 – 8 minutes in English, featuring highlights of Amsterdam / Dutch culture & two museums you visited. At least 10 self-taken pictures will have to be illustrated with at least 2 Dutch words each.

Certificate:

Attendance:	pass / fail
Homework:	pass / fail
Language tests:	grade (passing grade: 5,5)
Culture:	X points out of 10 (part of the final grade) Final presentation is mandatory

Course outline

week	day	date	Time	N/C	Subject / Onderwerp
1	Tuesday	3 Sep	18.00-20.30	NL1	Introduction to the course LINK+ Thema 1: 'Wie ben je?' (<i>Introducing yourself</i>)
2	Tuesday	10 Sep	18.00-20.30	NL2	LINK+ Thema 1: 'Wie ben je?'
3	Tuesday	17 Sep	18.00-20.30	NL3	LINK+ Thema 2: 'Boodschappen doen' (<i>Buying groceries</i>)
4	Tuesday	24 Sep	18.00-20.30	NL4	LINK+ Thema 2: 'Boodschappen doen'
5	Tuesday	1 Oct	18.00-20.30	NL5	LINK+ Thema 3: 'Hoe gaat het?' (<i>How are you doing?</i>)
	Wednesday	2 Oct	18.00-20.30	C1	Cultuurpresentaties (<i>Interactive cultural presentations</i>)
6	Tuesday	8 Oct	18.00-20.30	NL6	LINK+ Thema 3: 'Hoe gaat het?'
7	Tuesday	15 Oct	18.00-20.30	NL7	LINK+ Thema 4: 'Lekker!' (<i>Tasty!</i>)
No classes during exam week Period 1 (21-25 Oct)					
8	Tuesday	29 Oct	18.00-20.30	NL8	LINK+ Thema 5: 'Dit is mijn huis' (<i>This is my house</i>)
	Wednesday	30 Oct	18.00-20.30	C2	Cultuurpresentaties (<i>Interactive cultural presentations</i>)
9	Tuesday	5 Nov	18.00-20.30	NL9	LINK+ Thema 5: 'Dit is mijn huis'
10	Tuesday	12 Nov	18.00-20.30	NL10	LINK+ Thema 6: 'Hoe reis jij?' (<i>How do you travel?</i>)
	Thursday	14 Nov	between 17:00-21:00	C3 excursion	Museumbezoek (<i>Museum visit</i>)
11	Tuesday	19 Nov	18.00-20.30	NL11	LINK+ Thema 7: 'Naar de dokter' (<i>To the doctor</i>)
12	Tuesday	26 Nov	18.00-20.30	NL12	LINK+ Thema 8: 'Huis, straat en buurt' (<i>Neighbourhood</i>)
13	Tuesday	3 Dec	18.00-20.30	NL13	LINK+ Thema 9: 'Waar heb je die laptop gekocht?' (<i>Buying and returning</i>)
	Wednesday	4 Dec	18.00-20.30	C4	Eindpresentaties cultuur (<i>Final cultural presentations – group assignments</i>)
14	Tuesday	10 Dec	18.00-20.30	NL14	Herhaling en oefenen (<i>Repetition and practice</i>) Cursusevaluatie (<i>Course evaluation</i>)
	Wednesday	11 Dec	18.00-20.30	NL15	Eindtoets (<i>Final test Dutch - CEFR A1</i>)
End of course before exam week Period 2 (16-20 Dec)					
	Tuesday	17 Dec	18.00-20.30		Inhaaltoets (<i>resit² final test Dutch – CEFR A1</i>)

² VU-NT2 offers one resit for the Discover Dutch course. This resit is scheduled one week after the exam, on campus (no online resit). Only students who failed the language test will be admitted to the resit