



Author Student participation.

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Student Support Fund: Knowledge Grants

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1 Introduction

HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (HU) offers financial aid to students who incur a delay in their studies for special reasons. This is described in the HU Student Support Fund. Who are eligible for this?

1. Students who, due to certain special circumstances such as illness, family problems, mental health issues, have incurred study delays during the period they are entitled to a student grant, may be enabled to complete or continue their studies as soon as possible.
2. Students who carry out recognised student representation activities during or within 12 months of the end of their entitlement to student grants, may be facilitated to do so from via the HU management support fund and receive a scholarship for student representatives.
3. Students who do not meet the nationality requirement (i.e. are not from an EEA country) but are resident in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg or one of the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Lower Saxony and Bremen of the Federal Republic of Germany may receive a knowledge grant, under certain conditions.
4. Students who combine elite-level sports with their studies can request various facilities. (For this, contact the Elite Sports Coordinator)
5. Students in acute financial distress may be able to request support via the emergency fund.
6. In certain cases, students can rely on the Tuition-free Representation Scheme. Students who perform administrative activities may be eligible for a financial allowance. This is a scheme where students do not enrol for up to one year but receive a financial allowance that they would have received had they been enrolled.

2 Knowledge Grants Regulations

2.1 Introduction

Under Section 7.51d of the *‘Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek’* (Higher Education and Research Act), a university of applied sciences may make financial facilities available to students who, due to their nationality, have to pay institutional tuition fees rather than statutory tuition fees. The Knowledge Grants Regulations, which are part of the HU Student Support Fund, regulates this facility in more detail.

The Knowledge Grants Regulations were adopted by the Executive Board on 16 May 2023, with the consent of the University Council granted on 5 July 2023, and takes effect from 1 September 2023.

2.2 Article 1: Grounds

1. Eligible for financial aid under a knowledge grant are those who:
 - a. are enrolled in a degree programme at the HU, for which they have not yet been awarded a degree, and
 - b. does not belong to one of the groups of persons referred to in Section 2.2 of the *‘Wet Studiefinanciering 2000’* (Student Finance Act 2000), and does not hold the Surinamese nationality.
 - c. meets the other conditions set by the International Office as referred to in Article 2.
2. Financial aid under a knowledge grant can be used as an allowance for living expenses for Excellent non-EEA entering or transferring HU students;

2.3 Article 2: Conditions

The distribution of funds to be spent and the conditions a student must meet to qualify for financial aid in the form of a knowledge grant are determined annually by the International Office. The terms and conditions and the application procedure are published on the [website](#). The HU has two knowledge grants: the NL Scholarship and the HU Talent Scholarship. The conditions are as follows:

Terms and conditions for the NL Scholarship:

- The terms and conditions as mentioned in Article 1;
- The student fulfils the language requirement as set by the institution and published on the [website](#), with the minimum being English proficiency as stipulated in the *‘Gedragscode Internationale student hoger onderwijs’* (Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education).
- This concerns first-time intake students, not switchers who are already studying or have already studied at another Dutch institution.

The first intake are students who attended their prior education outside the Netherlands. This means that receiving a grant (scholarship) for a master's degree after having attained a bachelor's degree in the Netherlands is not possible. If the student, who attended previous education abroad, enters a pre-master's programme in the Netherlands, this student does qualify for a NL Scholarship when they start a master's degree programme in the Netherlands. In this way, every student is eligible for a grant only once in their lifetime.

A student can be awarded more than one grant, with a maximum of three.

Terms and conditions for the HU Talent Scholarship:

- The terms and conditions as mentioned in Article 1;
- Applications can only be made from the second year of enrolment; and - at least 50 ECs (out of 60) were attained at the HU in the previous academic year.

2.4 Article 3: Procedure

1. Students who wish to be considered for the NL Scholarship must submit an application via email, using the [application form](#) (the email address is mentioned on the form) and a motivation letter. For the HU Talent Scholarship, applications should be submitted through [Mobility Online](#). The deadlines will be published on [the website](#).

2. Applications will be processed by the International Office.

For the NL Scholarship, a scoring form (refer to the appendix) is used to determine a ranking of the applicants. The number of scholarships is set annually by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The students with the highest ranking will be awarded the scholarship. Students who do meet the requirements but who exceed the number of available places will be put on a waiting list.

If there are more applications for the HU Talent Scholarship than there are scholarships available (xx number), the ranking is determined by the average of the marks attained in the previous year based on at least 50 ECs (out of 60). If more than 50 ECs were attained in the previous year, the average is calculated at 50 ECs with the highest scores.

3. The scholarship coordinator of the International Office will decide whether the conditions have been met and whether the applicant is eligible for a scholarship, this no later than two weeks after the application deadline. This deadline may be extended once, by a maximum of one week. The applicant will be notified of such an extension.

4. The International Office gives a reasoned decision. In case of a grant being awarded, the decision shall include at least the following information:

- a. the amount of the knowledge grant;
- b. the time at which the knowledge grant starts;
- c. the duration of the knowledge grant;
- d. a reference to the possibility of appeal, in case the applicant does not agree with the decision of the International Office.

5. The knowledge grant is paid out to students in its entirety in October, once they have paid their tuition fees and are fully enrolled.

2.5 Article 4: Hardship Clause

The International Office is authorised to deviate from the provisions of these regulations if their strict application would lead to a case of extreme unfairness.

2.6 Scoring Form NL Scholarship Incoming

Surname	Forename	Student number	Nationality	Degree programme	Initial ranking

I. Academic excellence (50%)

Academic excellence	++ / 80-100	+ / 70-79	+ - / 60-69	- / 50-59	-- / 49-1
How did the student's results compare with other students from the same education system? Comments:					

II. Motivation letter (50%)

Reason for choosing the programme	++	+	+ -	-	--
Does the student make it clear why they choose this programme? Comments:					
Contribution to the programme	++	+	+ -	-	--
What does the student think they themselves can contribute to the programme? Comments:					
Originality	++	+	+ -	-	--
Does the information provided characterise the student, or are standard phrases from the internet used? Comments:					
Lay-out and structure	++	+	+ -	-	--
Is the letter clear and easy to understand? Comments:					
Quality of use of English	++	+	+ -	-	--
Comments:					

Social engagement	++	+	+-	-	--
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Does the student show a desire to contribute something to their own environment? Comments:

Average score of the motivation letter:

Based on the above, an initial ranking is made. Both components count for half of the ranking (50%). When in doubt, the motivation is decisive. After the initial ranking, diversity is also taken into account (max. 3 grants per nationality) from which the final ranking follows.