Hoofddorp, 5 December 2022

In this document we describe the different public secondary school options and further education for our group 7 OIS students. First the international education system is explained in chapter one. In chapter 2 the Dutch education system is covered: Dutch secondary education and vocational/higher education, Haarlemmermeer Lyceum bilingual department and other Dutch/bilingual school. In chapter 3 our advisory procedure can be found for students who make the transition from OIS to specifically Haarlemmermeer Lyceum’s bilingual department.

It is important to note that it is hard for students who have attended international schooling to transition straight into regular Dutch education. The best option to transition into mainstream Dutch education is if students, within 2 years of being in the Netherlands, transition via the language class (taalklas, international schakelklas) during primary education.
1. THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM — SECONDARY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

In international IB (International Baccalaureate) World schools, students first follow the Middle Years Programme (MYP). After successfully completing this five-year programme with a MYP certificate, students enroll either in the Diploma Programme (DP) or Careers-related Programme (CP).

The aim of these programmes is to develop active learners and internationally minded people, who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better, more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective. These are all included in the IB Learners Profile, which is used as a guideline in educating students.

IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) is for students aged 11-16. The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world.

The MYP curriculum framework comprises eight subject groups, providing a broad and balanced education for early adolescents.

The MYP comprises eight subject groups:
- Language acquisition
- Language and literature
- Individuals and societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- Arts
- Physical and health education
- Design

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

The curriculum is made up of the DP core and six subject groups. Made up of the three required components, the DP core aims to broaden students’ educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

The three core elements are:
- Theory of knowledge, in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.
- The extended essay, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.
- Creativity, activity, service, in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.

The six subject groups are:
- Studies in language and literature
- Language acquisition
- Individuals and societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The arts

There are different courses within each subject group.
IB CAREERS PROGRAMME (CP)

The Career-related Programme (CP) is designed for students interested in pursuing a career-related (vocational) education in the final two years of Secondary School.

The CP is a combination of vocational learning with the acquisition of key competences/skills, critical thinking, communication, and intercultural engagement. The focus of the CP is on student skills and providing access to higher education. The CP offers an alternative for students to whom the DP program does not fit, for example because it is too academic or too all-round. It is not an 'easier' route, it is, within its own way, a challenging 'practical' route for specialists who already recognise at the age of 16 a career path they aspire to follow. There are few international schools offering the IB CP programme in The Netherlands, the closest of which is International School of the Hague.

INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS NEARBY

The schools below are nearby to OIS and are IB World schools:

- International School Haarlem (ISH) offers the IB Middle years programme and Diploma programme. [https://www.internationalschoolhaarlem.nl/secondaryeducation](https://www.internationalschoolhaarlem.nl/secondaryeducation)
- Het Rijnlands Lyceum International School (ISRLO) in Oegstgeest offers the IB Middle years programme and Diploma programme [https://www.isrlo.nl/](https://www.isrlo.nl/)
- International School of the Hague offers the IB Middle years programme and Diploma programme [https://www.ishthehague.nl/](https://www.ishthehague.nl/)
- Amsterdam International Community School (AISC) offers the IB Middle years programme, Diploma programme and Careers-related programme [https://aics.espritscholen.nl/home/secondary-school](https://aics.espritscholen.nl/home/secondary-school)
2. THE DUTCH EDUCATION SYSTEM

In the scheme below all elements of the Dutch education system from primary education via secondary education up to vocational education and higher education are illustrated, after which they are further explained.

After attending primary/elementary education, children in the Netherlands go directly to secondary or high school (in Dutch: voortgezet onderwijs; literally “continued education”). After that they go to vocational or higher education.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary education, which begins at the age of 11/12, is offered at several levels. Informed by the advice of the primary school, a choice is made for either:

- Preparatory vocational secondary education (VMBO/MAVO)
- Selective secondary education: HAVO or VWO

Since the Dutch educational system normally does not have middle schools or junior high schools, the first year of all levels in Dutch high schools is referred to as the brugklas (literally “bridge class”), as it connects the primary school system to the secondary education system. During this year, pupils will gradually learn to cope with the differences between school systems, such as dealing with increased personal responsibility.

It is possible for pupils who have attained the VMBO diploma to attend the final two years of HAVO level education and sit the HAVO exam, and for pupils with a HAVO diploma to attend the final two years of WVO level education and sit the WVO exam. The underlying rationale is that this grants pupils access to a more advanced level of higher education. This system acts as a safety net to diminish the negative effects of a child’s immaturity or lack of self-knowledge.
Preparatory vocational secondary education (VMBO/MAVO) – 4 years

VMBO (voorbereidend middelbaar beroepsonderwijs; literally "preparatory middle-level applied education", in international terms "pre-vocational education") education lasts four years, from the age of 11/12 to 16. It combines vocational training with theoretical education in languages, mathematics, history, arts and sciences. Sixty percent of students nationally are enrolled in VMBO. There are four levels:

* Theoretische leerweg (VMBO-TL; literally "theoretical learning path") has the largest share of theoretical education. It prepares for middle management and the MBO level of tertiary education and allows students to resume vocational training at HAVO level.[5] It was previously known as "MAVO".
* Gemengde leerweg (VMBO-GL; literally "mixed learning path") is in between VMBO-TL and VMBO-KBL. The progression route to graduation is similar to the VMBO-TL.[5]
* Kaderberoepsgerichte Leerweg (VMBO-KBL; literally "middle management-oriented learning path") is composed of an equal amount of theoretical education and vocational training. It prepares for middle management and vocational training at the MBO level of tertiary education.
* Basisberoepsgerichte Leerweg (VMBO-BBL; literally "basic profession-oriented learning path") emphasizes vocational training and prepares for vocational training at the MBO level of tertiary education.
* Praktijkonderwijs (literally "practical education") mainly consists of vocational training. It is tailored to pupils who would otherwise not be able to obtain a VMBO-diploma. This form of on-the-job training is aimed at allowing pupils to enter the job market directly.

Selective secondary education (HAVO and VWO)

The two programmes of general education that lead to higher education are HAVO (five years) and VWO (six years). Although VWO is more rigorous, both HAVO and VWO can be characterised as selective types of secondary education. The HAVO diploma is the minimum requirement for admission to HBO (universities of applied sciences), but you can also get into the HBO when you achieved an MBO (level 4) Diploma. The VWO curriculum prepares pupils for university, and grants access to WO (research universities), but you can get into university after successfully completing your propaedeuse (first year) of HBO as well.

The first three years of both HAVO and VWO are called the basisvorming (literally "basis formation"). The last two years of HAVO and the last three years of VWO are referred to as the second phase (tweede fase), or upper secondary education. This part of the educational programme allows for differentiation by means of subject clusters that are called "profiles" (profielen). A profile is a set of different subjects that will make up for the largest part of the pupil's timetable:

* Cultuur en Maatschappij (C&M; literally "culture and society") emphasizes arts and foreign languages (French, German and occasionally Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Turkish). This profile prepares for artistic and cultural training.
* Economie en Maatschappij (E&M; literally "economy and society") emphasizes social sciences, economics, and history. This profile prepares for management and business administration.
* Natuur en Gezondheid (N&G; literally "nature and health") emphasizes biology and natural sciences. This profile is necessary to attend medical training.
* Natuur en Techniek (N&T; literally "nature and technology") emphasizes natural sciences. This profile is necessary to attend technological and natural science training.

The VWO is divided into atheneum and gymnasium. A gymnasium programme is similar to the atheneum, except that Latin and Greek are compulsory courses.

The school below is nearby to OIS and is a bilingual secondary school:
* Haarlemmermeer Lyceum (bilingual VWO and HAVO) [https://haarlemmermeerlyceum.nl/onderwijs/internationaal-onderwijs/](https://haarlemmermeerlyceum.nl/onderwijs/internationaal-onderwijs/)
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

In the Netherlands there are the following main educational routes after secondary education.

Vocational education

MBO (middle-level applied education), which is the equivalent of junior college education is designed to prepare students for either skilled trades and technical occupations and workers in support roles in professions such as engineering, accountancy, business administration, nursing, medicine, architecture, and criminology or for additional education at another college with more advanced academic material. MBO is the equivalent of junior college education. Many pupils with a VMBO-diploma attend MBO. The MBO lasts one to four years, depending on the level. There are 4 levels offered to students:

- MBO level 1: Assistant training. It lasts 1 year maximum. It is focused on simple executive tasks. If the student graduates, they can apply to MBO level 2.
- MBO level 2: Basic vocational education. The programme lasts 2 to 3 years and is focused on executive tasks.
- MBO level 3: The programme lasts 3 to 4 years. Students are taught to achieve their tasks independently.
- MBO level 4: Middle Management VET. It lasts 3 to 4 years and prepares for jobs with higher responsibility. It also opens the gates to Higher education.

Higher education

Higher education in the Netherlands is offered at two types of institutions: universities of applied sciences (hogescholen; HBO), open to graduates of HAVO, VWO, and MBO, and research universities (universiteiten; WO) open only to WVO-graduates and HBO graduates (including HBO propaedeuse-graduates).

The HBO (Hoger beroepsonderwijs; literally “higher professional education”) comprise of general institutions and institutions specializing in a particular field, such as agriculture, fine and performing arts, or educational training, while the latter comprise twelve general universities as well as three technical universities. HBO institutions are known as universities of applied sciences.

HBO is oriented towards higher learning and professional training. HBO is therefore the equivalent of college education in the United States. HBO graduates can be awarded with the Dutch title Baccalaureus (bc.) or Ingenieur (ing.). Usually, their diploma states the English title Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Bachelor of Science (BSc). Instead of a BA, LLB or BSc, it’s also possible that they receive a title which mentions the studied subject, for example Bachelor of Social Work or Bachelor of Nursing. After HBO (typically 4-6 years), pupils can enroll in a (professional) master’s program (1-2 years) or enter the job market.

WO (Scientific education) is the equivalent of university level education and has an academic orientation. The WO is only taught at research universities. It is oriented towards higher learning in the arts or sciences. At a WO institution the following bachelor’s and master’s titles can be awarded. Bachelor’s degrees: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB). Master’s degrees: Master of Arts (MA), Master of Laws (LLM) and Master of Science (MSc). The PhD title is a research degree awarded upon completion and defense of a doctoral thesis. After the bachelor’s programme (typically 3 years), students can enroll in a master’s programme (typically 1, 2 or 3 years) or enter the job market. After gaining a master, a student can apply for a 3- or 4-year PhD candidate position at a university (NB a master’s degree is the mandatory entry level for the Dutch PhD program).

HAARLEMMERMEER LYCEUM — BILINGUAL DEPARTMENT

Haarlemmermeer Lyceum offers a bilingual programme at three different levels: mavo (preparatory secondary vocational education), havo (senior general secondary education) and vwo (university preparatory education). The school has a separate programme for non-Dutch speakers. Students who don’t speak Dutch (or just a little) enroll in a Dutch as a second language programme (NT2). It offers a combined educational programme of the Dutch national curriculum, English language, and International Orientation programme. Bilingual Students finish the Dutch exam programme at the same level as students who do their education solely in Dutch (regular stream). The bilingual students also do an English IB-language exam which is recognised all over the world (CPE-level).
The bilingual department of Haarlemmermeer Lyceum, secondary education, has three pillars of bilingual education:

- Language acquisition English and Dutch (50%)
- Global Citizenship – Growth Mindset “A window to the world”
- Personal development

Subjects are:
- Dutch as an Additional Language-DAL (NT2 = Dutch term)
- Subjects taught in English: English, history, geography, biology, arts and crafts, information technology, theatre, physical education
- 50 % of the lessons in English; language acquisition vs language learning!
- Target language: French
- Chinese language and culture for havo/vwo students
- Mentor hour/lesson

- Year 2: German and physics (mavo: economics)
- Year 3: chemistry and economics

Extra: Choice Activity Time (CAT): several subjects

Haarlemmermeer Lyceum runs a programme for non-Dutch speaking students, with a focus on Dutch as an additional language (NT2):
- Focus on learning Dutch
- 4 groups: beginners, intermediate and advanced, Plus group
- Specially educated Dutch as a Second Language teachers (NT2)
- Daily lessons; 13:45pm – 4:30pm
- NT2 lessons are obligatory
- Progress will be tested regularly
- Exemption (MFL)
- Peer2Peer buddy Newcomers

The learner profile of Haarlemmermeer Lyceum consists of the following personal qualities: Knowledgeable, Critical Thinker, Open Minded, Caring, Principled, Communicator, Responsible

The end diploma options of Haarlemmermeer Lyceum are:
- VWO diploma + IB English A
- HAVO diploma + IB English B
- MAVO diploma; in year 3 final exam English MAVO and in year 4 final exam English HAVO

Language certificates (optional):
- havo/vwo – Cambridge Advanced Certificate (CAE)
- mavo en havo -Cambridge First Certificate (FCE)
- HSK – Chinese taal
- Delf – Franse taal
- Goethe – Duitse taal

OTHER DUTCH/BILINGUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

There are other Dutch Secondary schools in Hoofddorp (Kaj Munk, KSH) that offer Dutch Secondary Education, but OIS students will generally not be accepted as they require fluency, both spoken and academic in Dutch. Hoofdvaart College in Hoofddorp offers Vmbo/Mavo and they also have a language class for non-Dutch speaking children but only accept children who have been in the Netherlands for 2 years or less. Outside of Hoofddorp there are various bilingual (TTO) schools, however they do not offer a programme like Haarlemmermeer Lyceum for non-Dutch speaking students which means OIS students will generally not be accepted due to the requirement of fluency and academic Dutch.
ADvisory Procedure Transition to Haarlemmermeer Lyceum — Bilingual Department

For applicants for Haarlemmermeer Lyceum, our advisory procedure is explained below, a process that starts in group 5 at OIS with conversations about length of stay in the Netherlands, future plans and the best fit for the child. The final advice will be given halfway through group 7. This takes place in January or February. The advice is based on a number of different areas of learning outlined below. Students’ level of English and Dutch is not taken into account.

Criteria

For our final advice we look at the following baseline assessments. Teacher judgement is also part of the criteria and includes an assessment of work ethic, concentration, attitude to home learning, organisational skills and independence. This ensures that the advice is based on a holistic picture of each child.

- The GL Progress tests in English and Maths are assessments done every year in May where we are able to track progress in these two subjects
- We have further reading and spelling assessments (NGRT and NGST) that are taken twice a year to track progress
- In Maths we additionally have end of term assessments that are based on the learning in a six-week block and the main areas of focus include: Number and Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions (including Decimals and Percentages), Geometry, Measurement, Statistics and Ratio and Proportion
- The CAT4 (Cognitive Ability Tests) assessments are administered in Group 4 and 6 and for students who are new to the school in Group 7. This assessment tests reasoning abilities and measures verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning. This assessment gives an indication of potential and indicates areas of strength
- The PASS (The Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) assessment is taken twice a year and is an indicator of social and emotional well-being, for example:
  - Feelings about school
  - Self-regard as a learner
  - Preparedness for learning
  - Confidence in learning
  - General work ethic

Advisory Committee

The advisory committee for the bilingual department of Haarlemmermeer Lyceum applicants is made up of the Group 7 teachers, the Learning Leader, the School Counsellor, the Director of OIS, and the Head of Department for the first year at Haarlemmermeer Lyceum. This committee meets and reviews each student based on the criteria outlined above and final advice is given.

Responsibilities and Communication

Parents are responsible for applying to the secondary school of their choice. This must be done by the parents via the different schools’ application processes and must be done before the advertised deadline. At OIS we organize information sessions about secondary education, in which most secondary schools nearby participate. All secondary schools advertise open days and taster sessions through their websites.

OIS is not responsible for applications to Secondary School.

OIS starts the conversation with parents at the parent teacher meetings in Group 5 in order to make sure parents are aware of the secondary school options available and includes a conversation about length of stay in the Netherlands, future plans, and the best fit for the child. This communication continues in Group 6 and 7 and students are encouraged to be part of the conversations in Group 7.

The final advice for Haarlemmermeer Lyceum applicants will be given halfway through group 7. This takes place in January or February. Once the final advice for Haarlemmermeer Lyceum bilingual department has been given no changes are made.

Haarlemmermeer Lyceum is responsible for assigning students to specific classes and will communicate this with parents.
FREQUENTLY ASKED - Q & A

Have you received any feedback from the students who have transitioned?
They find it hard at first. Like most children who transition to secondary education, they come from a smaller and protected environment into a different environment, a school which hosts 1250 students. They find their feet soon and there is help and support from the mentor and subject teachers. There is a transition time which allows the new students to settle. Some students explain that learning Dutch the first one or two years is challenging but gets easier from the 3rd year.

If kids have VWO advice from OIS and start at VWO at Haarlemmermeer Lyceum. How does this change in next year in? Is it possible to be assigned to HAVO or MAVO?
The students have to meet the requirements to pass to year 2. It is rare that a student is downgraded. Nevertheless, in some cases it is better for the child. This will always be communicated carefully and in the interest of the child.

Is it possible to go to art/design/graphic related school after Haarlemmermeer Lyceum?
Yes, there are different possibilities, for example in HBO (Universities of Applied Sciences), like Communication and Multimedia Design, Graphic design, Visual art and design

If the class has approximately 5 international students. Are the other students from Dutch schools? Is the medium of education English for them too for the first 3 years?
A class is made up of international and Dutch students. They all receive their education in English for the first three years. The focus for the international students is Dutch language acquisition, whereas the focus for Dutch students is English language acquisition.

In case a student wants to go to university abroad, when can they do that?
They can do that at the end of the 5 (HAVO) or 6 years (VWO) (see scheme: Dutch education system)

It was mentioned that the checklist criteria will begin in group 5. However, I am not aware of any questions being asked regarding this one. In this case, when will this be taken up with us?
In group 5 the first conversations start about the transition to secondary education. The advisory committee will use the criteria when deciding on the final advice only in group 7. This new procedure of starting communication in group 5 starts from school year 22-23 onwards

What are the average Dutch levels of kids coming from OIS? Beginner, intermediate, advanced etc.?
The level of Dutch by the end of group 7 depends on the cohort per school year, for example number of years living in the Netherlands, home languages, motivation to learn the language, exposure to Dutch, and academic ability in languages

There are also many other bilingual schools, for example in Haarlem. So, what or how are the criteria to get admissions in other schools?
These schools are meant for Dutch students who like extra challenge and some extra focus on English. There is no intensive Dutch program in these schools like there is in Haarlemmermeer Lyceum for English speaking children to have access to the Dutch Exams. Usually, their percentage of Dutch is quite high, also in the first year, which makes it hard to access for non-Dutch speaking children.

Are students’ interests also considered during the final evaluation? VMBO or HAVO or VWO?
All the criteria mentioned in the document are taken into consideration. Interests are not part of that. Within VMBO, HAVO and VWO there are many options to select different profiles in line with interests

Do you recommend any special Dutch teachers, outside of school?
We recommend additional contact and interaction with Dutch children as much as possible, for example by joining a sports club, Dutch of bilingual after school care. As an alternative extra Dutch lesson can be helpful. We recommend you contact our Dutch teachers who might have contact details

What is the distribution of HAVO and VWO advice for group 7 in previous years?
In our short history almost 55% were advised VWO, 35% HAVO, 5% at MAVO
Are all students welcome at an international secondary school?
Admission criteria can be found on their websites (similar to OIS). There are no entrance tests or restrictions, generally they look at records of the previous school, and evidence of learning

Where do IB graduates proceed to?
They go to universities inside and outside the Netherlands. Different universities will tell you how many points you need, some ask for extra competences, but all students can apply

When Dutch assessment will be done by Haarlemmermeer Lyceum, where will this take place?
The NT2 teachers from Haarlemmermeer come to OIS and the assessments are done during the school day

Will the advice be shared personally with each parent or will we get a message in Parro
The advice for students who have applied to Haarlemmermeer will be given in person during a meeting

We really appreciate the current plan for Dutch curriculum, but it is unfortunate that our kids are not part of early years to have that good language skills by the time they leave optimist. Hence the reason for requesting to support the batch that is currently leaving, to reduce their burden in middle years. Other international schools have Dutch at intermediate level by group 7 and I am sure that our OIS students from early years will be a level more than that with current plan being set and definitely gets better as years pass.

All students from Early Years to Group 7 have Dutch lessons. International Schooleducation is meant to support families who are in the Netherlands for a short period of time, so we don’t expect most children to be at OIS from Early Years to group 7. If families are staying long term in the country we recommend transitioning to Dutch education at an earlier stage, preferably in group 1 or 2. Our provision of Dutch is similar to other DIPS international public schools in the Netherlands. As explained on the website of DIPS, Dutch Language Acquisition is part of the curriculum in all Dutch International Schools with the aim to enable students to participate in Dutch society, not Dutch on an academic level. It also explains that the language of instruction is English. By teaching in English and offering an internationally recognised curriculum, students can continue their educational journey anywhere in the world. That is the aim of international schooling. As a DIPS school we have to follow the British national curriculum and an international curriculum (IPC or IB). Our current provision of Dutch fits within our lesson table and within this framework.