



How does primary education work in the Netherlands?

Children from Ukraine are entitled to education in the Netherlands. All children must attend school until the end of the school year in which they turn 16. Children aged 16 and 17 must also attend school if they have not yet obtained a basic qualification. You can register your child at one or more nearby schools. The municipality where you are living or a local school can help you with this.





How is primary education organised?

Children aged between 4 and 12 go to primary school. There are 8 years at primary school. These are called groepen. Years 1 and 2 are for playful learning, like kindergarten. From year 3 children learn to read, write and do arithmetic. After primary school, children go to secondary school. Pupils in year 8 are given a school advice, which determines what type of secondary education they can transfer to. Most pupils also take an attainment test in year 8. Children who have been in the Netherlands for under four years and whose command of Dutch is not yet good enough do not have to take the test.

Is primary education in the Netherlands and Ukraine organised differently?

The Ukrainian school system is different from the Dutch system.

Class (Ukraine)	Age (years)	Level (Ukraine)	Class and level in the Netherlands
	4-5		1 primary education
	5-6		2 primary education
1	6-7	beginners education	3 primary education
2	7-8	beginners education	4 primary education
3	8-9	beginners education	5 primary education
4	9-10	beginners education	6 primary education
5	10-11	middle education	7 primary education
6	11-12	middle education	8 primary education
7	12-13	middle education	1 secondary education
8	13-14	middle education	2 secondary education
9	14-15	middle education	3 secondary education
10	15-16	upper secondary or vocational education	4 secondary education
11	16-17	upper secondary or vocational education	5 secondary education
	17-18		6 secondary education

> Structure of education systems in the Netherlands and Ukraine

Which schools can I register my child with?

You can register your child with any school in your area. The school will look at the education options with you. Ukrainian children can also attend a school with special facilities for newcomers. These schools have expertise in teaching refugee children and can help children deal with trauma and help them learn Dutch. You can find these schools in the [LOWAN school database](#).



What kinds of primary schools are there in the Netherlands?

Nearly all primary schools in the Netherlands are public-funded. Some of these schools provide teaching based on religious or ideological beliefs, or on an educational concept. Schools can place extra focus on sports or music lessons, or provide lessons in two languages. There are also special schools for primary education for children with behavioural disorders or physical or intellectual disabilities.



When are the school holidays in the Netherlands?

You can find the school holidays and other days when your child's school is closed in the school's prospectus (schoolgids).

Outside these periods your child is required to attend school.



Is education also compulsory for Ukrainian children?



School is compulsory for all children who live in the Netherlands and are aged 5 to 16 years. This includes Ukrainian children. This requirement applies from the first day of the month after the child turns 5. Going to school is important for children's development and enables them to build on a good future. Parents or carers must enrol their children aged 5 to 16 in school. And the children must actually attend school. Even when they turn 16, most children in the Netherlands still need to go to school. This is because school is compulsory for children aged 16 or 17 if they have not yet obtained a basic qualification. A basic qualification is a senior general secondary education (HAVO) qualification, a pre-university education (VWO) qualification or a secondary vocational education (MBO) qualification at level 2 or higher. This requirement lapses on the day a child aged 16 or 17 obtains their basic qualification or on the day they turn 18.

Can my child attend school in Ukraine via remote learning?

In some circumstances the Dutch education system allows children to attend school in Ukraine via remote learning. If you have questions about this, contact the head of the child's school in the Netherlands.



From what age can my child attend school?

You can register your child with a primary school when they are 3 years old. They can attend primary school from the age of 4. Your child must attend school by law from the age of 5. Children generally stay at primary school until they are 12.



What does primary school cost?

Primary schools do not charge school fees, but they may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of extracurricular activities. You will also have to buy some materials yourself, such as dictionaries, a calculator or a gym kit.



Who should I contact if I have specific questions about a school?

You can contact the head of the school. You can visit this [website](#) for more information on the Dutch educational system.