



# How is secondary vocational education (MBO) organised?



## Can refugees from Ukraine do an MBO course?

Anyone under 18 can do an MBO course. Adults can only do an MBO course if they have right of residence in the Netherlands. This means Ukrainian refugees aged 18 or over can do an MBO course. They have right of residence in the Netherlands, because they currently fall under the Temporary Protection Directive.



## What are the entry requirements for MBO?

Some MBO courses set specific requirements for prior learning. You will need to be able to speak and understand Dutch fairly well because most MBO courses are taught in Dutch. There are a small number of bilingual MBO courses (almost all Dutch and English). Ukrainian candidates whose Dutch are not yet good enough, can attend an international bridging class. Some MBO schools also offer special entry-level courses for students who are still learning Dutch.



For some MBO courses, Ukrainian candidates may need to have their previous qualifications evaluated. In this case, the MBO school can contact the Foundation for Cooperation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market (SBB). If a refugee does not have the necessary proof of prior learning, the MBO school can ask them to sit an entrance exam.

## Do refugees from Ukraine have to pay fees for MBO courses?

Students aged under 18 do not have to pay course fees. Those aged 18 and over do have to pay course fees. The fees can be waived if the student can show that they are unable to pay. To do this, they must submit a request asking for school fees to be waived to the Education Executive Agency (DUO). Ukrainian refugees are not entitled to reimbursement of any other study costs. This is the same as for regular asylum seekers.



## How is secondary vocational education (MBO) organised?

Secondary vocational education (MBO) prepares students for the world of work or for further training. How long an MBO course takes depends on the chosen level. There are four levels of MBO:

### 1 Level 1 courses (training to entry level)

Level 1 courses (training to entry level) take one year. With an MBO level 1 qualification, you can enter the labour market as an assistant. You can also continue to a level 2 course.

### 2 Level 2 courses (basic vocational training)

Level 2 courses (basic vocational training) take 1-2 years. There are level 2 courses for all sorts of jobs, for example hairdresser or car mechanic.

### 3 Level 3 courses (professional training)

Level 3 courses (professional training) take 2-3 years. Your training will prepare you to do some tasks independently, for example as a carer or head mechanic.

### 4 Level 4 courses (middle-management training)

Level 4 courses (middle-management training) take 3-4 years. Your training will prepare you to work independently, for example as a store manager or activity supervisor. With an MBO level 4 qualification you can also continue to higher professional education (HBO).

### 4 Level 4 courses (specialist training)

Level 4 courses (specialist training) take 1 year and are intended for those with a level 3 qualification in the same occupational field.



## Who should I contact if I have specific questions?

You can visit this website for more information on the Dutch educational system.