Student journey chart

for students with special needs
Table of contents

Student journey ................................................................. Page 3
1. Choosing ........................................................................ Page 5
2. Applying ........................................................................ Page 7
3. Introduction .................................................................. Page 9
4. Payment ......................................................................... Page 11
5. Studying ......................................................................... Page 13
6. Practicals ........................................................................ Page 15
7. Earning credits .............................................................. Page 17
8. Support ........................................................................ Page 19
9. Doing an internship ...................................................... Page 20
10. Going abroad ............................................................... Page 22
11. A job next to your study .............................................. Page 24
12. Graduating ................................................................. Page 26
Student journey

Reading guide

Each key moment described in this document provides an overview of key persons who can advise and support you in making decisions at that time. Actions that are important in relation to each key moment are listed under the heading ‘Do’. You can click on the links for more information.

With this brochure, ECIO provides a simplified explanation of the study process, key moments and key persons. The reality will be different at every research university or university of applied sciences, and there may even be differences within the institution. Keep this in mind.

Terminology

Student+ is defined as a student with special needs, a student who experiences obstacles due to disability, chronic illness, mental illness, pregnancy, young parenthood, gender transition or special family circumstances such as family care. The key persons are divided into three roles: counsellors, decision makers and mentors. Discover the key moments of studying with special needs and your roles in them. With Study Process Mapping, we guide you through the key moments in the study process. Each key moment represents a new challenge!
Counsellors
In this document, the role of counsellor is taken on by:
- secondary education guidance counsellors or VET study career counsellors;
- student deans in higher education;
- study choice advisors;
- study counsellors;
- lecturers;
- student psychologists;
- internship supervisors;
- thesis supervisors;
- graduation supervisors.

Decision makers
In this document, the role of decision maker is taken on by:
- faculty, domain and institute directors;
- members of the Examination Board.

Supporters
In this document, the role of supporter is taken on by:
- school counsellors;
- care coordinators;
- fellow students and students from student+ platforms;
- parents and carers;
- study coaches;
- job coaches;
- staff members of the International office;
- disability officers abroad;
- student platforms abroad.
1. Choosing

Choosing a study programme is fun, but it can also be difficult. Open days, taster courses and shadowing days can help you with your choice. Check out the websites of research universities and universities of applied sciences. All this information will show you the way.

You may have additional questions:
- Does the study programme suit me?
- Will my special needs be taken into account?
- How can I get more information about this?

Counsellors
- Secondary education guidance counsellor or VET study career counsellor
  Your mentor, school counsellor or study career counsellor can advise you on choosing a study programme. The school counsellor has many resources for this, from information brochures to a career interest test. Get in touch with the care coordinator for help with choosing a study programme in relation to your special needs.
- Student dean in higher education
  The student dean in higher education can advise you as a prospective student, if you expect a study delay due to special circumstances, for example. If you have questions, have concerns about whether you chose the right study programme or would like advice about studying with special needs, student finance, study delay and much more, the student dean is there for you!

Supporters
- Parents and carers
  Your parents and/or guardians know you inside out. Ask them for advice. Include them in your search for a study programme. What professions do they have? Would you like to do the same, or are you looking for something different?
- Students+
  Do you know any people from your school who have chosen the same study programme? They can tell you about their experiences. You can check with them whether your image and expectations of the programme are correct.

Act
- ✓ Think about the profession you want to pursue. What can you do in the short and long term to achieve that goal? Is your vision of the future realistic?
- ✓ Register for open days, shadowing days and taster courses at programmes that seem interesting to you. It might be a good idea to look at comparable programmes as well. Sometimes, another programme may be more in line with your talents or offer better facilities.
Look for information at research universities and universities of applied sciences about 'studying with special needs'. It is often a good idea to find out whether a research university or university of applied sciences has knowledge of and experience in supporting students+. If necessary, do this with several research universities and universities of applied sciences to find out which institution can offer the best facilities for you.

Meet with the school coordinator and the care coordinator to discuss your choice of study programme and ask any questions you may have about possible obstacles you might run into in your studies.

Make an appointment with the student dean of the programme of your choice. They can tell you how the institution can support you. Ask anything you want to know! For example, ‘How is the obligation to attend dealt with?’, ‘Is extra support available to guide me in finding and completing an internship?’ or ‘What if I run into difficulties during my studies?’.

Read about other people’s experiences (at www.ecio.nl/en) or make an appointment with Students+. Some research universities and universities of applied sciences have a special platform for and by students with special needs. For example, Utrecht University has ‘Platform Onbeperkt Studeren’ (‘Platform for Studying without Limits’). These students can tell you about their experiences with studying with special needs.

You should consider the culture at the research university or university of applied sciences as well. Is a disability something that can be discussed?

Before the start of your studies, think about your own capacity. For example, do you have certain treatments planned, or are you a carer? What is feasible and what is not? What does this mean for the scheduled curriculum?

More information?

- Study with a plan (www.studeermeteenplan.nl)
  This website of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science helps you with your study preparation. This way, you will be well prepared for your new study programme (only available in Dutch).

- Studychoice123 (www.studiekeuze123.nl/)
  This website provides information about study programmes. It also has information for each institution on how other students have experienced studying with special needs (only available in Dutch).

- Icares (https://icares.com/)
  The digital career test on this website not only checks which profession suits you, but also whether this profession is suitable for someone with a disability (in Dutch, but you can select a different language at the top or bottom of each page).

- Check the website www.ecio.nl/en for handy publications, the latest news and useful links.
2. Applying

In Studielink, you can arrange your enrolment or re-enrolment at institutions of higher education in the Netherlands. More information about specific enrolment procedures and admission requirements can be found on the website of the educational institution in question. You have made your choice and will register with the research university or university of applied sciences via Studielink before 1 May. For programmes with a fixed quota, you must register before 15 January. A study choice check or decentralised selection will follow.

You may have additional questions:
- How and when do I report that I have special needs?
- What do they do with that information, and why?
- Does it play a role in the admission process?

Counsellors
Student dean in higher education:
The student dean in higher education can support you in applying for the right guidance and/or special facilities. They will usually have a good idea of the possibilities that are available at your study programme.

Study choice advisor
Some study programmes have a study choice advisor. They can advise you on whether the programme of your choice matches your talents. They will talk to you about who you are, what you can do and what suits you.

Decision makers
Faculty, domain or institute director:
The director of the relevant faculty, domain or institute is responsible for confirming your application.

Supporters
- School counsellor
  Your school counsellor knows where and how to apply. If you have additional questions about applying, discuss them with your counsellor.
- Care coordinator
  The care coordinator is familiar with your personal situation. Ask them to help you think about what special facilities you can use during your studies. Your care coordinator may also want to discuss your situation with the student dean at the research university or university of applied sciences.
Act

- Decide for yourself when you want to discuss your special needs, but do not wait too long. In many cases, programmes will ask you about this when you register in Studielink. You can also choose to do this in a personal meeting with the student dean or study choice advisor. If you register on time, special facilities can also be arranged on time.
- The above point is particularly important if you need adjustments for tests, because exceptions often cannot be made without an official medical statement from your medical doctor. Obtaining the statement can sometimes take a long time, so take this into account.
- Before the start of your studies, make an appointment with the student dean and discuss any study-related obstacles. Together, you will determine what possibilities there are for supporting you during your studies. Include your own experiences from secondary education. What helped you? What tools did you use? Ask how the information you provide will be used. The intake interview is confidential.
- Make sure to ask any questions you may have, to avoid surprises at a later time.

More information?

- Studielink (www.studielink.nl)
  You can use this website to register for the programme of your choice with your DigiD. You can also indicate that you have special needs (in Dutch, but you can select English in the top right corner).
- Right to equal treatment for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses (https://www.equalrightstrust.org/content/netherlands-equal-treatment-disability-and-chronic-illness-act-2003)
3. Introduction

Get to know your fellow students and the staff of the study programme and explore its possibilities and special facilities.

You may have additional questions:
- If you have a support request, should you tell the programme department, and when should you do so?
- Which aids or special facilities can you use?
- And how should you arrange this?

Counsellors
- **Student dean**
  The student dean knows everything there is to know about the aids and special facilities that the study programme can offer. During the intake interview, you will discuss any study-related obstacles. Together, you will determine which special facilities you will apply for and subsequently use during your studies.
- **Study supervisor**
  The study supervisor can advise you on the approach to your studies. They have knowledge of the content and form of your studies. The study supervisor can also help you plan your studies and assess any problems you may encounter with the content of your programme. In higher professional education (hbo), a study supervisor is usually called a study career counsellor. In a research university, this is the study advisor.
- **Lecturer**
  Lecturers want to make their students enthusiastic about the courses they teach. They can tell you more about the content of courses and what is expected of you. It is useful to get to know a lecturer if you expect to experience difficulties with their course. Please bear in mind that lecturers can be very busy and often cannot offer individual guidance.

Supporters
- **Fellow students and students from student+ platforms**
  Do you want more information about studying with special needs? Or would you like to get to know students with special needs at the university of applied sciences? Some universities of applied sciences have a platform for students with a disability and/or chronic illness. They regularly organise fun, informative and educational activities.
Act

✔ Make an appointment with the student dean for an intake interview. Together, you can request the necessary special facilities or adjustments from the Examination Board.

✔ Ask any questions you may have, to avoid surprises at a later time.

✔ Tell lecturers what you need in order to study well. If you explain the obstacles you are experiencing, this can sometimes lead to greater understanding.

✔ Make active contact with fellow students. By telling them about your special needs and possible study obstacles, you will create understanding. If necessary, they can also support you in your studies.

✔ Find out if your university of applied sciences has a platform for students with special needs or runs a buddy project. This will make it easier for you to make contact with other students†.
4. Payment

You will apply to the Education Executive Agency (DUO) for student finance and a year-long public transport pass. Student finance is a loan that you must repay after your studies. You can take out additional loans if your parents are unable to contribute, or you can take a part-time job.

Conditions for student finance as a foreign student
In order to receive student finance in the Netherlands, you must:
- meet the conditions that apply to Dutch students;
- live in the Netherlands for a continuous period of five years or more (permanent residence) or work at least 56 hours per month in the Netherlands (migrant worker). You are also eligible if your non-Dutch parent or partner works at least 56 hours per month in the Netherlands;
- come from a Member State of the European Union (EU), one of the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

You may have additional questions:
- Working and studying are often difficult to combine. Do you have to pay for study delays yourself, and what if you have to stop?
- Who will reimburse your wheelchair taxi or your braille books?

Counsellors
- Student dean
  The student dean can advise you on questions about student finance. They know more about financial regulations than anyone. The student dean knows about the potential financial consequences if you stop early or switch to another study programme.
- Parents and carers
  Your parents and carers can help you consider the financial picture. What costs will you incur when you start studying? What is your income? What additional costs will you incur as a result of your special needs? What will change in your health insurance when you turn 18?

Act
✓ Apply for student finance on time, preferably three months in advance. If you are younger than 30 and follow a full-time course at a college or university, you can apply for student finance.
✓ Check with the municipality and DUO regarding your entitlement to reimbursements or allowances. You may need more time to complete your programme or require modified transport. In some cases, this can be reimbursed.
✓ Make a study budget for yourself. Discuss this with your parents/carers.
More information?

DUO provides information about student finance ([https://duo.nl/particulier/student-finance/index.jsp](https://duo.nl/particulier/student-finance/index.jsp))

In some cases, special circumstances may prevent you from graduating on time, or you may have to stop your studies altogether. The DUO website explains when exceptions can be made to the rules of the performance-based grant.
5. Studying

As a student, you attend lectures and tutorials, carry out practical assignments and work on group assignments together with other students. As a student+, you may not be able to participate in all study activities because of your disability. If you discover that you need a specific aid during your studies that you did not previously know you would need, how can you arrange this quickly so that you do not incur a study delay?

Supervisors

- Lecturer
  Lecturers can tell you everything about the courses they teach, such as the way they work, the time investment, the working methods they use and what facilities are available. By talking to lecturers in advance, you can think about the special facilities you will need to follow the course. In this way, lecturers can take this into account from the start.

- Student dean
  The student dean, together with a lecturer, can help you assess which special facilities are convenient for you. The student dean will advise the Examination Board on your application.

- Study counsellor
  A study counsellor is usually called a study career counsellor. At research universities, this is the study advisor. The study counsellor can advise you on the approach to your studies. They can help you draw up a study plan, for example, and assess any problems, with regard to content, for example.

Decision makers

- Member of the Examination Board
  The Examination Board decides which special facilities you are allowed to use during your studies and during tests and examinations. Submitting an application takes a maximum of six weeks, so be sure to contact the Examination Board on time!

Supporters

- Facility services employee
  The facility services employee is often one of the parties responsible for making sure certain special facilities are implemented and for the accessibility of all buildings.
Act

✔ Take care of yourself. If you need something, ask for it. Many educational institutions have arrangements for special facilities and adjustments. A special facility can increase the chance of study success.

✔ For many students with special needs, it can help to receive weekly guidance from a regular study supervisor or coach. Looking for the right person, making contact or scheduling an appointment can often take a lot of energy. Ask about the possibilities at your school!

✔ Apply for special facilities that will help you attend classes with the Examination Board. Make sure to submit these applications on time. Do this together with your student dean, as they advise the Examination Board.

✔ Make an appointment with lecturers who teach courses where you expect to experience difficulties. Discuss the possibilities with them.

✔ Find out if your research university or university of applied sciences has study groups or study courses that can provide you with extra support. For instance, this could be a course about ‘dealing with fear of failure’ or ‘studying with ADHD’. This is also a good way to get in touch with other students who have support issues!

✔ Find information about studying with your specific special needs. For instance, Google what you are up against or whether your special needs can be supported at your specific research university or university of applied sciences.

More information?

- Taking a look into the lives of students. Five short films (hyperlink)
  These five short films were made by students at HKU. They offer insight into the obstacles, the dreams and the daily lives of various students with special needs. For example, Leonie, a student with a hearing impairment, shows how she studies Medicine, and Alex talks about how he can study at the conservatoire with one arm (only in Dutch).
6. Practicals

As a student, you also have to learn how to apply knowledge. That is why you take practical classes, do fieldwork or work in the lab. As a student+, you may discover that this is sometimes not possible in practice. You keep getting stuck or you cannot perform an action because of your special needs. How do you deal with this?

Counsellors

- Lecturer
  Lecturers can tell you everything about the courses they teach, such as the working method, the time investment, the practical assignments and what special facilities are available. By talking to lecturers in advance, you can think about the special facilities you will need in practice. In these discussions, focus on the learning objective. The amendments or special facilities should help you achieve your learning goal. If you get along with a lecturer who works in the profession you want to practise later on, ask them to coach you in your orientation and preparation for your future job. At the same time, bear in mind that lecturers are often already extremely busy with their teaching and research duties, which can make it difficult for a lecturer to adopt such a coaching role as well. This may therefore not be possible for every teacher; you can find out by talking to them about it!

- Student dean
  Not every lecturer is an expert on special needs and the associated obstacles. Nor do they need to be. Sometimes, a small adjustment can be enough to eliminate practical problems. If your lecturer wants to know more, make an appointment with the student dean together.

- Study counsellor
  A study counsellor is usually called a study career counsellor. At research universities, this is the study advisor. The study counsellor can advise you on the approach to your studies. They have knowledge of the content and form of your studies. They can help you draw up a study plan and assess any problems you may encounter, with regard to content, for example.

Act

- Discuss the possibilities at your study programme with your practical lecturers in advance.
- Try to get a broad idea of the field of work that fits in with your education. Which activities or professions match your talents best?
- If necessary, discuss alternatives or adjustments needed to make the fieldwork successful.
- Describe your plans for the future. Find out if someone at your research university or university of applied sciences might be able to coach you in this.
More information?
Taking a look into the lives of students. Five short films (hyperlink)
These five short films were made by students at HKU. They offer insight into the
obstacles, the dreams and the daily lives of various students with special needs.
For example, Leonie, a student with a hearing impairment, shows how she studies
medicine, and Alex talks about how he can study at the conservatoire with one arm (in
Dutch, but you can select English subtitles in the settings).
7. Earning credits

You can earn credits by taking exams, sitting tests and completing assignments. In the first year, a minimum number of credits are often required to be able to proceed to the second year.

Things may not always be that straightforward, however, as certain tests or test formats may present difficulties for you. Even so, you have to complete them, because they are fixed in the curriculum or learning plan. You might miss out on credits and have insufficient credits at the end of the first year to be allowed to continue.

Supervisors

- Study counsellor
  
  A study counsellor is usually called a study career counsellor. At research universities, this is the study advisor. Together with you and your lecturer, your study counsellor can think about why you keep running into the same problems with a particular test or work format as a result of your personal situation. Is it because of the test or the work format? Would extra time help, or the use of an aid? Sometimes, the solution lies in an alternative test format.

- Student dean
  
  The student dean can support you in submitting a request for an adapted test or special facilities. The student dean will advise the Examination Board on why an adjustment should be made in your case. In some cases, the student dean may also grant special facilities themselves.

Decision makers

- Member of the Examination Board
  
  The Examination Board decides which special facilities you are allowed to use during your studies and during tests and examinations. Processing an application takes up to six weeks, so it is important to contact the Examination Board on time. When assessing a request, the criteria of the Equal Treatment (Disability and Chronic Illness) Act (wgbh/cz) are leading.

Act

- Request alternatives for tests and test facilities with the Examination Board on time. Allow six weeks for your request.
- Make an appointment with the student dean. They can support you in your application, and they have an advisory role towards the Examination Board.
- Inform lecturers and invigilators of the special facility granted.
- Make sure you have a written statement from an expert, such as a GP, physiotherapist or psychologist. The statement should state that you are experiencing difficulties and that this requires adjustments in your studies. You do not have to explain the details of your situation, but you do have to explain that there is something that makes adjustments necessary. Most Examination Boards will require such a written statement. Obtaining the statement may take several weeks, so it is important that you start working on it a few weeks before your test or exam!
More information?

- Right to equal treatment for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses ([https://www.mensenrechten.nl/nl/publicatie/18125](https://www.mensenrechten.nl/nl/publicatie/18125))
  Can an educational institution refuse you because of your disability? Is a lift compulsory in buildings of educational institutions? This brochure of the Human Rights Board describes the rights of students with disabilities and the obligations of educational institutions (only in Dutch).

- Tests, different but not inferior. Seven portraits ([link](#))
  On ECIO’s YouTube channel, you will find seven videos in which students talk about what they need to be able to study and take tests successfully. Marlies has a fear of failure, for example. If she has to take a test or give a presentation, she shuts down. She explains what she needs to be able to take her exams (in Dutch, but you can select English subtitles in the settings).
8. Support

You can talk to the student advisor or the study career counsellor about the progress of your studies. The student dean is there for more personal problems. The student psychologist can help you with psychological problems, such as fear of failure or loneliness.

You may have a disability that makes it necessary for you to receive guidance in your study progress. Who should you turn to in that case?

Supervisors
- **Study counsellor**
  In higher education, a study counsellor is usually called a study career counsellor. At research universities, this is the study advisor. You can talk to your study counsellor about your study progress. Their time is often limited. Are you entitled to extra support? Make specific agreements about this and indicate what you need.
- **Student dean**
  The student dean knows better than anyone that students may sometimes require extra guidance. If you encounter personal problems, make an appointment with the student dean. Do not wait too long! The sooner you share your problems, the sooner the student dean can help you.
- **Student psychologist**
  The student psychologist is there for you too. They know a lot about what it is like to study with ASD, AD(H)D or psychological problems. They can offer you personal help and tips.

Student psychologists sometimes also offer training for students, to help them deal with study stress or fear of failure, for example.

Supporters
- **Fellow students**
  Do you want to learn from others and hear about their experiences? Some educational institutes have special study groups for students with ASD or AD(H)D, for example. Alternatively, older students may be available as study buddies. Some universities of applied sciences have a special platform for and by students with special needs.
- **Study coaches**
  Do you have ASD or ADHD and would you like extra support? There are study coaches who can give you extra guidance, such as special art coaches.

Act
- ✔ Make a concrete plan together with your supervisor: how are you going to approach the guidance in concrete terms? What agreements will you make together? What do you expect from each other?
- ✔ Find out what training programmes are available for students at your research university or university of applied sciences and register for these programmes.
9. Doing an internship

Doing an internship is often an essential part of your studies where you gain useful work experience. Internships can give you an idea of what you want in your future career.

Finding a suitable internship may involve additional questions:
- Will you be able to work a full day?
- Can adjustments be arranged in the workplace?
- Will you tell your colleagues about your disability?

Supervisors

Lecturer
Your lecturer understands the importance of an internship. As your search for a suitable internship may take a long time, you should ask your lecturer to announce the internship period and internship assignment as early as possible. This will give you enough time to find a suitable internship and to request travel facilities to and special facilities at the internship workplace. Ask your teacher about the requirements you must meet during your internship. This way, you can determine in advance whether the internship is feasible for you or whether adjustments to the assignment or alternatives will be necessary.

Internship supervisor
Not every company is open to interns with special needs. You should therefore request a meeting with your internship supervisor well before the start of your internship. They will guide you during the internship period and may know of internship companies that are a good match for your situation, talents and obstacles. Also, discuss any questions and wishes you may have, about whether or not to report your special needs, for example. Does the placement agency offer job application training? Sign up and ask the trainer whether they would be willing to dedicate some time to extra questions from students+ as well.

Workplace supervisor
The supervisor at your internship will usually be an experienced employee who trains you and eventually assesses you. You and your supervisor will jointly monitor the progress of your internship. Make it clear what you need from others and ask what the supervisor expects from you in concrete terms. An evaluation usually takes place during an interim assessment, giving you enough time to resolve matters if things are not going well.
Supporters

- **Student dean**
  Your student dean can also help apply for special facilities and adjustments to your internship assignment. At this point, your contact with your student dean may not be as intensive as it was at the beginning of your studies. Ask them to help you think up concrete solutions again.

- **Fellow students**
  If you know students who followed an adapted work placement or made use of special facilities, ask them for advice! What are their experiences? How did they successfully complete their internship? If you would like to get in touch with former or fellow students, ask your school counsellor if this is possible and whether any alumni students, for example, are available for this.

- **Job Coaches**
  If working in the real world is difficult for you, you can call on an external job coach. Some job coach companies specialise in guiding higher education graduates with special needs towards the labour market. You usually have to hire a job coach yourself. In some cases, you can get reimbursement from the municipality. A job coach will help you identify the internships that match your talents and the adjustments you may need to make to your workplace.

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**Act**

- Start working on your internship on time. The earlier, the better.
- Use your network to find a suitable internship.
- Ask lecturers and internship supervisors to talk to their own network on your behalf.
- Ask fellow or former students for advice or to share their experiences with regard to adjustments and special facilities at the internship workplace.
- Think about how you want to present yourself during the internship interview. What are your talents and how can they be of added value to the company?
10. Going abroad

Studying abroad is good for your personal development and looks good on your CV. For some programmes, an internship abroad is compulsory.

Studying abroad may have additional consequences for you:

- Do you want to take aids with you when you go abroad, or do you want to be able to purchase help with your personal budget (PGB), for example?
- Is the educational institution abroad accessible?
- Who can you turn to for help?

**Supervisors**

- **Lecturer**
  Assume the preparations for your study period abroad will take a full year. Ask your lecturer to tell you about when you will have to do an internship abroad or when you can start studying abroad as early as possible. This will give you enough time to prepare things, such as adapted housing, transport or help with personal care. Your lecturer may even be able to put you in touch with a student+ who has already completed an internship abroad.

**Decision makers**

- **Member of the Examination Board**
  If a stay abroad is not possible for you, for example because of necessary medical treatment in the Netherlands, you can ask the Examination Board to decide on an alternative assignment. Make sure to do so on time. That way, you can still demonstrate the required competence.

**Supporters**

- **Staff member of the International Office**
  Every day, the staff of the International Office help students with questions and information about studying or doing an internship abroad. They can support you in finding the right study programme and educational institution abroad. They also provide specific information about adapted housing, health insurance and financial arrangements. They can reach out to the disability officers of educational institutions abroad or put you in touch with other students who want to go abroad or have already gone abroad.

- **Disability officers abroad**
  You can talk to the disability officer of the educational institution abroad to discuss the special facilities you need for your studies. What special facilities are there locally? Are the buildings accessible? Is general day-to-day support available? The disability officer can refer you to useful local organisations and also knows more about local health insurance.

- **Student dean**
  Your student dean can also help you apply for special facilities and adjustments abroad. Your contact with your student dean may not be as intensive as it was at the beginning of your studies. Ask them to help you think up concrete solutions again.
Act

- Start planning your studies or work placement abroad a year in advance.
- If a stay abroad is not possible for you, for example because of necessary medical treatment in the Netherlands, discuss with your lecturer whether you can demonstrate your competence in another way. For example, you could do an online collaboration with a student from an educational institution abroad.
- Ask your own health insurer for advice about your stay abroad.
- Check with DUO whether the conditions for your student finance in the Netherlands also apply to student finance while you are abroad. Are there any additional conditions for study abroad?
- Check with the international office whether it is possible to get an additional Erasmus grant to cover any additional costs incurred during your stay abroad. For instance, you may require a sign language interpreter, wheelchair accessible accommodation or additional medical care.

More information?

- Erasmus+
  The Erasmus+ website (https://www.erasmusplus.nl/english) provides information about possibilities for internships and studying abroad.
11. A job next to your study

A part-time job provides you with additional income. That way, you can work on your CV, gain work experience and already get an idea of what kind of work you want to do after your studies.

Are you unable to hold a job during your studies, because you need all your energy for studying? In that case, when do you plan to start preparing to find a job?

Supervisors

- Study supervisor
  Your study supervisor knows how important it is to get an idea of what kind of job you want to do later while you are still studying. Discuss how you can prepare for finding a job after your studies. What career advice and support is available at your institution? In which year can you start doing this?

Supporters

- Career Service staff and Alumni Office staff
  For more advice about applying for a job and finding a job, contact the staff members of Career Service or the Alumni Office. They usually offer job application training. Do they pay extra attention to applying for jobs with special needs? Is there room in this training programme for your personal situation, your talents and your obstacles? If not, what can they offer you? Ask them to take a look at your CV with you, for example.

- Fellow students
  Ask other students for advice. Is there a contact group of alumni with special needs with whom you can network and who can give you valuable tips? What are their experiences? How did they successfully find a job? Check the website of your research university or university of applied sciences for such an initiative or ask your student dean.

- Job coaches
  If working in the real world is difficult for you, you can call on an external job coach. Some job coach companies specialise in guiding higher education graduates with special needs towards the labour market. You usually have to hire a job coach yourself. In some cases, you can get reimbursement from the municipality. A job coach will help you find a suitable internship that matches your talents and will also help you make any adjustments needed to your workplace.

Act
✓ Begin your search for a job early. The sooner, the better. Look for someone who can help you. Again, the sooner you do this, the better.
✓ Use your network to find a suitable job.
✓ Ask lecturers and internship supervisors to talk to their own networks on your behalf.
✓ Ask fellow or former students for advice or to share their experiences with regard to what adjustments and special facilities a workplace can offer.
✓ Think about how you want to present yourself during the job interview. What are your talents and how can they be of added value to the company?
12. Graduating

You will finish your studies with a thesis, a graduation assignment or an internship. You will search for a topic and receive guidance from a lecturer or graduation supervisor.

Have you encountered obstacles, for example because you are having trouble with the planning aspect? Or are you unable to structure all the information you have collected?

**Supervisors**
- Thesis supervisor, graduation supervisor
  The thesis supervisor supports you in your graduation process. You will draw up a graduation plan together and make agreements about it. Since all lecturers are different, you should jointly assess which lecturer with the necessary expertise is best suited to guide you. It is important that you feel comfortable with this lecturer and that they are prepared to help you and guide you in your specific situation.

**Decision makers**
- Examination Board
  The Examination Board decides whether you are allowed to graduate via an adapted final assignment. Request an alternative assignment from them in time to be able to demonstrate the required competences.

**Tips**
- It is important that your lecturer understands you and is prepared to take your special needs into account. It is a good idea to start by openly discussing what kind of obstacles you expect to encounter during the project and to ask if the lecturer is open to offering you extra support in this.
- Make a graduation plan that is as concrete as possible and has a realistic timetable.
- Make clear agreements with your supervisor and discuss mutual expectations.
- Ask for advice from others about their graduation project and ask to hear about their experiences.
About ECIO
The Expert centre on inclusive education (ECIO) supports universities, colleges and VET institutes in order to help make education accessible to students with disabilities and special needs, and to contribute to the wellbeing of students who experience obstacles due to, for example, learning disabilities, physical or sensory impairments, mental vulnerability or chronic illness.

Hopefully, this information will help you choose a good study programme. We wish you the best of luck with that. For more information, please contact the student counsellor of your new research university or university of applied sciences, or go to https://ecio.nl/en/ik-studeer-ga-studeren/.

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