

Mena Scholarship Programme

Sharing knowledge to build the future



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

nuffic  msp

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The MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP) aims to build bridges through knowledge by offering opportunities for capacity building within organisations in the Middle East and North Africa. It enables young professional impact makers to take part in short courses in the Netherlands, and it facilitates tailor-made training for organisations in the region.

The MSP focuses on building strong relations between the participating countries and the Netherlands by fostering strong alumni networks. It contributes to mutual understanding and knowledge sharing. The programme is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Shiraka programme and managed by Nuffic.



Who is the programme for?

If you are a **young professional** (aged 45 or younger), living and working in one of the participating countries, you can apply for a **short course scholarship**. Twice a year, in a competitive selection, the scholarships are awarded to highly motivated impact makers who are in a position to introduce their newly acquired skills and knowledge to their employing organisation. Check all the eligibility criteria [online](#).

Since we aim to offer equal opportunities to both men and women, half of the scholarships per country are allocated to female applicants. We encourage employers, applicants and alumni to promote the MSP amongst women.

Staff of the same **Organisation** or a group of professionals with similar training needs can apply **for tailor-made training (TMT)**, given by a Dutch knowledge provider.

Organisations with a training need in one of the focus areas selected for their country can submit an application. If the application is selected for funding, Nuffic will publish a call to search for a Dutch training provider who can customise training to meet the needs of the local organisation.

Calls for proposals are published regularly, inviting organisations to apply. Specific criteria will be published in the call. [Check our website](#) for more information.

For **alumni** we also organise various **alumni events** to sustain relations and knowledge sharing. If you are interested in MSP alumni activities or you have any ideas for setting up alumni activities, please send an email to msp@nuffic.nl.



"Empowering women should be more and more accepted: it's time to create opportunities for stronger generations"

Aysha Abu Allan, water specialist, alumna from Jordan.

Countries & regional approach

Participating countries

Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia are participating in the MSP.

Country specific approach

In the MSP each participating country has its own approach and focus areas. The Netherlands Embassy in each country has defined country-specific focus areas. These are areas for which the Netherlands can contribute its expertise and provide added value, for example in relation to youth empowerment, local economic development, water management, Security and

the Rule of Law, governance and journalism. Everyone benefits from exchanging their knowledge and learning from each other. Anyone or any organisation interested in participating in the programme has to guarantee that their professional field of work – as well as the organisation they work in – aligns with the country focus areas as mentioned in [th country pages of our website](#). When in doubt about whether your profile matches, you can contact the education institution offering the course you would like to follow.



Why follow a short course in the Netherlands?

"Studying in the Netherlands has opened up my world. The experience of being part of the Dutch culture for a while, and the international class room opened the window to the world for me. A unique opportunity to acquire knowledge and perspective, to grow"

Kamaram Palani, lecturer, alumnus from Iraq.



Wide range of English courses

Dutch universities offer the largest number of English-taught programmes in continental Europe. About 2,000 programmes are taught entirely in English. The Netherlands (also known as Holland) also has the highest English proficiency rate in the world, meaning that you can speak English everywhere.

High quality education

The quality of Dutch higher education is widely recognised. The Dutch teaching style is interactive and student-centred. You will develop valuable skills such as analysis, solving practical problems and creative thinking.

Large international community

The Netherlands' many international students come from over 160 different countries. Dutch society is diverse and inclusive. It is strongly connected to other cultures, the business community and the world. The Dutch are open-minded and direct, so it is easy to meet them and exchange ideas.

Great place to live

The country is small, has a lot of culture to offer and is easy to travel around, either by bike, like millions of people do, or using its excellent public transport. It is centrally located in Europe, making it easy to engage with other European cultures as well.

Visit our platform www.studyinholland.nl for more information on studying in the Netherlands.

Apply for a MSP scholarship!

How to apply?

Step 1: Check at www.mspnuffic.nl if your application falls within the MSP focus areas determined for your country.

Step 2: Check if you meet the MSP eligibility criteria.

Step 3: Find a course on the MSP course list.

Step 4: Ask your employer whether they are willing to nominate you for a MSP scholarship.

Step 5: Contact the Dutch education institution of your choice to receive more information about the application procedure, the academic requirements and the link to apply online.

Step 6: Prepare your application: employer statement, motivation, passport, government statement (if required).

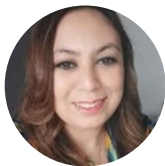
Step 7: Submit your application online using the link you receive from the Dutch education institution offering the course you would like to apply for.

Provisional application periods:

February – March

August – July

All application deadlines and eligibility criteria are available at www.mspNuffic.nl



“MSP offers everyone the opportunity to consolidate their knowledge and improve their performance, based on merit and without gender discrimination. That’s how I’ve attended a short course in media campaigning against radicalisation and this is how I was able to carry out my own media campaigns to support my country and my continent”

Bouchra Chakir, journalist, alumna from Morocco.

Find out more

For more information on the MENA
Scholarship Programme, check
www.mspNuffic.nl
Or contact us at MSP@nuffic.nl

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over het hergebruik van deze publicatie.