

**November 13--Celebrating International Education Week:
Study in the USA for Dutch Students -- View Transcript**

11-13-2007 07:43:53

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: Welcome to today's webchat! We are glad you can join us for a discussion of the ways in which you can study in the USA.

You may begin asking your questions now or you may wait until our guest speaker joins us at 16:00 (15:00 GMT / 10:00 Washington).

11-13-2007 09:58:16

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: We will begin shortly.

11-13-2007 09:59:39

Michael Barkin: Good Afternoon Webchatters! Thank you for joining me and my colleagues for this webchat on studying in the U.S. Over the next hour we will try to answer as many of your questions as we can. If we don't have time to get to your question on the webchat, we will still reply by private email.

I'll tell you a little about myself. I grew up in Tampa, Florida. I went to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where I studied literature and philosophy. I then went to law school at New York University, and after graduating returned to Atlanta to practice criminal law. After five years, I joined the Department of State (our Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and have been posted all over the world, in Honduras, Uruguay, Bulgaria, and now in the Netherlands. Last year I returned to school, this time at Princeton University, where I got a masters degree in public policy.

So you can see that I have spent a lot of time in the U.S. university system, and believe deeply in it. I'm looking forward to your questions!

11-13-2007 10:00:37

Alireza2: I was wondering whether foreigners who study in The Netherlands can participate in this or no?

Michael Barkin: Hi Alireza2 -- Yes, anyone who is thinking about studying in the U.S., both Dutch and non-Dutch, is welcome to ask questions! So please ask.

11-13-2007 10:04:59

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: To those of you just joining us, welcome! We do see your questions coming in.

11-13-2007 10:05:42

Umar: I am a Pakistani student currently studying in Amsterdam, can i apply for visa to US if i have been admitted to a US law school? And what documents i need to submit to US embassy?

Michael Barkin: Hi Umar -- Yes, you are more than welcome to apply at the Consulate if you are physically present in the Netherlands. Here is a link to our site which will tell you what forms you need:

http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/non-immigrant_visas.html

11-13-2007 10:06:43

Chat Participant: What's the difference between US colleges and universities?

Michael Barkin: Good question. The Dutch often find the American use of the terms "colleges" and "universities" confusing since the words are used differently in the US. A college is a tertiary institution, not a secondary school. While there is a distinction in meaning between the two words, Americans tend to use the terms interchangeably. Americans also refer to both colleges and universities as "schools" - not to be confused with primary and secondary schools. Generally, **a university:**
--offers graduate degrees (master's and PhD) in addition to undergraduate degrees
--conducts and publishes research
--has more than one undergraduate program

A college:

--offers post-secondary, undergraduate education in only one branch of learning, usually the liberal arts and sciences
--offers either a two or a four-year degree (not both)
--may also be an administrative unit within a university that is responsible for one branch of learning (liberal arts, engineering, architecture, etc).

11-13-2007 10:08:02

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: Dear participants, we have all of your questions. There is no need to submit your question again if you have already done so. Mr. Barkin will answer them as quickly as possible.

11-13-2007 10:08:14

Deyan: For exchange programs of 1 semester with a USA university, is there a bank certification required to show how much money I have on my bank account and what is the minimum amount required?

Michael Barkin: Exchange students and interns must show they have funds adequate to pay for their entire program of study and living expenses. It is best to bring bank statements reflecting account balances. A bank letter stating that you have sufficient funds or a guarantee from a family member to cover expenses are not sufficient. For more information, please see:

http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/supdocs_visas.html

11-13-2007 10:11:06

Bart de Haan2: I want to start my own company in The United States (New York). Me and my partners are willing to invest \$ 70.000 in total. Within 2008 we are going to provide work for more than 10 United States Citizen.

How long does it approximatly will take to get a Green Card for starting this business in The States? Will it take longer ore shorter than 5 months?

Kind Regards,

Bart de Haan

Michael Barkin: The visa that would be most appropriate would probably be an E-2 Treaty Investor visa. Please see the attached link regarding Treaty Trader/Investor (E-1/E-2) non-immigrant visas for the U.S:

http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1273.html

together with the link "how to apply"

http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/how_apply_types_niv.html

One note – the E-2 is a nonimmigrant visa. There is a green card method, but it is much more difficult to obtain. The following link deals with the immigrant based 5th Preference E visa:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1323.html#fifth

Good luck!

11-13-2007 10:11:19

Bart de Haan2: Dear mister Barkin,

I am planning to start up my own business in the United States (NYC). Together with two of my partners we want to invest \$ 70.000 and provide work for more than 10 United States Citizen.

My question is:

*Is it possible to get a Green Card for the reason above and how long will it take to get such a Green Card (5 months?)

Kind regards,

Bart de Haan
Dutch Citizen
Eindhoven

Michael Barkin: The visa that would be most appropriate would probably be an E-2 Treaty Investor visa. Please see the attached link regarding Treaty Trader/Investor (E-1/E-2) non-immigrant visas for the U.S:

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Good luck!

11-13-2007 10:13:00

yaf: Good afternoon sir, I would like to know the duration of visa process.

Michael Barkin: The visa is usually ready 2-3 days after the visa interview. However, this is an average and some visas take longer. We recommend that people not book travel until after the visa is received.

11-13-2007 10:14:52

Eline van de Koolwijk: Hello, I am leaving in January to study at the University of Wyoming. After that, I am planning to travel through the United States with my boyfriend. I was wondering if my student visa will be valid after my time at the university and during my travelling.

Michael Barkin: You have 30 days to travel after the expiration of your visa. You will be in a fantastic part of the country for traveling. Have a great time!

11-13-2007 10:19:22

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: Participants in today's chat may wish to view the U.S. State Department's eJournalUSA "See You in the USA" at:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/ijpe/ijpe0905.htm>

11-13-2007 10:20:21

Michael Barkin: HI -- The questions you have submitted are in a queue and we are getting to them -- no need to ask the same question again!

11-13-2007 10:24:01

Deyan: I will be going for an exchange program to the USA, after that I need to have an internship. What is the procedure for the renewal of the VISA in case I decide to have my internship in the USA after I finish the exchange? And in particular, do I need to go back to my home country to renew my exchange VISA or can it be done directly from the USA? Thank you!

Michael Barkin: To intern legally you will need a new visa. With your DS-2019 form you can apply for a new visa in Amsterdam, by following the same procedure you followed to get the J-1 exchange visa.

11-13-2007 10:25:23

Deyan: For Internships in the USA, for EU citizens, what are the procedures required to obtain a permission to work for a company for 6 months or less?

If the person is already in the USA for an university exchange program, how does this change the picture?

Michael Barkin: Please see the previous answer and our website for more information in internships: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

11-13-2007 10:27:19

MarkNijland: Hello,

I am a Dutch studying in the Netherlands. As part of my business undergrad course I am supposed to do an internship. I have been offered an internship in Arlington, VA, but I need to know what kind of visa I need. I have been told several times that the J-1 visa is the way to go, but I also believe the H-3 visa is suitable for me. For this the company would have to file form I-129. Could you confirm this? Thank you very much.

Michael Barkin: I believe the previous answers cover this. J-1 is a good visa, and probably easier to obtain in terms of paperwork than an H-3. This website contains a wealth of information:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

11-13-2007 10:28:03

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: If you are just joining us, welcome! You only need to submit your question once. Mr. Barkin is answering them as quickly as possible.

11-13-2007 10:33:17

Kuba: Sir, Can you tell me please: Does the US have a limit on students from Europe, in particular Eastern Europe or former USSR?

Michael Barkin: No, there are no limits at all on student visas. We really welcome students and I hope you will consider it.

11-13-2007 10:34:09

Kuba: A second question please: to what extent US biopassport law will effect student visitor to US? When or if I must have one?

Michael Barkin: All students must have visas to study in the U.S., which is not effected by passport regulations.

11-13-2007 10:35:48

yaf: I would like to do my internship in the US. I am a third year international Communication student. But i am not a dutch citizen yet, so instead of that have a so called "travel document" which is also issued through the dutch authority. Would that create an obstacle for my internship plans in the US?

Michael Barkin: Yaf -- We would need more information to answer this question. As this is a public forum it's best not to do it here -- please write us more details at consularmaster@state.gov.

11-13-2007 10:39:53

laurens: Hello sir, I think you do great work! God bless you! Laurens

11-13-2007 10:40:32

laurens: hello, it might sound strange, but I would like to live or work in the USA and would like to get a VISA. Would it be possible to live in the US and do voluntary work?

Michael Barkin: Hi Laurens -- If you are Dutch (or from another visa waiver country) you can do volunteer work in the U.S. for up to 90 days, or up to 180 days if you get a visa. It's important that you not get more than living expenses from the volunteer organization that sponsors you. There is also a visa specifically for religious workers. Please write us at consularmaster@state.gov for more information.

11-13-2007 10:42:33

Nicky: Hi, I'm a Dutch student and will have an internship in the US next year (I'm very excited about it!). To get a visa I was told I need sufficient funding, but how much money is sufficient?

Michael Barkin: Nicky -- You need to demonstrate that you can support yourself (that is, will not need to work to survive, as an internship is not paid).

11-13-2007 10:45:12

Michael Barkin: more on volunteer work. Click on this link and search for voluntary service programs: <http://foia.state.gov/masterdocs/09fam/0941031N.pdf>

11-13-2007 10:46:26

Chat Participant: I know what and where I want to study, but I need help searching for universities that meet my requirements.

Michael Barkin: If you know you want to study, for example, communications in New York, or sports psychology in California. There are numerous websites you can use to carry out queries for universities in the US that might meet your specific requirements. Websites such as Petersons, Hobson's CollegeView, CollegeNet and Education USA are useful sites to begin with. The links below can be used for

conducting queries.

These sites contain general information on studying in the US.

www.petersons.com

www.collegeview.com

www.collegenet.com

<http://educationusa.state.gov/>

11-13-2007 10:48:35

Chat Participant: What is a Community College?

Michael Barkin: A community college allows a student to do their first two years (equal to an Associates of Arts Degree) of a four-year (Bachelors) degree. Many students will choose community colleges due to their smaller class sizes, lower prices and less competitive admission requirements. Many community colleges have articulation agreements with four-year universities that allow for a transfer into a bachelors degree program. This is very common for institutions within the same state.

For more information on community colleges please see the American Association of Community Colleges website at:

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/>

11-13-2007 10:50:06

deep2: I AN NEPALI STUDENT CURRENTLY STUDYING IN NEHTERLANDS. I COMPLETED MY BBA FINAL YEAR AND I WANT TO CONTINUE MY STUDIES IN USA. I HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRE MBA SO CAN I APPLY HERE FROM NETHERLANDS?

Michael Barkin: Yes, you can apply here. The consular officer will have to be satisfied that your ties outside the U.S. are strong (sometimes it is better to apply in your home country), but we issue many visas to Nepali students studying here.

11-13-2007 10:54:21

yaf: Mr.Barkin, first of all thanks a lot for answering my prior questions. (It is amazing that you can give everyone some answer). Have a nice day sir.

Michael Barkin: Yaf -- You are very welcome. We are still working on the answer to your internship question. . .

11-13-2007 10:59:22

Michael Barkin: This is the end of our webchat. Thanks to everyone who wrote in. If you have additional questions please see our website at:

<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/> or write us at consularAmster@state.gov

or the Fullbright website at <http://www.fulbright.nl/>. Good luck in everything!

Tot ziens!

11-13-2007 11:05:48

U.S. Embassy Netherlands: We wish to thank Michael Barkin for joining us today. The webchat is now closed. A transcript of today's webchat will be available at:

<http://thehague.usembassy.gov/>
