

OIE Information & Travel Cheat Sheet



Country:

Netherlands (NL)

Sex & Dating

- Dating culture is considered to be more laid back
 - Communication is typically very direct
- Gender equality is very prominent
 - Some traditional gender roles exist, but NL is very vocal and active in enacting equal rights
- Sex is not considered a taboo topic, NL is very open-minded, especially in Amsterdam

Alcohol & Drugs

- Legal age to buy/consume alcohol: 18
 - Drinking in public is generally illegal
 - Some alcohol ban laws about when and where alcohol can be purchased
- Cannabis (marijuana) use is illegal
 - "Tolerance policy": law is not enforced with small quantities for personal use in cannabis cafes (called coffee shops)

LGBTQIA+ Culture

- NL is extremely accepting and welcoming!
 - First country to legalize same-sex marriage
 - Known to be one of most LGBTQIA+ countries in the world
 - Many queer spaces, esp. in Amsterdam
- Resources
 - Rainbow SIG
 - Diversity Abroad
 - OutRight Action International

Cultural Customs and Norms

- Population: 17 million
- Currency: Euro
- Official Language: Dutch
- Considered to be a very socially liberal country
- Interactions/greetings are typically formal
- Normal to not maintain a lot of personal space in interactions
- Punctuality is super important

Resources

112 General EU emergency number

+31 Country phone code

- [DU's Travel Assistance](#)
 - Phone: +1 443-569-8601 / Website: [dutravelassistanceprovider](#)
 - Please use DU credentials to sign in
- Student Support Program (My SSP): 24/7 Mental Health Support
- U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): [travel.state.gov](#)



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This is meant to be a helpful resource for students in selecting, understanding, and preparing for their time abroad. There is no intent to discriminate, generalize or stereotype the country or culture with the information provided here. A variety of sources, both formal and informal, were researched to gather this information.