

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

Requested by LV EMN NCP on 16th October 2018

**Students**

Responses from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Netherlands](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Norway](#) (22 in total)

**Disclaimer:**

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

### **Background information:**

The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are currently working on draft bill of a new Immigration Law that should be completed at the end of 2018. One of the issues that require special attention is the admission of third-country nationals who seek entry into Latvia as students. Recent practice shows that higher education institutions, carrying out the recruitment of foreign students, sometimes underestimate their readiness to study as well as their motivation to study. There are cases when Latvian diplomatic and consular representations abroad, carrying out an interview with a student, establish a fact that a person is not able to understand the study language or is not aware of the study program or even cannot say in which educational institution she/he is going to study. Confronted with this situation the Latvia authorities would like to ask the following questions:



### **Questions**

1. Does your Member State directly manage (coordinate and control) the recruitment or admission of international students at national level?
2. Please explain who performs recruitment of international students?
3. Has the government set some criteria for the recruitment of international students? YES/NO.  
If you answer YES, can you please explain how recruitment guidelines are enforced.
4. Does your country require the sufficient knowledge of study language before the enrolment to educational institution? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please explain which evidence has to be submitted by the international student (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS test, previous diploma with sufficient results, test at Embassy, interview at Embassy/ Migration Service e.t.c.)?
5. Has your Member State transposed article 21, paragraph 2 f) of the Directive 2016/801/EU which stipulates that the student residence permit can be withdrawn or not renewed in case a student does not make sufficient progress in the relevant studies? YES/NO. If YES, please explain what is considered as “sufficient progress”.
6. Does your Member State use a special criteria/procedure in regard to processing and examining international students` visa applications at the diplomatic missions? YES/NO. Please explain. Does your Member State use a special criteria/procedure in regard to processing and examining international students` visa applications at the diplomatic missions? YES/NO. Please explain.

### **Responses**

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

	<b>Austria</b>	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	<b>Belgium</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Please note that the answers for this AHQ were based on the information of the 2012 EMN Study “Migration of International Students to Belgium. Striking a balance between migration management and actively attracting students from third countries for the purposes of study and research.” with some updates, such as the fact that the formerly known CIUF (the Interuniversity Council of the French Community of Belgium) is now replaced by ARES (Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur or the Academy for Research and Higher Education). For more up to date information we would like to refer to the 2018 EMN Study “Attracting and retaining International Students in Belgium”, which will be published by the end of this year. ANSWER: No, in Belgium, the Communities are responsible for taking decisions on education. The Flemish Community is therefore responsible for education in the Dutch-speaking part of the country whilst the French Community is the competent authority for the French-speaking part of Belgium, and the German-speaking Community for education in German.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The main actors stimulating international students to study in Belgium are the institutions of higher education. The VLIR (the Flemish Interuniversity Council) and ARES (Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur or the Academy for Research and Higher Education)(formerly this was CIUF – the Interuniversity Council of the French Community of Belgium), who act as a bridgehead between the universities and administration, play a role in this cooperation with the administration. The administration, in cooperation with respectively ARES and VLIR, has created an information and promotion agency in each Community: Wallonia-Brussels Campus (more information on: <a href="http://www.studyinbelgium.be/en/content/wallonia-brussels-campus">http://www.studyinbelgium.be/en/content/wallonia-brussels-campus</a>) and the VLURH's (Flemish Council of Universities and University Colleges) Flanders Knowledge Area (formerly known as Flamenco - Flanders Agency for Mobility and Cooperation in Higher Education) – more information on <a href="http://www.flamenco-vzw.be/">http://www.flamenco-vzw.be/</a> and <a href="http://www.studyinlanders.be/">http://www.studyinlanders.be/</a>). Besides these agencies which provide information to international students on the terms and conditions of study at educational establishments in Belgium, the institutions of higher education promote their own study offer themselves through their website and the use of brochures. The brochures are being distributed at education fairs and through the regular diplomatic channels. And through the use of commercial websites (studyportals.co, mastersstudies.com,...). The VLHORA (The Flemish Council of University Colleges – note: in the majority of European countries the common name for</p>


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>University Colleges is ‘Universities of Applied Sciences’ ) launched Internationalisation Working Group in 2017 in order to support and intensify internationalisation at the Flemish University Colleges. The Working Group allows the Flemish University Colleges to exchange expertise, to develop a wide internationalised vision and strategy, to draft policy proposals as well as position papers and to provide input for various consultative bodies. Academic Diplomacy is also an important tool to promote Flanders and Belgium as a strong innovation area with international education of top quality. The Flemish University Colleges actively take part in international networking and higher education fairs. Furthermore, they support the foreign policy of Flanders and Belgium through economic missions and official state visits.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No, but various agencies, such as VARIO, the Flemish Advisory Council for Innovation and Entrepreneurship that advises the Flemish Government and the Flemish Parliament on science, technology, innovation, industry and entrepreneurship policy, and the VLOR, the Flemish Education Council, have made recommendations to improve the policy on attracting and retaining international students.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes. Courses in Dutch: In principal, Dutch is the language of instruction in Flanders. However, foreign language courses, courses with foreign guest speakers and teachers, internationally oriented courses, courses in the framework of international developing cooperation, courses in the framework of international exchange programmes and courses for groups of foreign students are taught in another language. Course material may be in any language. Most higher education institutions require proof of Dutch language proficiency for the programmes taught in Dutch and a preliminary language test for the programmes taught in another language. So if the student did not complete a full academic year in Dutch-language secondary or higher education (at least 54 credits), s/he can prove his/her knowledge of Dutch through a language certificate. The language requirements state that the student must have good control over reading, listening, speaking and writing. The required level corresponds to level B2 of the European reference framework. Some courses, however, require a higher level (C1). Courses in French: In Wallonia-Brussels, the language of instruction and assessment of higher education studies is French, which is why a good command of the language is required in most fields of study. During 1st and 2nd cycle studies (Bachelor and Master), some courses may however be dispensed and assessed in another language, usually English. And some courses can be taught and assessed entirely in English or another foreign language (German, Dutch): this is particularly true of Advanced Bachelors and Advanced Masters but also some other courses that meet specific criteria. Knowledge of French is therefore not required to enroll in these programmes. There are no overall rules for registering for a Masters degree. Every institution is free to set its own admissions criteria in terms of proficiency in French. The student has to</p>
--	--	--	---


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>get in touch with the registration service at his/her chosen higher education institution to find out its own requirements. It is generally considered that the level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is the ideal level for studying in French (attending courses, communicating, carrying out pedagogical tasks, etc.). The student must provide proof of the sufficient mastery of the French language by: a diploma, title or certificate not delivered by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, but recognized by it as providing proof of sufficient mastery of the French language; by passing the admission tests for higher education; or by passing the "a sufficient knowledge of the French language exam". All information relating to these examinations, as well as diplomas, titles or certificates considered as proof of sufficient or thorough command of the French language should be taken from higher education institutions. Courses in English: the English- taught require a good knowledge of English, e.g. a TOEFL score of at least 79 (IBT) or an IELTS score of 6.5. The level may vary per programme and can be found in the specific admission requirements per programme. The proofs and certificates of language tests may not be older than two years at the time of the first enrollment.</p> <p><b>5.</b> No.</p> <p><b>6.</b> As a general rule, authorization to stay in Belgium for more than 3 months is granted to a foreign student wishing to pursue higher education there, or spend a preparatory year ahead of higher education, as a regular student, in an educational establishment organized, recognized or subsidized by the public authorities, if that student: a) proves that he is a regular student in a higher education establishment organized, recognized or subsidized by the public authorities; b) proves that he has sufficient means of subsistence; c) proves that he is not carrying any of the diseases which might endanger public health, and d) if aged over 21, produces a document stating that he has no convictions for crimes or offences under common law. The student has to lodge his/her visa application at the Belgian embassy or consulate competent for his/her place of residence or stay abroad. It is also possible that the consulate cooperates with an external service provider entrusted with sundry tasks (information, making an appointment, receiving files, etc.). In that case, additional service fees will be charged. The student has to provide supporting documents with the visa application: a) a completed and signed visa application form (in duplicate), b) a travel document into which a visa can be affixed and which is valid for more than 12 months (e.g. a passport), c) an attestation of registration as a regular student in higher education delivered by an educational establishment organized, recognized or subsidized by the public authorities, d) if following part-time education, proof that the said education is to be the principal activity and a preparation for or complement to full-time education (detailed study plan and supporting letter), e) if</p>
--	--	--	---


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>following a preparatory year ahead of higher education, proof of the preparatory character of the education with regard to the higher education studies envisaged (detailed study plan, supporting letter and, where possible, an attestation by the relevant higher education establishment authorizing the taking of registrations at the end of the preparatory year, f) proof that the student satisfies the conditions for access to higher education (diploma, academic record, attestation that account is being taken of the application for equivalence or decision or dispatch of equivalence), g) proof that the student has sufficient means of subsistence, h) a medical certificate attesting that the applicant is not carrying any of the diseases which might endanger public health, i) if the student is aged over 21, a certificate attesting to the lack of any convictions for crimes or offences under common law. Every student who applies for a visa to study in higher education or to follow a year that prepares for higher education has to fill out a questionnaire to. This means that the student personally registers to submit his file. If there is any doubt about the profile of the applicant, some specific questions can be added to the questionnaire. By comparing the study project described in the questionnaire with the study project that is attached to the file, the credibility of the applicant can be checked. Rejecting the requested visa on the basis of the answers to the questionnaire is only possible if these answers are (really) mediocre of quality, or are incoherent, or contradict the submitted dossier, or show a total unfamiliarity with the proposed study. As a general rule, the visa application will be sent by the consulate to the Immigration Office, which will take the final decision.</p>
	<b>Croatia</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 1. No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> 2. It is the hosting educational institutions who perform recruitment of international students based on formal national criteria (see below) as well as additional requirements and/or exams they are free to set. Admissions to undergraduate study programmes in Croatia are administered through a central online application system and admissions to graduate and postgraduate programmes are administered by higher education institutions.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 3. There are only formal criteria set by the government, which include minimum admission requirements (completion of a certain number of years of study in the previous educational institution, for instance) as well as official recognition of previous higher education certificates. As already said, the hosting educational institutions are free to set additional admissions requirements if they wish to. There are no qualitative criteria set by the government. For applications to undergraduate programs, the minimum requirements are assessed</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**


			<p>and applications managed by the Central Application Office, which is part of the national Agency for Science and Higher Education. Applications to graduate and postgraduate studies are assessed and managed by the hosting educational institutions, and previous higher educational certificates will be examined by Offices for Academic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications at Croatian higher education institutions.</p> <p><b>4.</b> 4. Yes, although not always. Foreign citizens are required to take the standardized Croatian language test at Level B2 (citizens of EU member states and third country nationals) before entering the first or the second year of undergraduate or graduate study in accordance with the decision made by higher education institutions. The higher education institution decides on which study programmes require taking the Croatian language test at Level B2. The tests are taken in written form in Zagreb.</p> <p><b>5.</b> 5. No.</p> <p><b>6.</b> 6. No. Student visas are processed like all other long-stay permits. In order for a diplomatic mission to issue a students' visa, a letter of acceptance from the higher education institution has to be presented by the applicant.</p>
	<b>Cyprus</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The Council of Ministers with its Decision No.75.002 dated 24.4.2013 decided to appoint a Ministerial Committee, composed by the Minister of Education and Culture (President), Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice and Public Order for the purpose of examining the existing procedure for issuing a visa to foreign students who wish to attend the Private Higher and Tertiary Institutions in Cyprus as well as for coordination and control of admission of international students at national level. In this context, the Ministerial Committee has set requirements for prospective students from third countries. It should be noted that according to the Immigration Law "third country nationals" are defined as any person who is not an EU citizen.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The Private Higher and Tertiary Institutions of Cyprus perform the recruitment of international students but the Civil Registry and Migration Department, of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus is the competent authority for granting entry permits as well as temporary and / or permanent residence permits to EU, and to Third Country nationals.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The Ministerial Committee has set criteria for the recruitment of international students that were approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus. Prospective students from Pakistan and Bangladesh</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>should attend a personal interview at the Consular of the Republic of Cyprus in Dhaka and in Bangladesh. The above mentioned interviews take place via Skype in the presence of the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior and representatives of the Private Institutions of Higher Education. It should be also noted that among other, the main admission criterion for entry for undergraduate studies is the successful completion of the High School level of education (12 years of secondary education or its equivalent) with a minimum overall grade of 50%.</p> <p><b>4.</b> According to the Council of Ministers' decision prospective foreign students who have scored at least 50% at the subject of English Language on their School Leaving Certificate or possess any other equivalent qualification in English (i.e. IELTS with a minimum score of 5) are eligible to be registered directly to the programme of study, since they fulfil all other requirements. However, prospective foreign students who do not fulfil the above mentioned requirement should be registered at the foundation English courses (one-year duration) before entering their main programme of study</p> <p><b>5.</b> Not yet. However there is a draft bill for the transposition in which the term "insufficient progress" is explained as a) not having completed the foundation course or b) not attending regularly the courses of each academic year or c) not completing the studies programme on time (on time means 50% more than the regular time of the studies programme)</p> <p><b>6.</b> Prospective students from Pakistan and Bangladesh should attend a personal interview at the Consular of the Republic of Cyprus in Dhaka and in Bangladesh. The above mentioned interviews take place via Skype in the presence of the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior and representatives of the Private Institutions of Higher Education.</p>
	<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The Czech Republic is not in charge of the general recruitment of international students. It is the higher education institution (hereinafter „HEI“) that coordinates and control the recruitment and admission of international students. The HEIs are autonomous institutions. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports can coordinate the admission of process of students coming to the Czech Republic as government scholars.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The recruitment can be performed either by a representative of the HEI or by an intermediary organization.</p>



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p><b>3.</b> No, it does not.</p> <p><b>4.</b> The language knowledge and its level are set by HEI. It is the HEI that decides what exams or what level of language has to have the potential student or what certificate has to present the student to the HEI. It may be TOEFL, IELTS or any other exam.</p> <p><b>5.</b> No, the Czech Republic did not transpose above mentioned article. The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic is not qualified to review progress of students. To evaluate study results of individual students is fully on universities or responsible authorities. However, according to the Czech Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic applicants need for the long-term residence for the purpose of “studies” or its renewal to attach to the application valid certificate of studies. We suppose that universities would not issue a certificate of study if students have insufficient study results (students do not pass obligatory exams or do not have score good enough to be allowed to study next year. Duties for student vary depend on universities) and in that case students would be expelled from universities. Therefore, the Ministry of the Interior takes a certificate of study issued by a university as a sufficient proof of study results of the student.</p> <p><b>6.</b> The diplomatic mission, its venue, can be used as a place where for eg. an exam for foreign students can take place. However, there is no special procedure in the regard of processing visa application at diplomatic mission. Students from third countries can, if they are chosen, can take advantage of the migration project „Student Mode (faster access to the diplomatic mission to lodge an application for long-term residence for the purpose of “studies”).</p>
	<b>Estonia</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> No.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Higher Education Institutions (HEI) individually and in collaboration, as well as Study in Estonia.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Higher Education Institutions (HEI) individually and in collaboration, as well as Study in Estonia.</p> <p><b>5.</b> YES. Government has not set a good practice guideline specifically for the recruitment of foreign students.</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>The responsibility lays on HEI and government assess HEI trustworthiness. Upon application for a residence permit for studies, the relevant educational institution or international student organisation shall submit an invitation to the Police and Border Guard Board. However, the Rectors of all public universities in Estonia have signed the Agreement on Good Practice in the Internationalisation of Estonia's Higher Education Institutions that focusses mostly on the equal treatment of international students that are already enrolled in Estonian HEIs. As for marketing, point 5. of the Agreement lays down that „the participating higher education institutions affirm that any marketing actions targeted by them to international students shall conform to ethical standards“. It is also agreed that education institutions recognize the right of international students to timely and relevant information (in English) regarding the content of curriculums, administrative deadlines as well as requirements (e.g. regarding linguistic competences needed, the organisation of assessing and recognizing foreign qualifications) set by HEIs that have to be met in order to be admitted (see chapters II. and III of the Agreement).</p> <p><b>6. YES.</b> Government has not set a good practice guideline specifically for the recruitment of foreign students. The responsibility lays on HEI and government assess HEI trustworthiness. Upon application for a residence permit for studies, the relevant educational institution or international student organisation shall submit an invitation to the Police and Border Guard Board. However, the Rectors of all public universities in Estonia have signed the Agreement on Good Practice in the Internationalisation of Estonia's Higher Education Institutions that focusses mostly on the equal treatment of international students that are already enrolled in Estonian HEIs. As for marketing, point 5. of the Agreement lays down that „the participating higher education institutions affirm that any marketing actions targeted by them to international students shall conform to ethical standards“. It is also agreed that education institutions recognize the right of international students to timely and relevant information (in English) regarding the content of curriculums, administrative deadlines as well as requirements (e.g. regarding linguistic competences needed, the organisation of assessing and recognizing foreign qualifications) set by HEIs that have to be met in order to be admitted (see chapters II. and III of the Agreement).</p> <p><b>7. YES.</b> It is set in the Aliens Act. Article 168 stipulates the requirement for language proficiency in language of instruction: (1) A temporary residence permit for study may be issued if the purpose of the stay of an alien in the state is study according to the curriculum of a higher education and his or her proficiency in the language of instruction is sufficient. (2) The proficiency in the language of instruction of an alien is considered to be sufficient if it corresponds to the minimum requirements set by the educational institution for</p>
--	--	--	--


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>language of instruction or if an alien commences in-depth studies in the national language. The general procedure of proving one's language proficiency is regulated with Minister of Education and Research Regulation No 65. However it is up to each individual HEI to choose which proofs for language proficiency they accept. It is stipulated in this regulation that HEIs have to make publicly available all relevant information regarding minimum language proficiency required for being enrolled in a programme as well as and means to prove it. In addition, together with application of residence permit for study, an invitation from educational institution is required. In the invitation, the study language and sufficient language level has to be described by educational institution. By submitting the invitation, the HEI confirms that applicant's language skills are sufficient in order to commence study in the educational institution.</p> <p><b>8. YES.</b> It is set in the Aliens Act Article 168 stipulates the requirement for language proficiency in language of instruction. The requirements are as follows: (1) A temporary residence permit for study may be issued if the purpose of the stay of an alien in the state is study according to the curriculum of a higher education and his or her proficiency in the language of instruction is sufficient. (2) The proficiency in the language of instruction of an alien is considered to be sufficient if it corresponds to the minimum requirements set by the educational institution for language of instruction or if an alien commences in-depth studies in the national language. The general procedure of proving one's language proficiency is regulated with Minister of Education and Research Regulation No 65. However it is up to each individual HEI to choose which proofs for language proficiency they accept. It is stipulated in this regulation that HEIs have to make publicly available all relevant information regarding minimum language proficiency required for being enrolled in a programme as well as and means to prove it. In addition, together with application of residence permit for study, an invitation from educational institution is required. In the invitation, the study language and sufficient language level has to be described by educational institution. By submitting the invitation, the HEI confirms that applicant's language skills are sufficient in order to commence study in the educational institution.</p> <p><b>9. YES.</b> According to Article 173 of the Aliens Act: (1) A temporary residence permit for study shall be annulled if an alien has failed to complete the curriculum to the extent required for holding a residence permit for study, has terminated his or her studies or has failed to perform to a significant extent an obligation arising from this Act or any other legislation. (2) A failure to complete the curriculum provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall not be applied as a basis for revocation of the residence permit with regard to an alien who has been issued a temporary residence permit for Doctoral studies and whose parttime participation in</p>
--	--	--	---


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>the studies is justified. Moreover Aliens Act Article 175 'Conditions of employment in Estonia on basis of temporary residence permit for study' stipulates that an alien who has been issued a residence permit for study may take employment in Estonia without a specific permit on condition that such employment does not interfere with the studies. Sufficient progress means fulfilment the curriculum on the level, set by HEI in order to continue study in the HEI.</p> <p><b>10. YES.</b> According to Article 173 of the Aliens Act: (1) A temporary residence permit for study shall be annulled if an alien has failed to complete the curriculum to the extent required for holding a residence permit for study, has terminated his or her studies or has failed to perform to a significant extent an obligation arising from this Act or any other legislation. (2) A failure to complete the curriculum provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall not be applied as a basis for revocation of the residence permit with regard to an alien who has been issued a temporary residence permit for Doctoral studies and whose parttime participation in the studies is justified. Moreover Aliens Act Article 175 'Conditions of employment in Estonia on basis of temporary residence permit for study' stipulates that an alien who has been issued a residence permit for study may take employment in Estonia without a specific permit on condition that such employment does not interfere with the studies. Sufficient progress means fulfilment the curriculum on the level, set by HEI in order to continue study in the HEI.</p> <p><b>11.</b> Foreigners applying for temporary residence permit for studying in Estonia have to meet the general conditions as well as supplementary conditions of the issue of a temporary residence permit to an alien. General conditions are outlined in the Aliens Act § 117 (1) 'Conditions of issue of temporary residence permit'. Latter include: 1) the purpose of application for the Estonian temporary residence permit is justified; 2) the actual place of residence is Estonia; 3) sufficient legal income which would enable an alien and the family members of an alien the subsistence in Estonia and; 4) a medical expenses insurance contract in compliance with the requirements provided for in § 120 of this Act unless otherwise provided for in this Act. The supplementary conditions for the issue of a temporary residence permit on a specific basis have been provided for in § 163. 'Requirement of proof of commencement of studies' of the Aliens Act, that states: Upon application for a residence permit for studies, the relevant educational institution or international student organisation shall submit an invitation to the Police and Border Guard Board. Please see also Article 168 of the Aliens Act outlining the requirement for language proficiency in language of instruction (see answer to question 4).</p>
--	--	--	---


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p><b>12.</b> Foreigners applying for temporary residence permit for studying in Estonia have to meet the general conditions as well as supplementary conditions of the issue of a temporary residence permit to an alien. General conditions are outlined in the Aliens Act § 117 (1) 'Conditions of issue of temporary residence permit'. Latter include: 1) the purpose of application for the Estonian temporary residence permit is justified; 2) the actual place of residence is Estonia; 3) sufficient legal income which would enable an alien and the family members of an alien the subsistence in Estonia and; 4) a medical expenses insurance contract in compliance with the requirements provided for in § 120 of this Act unless otherwise provided for in this Act. The supplementary conditions for the issue of a temporary residence permit on a specific basis have been provided for in § 163. 'Requirement of proof of commencement of studies' of the Aliens Act, that states: Upon application for a residence permit for studies, the relevant educational institution or international student organisation shall submit an invitation to the Police and Border Guard Board. Please see also Article 168 of the Aliens Act outlining the requirement for language proficiency in language of instruction (see answer to question 4).</p>
	<b>Finland</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No</p> <p><b>2.</b> Higher education institutions.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes. In all higher education institutions in Finland, proof of sufficient knowledge of the language of the course is required. The HEIs decide independently what type of proof they require. For instance, when applying to an English-language programme in a Finnish university, language skills can be indicated by a standardized language test (e.g. TOEFL) or by a certificate of a degree completed in English (e.g. in UK, USA, or in EU/EEA). In some universities of applied science, the applicants' language proficiency may be assessed in an entrance examination or in an SAT test. When deciding on the residence permit, the Finnish Immigration Service may ask the embassy to interview the applicant, if there is any doubt regarding his or her language skills.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. Finnish higher education institutions use the ECTS system (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) in measuring a student's workload and progress. The HEIs assess whether the student is making sufficient progress. The Finnish Immigration Service base their decision regarding the residence</p>


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>permit on the assessment of the institution.</p> <p><b>6.</b> If studies in Finland take longer than 90 days, the students need a residence permit for studies. International students' residence permit applications are processed and examined according to the Aliens Act (301/2004) and the Act on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training and voluntary service (719/2018).</p>
	<b>France</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> NO</p> <p><b>2.</b> Recruitment of international students is performed by higher education institutions. The process to apply in a French higher education institution may differ, depending on the nationality, level of studies or type of institute of higher education in which foreign students wish to enrol. They may enrol directly in the higher education institution of their choice or have to follow a specific admission process. The national agency CampusFrance is responsible for the promotion of higher education, international student services, and international mobility.</p> <p><b>3.</b> See Q2 : Recruitment of international students is performed by higher education institutions. For the issuance of the long term visa after obtaining an enrolment in a HEI, French consulates will verify the level of sufficient resources and the knowledge of French language as well as the coherence between the studies performed/profile and the studies to which they apply in France. See Q 6.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes, depending on the level of studies and the higher education institutions. Higher education institutions generally require the B2 (intermediate) certificate in the Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELFF) or sometimes the C1 (advanced) certificate (the Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française or DALF). Students applying for the first or second year of the bachelor's program have to follow a specific admission procedure (DAP = Demande d'admission préalable) and must write a language test (TCF DAP = Test de connaissance du français pour les DAP-). Level B2 is the required level. However since 2015, and the law on higher education and research, all French higher education institutions, including universities, have the right to teach classes in English. Campus France Agency created a specific catalogue for courses taught in whole or in part in English, the Taught in English catalogue. Courses referenced in the catalogue increased by more 50% since 2014 to reach 1,328. More and more universities offer trainings taught in English and start walking the same</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**



			<p>path already opened by Grandes Ecoles and private institutions in 2015.</p> <p><b>5.</b> The Law on the Rights of Foreign nationals in France of 7 March 2016 includes the criteria of genuine and serious nature of the studies. Article L.313-18 of the Code on Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum (CESEDA) provides that the length of the multiannual residence permit issued to foreign students depends on the length of the studies, subject to the criteria of genuine and serious nature of the studies. Two cumulative criteria may be taken into account by the prefecture to assess the criteria of genuine and serious nature of the studies: regular attendance and participation in examinations, and continuation of studies within the same degree course.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Yes. Once the student has been confirmed his/her enrolment in a HEI, s/he files a visa application within the competent French consulate. Following documents are usually required : enrolment statement in a HEI, proof of sufficient knowledge of French, last obtained degrees, proof of housing in France, proof of sufficient, regular and reliable financial means (scholarship or statement from a third person) at least equivalent to 615 euros per month of stay in France.</p>
	<b>Germany</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The universities and comparable educational institutions themselves decide on the admission of foreign students to study or to engage in measures in preparation for studies (language course in preparation for studies, attendance at a foundation course).</p> <p><b>3.</b> No. But for example the German Academic Exchange Service provides information on the possibilities and requirements for studying in Germany. (<a href="https://www.daad.de/deutschland/en/">https://www.daad.de/deutschland/en/</a>)</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes. As a rule, universities and comparable training institutions test the required language skills as part of the process for admission to studies, or link admission to the condition of having attended a language course in preparation for studies. In such cases, the visa is issued for the purpose of the preparatory language course and subsequent studies as the purpose of residence. If this does not take place, the applicant must submit proof during the visa procedure that he/she has a satisfactory knowledge of the language of instruction (level A 2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Only proof of language proficiency based on a language test in accordance with the standards of the Association of Language Testers in Europe</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>(ALTE) will be recognised. Knowledge of German as the language of instruction can be proven by University-specific language tests and specific German educational qualifications.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. The residence permit will only be extended if the purpose of residence (studies or activity in preparation for studies) has not yet been achieved and can still be achieved within a reasonable period of time. The immigration authority can involve the host training institution in this prognosis.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Yes. Examination outlines are made available to the foreign representations in the chapter entitled “Studierende” (Students) in the Federal Foreign Office’s visa handbook, which is retrievable in German at <a href="https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/207816/3aea735b3f8b1cc9ca7cab20e1d48a8/visumhandbuch-data.pdf">https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/207816/3aea735b3f8b1cc9ca7cab20e1d48a8/visumhandbuch-data.pdf</a> (see page 463 et seqq.).</p>
	<b>Greece</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes, access to the Greek Higher Education Institutions is regulated not by the Institutions themselves, but through the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious affairs (MERRA).</p> <p><b>2.</b> At the MERRA a committee in charge of collecting and checking Application-Entry Forms for international students is set every year, by ministerial decree. The admission of foreign students to the Higher Education institutions is described in the following link of the Greek MERRA: <a href="http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/exams-for/02_instructions_en.pdf">http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/exams-for/02_instructions_en.pdf</a></p> <p><b>3.</b> YES The main admission criterion to an undergraduate program is the High School leaving certificate. More information regarding criteria for access to Higher Education can be obtained by clicking at the above link (&gt;required documents)</p> <p><b>4.</b> YES. With regard to their registration, the candidates admitted into a Faculty or a Department, are also required to hold a certificate denoting their command of the Greek language. Such a certificate is issued after relevant examinations either by the University of Athens or by the University of Thessaloniki; alternatively, the candidates should hold a B2 level certificate issued by the Greek Language Centre. If the candidates do not hold any of these language certificates, they can only enroll in the next academic year of their admission to a Greek University, on condition that they will by then have obtained the prerequisite language certificate. Otherwise, the candidates are disqualified from enrolling.</p>



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p><b>5.</b> NO The national transposition is currently under review.</p> <p><b>6.</b> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior &amp; Administrative Reconstruction are the competent authorities for granting a student visa. More information can be found by visiting this link: <a href="https://www.mfa.gr/images/docs/ethnikes_theoriseis/2015/erasmus_visainfo.doc">https://www.mfa.gr/images/docs/ethnikes_theoriseis/2015/erasmus_visainfo.doc</a></p>
	<b>Hungary</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes, within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme and bilateral state scholarships, the recruitment of international students is managed at national level. (However, international students can also directly apply for available degree programmes at universities, beyond the framework of these programmes)</p> <p><b>2.</b> Recruitment is carried out by Tempus Public Foundation under the supervision of the Ministry of Human Capacities.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Yes, within the programmes, the government sets certain quotas regarding the nationalities of international students and the available study programmes. Applicants are ranked based on the evaluation of their applications.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes. Sufficient knowledge of the language is examined by the authorities during the application. Knowledge can be proved by language certificates and other documents, but other forms of verification are also possible.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. If international students cannot finish their studies and acquire their certificate during the duration of the 150% of the study period set by the study and certification requirements, their residence permit can be withdrawn or not renewed.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No. Third-country nationals may apply for an entry visa for receiving a residence permit before admission to the country in the application for residence permit, without having to lodge a separate application.</p>
	<b>Ireland</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No. Ireland does not directly coordinate and control how international students are recruited. However, there are criteria in place for the granting of residence permits to international students, and criteria which must be met by educational providers in order to be approved to enrol international students.</p>


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p><b>2.</b> Educational providers would recruit their own students. The Education in Ireland brand, a branch of Enterprise Ireland, organises stands at education fairs abroad which are attended by certain educational providers (mostly universities).</p> <p><b>3.</b> Yes. As explained in question 1, Ireland does not regulate how international students are recruited. However, criteria have been set which must be met by educational providers in order for educational programmes to be approved to accept international (TCN) students. TCN students obtain residence permission to attend an educational programme which is included on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP). The ILEP is an interim measure for accrediting educational programmes for immigration purposes, while the passage of legislation for an International Education Mark is awaited. It should be noted that the ILEP includes both English language training courses and third level degree programmes. Different rules apply to English language courses and third level degree programmes. In order to be included on this list, educational providers must meet certain criteria. These criteria are detailed in application guidelines set out in documents available on the INIS website here:  <a href="http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Interim%20List%20of%20Eligible%20Programmes%20-%20ILEP">http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Interim%20List%20of%20Eligible%20Programmes%20-%20ILEP</a>  Key elements in the criteria are as follows: - Record of compliance and service delivery: INIS must be satisfied with the operation of all providers from an immigration perspective. All providers must comply with certain conditions relating to ownership, operation and quality assurance. - Track record in education: New applicant private providers are required to demonstrate a track record in education. This will be through demonstrating that they have delivered quality assured programmes to Irish and EU students. In cases where an applicant provider has not previously traded, inclusion of programmes in the Interim List may be possible, if the senior academic manager(s), senior administrator(s), and academic staff, collectively have a satisfactory track record. - Programme accreditation: For degree programmes, programmes must lead to awards made by a recognised Irish higher education awarding body. For English Language Training programmes, programmes must meet minimum duration and delivery criteria; have a defined learning pathway (i.e. a course programme), with specified learning outcomes with an assessment framework aligned to the programme and its learning outcomes; and conclude in one of the English language proficiency exams, set out in the criteria, at the link provided above. - International Education Mark: New arrangements will apply when the IEM has been fully implemented. Applications for inclusion on the ILEP are processed by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service in cycles throughout the year. Providers are obliged to comply with the conditions of the ILEP in order to continue to be included on it. Unannounced inspections and spot checks can take place as</p>
--	--	--	---

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>part of ongoing monitoring.</p> <p><b>4.</b> As noted in question 3, international TCN students may come to Ireland to study English on approved English language training programmes. For degree programmes, it would be up to the educational institution to set the criteria for admission to their course. TCN students are expected to show sufficient academic progress in order to renew their residence permission as a student (e.g. having passed annual exams to progress onto the next year of the course). This would imply an adequate knowledge of the course language. In certain circumstances, immigration permission may be given for a student to attend a Foundation language course to bring them up to the standard for the course, once this has been clearly stated in the original visa application or application for permission to remain. The policy in relation to Foundation programmes is currently under review.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Ireland does not participate in Directive 2016/801/EU. However, under Ireland's national criteria for TCN students, students must show sufficient academic progress (i.e. progressing onto the next year of their course) when renewing their residence permission. There are additional guidelines for students who have failed their exams and wish to extend their immigration permission. Students failing exams will not have their permission renewed unless they can demonstrate that their exam results were sufficiently close to the pass mark or they passed most of their other modules. The student has to demonstrate genuine commitment to study and their efforts should indicate that they might be successful in a repeat examination. Where they can demonstrate this or can show extenuating circumstances (such as accident or serious illness supported by medical evidence) that prevented them from sitting their examinations, they may be granted immigration permission of up to 4 months in order to sit the repeat examination. Immigration permission will not be granted for the purpose of repeating an entire year's tuition.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Not all TCN international students will come from countries which are visa required for travel to Ireland. All international students, visa required or otherwise, are required to register for immigration permission when their stay in Ireland is greater than 90 days. For visa required students, verification of criteria to come to Ireland as a TCN international student (e.g. enrolment on an approved course, financial criteria, health insurance) is done as part of the visa application process. For students from non-visa required countries, verification of criteria, including financial criteria and health insurance, will take place at the appointment to register for residence permission as a student. The general criteria for TCN students on degree programme courses are as follows: • The maximum time a student may stay in Ireland for the purpose of attending</p>
--	--	--	---



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>courses at degree level is limited to seven years; • The level of course and award – a course must be a full time day time course leading to an award at the National Framework Qualifications level 7 or above (i.e. ordinary bachelor degree to doctoral degree), and the course must be included on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP). • A Letter of Acceptance from the college, confirming the student has been accepted and enrolled on a course of full-time day-time education • Proof that fees have been paid to the college. Where fees are below €6,000, the full amount of the fees must be paid in advance. • Access to €3,000 at first registration. This is in addition to course fees. • All students are required to have private medical insurance. The general criteria for TCN students on English language programme courses are as follows: • The course must be listed on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP) • A student on a full time language course may obtain an immigration permission of up to 8 months for that course (prior to a rule change in January 2016 the period was 12 months). • A student may be granted immigration permission for a maximum of 3 language courses. The total duration of immigration permission for a new student attending language courses is 2 years (i.e. 3 x 8 months). However where a student had received one or two 12 month permissions under the previous rules they may still obtain/apply for up to a total of three permissions. • A full time Language Course consists of a minimum of 25 weeks tuition and a minimum of 15 hours tuition per week. The minimum number of hours of teaching is therefore 375. • All tuition must be delivered during the hours 9am-5pm Monday to Friday and involve tuition on at least 3 of those days. • The minimum level of attendance on the course is 85%. • The student must take a recognised examination at the end of the course (students who do not comply with this requirement will not be permitted to obtain further immigration permission) • A Letter of Acceptance from the college • Proof that fees have been paid to the college. • Access to €3,000 at first registration. This is in addition to course fees. • All students are required to have private medical insurance.</p>
	<b>Italy</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> no</p> <p><b>2.</b> On 16 February 2018, Ministry of Education, University and Research has adopted an internal document (Circolare), clarifying that the exclusive competence to issue visa for study purposes belongs to consular and diplomatic delegation, while the competence for academic recognition of foreign qualifications aimed to a valid registration is conferred exclusively to educational institutions. Each institution evaluates the titles of foreign students independently, applying the rules laid down both by its own Regulations and by any bilateral agreements or multilateral conventions ratified by the Italian Government, such as the Lisbon Convention (art. 2 Law 148/2002). In application of Lisbon Convention, Italy engaged CIMEA (centre of information on</p>


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>mobility and academic equivalences) to provide, at national level, information about Italian higher educational system and the recognition of foreign qualifications. International students who wish to study in Italy have to initiate a pre-registration procedure before the embassy. Educational institutes may select directly candidates for studies through a preliminary assessment, which successful outcome determines the issue of a Letter of suitability for registration (called “Model D”). This letter has to be sent to consular and diplomatic representation during the pre-registration step. The documentation about academic appraisal of foreign qualifications produced by educational institutions has to be considered as a support for the embassy’s assessment and it does not imply the automatic issuance of visa (because of the respective documentation is based on different requirements and elements)</p> <p><b>3. no</b></p> <p><b>4. Yes,</b> the sufficient knowledge of study language is required before the enrolment to educational institution. In particular, higher education institutions are appointed to verify the language skills for access to degree programs. Exemptions from language test are established in two cases: i) if international students have obtained certifications of competence of Italian language equivalent with level B2 set by Council of European Union, but nevertheless they remain subjected to the limit of positions available for visa applicants and residents abroad; ii) if international students have obtained certifications of competence of Italian language equivalent with level C1 and C2 set by Council of European Union, regardless of the number of positions available.</p> <p><b>5. No,</b> Italy has not transposed article 21, paragraph 2 f) of the Directive 2016/801/EU which stipulates that the student residence permit can be withdrawn or not renewed in case a student does not make sufficient progress in the relevant studies. However, the Decree of the President of the Republic n. 394/1999, art. 46, comma 4, establishes that the residence permit can be renewed only if a student has passed one advancement test during the first year and others two in the following years.</p> <p><b>6. at the diplomatic missions? YES/NO. Please explain.</b> Yes. International students have to demonstrate some requirements such as: - Knowledge of Italian languages; - Sufficient economic means for the stay (453,00 euro for months, 5.889,00 euro for year: this amount is established by Letter of INPS n. 186, relating to pension renewal and welfare benefits for the year 2018); - Availability of sum needed for repatriation; appropriate accommodation in Italy; - An adequate insurance cover for medical care and hospital recovery</p>
--	--	--	---


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			(art. 39 c. 3 law 286/1998 and Directive of Interior Minister 01.03.2000).
	<b>Latvia</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Administrations of universities in Latvia and universities` agencies that are based in third countries. In Latvia there is also established a national agency “Study in Latvia” that is supported by Ministry of Education and Science and managed by Academic Information Centre. The agency in cooperation with the Ministry and Latvia higher education institutions attends various International Education Fairs.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Government hasn` t set any criteria for the recruitment of international students. There is an Agreement on good practice in attracting international students and providing studies that has been developed by the Ministry of Education and Science. Higher education institutions sign this agreement voluntarily. The agreement is sign for time period of 3 years and then it should be renewed.</p> <p><b>4.</b> No.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. The Immigration Law stipulates that a residence permit can be revoked or it cannot be renewed if a student has not made sufficient progress in studies. It means that studies in one study program cannot more than for one year exceed the study time stipulated in the study agreement (if the study agreement has been signed for up to three years) or it cannot exceed the study time stipulated in the study agreement for more than two years if the study program is longer than three years. A residence permit will not be revoked if the prolongation of studies is based on circumstances beyond the control of the foreigner. Additionally, the residence permit can be refused if within last 5 years period a student more than twice has been excluded from the study program due to the insufficient progress.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Yes. The sufficient knowledge of the study language (mainly, English), the general knowledge on the particular educational institution (study programme) and Latvia is evaluated at Embassy by the interview of foreign student.</p>
	<b>Lithuania</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Universities are responsible for recruitment. They usually have a department/unit for international</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>cooperation/relations which are involved in the selection/recruitment of international students. Some universities also cooperate with intermediates which help them to administer tests in other countries. In Lithuania there is also established a national agency “The Education Exchanges Support Foundation (hereinafter – “the Foundation”). One of the aim of the Foundation is to increase the internationalization of higher education in Lithuania. They promote various events to present Lithuania for international students, assist universities in participating in various International Education Fairs, etc. They have also created and administer the national website <a href="http://www.studyinlithuania.lt">www.studyinlithuania.lt</a> which provides information for prospective students on all study programmes, admission and immigration.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes, most universities require the IELTS score. Some offer their own English proficiency test as part of the application requirements. More detailed information will be provided in the EMN study on International students.</p> <p><b>5.</b> No.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No. Lithuanian consular officials use general criteria for evaluation of an application when issuing a national D visa. One of the criteria is evaluation of a person’s intent for irregular immigration and stay. During the interview consular official may evaluate applicant’s language skills, knowledge about the study course and the country and other information and documents.</p>
	<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The recruitment and admission to higher education is in charge of the higher education institutions. However, the higher education institution and the study programme have to be accredited by the Minister in charge of higher education in order to welcome international students.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No. The Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Directorate of immigration) do not have any recruitment guidelines for international students. Once the student is admitted to the (accredited) higher education institution the applicant has to fulfil the conditions to grant the student authorization of stay established in article 56 of the amended law of 29 August 2008 on free</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>movement of persons and immigration (Immigration Law).</p> <p><b>4.</b> No. At the University of Luxembourg, the language requirement depends on the program (bachelor or master) that the student has chosen and is a criterion of admissibility in the University. As the University of Luxembourg is a multilingual university, most of the programs are in one, two or three of the official languages of the University (English, German or French) so the student has to prove that s/he has the level (normally a B2 or C1 in all of the languages). In principle, the University per se does not require a language certificate. It will depend on the Director of the programme or the Evaluation committee (composed by the director of the programme and professors) to request the type of certificate needed to enter into the programme. If the student made his/her previous studies in a country where the official language is English, French or German, the University of Luxembourg, will accept that the student masters the language of the country where s/he had studied.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. Article 21 (2) f) of the Directive 2016/801/EU was transposed by article 57 (4) of the Immigration Law. The Immigration Law stipulates that a residence permit can be revoked or it cannot be renewed if a student has not made sufficient progress in studies and it is excluded from the study programme in accordance with the rules of the higher education institution. It is considered that the student has not made sufficient progress in studies when s/he has not obtained 50% of the ECTS for the current academic year and it will be excluded the first-year student who does not reach the 50% of the ECTS (see article 19 (4) of the studies regulation of the University of Luxembourg published in Memorial B-2579 of 24 September 2018).</p> <p><b>6.</b> No. However, checks and interviews on the motivation and knowledge (about Luxembourg, the studies, etc.) are possible.</p>
	<b>Netherlands</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> In The Netherlands, the higher education institutions perform the recruitment and admission of international students. Since the introduction of the Modern Migration Policy Act on June 1st 2013, the recognized sponsorship applies. The recognized sponsor is a person or organization that has an interest in admitting a foreign national to The Netherlands, which is in this case the educational institution. When a student submits a request for admission and enrollment to an educational institution of his or her choice, the responsibility of checking whether the student meets all the admission requirements for a residence permit,</p>



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>lies with the educational institution that will be acting as the sponsor of the student. If educational institutions want to admit international students to their institution, it is compulsory for the educational institution to be accredited as a recognized sponsor by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND). The higher education institution will then be listed in the public register 'recognized sponsors' and is allowed to submit residence permit applications for international students with the IND. Institutions that are not recognized sponsors are not allowed to submit residence permit applications for international students. A part of becoming a recognized sponsor as an education institution, is signing the Code of Conduct International Student, which will be explained under question 3. When an education institution is a recognized sponsor, he is allowed to recruit international students. Most higher education institutions have an active recruiting strategy, where they have a specific department that deals with international students. Also, they have networks and contacts with higher education institutions which allows them to exchange or recruit students regularly. Education institutions can also recruit international students through the Netherlands Education Support Offices (Neso's) of Nuffic. Nuffic is the Dutch organization for internationalization in Dutch education and the goal of their Neso's is to promote Dutch education and increase the mobility of students. There are eleven Neso's which are located in regions that are of strategic importance for Dutch higher education, namely: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, South-Africa, South-Korea, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. There are many Dutch scholarships available for international students that are distributed through these Neso's and they also arrange activities in their specific countries where educational institutions can promote their studies. Apart from these offices, there is also the 'Study in Holland' campaign. This campaign is subsidized by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and managed by Nuffic. The goal is to disseminate information about the Dutch higher education system abroad and to let the higher education institutions jointly promote Dutch education. There is a comprehensive website where information can be found about Dutch society, the education system, all the educational programs, scholarships and practical tips and information about the Dutch labour market. This information is also available in English. In addition, promotional activities abroad can be organized by Dutch educational institutions via 'Study in Holland'.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Yes. The main regulation for the recruitment of international students is the 'Code of Conduct International Student'. This code of conduct is a joint initiative of the higher education institutions and the Dutch government and contains agreements they have made about dealing with international students. It obliges educational institutions to provide reliable and accessible information to international students about study programs, admission requirements, rules and procedures. Moreover, the code of conduct states that the</p>
--	--	--	--

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>educational institution guarantees the costs arising from the stay of the international student in the Netherlands and guarantees that the student meets the conditions for granting a residence permit for study (f. ex. IELTS-6 level of English for a Bachelor- or Master-programmes in English). The educational institution also has the obligation to deregister the student from the IND when the student does not report him- or herself to the institution after having obtained the entry visa, when the study is (prematurely) terminated or when the student does not make sufficient study progress. Only institutions that have signed the code of conduct may recruit and select international students. Supervision of compliance with the code of conduct is done by the National Commission Code of Conduct International Student. The Association of Universities of Applied Sciences, the Dutch council for training and education and the Association of Universities are contributing members to this commission.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Yes. One of the conditions to be admitted by a Dutch higher education institution, is sufficient knowledge of the study language. This has been regulated by the Code of Conduct International Student. For courses in English, the international student must do an academic IELTS-test for which he/she must obtain at least an overall score of 6.0. Other language tests are also allowed, like TOEFL or TOEIC, for which there is a table in the Code of Conduct to compare them with the score on an IELTS-test. There are a few exceptions to this rule. If the international student has done his previous education in English, the education institution can exempt the student from the obligation to do the IELTS-test. This also applies if the international student possesses a certificate of the International Baccalaureate for English A Language and Literature. In addition, an educational institution may exempt an international student from the obligation to do a language test if he holds a secondary education certificate in a country that is included in the diploma list of the Associations of the higher education institutions. The students who want to do a preparatory year or a premaster of 6 to 12 months, need to score at least 5.0 on the IELTS-test. For a preparatory year or a premaster of less than 6 months, there is a minimum requirement of 5.5 on the IELTS-test. There are different rules for courses in Dutch, which are established in the Law of higher education and scientific research. There is a minimum language requirement of Nt2 on the State Examination Dutch for all Dutch courses at higher education institutions. This equals to level B2 of the CEFR. However, this is a minimum, so the institutions are allowed to maintain a higher level as a minimal requirement.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. Sufficient progress is defined as at least 50% of the credits (ECTS) of each academic year. This is checked in a study progress monitor by the relevant higher education institution. However, this regulation is not a direct transposition of Directive 2016/801/EU, since this rule has been introduced in The Netherlands</p>
--	--	--	---


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>since the academic year 2013/2014.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No. The higher education institution (recognized sponsor) submits the application for the residence permit and the entry visa (mvv), which is valid for 90 days, for the third-country national who applies to a study programme. After the education institution has admitted the third-country national to the study programme, the mvv will be available at the diplomatic mission in the country of origin of the international student. If there is no diplomatic mission in the country of origin of the third-country national, the mvv can be received at a diplomatic mission in a nearby country.</p>
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes and no. Yes, in the following cases: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic coordinates and controls the admission of international students from third countries within the framework of: - government scholarships of the Slovak Republic provided for the entire university study in Slovakia - bilateral scholarships for partial study in the Slovak Republic (in case when contract is signed between the ministry and the third country) - scholarships under the National Scholarship Program, open to students, doctoral candidates and researchers from all countries for partial study Except of the abovementioned scholarships, the recruitment and admission of international students to higher education in general is in charge of the higher education institutions. However, the higher education institution and the study programme have to be accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p><b>2.</b> In case of the recipients of the governmental scholarships, the selection of foreign applicants is carried out by the Commission for Assessment of Applications for Government Scholarship, which is an advisory body of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. The Commission is always appointed for one-year term of office. As for the bilateral scholarships, student recruitment is administrated by the foreign partner. Subsequent selection of the applicants is coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. In case of the National Scholarship Program, the potential students apply on their own and the selection is carried out by the selection commission, in which the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic is represented. For recruitment of international students that are regular students and not a recipients of the abovementioned scholarships this is in the competence of the higher educational institutions.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Yes, only in the following cases: Recipients of the government scholarships: The Ministry of Education,</p>



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>Science, Research and Sport of the SR is in charge of communicating the conditions for granting the government scholarship for the actual academic year to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the partner country annually by the 28th February. The admission of foreign students follows after the official nomination of the Ministry of Education or Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the partner country. The fulfilment of the criteria for government scholarship are assessed by the Commission for Assessment of Applications for Government Scholarship. Concerning the bilateral scholarships, the criteria are given in the individual ministerial contracting documents: <a href="http://www.minedu.sk/medzinarodne-zmluvy-a-dohovory/">http://www.minedu.sk/medzinarodne-zmluvy-a-dohovory/</a> The criteria are taken into account when assessing / accepting individual candidates. For scholarships of the National Scholarship Program, the criteria are published at the website <a href="http://www.scholarships.sk">www.scholarships.sk</a>. For recruitment of international students that are regular students and not a recipients of the abovementioned scholarships this is in the competence of the higher educational institutions.</p> <p><b>4. Recipients of the government scholarships: YES.</b> The conditions for obtaining government scholarship for a standard length of university studies is to master the Slovak language at the required level as well as admission to study in the selected study program of the public university in Slovakia. In order to learn the Slovak language, applicants for government scholarships have the opportunity to attend a preparatory year of an intensive course of Slovak language and vocational subjects with a focus on improving the communication skills needed to master the university education in the Slovak language. Concerning bilateral scholarships, in case that candidate intends to study in English or in another language, a language certificate language is required (if possible). The applicant also states the level of language proficiency in the application for a scholarship. When applicant intends to study in the Slovak language, he/she declares this fact in the scholarship application together with the level of language proficiency. For recruitment of international students that are regular students and not a recipients of the abovementioned scholarships these criteria are in the competence of the higher educational institutions.</p> <p><b>5. YES.</b> Article 21, (2) f) of the Directive 2016/801/EU was transposed by article 1 (66) 1) c) of the Act on Higher Education. As „Sufficient progress“ is considered meeting the requirements resulting from the study program or the study code of the higher education institution, not finishing the study within the regular time frame (a study can be prolonged up to 2 years from its standard length) or acting contrary to the public order, internal university rules or breaking the law of the Slovak republic. In case a student does not meet these requirements, s/he loses student status and thus the purpose for the temporary stay ceases to exist.</p>
--	--	--	---

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p><b>6.</b> NO. There are no special rules applied to students. Students apply either for a temporary residence for study purposes or for the national visa.</p>
	<p><b>Spain</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1.</b> No.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The Universities themselves manage the recruitment of international students, but also the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE), depending on the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, plays a very important role in this field. In particular SEPIE stands out as the body responsible for promoting and enhancing the reach of the Spanish university system, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities and universities.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The Spanish Government hasn't set any criteria for the recruitment of international students. Anyway, as a result of the transposition of the Students and Researchers Directive, Spain has included a new paragraph eight in article 39 of the Royal Decree 557/2011 of 20 April, approving the Regulation of the Organic Law 4/2000 on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration, that states the possibility for higher education institutions to subscribe a Code of Good Practices, in order to apply for a collective process of the applications and to reduce the time to adopt and notify the decisions. This Code of Good Practices has not been approved yet, but it may include good practices in attracting international students and providing studies.</p> <p><b>4.</b> No, our country does not require a sufficient knowledge of the study language in order to have a student residence permit (as a migration requirement). Nevertheless universities are free to require a minimum language level and in some cases they can even offer a language course before the start of the studies.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes, it is a requirement for the renewal of the student residence permit. In particular article 40 of the Royal Decree 557/2011 states that in order to renew the residence permit, the student must provide evidence that they have passed the exams or that they have complied with the conditions required to continue their studies.</p> <p><b>6.</b> If the student is going to stay less than three months there is no special procedure (Schengen Visa), but normally students stay for a longer period of time and in that case there is a special procedure since the student has to comply with the requirements established in our national legislation (provide evidence that the third-country national has been accepted by a higher education institution to follow a course of study, that</p>


**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			he/she will have sufficient resources to cover the study costs, etc)
	<b>Sweden</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No</p> <p><b>2.</b> International students can apply for studies at Swedish higher education institutions. “Recruitment” is a task of these higher education institutions, and their activities with regard to recruitment vary. The Swedish state (the Swedish Migration Agency) examines applications for residence permits for study purposes, but it does not interfere with who is admitted to studies at a higher education institution.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No, but state agencies do provide for a number of scholarships for international students and facilitate academic exchange programmes, which can contribute to successful recruitment. The state also assists higher education institutions by other means, for example by hosting and running the website “Study in Sweden”.</p> <p><b>4.</b> No, but higher education institutions can require proof of knowledge of the language of tuition in the framework of admission procedures.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Directive 2016/801/EU is not yet implemented in Swedish law. But according to current law and practice, proof of sufficient progress in the relevant studies is needed for a study-based residence permit to be renewed/extended. Residence permits can also be revoked.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No, but applications for residence permits for study purposes can be made online via the Swedish Migration Agency, which facilitates the procedure.</p>
	<b>United Kingdom</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Tier 4 of the points-based system is the main route for a person who wishes to come to the UK for the purpose of study. Applicants must have a Tier 4 sponsor who has offered them a place on a course which meets Tier 4 requirements, have sufficient funds to support themselves in the UK and a sufficient knowledge of the English language. They must also meet the eligibility requirements for the route. Further information about Tier 4 is available here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa">https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa</a>. Information about the short-term study route, which is for those undertaking a short period of study in the UK, is available here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa">https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa</a>. Tier 4 sponsors are responsible for recruiting international students. Sponsors must issue a ‘Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies’ (CAS) to students who they wish to recruit.</p>

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>The sponsor is responsible to checking that the student meets the Tier 4 requirements set out in the policy guidance. Whilst the UK Government does not directly manage the recruitment of international students, it does set the policy which education providers must follow if they wish to gain and maintain a Tier 4 licence. Tier 4 students who have been issued a CAS must then apply to the Home Office for a visa and it is the Home Office that decides whether a visa can be issued, based on whether the student meets the requirements set out in the Immigration Rules and Tier 4 policy. The Tier 4 guidance for sponsors is available here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-4-student-guidance-for-educators">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-4-student-guidance-for-educators</a> The Tier 4 migrant policy guidance is available here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student</a></p> <p><b>2.</b> As set out in the previous response, Tier 4 sponsors recruit international students.</p> <p><b>3.</b> YES. The UK Government decides on the policy and rules for the recruitment of international students, as set out above. The UK Home Office monitors Tier 4 sponsor compliance and takes robust action when sponsors fail to meet the standards set out in the policy. Possible compliance actions include setting an action plan for the sponsor, reducing the number of CAS that it may issue or revoking its sponsor licence.</p> <p><b>4.</b> YES. A student's ability to demonstrate that they can meet the English Language requirements of the route is a key control of the Tier 4 scheme. Students must demonstrate their English language ability by passing a secure English Language Test (SELT) at an approved test centre. The level of English required varies depending on the level of the course that the student wishes to study. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) offering students courses at degree level or above can use their own methods to assess the students' English language ability. It is not necessary for the student to pass a SELT test.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Tier 4 sponsors are responsible for monitoring the progress of their students and assessing whether they have made sufficient progress to progress to the next stage of their course. The Tier 4 policy allows international students to repeat a module of a course if their sponsor is willing to continue sponsoring them. If the sponsor is not satisfied that the student is making sufficient progress, they will withdraw sponsorship of the student and notify the Home Office. The Home Office will then normally curtail (shorten) the period of the student's leave and the student is expected to leave the UK. This policy predates Directive 2016/801/EU but has a similar effect.</p>
--	--	--	--

**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p><b>6. NO.</b> Student visa applications are processed in accordance with the standard procedures that are applied to all visa applications. The Tier 4 student must show that they have a Tier sponsor and meet the requirements of the route. The student may be interviewed as part of the assessment process, before a decision is made on whether to issue a visa.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p><b>1. NO</b></p> <p><b>2.</b> See website: StudyinNorway.no which has been developed and maintained by Diku, the Norwegian Agency for International cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education.</p> <p><b>3. YES</b> It is the institutions of higher education that are responsible for ensuring that applicants are actually qualified for the studies. NOKUT is responsible for quality assurance, evaluation and accreditation of Norwegian post-secondary and higher education institutions. If a university or college does not fulfil the national standards and conditions, the accreditation will not be given or can be withdrawn.<sup>35</sup> This is to ensure that only provision of sufficient quality is accredited. In turn this will contribute to preventing potential abuse of study permits. See stipulations for renewal of student permits below: Requirements relating to renewal • You must either be a student in upper secondary school or a student at a university college/university. It is not possible to hold a residence permit as a student at a religion/belief-based school or folk high school for a total of more than one year. • You must have had a normal study progress. This means that you cannot be more than one year behind in your studies. • You must still have a place on a study programme at a university college or university, or at an upper secondary school. • The education must be full-time. • You must have enough money to live on, i.e. at least NOK 116 369 per year. This money may consist of student loans, grants, own funds that you have in your account in a Norwegian bank, or a combination of the above. If you have a part-time job in Norway, the income from this work may be included. Right to work in addition to your studies • When you apply for renewal, we will consider whether you should continue to be entitled to work part-time in addition to your studies. You can only work if your place of study is of the opinion that you will be able to manage to work in addition to your studies.</p> <p><b>4. YES</b>  <a href="https://www.nokut.no/globalassets/nokut/artikkelbibliotek/utenlandsk_utdanning/gsulista/2018/language_requirements_gsu_12032018.pdf">https://www.nokut.no/globalassets/nokut/artikkelbibliotek/utenlandsk_utdanning/gsulista/2018/language_requirements_gsu_12032018.pdf</a> In many countries, having passed upper secondary school courses in English</p>



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on The recruitment and admission of international students (third-country nationals)**

			<p>will provide sufficient language ability to begin studies in Norway. For those whose education is not previously approved, they can take the following courses to gain acceptance: Applicants who do not meet the English proficiency requirements may take one of the following tests/courses: <input type="checkbox"/> Completed and passed English course (140 hours per year / 5 hours per week) at the Norwegian upper secondary school <input type="checkbox"/> Tests: • Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 60 for an internet-based test (iBT) or 500 for a paper-based test (PBT) • International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) Academic test with a minimum score of 5.0 • Pearson PTE Academic test with a minimum score of 51 points • The European Language Certificate - telc: - telc English B2 - telc English B2-C1 University - all telc English certificates on C1- level <input type="checkbox"/> University of Cambridge examinations: • First Certificate in English • Certificate in Advanced English • Certificate of Proficiency in English In addition, applicants will have proof of sufficient English proficiency if they have: • Completed one year studies in a secondary school or at university/university college in an English-speaking country (Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USA), provided that the language of instruction was English. • Completed bachelor or master's degree (or a corresponding degree) where the subject English comprised the main component of the course of study. • Completed a master's degree in English. In exceptional cases applicants may provide proof of English proficiency in other ways. Norwegian language proficiency must be documented by passing one of the following examinations: o examination in Norwegian / Norwegian as a second language on the "Vg3-level" (393 hours) from Norwegian upper secondary school o level 3 examination in Norwegian for foreign students at Norwegian universities o examination from the 1-year course in Norwegian language and culture for foreign students, taken at a university or a university college o Test of Norwegian, advanced level (known as "Bergenstesten") with a score of at least 450, or with "Pass" mark after the introduction of the new scoring system beginning fall 2009. o Norwegian test for adult immigrants from Kompetanse Norge with result B2 in all four p</p> <p><b>5.</b> Unable to get this information at this time.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Unable to get this information at this time.</p>
--	--	--	---