



Appendix Civic integration requirement

If you apply for permanent residence (*sterker verblijfsrecht*), you must, in principle, fulfil the integration requirement. It follows that you must be sufficiently integrated before the application. The aforementioned pertains to applications for a:

- residence permit for an indefinite period of time;
- residence permit long-term resident EU;
- residence permit humanitarian non-temporary, involving
 - five years of residence as a family member or relative, or
 - two years of residence with a European blue card holder and at least five years of legal and continuous residence on EU territory.

Please note: that as of 1 January 2022, the new Civic Integration Act 2021 will enter into force. It replaces the Civic Integration Act 2013.

Aliens who are obliged to participate in a civic integration programme on or after 1 January 2022 will have to integrate based on the Civic Integration Act 2021 (Wi 2021). Civic integration diplomas, certificates, exemptions, and dispensations issued to aliens who are obliged to participate in civic integration programmes based on the new Civic Integration Act 2021 will continue to have an effect on the civic integration requirement when obtaining a permanent residence permit. The above means that supporting documents issued based on the Wi 2021 can be submitted with the application.

Aliens who were already obliged to participate in a civic integration programme before 1 January 2022 will continue to fall under the Civic Integration Act 2013 (Wi 2013). In this respect, the Wi 2013 still has an effect as far as the integration requirement for obtaining permanent residence is concerned. Obtained civic integration diplomas based on the Wi 2013, but also exemptions and dispensations granted to foreign nationals who were already obliged to participate in a civic integration programme before 1 January 2022 can therefore still be brought forward to assess the civic integration requirement.

Aliens who are not obliged to participate in a civic integration programme can, irrespective of the date of their application (i.e. also after 1 January 2022), still integrate under the regime of the Wi 2013. In this regard, civic integration diplomas, exemptions, and dispensations are still in effect as far as the integration requirement is concerned. Relevant supporting documents can be brought forward with the application.

Are you 18 years or older? Then you must pass the following to fulfil the civic integration requirement:

- The civic integration diploma; or
- The civic integration certificate (only if Wi 2021 applies to you).

Have you reached at least the statutory pensionable age? Then you do not have to take the civic integration examination. In other cases, too, you may not have to take the civic integration examination (exemption). For example, because you have specific diplomas or other supporting documents.

Please indicate below which situation applies to you. Enclose the supporting required documents with the application. In some cases, you must also send a list of marks, which is only needed if you must have passed the subject Dutch.

Enclose means of evidence

Only enclose certified copies of the diplomas, certificates, testimonials and/or mark lists with your application and do not send the originals. . A copy of civic integration examination does not have to be certified. A certified copy contains a statement that the contents of the copy correspond with the original. This statement must have been signed by a person who is authorised to do so. The statement must also contain: the name of this person, a date and a stamp of the school (or the municipality, the notary's office). A copy of a diploma may only be certified by the relevant educational institution. If it concerns a diploma that has not been issued in the Netherlands, the diploma or certificate must bear an apostille stamp.

If you submit the application to the desk in person, you may also bring the original diplomas, certificates and/or lists of marks with you. The IND staff member will make copies hereof to be put in your file. You keep the original copies yourself.

> Please tick the applicable situation

You have obtained the civic integration diploma

Submit a copy of the civic integration diploma of the Civic Integration Act.

You have obtained the civic integration certificate of the Civic Integration Act 2021

You have Belgian or Luxembourg nationality

You have Turkish nationality or you are a family member of a person having Turkish nationality. Please note! The non-registered (unmarried) partner is not considered a family member.

You are under 18 years of age or you are of statutory pensionable age or older.

You lived in the Netherlands for at least eight years during your school age (from the age of five until the end of the school year in which you reached the age of sixteen)

You must have been registered in the municipal personal records database during the above period. This period of eight years does not have to be uninterrupted.

You have one of the below documents, diplomas or certificates to which an exemption from the civic integration requirement applies

- a diploma or certificate of for example a Dutch university degree, higher professional education (HBO) degree, senior secondary vocational education (MBO) (at least level 2), pre-university education (VWO), senior general secondary education (HAVO), junior general secondary education (MAVO) or pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO), after having attended the education in Dutch. You have such a diploma if the diploma states, for example: Higher Education and Research Act, Secondary Education Act 2020, Adult and Vocational Education Act or Part-Time Vocational Education Act.
- a school diploma or certificate from Belgium or Suriname, obtained in Dutch-language education, with a passing mark for the subject of Dutch. It concerns the following diplomas: university degree, HBO, MBO (from level 2), VWO, HAVO, MAVO or VMBO, a comparable diploma or other document. The diploma or certificate must state the law on which it was issued. Also include a list of marks;
- a diploma, certificate or other document from Aruba, Curacao, or Sint Maarten, obtained in Dutch-language education, with a passing mark for the subject of Dutch. Also enclose the list of marks. It concerns the following diplomas: MAVO, HAVO, VWO, LBO, MBO, HBO, WO (university);
- a diploma, certificate or other document from the public bodies of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius or Saba, obtained in Dutch-language education, with a passing mark for the subject of Dutch. Also enclose the list of marks. It concerns the following diplomas: MAVO, HAVO, VWO, LBO, MBO, HBO, WO (university);
- a diploma from the European school of the European Baccalaureate 'as referred to in the Statute of the European School'. You must have finished the subject of Dutch as a first or second language. You must also have passed the subject of Dutch. Also enclose the list of marks;
- an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Certificate or an International General Certificate of Secondary Education or an International Baccalaureate. In that case, you must have passed the subject of Dutch. Also enclose the list of marks;
- the Naturalisation Test Certificate as it was called before 1 April 2007 showing that you passed the following five parts: knowledge of politics and society, speaking, listening, writing and reading skills;

- a civic integration certificate within the context of the Civic Integration (Newcomers) Act (Wet inburgering nieuwkomers or WIN), if the WIN programme was finished by 31 December 2006, and the pertaining statement from the Regional Training Centre (ROC) showing that a profile test for the 'listening' and 'speaking' parts was passed at level NT2-2, for the 'reading' and 'writing' parts at level NT2-1 and for the Social Orientation part at level 2 or 80% if this test was done after 31 August 2001 or 85% if the test was done before 1 September 2001;
- a civic integration certificate within the context of the Civic Integration (Newcomers) Act (Wet inburgering nieuwkomers or WIN) and the pertaining statement from the Regional Training Centre (ROC) showing that the 'listening', 'speaking', 'reading' and 'writing' parts were finished at at least level NT2-2 and the Social Orientation part at 80% if this test was done after 31 August 2001 or 85% if the test was done before 1 September 2001;
- a Civic Integration Certificate for settled immigrants with at least level NT2-2 for the parts 'listening', 'speaking', 'reading' and 'writing'.
- a copy of the document 'Short Exemption Test' referred to in Article 2.7(2) of the Civic Integration Decree as it read until 1 January 2013, issued by the Education Executive Agency (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs or DUO), showing that you obtained B1 level of the European Framework for Modern Languages;
- the civic integration diploma referred to in Article 14 (2) of the Civic Integration Act (WIN) as it reads before the entry into force of the Act of 13 september 2012 to change the WIN and other Acts towards the reinforcement of the own responsibility of the participant. (Stb. 2012, 430);
- a copy of the decision from the municipal executive stating that no civic integration programme is determined pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Civic Integration (Newcomers) Act (WIN) because the foreign national will gain the sufficient knowledge, insight and competence by other means;
- a copy of a decision stating that no civic integration programme is determined, because the foreign national passed the test as referred to in Article 5(4) of the Civic Integration (Newcomers) Act (WIN);
- a copy of the document used to demonstrate that you do/did not have to sit the naturalisation test pursuant to Article 4 of the Naturalisation Test Decree (medical circumstances/efforts made);
- a copy of a letter from the municipal executive stating that because of demonstrable efforts on your part, the municipal executive comes to the conclusion that it is not reasonably possible for you to pass the civic integration examination (you can submit this if you became obliged to participate in a civic integration programme before 1 January 2013); or
- a copy of a letter from the Education Executive Agency (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs or DUO) stating that because of demonstrable efforts on your part, DUO comes to the conclusion that it is not reasonably possible for you to pass the civic integration examination (you can submit this if you became obliged to participate in a civic integration programme in the period from 1 January 2013 to 30 September 2017).
- a copy of a letter from the Education Executive Agency (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs or DUO) stating that because of demonstrable efforts on your part, DUO comes to the conclusion that it is not reasonably possible for you to pass the parts of the civic integration examination as referred to in Artikel 7 (2b and c) of the Civic Integration Act (WIN) (you can submit this if you became obliged to participate in a civic integration programme in the period after 30 September 2017).

Please note! If you have a MBO diploma (level 1) or a NT2 diploma, please be aware of the fact that these diploma's do not apply as exemption from the civic integration requirement. You must still satisfy the integration requirements.

☐ You are permanently unable to sit the civic integration examination on medical grounds

- a copy of the letter from the municipal executive showing that, due to a psychological or physical impairment, or a mental handicap, you are permanently unable to pass the civic integration examination (you can submit this if you became obliged to participate in a civic integration programme before 1 January 2013);
- a letter from DUO showing that, due to a psychological or physical impairment, or a mental handicap, you are permanently unable to pass the civic integration examination (you can submit this if you became obliged to participate in a civic integration programme after 31 December 2012);
- a medical advice issued by a designated doctor selected by the municipal executive of your place of residence. Or if you have moved: an advice issued by a designated doctor from your previous place of residence. The advice must not be older than six months. Based on this advice, the State Secretary for Justice and Security will assess whether you are permanently unable to pass the civic integration examination due to a psychological or physical impairment or a mental handicap (you can submit this if you became obliged to participate in a civic integration programme before 1 January 2013); or
- a medical advice (not older than six months) from an independent medical adviser appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (Argonaut: for more information, see www.argonaut.nl). Based on this advice, the State Secretary for Justice and Security will assess whether you are permanently unable to pass the civic integration examination due to a psychological or physical impairment or a mental handicap.
- A copy of the decision of DUO showing that, for medical reasons, you are not obliged to participate in a civic integration programme as defined in Article 2.7, Civic Integration Decree 2021 (exemption).

☐ You are demonstrably sufficiently integrated and therefore do not need to take the civic integration examination

- Do you fall under the Wi 2013? You can send a recommendation from DUO stating that you are already demonstrably sufficiently integrated.
Would you like to qualify for this ground for exemption? You must request the recommendation from DUO. For more information on this procedure and the application form, visit the DUO website: www.inburgeren.nl.
- Do you fall under the Wi 2021? You can send DUO's decision (ruling) stating that you are not obliged to participate in a civic integration programme as you are demonstrably sufficiently integrated.

☐ Despite sufficient efforts you cannot pass the civic integration examination

- Do you fall under the Wi 2013? You can send a recommendation from DUO stating that you cannot pass the civic integration examination despite your efforts.
Would you like to qualify for this ground for exemption? You must request the recommendation from DUO. For more information on this procedure and the application form, visit the DUO website: www.inburgeren.nl.

☐ Due to special individual circumstances you cannot pass the civic integration examination

Due to special individual circumstances you cannot pass the civic integration examination. Please submit with the application pieces of evidence and documents showing:

- that you have the will to take the civic integration examination. And that you have made the efforts which could reasonably be required to pass the civic integration examination; and
- that due to special individual circumstances you are unable to participate in or to pass the civic integration examination. Or
- that, according to DUO, you are not obliged to participate in a civic integration programme (exemption) due to special individual circumstances. The above only applies if you become subject to the obligation to participate in a civic integration programme on or after 1 January 2022.

Processing of personal data

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) processes personal data when it processes your application, notification, or request. This means that if needed the IND will request data from you yourself and other organisations or persons. The IND also uses and stores data and shares them with other organisations. When doing so, the IND strictly adheres to the stipulations of privacy legislation. For instance, the IND must treat data safely and with due care. The law also gives rights. At your request, you are allowed to see which data on you the IND processes. You can also get information on why the IND does so and to whom your data have been passed on. On www.ind.nl you can read how the IND processes your data and which rights you have. You can also read how to use your rights.