21+ Admissions Test

Brochure and regulations 21+ Admissions Test 2026-2027





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Brochure

Whom is the 21+ Admissions Test intended for?

Don't have a diploma that grants access to the 3- or 4-year Bachelor's degree programme you want to start? And will you be 21 years or older on 1 September 2026? Then you can sit the 21+ Admissions Test. If you pass this test, you have met the educational entry requirement. Of course the test cannot predict that you will successfully complete the degree programme.

Statutory provisions concerning admission to education at a university of applied sciences

The legal basis for the 21+ Admissions Test can be found in Article 7.29 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW). It states that prospective students aged 21 and over who do not hold the diploma required for admission may be admitted if they achieve a pass in this examination.
For some programmes additional requirements apply, or you need to have a job that meets certain standards. Go to our website to check if this applies to your programme.

The 21+ Admissions test

The 21+ Admissions test of The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) is a digital aptitude test. The test is a generic aptitude test that measures your intellectual capabilities. We are not going to test your knowledge of secondary school subjects relevant to the programme. We recommend you familiarize yourself with the required reading at senior general secondary education or pre-university education level in the profile subjects of your degree programme. THUAS does not offer any courses for this purpose.

The aptitude test has been specially developed for The Hague University of Applied Sciences by NOA-VU. NOA is a psychological consultancy and research agency that works closely with the department of Social & Organisational Psychology at VU University Amsterdam. An aptitude test is a test that measures your cognitive abilities to determine whether you generally have the level required for a degree programme at a university of applied sciences. The results you achieve in this aptitude test are compared against the results of a control group, which then makes it possible to establish whether you have the desired level of aptitude for a degree programme at a university of applied sciences.

The aptitude test consists of 8 sub-tests: Numeracy Skills, Components, Word Relationships, Figure Series, Proofing, Mirror Images, Word Analogies, and Exclusion. These tests jointly measure your abilities in four sub-areas: logical argumentation and spatial awareness, numerical skills, verbal skills, and speed of perception.

The test consists of multiple-choice questions, each with only one correct answer. For each sub-tests you have a maximum amount of time during which you answer as many questions as possible. In total the test takes around 68 minutes to finish. This does not include time spent on a break and preparation.

Depending on the degree programme that you intend to study, you may be required to achieve a minimum score for certain sub-tests. If you are going to study an English-taught programme, you will sit the 21+ Admissions Test in English. If you are intend to enroll in a Dutch-taught programme, the test is in Dutch.

Preparation for the exam

It is possible to prepare somewhat for an aptitude test. In the practise environment of NOA-VU, you will find sample tasks for the eight sub-tests in the aptitude test, which are taken for the 21+ Admissions Test of The Hague University of Applied Sciences. The example / practice assignments are mainly meant to give an impression of the type of questions that you can expect, but do not necessarily reflect the level of difficulty.

In the NOA app, which is currently only available for android, you can get an idea of the type of questions asked. The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store, search for 'NOA app'. The app is also available in English, choose from menu 'Languages'.

You can also practise answering the types of questions that are available on the website www.123test.nl.

It is important that you are well rested and fit when you take the examination. Should you be unfit, please report this by no later than 2 hours prior to the aptitude test by sending an email to bit@hhs.nl. Then you can move the date of the examination one time (free of charge) to another examination date on which spaces are available free of charge. If you cancel your attendance for the final examination date before 1 September, you cannot choose to resit at another time and there will be no refund of the exam fee.

Language requirements and additional requirements

In addition to passing the 21+ admission tests, there may be other entry requirements.
For some programmes additional requirements apply, or you need to have a job that meets certain standards. Go to our website to check if this applies to your programme.

If you apply for a degree programme taught in English you must pass the 21+ Admission Test *and* demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English. The latter is done by obtaining a TOEFL/IELTS/Cambridge/TOEIC/ LanguageCert Academic/ Pearson PTE Academic certificate with sufficient (sub)scores. The certificate must be valid on 1 September 2026. The certificate may not be older than 2 years. The minimum (sub)scores required for a 3-year programme is not the same as the minimum score for a 4-year programme. For more information about minimum scores and other requirements, see the the website.

If you apply for a degree programme taught in Dutch and you do not have Dutch nationality you must meet the Dutch language requirement by obtaining the NT2 program II certificate. More information can be found on the DUO website.

THUAS also accepts CNaVT certificates ‘Educatief startbekwaam’ en ‘Educatief professioneel’. The CNaVT certificate may not be older than 2 years on 1 September 2026. More information can be found on the CNaVT website.

Be sure to upload your language certificate(s) on time! You must meet all entry requirements by 1 September 2026.

Keep in mind, students with a residence permit for study at another educational institution (not THUAS): the certificate must be uploaded by 15 June 2026.

Registration, location, dates and costs

First submit your enrolment request for the Bachelor's programme via Studielink. If you leave the section ‘previous education’ empty you will automatically receive a message about the 21+ Admissions Test that includes a link to the registration form. If you have indicated an incorrect prior education or a qualification you will not obtain, you will not receive the message automatically. After applying, you must inform team Special Admission immediately on bit@hhs.nl so we can send you this information manually. The exam fee is €125 which you will need to pay at registration via iDEAL or credit card.

The 21+ Admissions Test of The Hague University of Applied Sciences is offered every year between December 2025 and August 2026. During this period you may only sit the 21+ Admissions Test once. There is no possibility or right to resit.

For September 2026 enrolments, you can take the test on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, 10 December 2025 (February intake)**
- **Wednesday, 21 January 2026 (February intake)**
- **Wednesday, 4 March 2026**
- **Wednesday, 6 May 2026**
- **Wednesday, 15 July 2026 (extra time)**

The online registration form will close 10 days before the exam, or earlier when all slots are fully booked.

If you have a Dutch residence permit for the purpose of study at a different educational institution (not THUAS), you cannot participate in the exams held in July and August. You need to meet all entry requirements by the deadline 15 June 2026 for THUAS to change the recognized sponsor of your residence permit.

You take the 21+ Admissions Test at the main building of The Hague University of Applied Sciences, 75 Johanna Westerdijkplein in The Hague. If this is not possible for compelling reasons (such as national or regional corona measures in the Netherlands0, you take the 21+ Admissions Test at home via proctoring.

Adapted facilities

Are you dyslectic? Or do you need adapted facilities such as additional examination time and/or a hard-copy examination (possibly with an increased font size) due to a functional impairment? If so, you will need to send a request stating the desired adaptations as soon as possible to the Special Intake and Admissions team by emailing bit@hhs.nl. A student counsellor will assess your request. Due to the absence of student counsellors during the summer recess, a request must be sent in no later than 1 July 2026.

Candidates who are granted additional facilities will take the 21+ Admissions Test on 15 July 2026.

Asylum status holder

Do you hold a valid Dutch residence permit with type III Asylum temporary residence permit (type III; asiel bepaalde tijd) and type IV Asylum permanent residence permit (type IV; asiel onbepaalde tijd)? Then you are allowed 25% additional examination time. This is calculated as follows: The maximum allowed time (excluding break and preparation) for the 8 sub-tests of 21+ Admission test is 68 minutes, spread out disproportionately over the 8 sub-tests. An additional 25% will be added to the 68 minutes, spread out over the 8 sub-tests. For example, a sub-test with a maximum of 8 minutes will be a maximum of 10 minutes.

A request for extra time must be submitted to the Special Intake and Admissions team by emailing bit@hhs.nl no later than three weeks before the examination date. We will only look into your request if you have uploaded a valid Dutch residence permit.

Contact details

If you have any questions about the 21+ Admissions test, please contact the Special Admissions team on bit@hhs.nl or by phone +31 (0)70 445 8585. Please mention your student number.

Regulations 21+ Admissions Test

1. Admission to the examination

A candidate may sit the 21 + Admissions Test if he/she:

- Will be 21 or over on 1 September 2026;
- Has applied in Studielink for a bachelor programme;
- Has registered for the 21+ Admissions Test and has paid the exam fee;
- Can present a valid identification document as listed below , namely:
    - a passport or identity card of one of the EU/EEA countries or Switzerland, or
    - a Dutch driving licence, or
    - a Dutch residence permit, or
    - a Dutch W-document (issued to asylum seekers)
    - a Privileged Person's Identity Card (Geprivilegieerdendocument – issued to persons with diplomatic status).

Important: do not forget to take one of the above valid types of proof of identity with you to the examination. We regret that you cannot sit the 21+ Admissions Test without this proof of identity.

2. Language requirements

Candidates applying for a degree programme taught in English must pass the 21+ Admission Test ***and*** demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English. The latter is done by obtaining a TOEFL/IELTS/Cambridge/TOEIC/ LanguageCert Academic/Pearson PTE Academic certificate with sufficient (sub)scores. The certificate must be valid on 1 September 2026. The certificate may not be older than 2 years. The minimum (sub)scores required for a 3-year programme is not the same as the minimum score for a 4-year programme. For more information about minimum scores and other requirements, see the website.

Candidates applying for a degree programme taught in Dutch and who do not have Dutch nationality must meet the Dutch language requirement by obtaining the NT2 program II certificate. More information can be found on the DUO website.
THUAS also accepts CNaVT certificates 'Educatief startbekwaam' en 'Educatief professioneel'. The CNaVT certificate may not be older than 2 years on 1 September 2026. More information can be found on the CNaVT website.

The English and/or Dutch language certificate(s) must be obtained and uploaded by 1 September 2026.

3. Location of exam

The 21+ Admissions Test is taken in the main building of The Hague University of Applied Sciences, 75 Johanna Westerdijkplein in The Hague.

If it is not possible for compelling reasons (such as national or regional corona measures in the Netherlands) to have the 21+ Admission Test take place at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the 21+ Admission Test will be offered via proctoring. This means that you take the exam from home, on your own laptop / computer, under digital supervision (also called proctoring). The computer or laptop must be equipped with a microphone and a webcam. The proctoring software only works in the free browser Google Chrome. A system check is performed one week before the 21+ Test. The candidate is responsible for arranging equipment that meets these requirements and for completing the required check on time. Having a stable internet connection is also the responsibility of the candidate.

4. Result

The results will be sent by e-mail by NOA-VU one day after taking the exam. In the report, the performance for each subtest is shown in addition to the minimum requirements for the desired study program at The Hague University of Applied Sciences. The Hague University of Applied Sciences only receives the final assessment of the admission test, not the entire report. On the basis of these results, THUAS sets the candidate's preliminary training 'Colloquium Doctum' to pass or fail.

If the candidate takes the exam at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the result sent by NOA-V is final. If the candidate takes the exam via proctoring, the candidate will receive a preliminary result from NOA-VU. Proctorexam's findings have yet to be assessed. The final result will be sent by e-mail by THUAS within 2 weeks after the exam. If the findings of Proctorexam give cause to do so, eg if the webcam or screen sharing did not work during the entire exam, or if other rules were not followed, the result cannot be determined.

5. Exemption from the 21+ Admissions Test

The Hague University of Applied Sciences will not accept 21+ Admissions Tests taken at any other institution. A previously obtained result of the 21+ Admissions test at The Hague University of Applied Sciences will also not provide any right to exemption.

6. Validity of a passed 21+ Admissions Test

The 21+Admissions Test is not valid nationally. If the 21+ Admissions Test was successfully passed in 2026, this shall only be valid for admission to bachelor programmes at The Hague University of Applied Sciences and for intake in the 2026-2027 academic year.

7. Level of the 21+ Admissions Test

The 21+ Admissions Test tests generally whether your general intellectual abilities correspond to the required level for the desired Bachelor’s degree programme. The aptitude test consists of eight sub-tests, and the results of particular components may be more heavily weighted depending on the chosen degree programme.

8. Resit

The 21+ Admissions Test of The Hague University of Applied Sciences will be held every year between December 2025 and August 2026. During this period you may only sit the 21+ Admissions Test once. There is no possibility or right to resit.

9. Cancellation

A candidate who cancels attendance at least 2 hours before the aptitude test, may move the date of the examination one time to another examination date on which spaces are available free of charge. If the candidate cancels his attendance for the final examination date before 1 September, he cannot choose to resit at another time and there will be no refund of the exam fee. If the candidate has not taken the test without timely cancellation or due to force majeure, the test may be taken on another date, subject to availability, for which the examination fee must be paid again.

If a candidate is unable to or chooses not to sit the 21+ Admissions Test, he may cancel free of charge up to one week before the examination date. He will then receive a full refund of the examination fee.

10. Changing degree programme

If a candidate wishes to change the degree programme after registering for the 21+ Admissions Test he needs to send an email to bit@hhs.nl at least 2 weeks before exam day. An enrollment request for the new degree program must also have been submitted in Studielink.

If a candidate wishes to change the degree programme after sitting the aptitude test (but before the degree programme has started), he must send an email to bit@hhs.nl. It is not possible to sit the examination again. THUAS will need to recalculate the result of the examination. As the weighting of the sub-tests depends on the chosen degree programme, the result may turn out differently. Please note: if you switch to a degree programme taught in a different language, THUAS will recalculate the result of the examination and you have to fulfill the language requirement if applicable. The latter applies to candidates who do not have Dutch nationality, and for candidates with Dutch nationality who switch from a Dutch-taught programme to an English-taught programme.

11. Functional impairments

Candidates with a functional impairment may request adapted facilities. These may take the form of additional examination time and/or increased tasks and/or using a hard-copy examination. A request stating the desired adaptations must be submitted to the Special Intake and Admissions team by emailing bit@hhs.nl no later than 1 July 2026. This also applies in the case of dyslexia, in which case a copy of the official dyslexia certificate must be included with the request. Requests will be assessed by a student counsellor.

Candidates who are granted additional facilities will take the 21+ Admissions test on 15 July 2026.

If the exams in July and August are held at THUAS, the exams will be taken on a laptop. The font size cannot be increased on the laptop. If you need to take the test with increased font size, you will need to sit the exam in December 2025, January, March or May 2026. You can also sit the exam with an increased font size on your digital test on 15 July 2026. To take the exam on this date, a request must be made by emailing bit@hhs.nl no later than 1 July 2026.

12. Appeals and complaints

If the candidate does not agree with the result of the aptitude test or has a complaint, he can submit a complaint or appeal to the Examination Appeals Board. This appeal must be submitted to the Legal Protection Desk via e-mail: loketrechtsbescherming@hhs.nl.
The term for submitting an appeal is 6 weeks. The appeal must be motivated and a copy of the decision and any other supporting documents must be enclosed. Inspection of the test is not possible.

13. Rules during the examination

I. Candidates must be present in the examination room and have taken their designated seats by the scheduled start time. Candidates who arrive after the start time will be denied entry. The Hague University of Applied Sciences shall not accept responsibility for cases of force majeure that prevent candidates from being present on time.

II. Candidates are permitted to leave the examination room early on condition that they do so quietly. Candidates are not permitted to return to the examination room once they have left. After leaving the examination room, candidates must immediately move out of earshot of the examination room.

III. Candidates are not permitted to visit the toilet during the examination.

IV. Mobile phones must be switched off during the examination. Candidates are not permitted to wear (smart) watches during examinations. Watches, smart devices and (switched off) mobile phones must be stowed in a bag.

V. No items are permitted on tables except for drinks bottles.

VI. The candidate may only have the digital test environment open during the exam. He may not make use of things that could be used as aids. This includes, but is not limited to: scratch paper, calculator, (smart) watch and (digital) dictionary. The candidate is also not allowed to wear headphones or earphones.

VII. Upon starting the examination, candidates shall place their valid proof of identity (passport, identity card, residence document or Dutch driving licence) on the table in front of them so it is visible to the invigilator, or to clearly show the valid proof of identity if Proctorexam asks for this.

VIII. After the examination has started, candidates are not permitted to communicate verbally or non-verbally or exchange paper with one another.

IX. Candidates may only start the examination when the invigilator/Proctorexam has given the signal to do so.

X. The maximum allowed time for the answering the questions of 21+ Admission test is 68 minutes, spread out over the 8 sub-tests. Time spent on preparation, mandatory practice questions and breaks are not included in this time frame. In total the candidate has a maximum time of 120 minutes to finish the 21+ Admission test.

XI. If a candidate is suspected of committing an irregularity or fraud during the examination, the invigilator or staff member will note this on an official report and may submit evidence if necessary. The candidate will be given the opportunity to finish the examination.

'Fraud' is understood to mean any act or omission by the candidate that is intended to partially or entirely hinder or render impossible the formation of an accurate assessment of the candidate's and/or his/her fellow candidate's knowledge, understanding and skills.
An 'irregularity' is understood to mean any actions taken by the candidate constituting a deviation from the examination rules. The invigilator or staff member will submit an official report, which will record as a minimum what the invigilator or staff member has observed in order to suggest that an incidence of fraud/irregularity has occurred. The invigilator or staff member will inform the Admissions Committee of the suspected fraud/irregularity and submit the official report. Within fifteen working days of receiving this notification, the Admissions Committee will establish whether fraud has been committed and will give the candidate an opportunity for their view to be heard.

If further investigation is necessary, the Admissions Committee may decide to extend the fifteen working day-deadline and will notify the candidate of this decision in good time; the written notification of this decision will also include possible sanctions that could be imposed.
If fraud or irregularity is not discovered until after the examination has finished, the Admissions Committee may declare the examination result invalid, or determine that the candidate must sit a new examination. The lecturer and/or invigilator will notify the Admissions Committee of the irregularity/suspected fraud in writing.
Once the candidate has been informed of the report that was drawn up, an interview will be held in which he/she is given an opportunity to state his/her side of the story. The Admissions Committee will arrive at its decision and put it in writing. The candidate will then be informed of this decision.
Depending on the severity of the fraud committed, including repeated fraud, the Admissions Committee may impose any of the following sanctions:
a. Declaration of (part of) the examination in question as invalid
b. Exclusion from sitting the examination in question for a maximum of one year
c. Exclusion from a number of examinations, to be determined by the Examination Board, for a maximum of one year
d. A combination of the measures stated above.

If the candidate does not agree with the decision of the Admission Committee, the candidate can appeal to the Examination Appeals Board. This appeal must be submitted to the Legal Protection Desk via e-

mail: loketrechtsbescherming@hhs.nl. The term for submitting an appeal is 6 weeks. The appeal must be motivated and a copy of the decision and any other supporting documents must be enclosed.