

## **Dutch Welcome Course**

When moving to the Netherlands to enter the service of FOM, you are confronted with a new language, a new country and a new people. FOM wants to support you to settle down as soon as possible. We therefore offer this compact and introductory course in the Dutch language and culture.

The course gives a basic grasp of the Dutch language, to get around in everyday life and public situations. Participation is obligatory for everyone entering the service of FOM coming from abroad. If a partner is moving with you to the Netherlands, he or she can also participate by choice.

### **Target group**

The Dutch Welcome course is a compulsory course for all who are coming from abroad during the first months of their tenure. A potential partner can participate voluntarily. Since the course teaches Dutch at a very basic level, you are excused from participating if you have already acquired some competence in the Dutch language elsewhere.

### **Objective**

During this course students learn:

- To pronounce and understand Dutch words and names;
- To introduce themselves in Dutch;
- To get some ease in speaking Dutch in public situations like: asking information, travelling, shopping, making small talk;
- Basic cultural rules for interacting with people in various situations.

### **Method**

Through different teaching methods (class teaching, individual exercises) basic vocabulary and grammar is offered to get started in the Dutch language. The emphasis is on speaking skills and etiquette for everyday situations. English will be spoken during the course if necessary (e.g. for instruction), but whenever possible Dutch will be the language used so there is a lot of opportunity for speaking and understanding Dutch.

Active participation is essential. One will mostly learn by conversing in Dutch with their fellow participants. The program gives ample opportunity to ask questions and bring up topics that puzzle you in our language or culture.

### **Duration**

The course takes up five consecutive days, separated by a weekend. Course activities will be held from 10.00 until 16.15 on each of the five days.

### **Remarks**

This course is provided by an external training agency contracted by FOM and is held at their facilities in Utrecht. No more than fourteen people can take part at any one time. The costs of the course are paid in full from FOM's own central funds. This includes the costs of participation of a potential partner.

If you decide to take a follow-up Dutch language course at the university or institute where you work, the costs are for your own account if the 'FOM fiscal facility' (30% rule) is applied to your income. If the 'FOM fiscal facility' is not applied FOM can reimburse the costs for further language training. Please contact your supervisor or the Central Personnel Department about this.

### **Registration**

The Central Personnel Department will contact all who are coming from abroad, inviting them to take part in this course. It is therefore unnecessary for the PhD supervisor to take any action in this regard.