

ECABO, Centre of Expertise on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market on behalf of the Dutch government, is responsible for the recognition of work placement companies for the sectors: secretarial work, business administration, commercial work, banking and insurance, logistics, ICT, legal work, information service and performing arts.

ECABO

Centre of Expertise on Vocational Education,
Training and the Labour Market
PO Box 1230, 3800 BE Amersfoort
Phone +31 33 450 46 65
www.ecabo.nl



Vocational education and business: it works!



TOMORROWS INTERNATIONALS IN YOUR BUSINESS, TODAY



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Vocational education and business: it works!



Leonore Walsweer (18), work placement at Camelot Property Management in Londen, training for executive secretary: 'It means a lot to me that the boss puts his confidence in me. I wouldn't miss this for the world!'

TOMORROWS INTERNATIONALS IN YOUR BUSINESS, TODAY

How can you reach motivated trainees?

Increasing numbers of students in Dutch secondary vocational education are opting to complete their compulsory work placement abroad. In this way, they acquire international experience, can improve their linguistic skills and learn to extend their own boundaries, in several ways.

Generally speaking, an international work placement of this kind lasts between three and six months, and is undertaken in the latter years of the course.

You too can offer one or more of these highly motivated Dutch students a work placement in your company, if you become registered as an 'international work placement company'.

What is in it for you?

A Dutch trainee can serve as your bridge to the Dutch market. Firstly because he or she speaks the language (and one or more other European languages), but also because of the knowledge and understanding of the Dutch business and industry which the trainee can contribute, making him or her ideal for market research or other forms of survey.

Due to the presence of foreign students, your employees will also develop a greater understanding of the international market. The teaching of languages receives considerable attention in the Netherlands, ensuring that communication should not represent a barrier.

Finally, you will be creating for yourself an excellent opportunity of coming into contact with tomorrow's internationals: young, ambitious people, who wish to make the European or world markets their field of activity.

René de Graaf (21), work placement at a hotel in Turkey: 'I assist with the creation of an it-network for a hotelresort in Alanya. You can learn a lot living within another culture.'

In short, a Dutch trainee can bring to you:

- new ideas, enthusiasm and a fresh approach to your enterprise;
- bridge to the Dutch market;
- greater understanding/experience of the European/international market among your staff;
- improved coaching skills of your staff;
- cultural awareness and intercultural communication in your organisation;
- an extra pair of hands for a certain period of time.

How do you become an international work placement company?

A work placement is a compulsory part of Dutch secondary vocational education and can only be carried out in a company that is accredited according to the Dutch Adult and Vocational Education Act. This accreditation implies a short procedure where the possibilities in your organisation will be evaluated according to a few essential criteria for work based learning.

You can register on the website:

<http://www.stagemarkt.nl/aanmelden>

Or you can send an e-mail asking for registration to bedrijfsbureau@ecabo.nl

How do you find tomorrow's internationals?

Once your company is accredited, it will be included in the ECABO company register. Dutch educational institutions can then consult the register, when looking for work placements abroad. Together, you can come to the perfect match.

For an active search for students you can place a work placement vacancy on our website www.ecabo.nl at Stagevinden.nl. This tool is also available in English.

But ECABO can also assist you in approaching suitable educational institutions, yourself.

Together with the educational institution, you will determine the content and duration of the work placement, on a case by case basis. All stipulations will then be laid down in a written agreement. In this way, foundations are laid for a work placement which offers advantages to both parties.

Stefan Barbaruk, manager Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce (UK):

'Facing a challenge implies effort, will power, courage and strong motivation. All these qualities including skills have been demonstrated by the Dutch students who have worked for us and our companies in the UK.'

For more information about offering work placements to Dutch students we recommend you to look at the website www.workplacement.nl/site/company. Here you can find useful tips for organising the placement, coaching students and getting to know the internationals of tomorrow.

