



Admissions Policy

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1. Introduction

De Nieuwe Internationale School Esprit (DENISE) in Amsterdam offers high quality, widely accessible, modern, international education that raises awareness of the collective responsibility for the world we live in. We provide a broad international curriculum as well as an anchor for life in the Netherlands. DENISE is a school for all students with an international mindset. In every program DENISE offers, we place high value on intercultural competence and personal development. Through intercultural & personal goals, students learn to interact and cooperate with each other, to be respectful and open towards others, to solve problems together and to consider issues from multiple perspectives.

This DENISE admissions policy describes how students gain admission to the different programs available at DENISE.

All students deserve the best education, suited to their needs. However, there are clear entry criteria for all programs. If it turns out that a chosen school is not the best match for a student, DENISE will help find a better option within the school's network.

Dutch language is a mandatory subject at DENISE. Priority is given to students who do not yet speak Dutch. Many students come from places outside the Netherlands and begin to learn Dutch at DENISE. The study program will depend on the age and educational background of the student. In all cases, students must show a minimum academic level equivalent to MAVO in the Dutch education system.

2. The five DENISE programs

DENISE offers five different programs to serve students at their own level and personal choices.

0. The Placement Group

Students between 12 and 18 years old, that speak little or no Dutch, start in an intake class called group 0. In group 0, we collect as much information as possible about the student through interviews with parents and student, conducting tests and observing the student's behaviour and performance in class. After group 0 the student transfers to Mundus College (VMBO-basis/kader) or to one of four DENISE programs for students aged 12 -18 years.

1. The DENISE Primary program - Group 1-8; age 4-12.

The DPP is a bilingual (Dutch-English) program based on the national Dutch Primary Curriculum and the International Primary Curriculum (IPC¹) for Primary education.

2. The DENISE Middle Years program - Group 9, 10, 11; age 12-14.

The DMP a bilingual (Dutch-English) program based on the national Dutch lower Secondary Curriculum and International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC²).

3. The DENISE Career program - Group 15, 16, 17; age 15-18.

The DCP is DENISE's secondary education program for students aged 15 years and older. The aim of this program is to prepare students for a Diploma program, vocational education (MBO) or adult education (VAVO³). This transition is in principle always at the end of the school year, but can also be delayed by one year. The DCP is more focused on Dutch (language) education.

4. The DENISE Diploma program - Group 12, 13, 14; age 15-18

The DDP contains three different curricula to meet the different needs of the student population as well as DENISE's mission and vision statement. In 2015 we started our first Dutch MAVO Diploma program, in cooperation with Mundus College. We hope to copy this cooperation model for a Dutch HAVO Diploma program in 2018 with Marcanti College. Since 2016, we started a cooperation with the Amsterdam International Community School (AICS) where DENISE group 12 students may transfer to the IB Diploma program at AICS until DENISE can offer its own DP1 and DP2 class.

5. The DENISE Language program - Language classes LA, LB, LC; age 12-18

The DLP is for students from 12 years of age and older who have not yet mastered the Dutch language adequately. We distinguish three levels:

LA: Students who have little to no knowledge of Dutch language.

LB: Students who have a basic level of Dutch language.

LC: Students who have a standard level of Dutch language - good enough to start in one of the DENISE Secondary Education (age 12 - 18) programs.

See Figure 1 for an overview of the programs DENISE offers.

¹ www.greatlearning.com/ipc/

² www.greatlearning.com/imyc/

³ www.rocva.nl/Volwassenenonderwijs/Joke-Smit-College-vavo

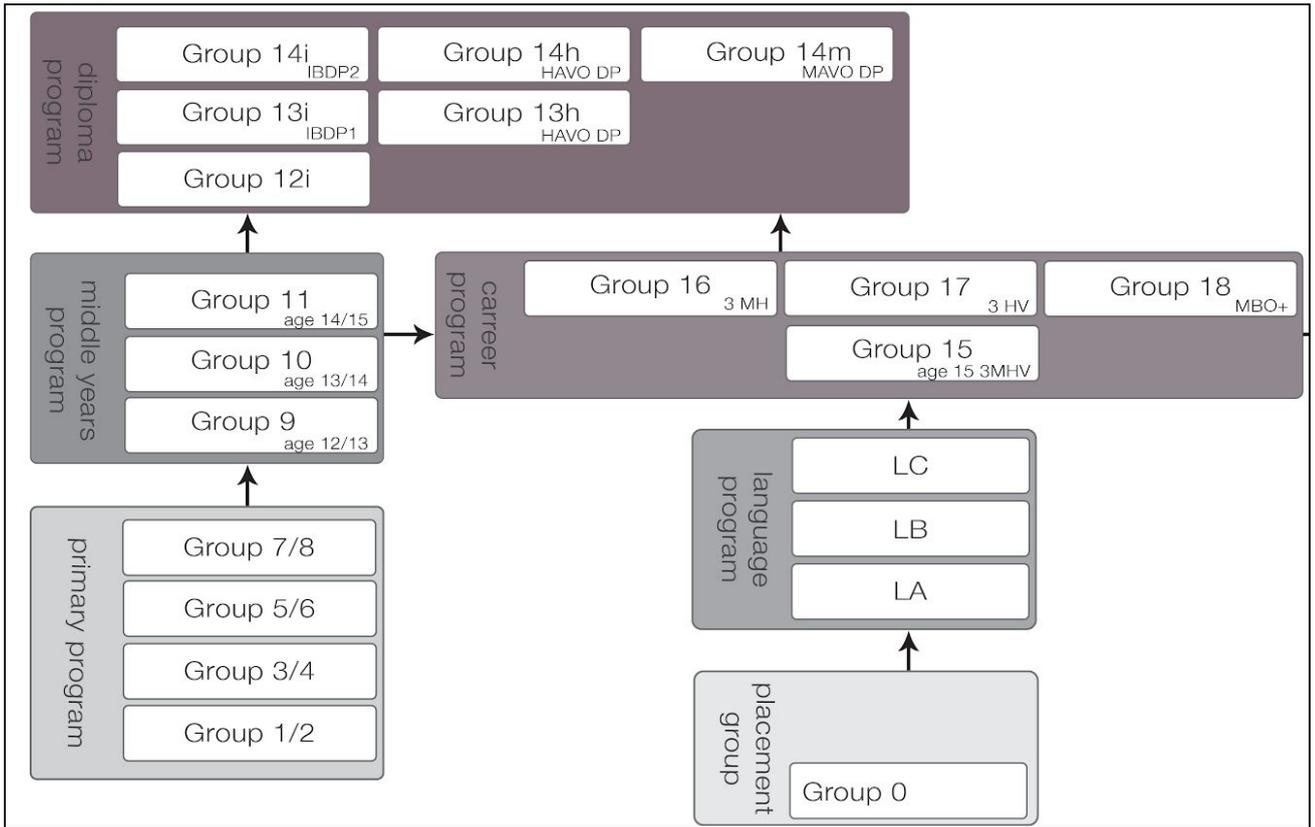
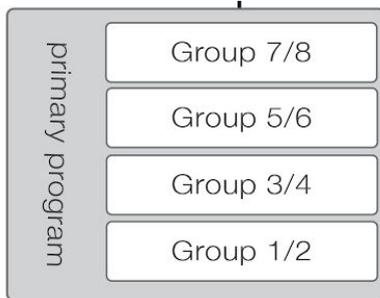


Figure 1: the Placement Group and the Five DENISE Programs

3. Admission to the International Primary Curriculum (IPC)



Students in the age of 4-12 years are welcome at DENISE Primary. For 4-7 year olds the home language is not relevant for admission. Students will be placed in the group and will learn both English and Dutch while playing, learning and interacting with peers. Form 8-12 years we expect students to be sufficient in either English or Dutch.

Students at the age of 4 (group 1) already living in Amsterdam will go through the Amsterdam lottery procedure. For this the location of residence in Amsterdam is not determinative for DENISE, it is although important to put

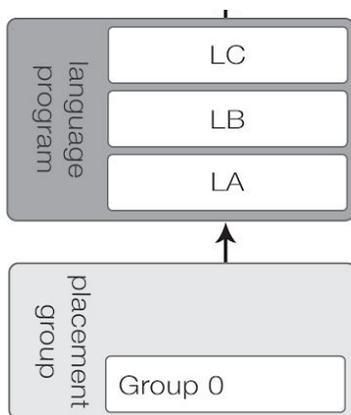
DENISE at the top of the list (number 1 position). The procedure is described [here](#).

For all other groups (2-8) there is a waiting list, students will be placed in order of date of applying but:

- Brothers and sisters have priority;
- extraordinary personal situation can lead to priority;
- DENISE aims for a fair mix of boys and girls and nationalities in the groups.

An intake-interview is always part of admission to the IPC.

4. Admission to the Language program



Background: Students of 12 years and older who do not speak any Dutch or English start in a placement group (Group 0). This group is facilitated in cooperation with the Mundus College and is located at Mundus. After an introductory period a student will be transferred to a language class at Mundus or DENISE. This depends on the level of the student and the aim for further study.

Entry criteria: DENISE uses a FRT (Functional Reasoning Test) to examine the academic skills and potential of the student. For DENISE the required minimum level is MAVO/VMBO-T.

Further study: In language classes students complete a language portfolio and learn Dutch and English to the level required to continue in a regular (bilingual) group. Depending on their aim for further study, age and academic ability, students are placed in the IMYC, Diploma- or Career program.

See page 8 for the assessment of languages.

An intake interview is always part of the admission to the language program.

5. Admission to the Middle Years program (IMYC)

Background: The first year of the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC) starts in group 9. This program was originally designed in English for Shell schools around the world



(<http://www.greatlearning.com/imyc/>). DENISE offers the program bilingually in English and Dutch.

Entry criteria: To enter group 9, coming from a Dutch school, students require a school recommendation at a MAVO/VMBO-T or higher level. These students gain admission via the annual secondary school central

admission procedure in Amsterdam, see [Kernprocedure](#). The minimum level language requirements at DENISE are CEFR A2 in both English and Dutch.

Students coming from outside the Netherlands who lack Dutch language will first have to follow the DENISE Language Program. To enter Group 10 or 11 the level of both Dutch and English has to be sufficient and school references must support the minimum academic level requirement.

Students new to the Netherlands or living here for less than two years, are advised to first make an appointment with school management.

Further study: After three years the student has the possibility to continue at a DENISE Diploma programs. Students can choose between Dutch MAVO or HAVO or the International Baccalaureate (IB) in English with Dutch as mandatory second language.

See page 8 for the assessment of languages.

An intake interview is always part of the admission to the IMYC.

6. Admission to the Career program



Background: The DENISE Career Program is in Dutch and prepares students directly for a Diploma Program, Vocational/professional education (MBO) or adult education (VAVO). The program is individually based on the needs of the students with a minimum required level of MAVO/VMBO-T.

Entry criteria: For this program students must:

- be motivated to finish the program in a maximum of 2 years
- be aged 15 years or older
- have attained a level of B1 in Dutch
- have attained a level of B1 in English

See page 8 for the assessment of the languages.

An intake interview is always part of the admission to the career program.

Besluit definitieve plaatsing Examen voor Groep 16 leerling

De doorstroom naar de examenklas groep 14 wordt bepaald direct na 2e SE week (in januari 2019) op basis van cijfers, werkhouding en aanwezigheid. Alle 3 moeten in orde zijn. Als dit in orde is vindt er een directe overgang naar groep 14 plaats voor periode 3 en 4 en de examenvorbereiding.

Cijfers

- Je mag niet meer dan 1 tekortpunt in totaal hebben, en geen 4 of lager als je **niet** kunt compenseren (een 7 of hoger op minimaal een vak).
- Je mag niet meer dan 2 tekortpunten in totaal hebben en geen 4 of lager als je **wel** kunt compenseren (een 7 of hoger op minimaal een vak).
- Nederlands en Engels moeten minimaal een 5,5 zijn.
- CKV moet afgesloten zijn met minimaal een voldoende.
- Maatschappijleer: moet afgesloten zijn.

Werkhouding

Je hebt in periode 1 en 2 aangetoond dat je instaat bent verantwoordelijkheid te kunnen dragen voor het op tijd inleveren van werk en de planning. In de klas doe je actief mee en draag je bij aan een positieve werksfeer.

Aanwezigheid

Er mogen GEEN ongeoorloofde absenties in Magister staan. Elke absentie moet verantwoord zijn en legitiem.

7. Admission to the Diploma program



Admission to the Diploma program is based on a report card. The student receives a report card in December, March and July. This report card charts the student's academic and personal development so far. The report card is used for personal development and reflection during mentor lessons, in subject lessons with subject teachers and during 10-minute parent-teacher meetings. In these meetings, students can talk about their achievements, aims they still need to work on, their ideas about further education.

The five levels of capacity

In the report card, learning objectives and corresponding learning goals are formulated for each subject. At several moments, teachers assess student performance based on effort and assignments. Examples of assignments are tests, papers, performances and presentations. In the IPC, IMYC, Language and Diploma Programs, every December, March and June, teachers determine students levels using a 5-point scale. In Table 1, you can see what these numbers indicate.

Table 1. DENISE levels

Level	Explanation
1	You took a first step in learning.
2	You are making steps to reach the minimum standard at DENISE.
3	You have the perspective to be admitted to a MAVO Diploma Program (minimum standard at DENISE).
4	You have the perspective to be admitted to a HAVO Diploma Program.
5	You have the perspective to be admitted to VWO Diploma Program or International Diploma Program.

Reference level Dutch Language

The level of the Dutch Language is graded with a reference level (referentieniveau). This level indicates what a student needs to know, can do and whether to continue to a diploma program mavo, havo or vwo/IB. Within each of the four skills: writing, reading, listening and speaking, there are four levels. Each level is indicated with the letter 'F'. Table 2 is an outline of the 'F-levels'.

Table 2. Reference level

Level	When reached?
1F	end of Primary Education
2F	end of VMBO-T/MAVO
3F	end of HAVO / MBO4
4F	end of VWO

In Dutch lessons, students are assessed by skill. If a student scores 80% or more on a task, he/she is deemed to have reached the standards required. If the student scored below 80%, this indicates that more work is required. See Table 3.

Table 3. Explanation reference level.

Notation on the report card	Explanation
<1F	On your way to 1F.
1F	Level 1F on this assessment is reached.
<2F	On your way to 2F.
2F	Level 2F on this assessment is reached.
<3F	On your way to 3F.
3F	Level 3F on this assessment is reached.

If a student would like to continue to a MAVO diploma program, students require a minimum level of 1F on all skills. For the diploma program HAVO and VWO, students require a minimum level of 2F on all skills.

Assessment Languages

Some teachers use CEFR-levels besides the five levels. CEFR is the abbreviation for Common European Framework of Reference. In Dutch: het Europees Referentiekader (ERK). The CEFR-level is important because it describes the evidence needed to demonstrate a certain level based on a learning objective. There are six levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. DENISE uses TOA-tests and a Language Portfolio to assess the level of reading, speaking, writing and listening. In their report card students find which CEFR-level reflects the results on the TOA-test. A rating of at least 80% indicates that the next level is attainable. In the following table you will find the minimum level per group. The program in LA focuses on achieving level A1, in LB on level A2 and so on. Achieving the ERK level is not in all cases a condition to start in a new group. Your teachers will decide which group you will start and when. See Table 4.

Table 4: minimum CEFR levels per group

Group	Minimum level
LA	level 0 to A1
LB	level A1 to A2
LC	level A2 to B1
Group 9 and 10	level A2 for all language skills (minimum)
Group 11, 15, 16 and 17	level B1 for all language skills (minimum)

See for more information *DENISE's language policy document*.

Admission to the MAVO - diploma program (group 14m)

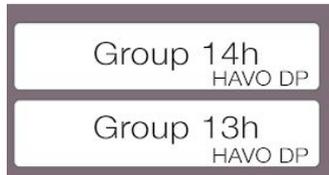


The DENISE MAVO Diploma Program offers the option to obtain a VMBO-T diploma. For this program students must:

- be motivated to finish the program in a maximum of 1 year
- have reached the age of 15
- obtain a recommendation for MAVO diploma program (level 3 on DENISE report card group 11/15/16 in June) or have completed MAVO 3 at another school.
- obtain level 1F/B1 in Dutch
- obtain level A2 in English
- have completed School Exams for CKV and Maatschappijleer in group 11/15/16

An intake interview is always part of admission process.

Admission to HAVO - diploma program (group 13h en 14h)



The DENISE HAVO Diploma Program offers the option to obtain a HAVO diploma. For this program students must:

- be motivated to finish the program in a maximum of 2 years
- have reached the age of 15
- obtain a recommendation for HAVO diploma level (level 4 on DENISE report card group 11/15/16 in June) or have completed HAVO 3 at another school.
- obtain level 2F/B2 in Dutch
- obtain level B1 in English

An intake interview is always part of admission process.

Admission to the International Baccalaureate program (group 12i, 13i, 14i)

To enter the IB Diploma program a student needs to meet one of the following criteria:

1. Has possession of a non-Dutch passport, parents staying in the Netherlands for professional reasons **or**
2. Stayed and followed secondary education outside The NL prior to entering DENISE **or**
3. Have parents who will leave the NL in the next 2 years for professional reasons **or**
4. Have successfully finished HAVO Diploma or 4 VWO (in possession of proof of transition to 5 VWO or level 5 on DENISE report card group 11/15/16 in June).

Admission to Group 12i (International transition group)

Group 12i

Internal: to be admitted to group 12i a student needs to have:

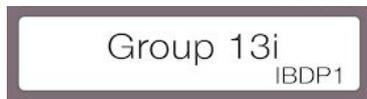
- obtained a recommendation for IB diploma program (level 5 on DENISE report card group 11/15/16 in June). To determine his/her academic level the DP coordinator will use teacher assessments during student report card meetings.
- English language proficiency at level B2
- Dutch language proficiency at level A2
- She/he needs to have a competent study attitude.
- The student has to make an IB learner profile portfolio which is discussed during an interview with the DP coordinator. The IB learner profile interview gives insight into a student's study attitude and approach to life in general.

External:

- A report from the previous school is needed (preferably to start a 5-VWO level)
- We want to have the school's contact information.
- Dutch needs to be at A2 level (determined by a TOA-test in case of doubt).
- The student also has to make an English and mathematics test
- The student has also to prepare an IB Learner Profile portfolio. The IB Learner Profile portfolio is discussed with the DP-coordinator during an interview.

An intake interview (internal/external) is always part of the admission process. If after this procedure the DP coordinator thinks that the DP is the right fit, the student can join group 12i.

Admission to DP1 (group 13i)



External students will start their IB preparation in group 12. In exceptional cases, based on the same intake procedure as group 12, external students will be allowed to start in DP1 directly. An intake interview is always part of the admission process.

Internal students need a promotional report card in June with:

- the right attitude in terms of the IB learner profile and study attitude (determined by both mentors and subject teachers)
- no grade 1
- no more than one grade 2
- no more than two grade 3's
- Group Project and Personal Project completed
- A DP subject at standard level (SL) can only be taken if the final grade in group 12 for this subject is a 4 or higher.
- A DP subject at higher level (HL) can only be taken if the final grade in group 12 for this subject is a 5 or higher.
- In order to take mathematics studies the only requirement is a promotional report.
- In order to take mathematics SL a student needs a 6 or higher.
- For Language & Literature HL and SL (English and Dutch) level B2 is needed.
- For Language Acquisition SL (English and Dutch) the student needs to have at least an A2 level, since we oblige our students to take Dutch as one of their subjects.
- For Language Acquisition HL (English and Dutch) the student needs to have at least a B1 level

Admission to DP2 (group 14i)



The student needs a promotional report with:

- at least 24 points for internal assessments
- a passing grade for the TOK presentation
- for the CAS and the Extended Essay students must have met the necessary deadlines.

DENISE does not accept new students in DP2 because several internal assessments have already been completed in DP1.