



Newsletter IND Office for Labour and Highly Skilled Migrants

January 2009

**Immigration and Naturalisation Service
Directorate for Economic Migration**

This newsletter contains further information on the implementation of the Highly Skilled Migrants policy and the procedure within the IND Office for Labour and Highly Skilled Migrants.

As of January 2009, the IND Office for Labour and Highly Skilled Migrants Newsletter will not only appear in Dutch but also in English.



2008 Figures

In 2008, the IND Office for Labour and Highly Skilled Migrants received 6,838 applications for a provisional residence permit (mvv) and 7,192 applications for a regular residence permit (vvr) within the context of the Admissions Scheme for Highly Skilled Migrants. 6,543 applications for a provisional residence permit were granted. In addition, 6,645 residence permits were granted for the 'stay as a highly skilled migrant' purpose of stay. Finally, 1,511 applications for residence permits were received containing the request to change the current purpose of stay into the 'stay as a highly skilled migrant' purpose of stay. For 1,265 of these applicants, the purpose of stay was indeed changed into a 'stay as a highly skilled migrant'. The above results are represented in the table below:

applications	submitted	granted
mvv	6.838	6.543
vvr	7.192	6.645
vvr change purpose of stay	1.511	1.265

Compared with 2007, the number of mvv and vvr applications increased by 22% and 34% respectively. Applications to change the purpose of stay into 'stay as a highly skilled migrant' have increased by 6%.

New income requirement

The income requirement that applies to highly skilled migrants will be reviewed annually as of 1 January, on the basis of the most recent index

figure for negotiated salaries, as published by Statistics Netherlands (CBS). The following income requirements apply as of 1 January 2009:

- highly skilled migrants younger than 30 € 35,997
- highly skilled migrants aged 30 and over € 49,087
- persons who have obtained a diploma in the Netherlands € 25,800.

If the application for a provisional residence permit has been submitted before 1 January 2009, the income requirement of 2008 will still apply to applications for a residence permit submitted after 1 January 2009.

Admissions Scheme for Highly Educated Persons

An Admissions Scheme for Highly Educated Persons has become effective as of 1 January 2009. Pursuant to this scheme, foreign nationals who have attended an institute of higher education and who have attained at least a Master's degree can obtain a residence permit with a maximum term of 1 year (orientation year) in the Netherlands in order to find a job as a highly skilled migrant or to start an innovative company. The highly-educated persons can make use of this scheme for up to three years after their graduation. This scheme will ensure that foreign exceptional talents will be admitted to the Netherlands more easily, and in doing so anticipates the implementation of the Modern Migration Policy. More information can be found at www.ind.nl

Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst

Meetings

The IND organises information meetings for companies that have little or no experience with applications for highly skilled migrants. The December 2008 newsletter mentions the dates of the information meetings in February and March 2009.

Please Note! The dates and/or times have changed. The new and final dates are:

- **Thursday 12 February from 10 am to 12 am**
- **Tuesday 10 March from 1 pm to 3 pm**

During these meetings, it will be discussed what steps must be followed in order to obtain a residence permit as a highly skilled migrant. There will, of course, be ample opportunity to ask questions.

The IND has recently also started organising workshops for companies that already have experience with applications for highly skilled migrants. The next meetings will take place on:

- **Tuesday 27 January from 1.30 pm to 5 pm**
- **Wednesday 25 February from 1.30 pm to 5 pm**
- **Wednesday 25 March from 1.30 pm to 5 pm**

During these meetings, the subjects proposed by you will be further explored and we will be curious to find out about your experiences with the Admissions Scheme for Highly Skilled Migrants.

If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, please send an email to arbeid@ind.minjus.nl stating “highly skilled migrants meeting [insert date]” in the subject field. Please indicate in this email whether you wish to attend the information meeting or the workshop. Please also state your organisation's name and number and the names of the participants. Therefore please also state the names of any colleagues that may accompany you. You will receive an invitation as soon as possible.

Economic client in separate IND client directorate

The IND organisation

Your applications will be handled by the IND Office for Labour and Highly Skilled Migrants. This department used to fall under the IND's process directorate 'Managed Migration'. This process directorate for Managed Migration was 'split' into two separate client directorates as of 1 January 2009: the Directorate for Social Migration and the Directorate for Economic Migration. The Directorate for Social Migration will mainly handle applications for family reunification and other purposes of stay arising from social considerations and humanitarian conventions. The Directorate for Economic Migration will process applications for all study and labour-related purposes of stay and their family members. Highly skilled migrants will therefore also come under this new client directorate.

Background

The IND uses this 'split' to shape the Modern Migration Policy. The basic principle is that the main focus is on the client. That is why the term 'client directorate' was chosen. It has now been decided to bring all foreign nationals in respect of whom a so-called encouragement policy applies together in the Directorate for Economic Migration. This concerns foreign students, scientists and employees. By focussing on these groups we can guarantee you, as our client, a quick processing of your application, provide you with sound information and quickly resolve practical problems. In short, a single client directorate is more efficient when it comes to providing quality service and custom solutions.

What does this mean for you as an employer?

Nothing for the time being. Applications can still be sent to the same post-box address or submitted to the same IND office. You can still call the same number and send any questions you may have to arbeid@ind.minjus.nl. We do intend to process your applications more quickly and efficiently in 2009. In addition, we will increasingly often provide custom

solutions. Examples include the Expatcenter in Amsterdam and the joint Centre for Work and Income (CWI)/IND website. The existing channels of communication will be used to inform you of new initiatives.

Collection of fees by CJIB

As of 16 January 2009 the Central Fine Collection Agency (CJIB) collects the fees you or your employee pay by giro form. The fees were previously collected by KPMG. Henceforth you or your employee will therefore receive the giro form from the CJIB. You are kindly requested to inform your employees about this change.

Cancellation of decision on vvr after mvv

The IND intends to cancel the decision on the vvr after mvv with respect to highly skilled migrants. It will be replaced by a letter provided with an English summary. It will contain the essence of the decision, namely that the application has been granted, the term for which the permit is granted and the text: “The residence permit is granted for the purpose of stay of ‘stay as highly skilled migrant’. Any other work is not allowed.” This letter will have the same legal status as the decision.

We are curious to learn your response to this intention. If you wish to discuss this response with us personally, you may do so at the workshop held on **Tuesday 27 January at 1.30 pm** in which this intention has been put on the agenda. The registration method can be found under 'Meetings'.

Cancellation of the newsletter

Following dispatch of the newsletter, the IND regularly receives emails from contacts at companies requesting us to stop sending the newsletter. The most important reasons are that the relevant person no longer acts as contact or that the company no longer wishes to engage the services of highly skilled migrants. In such cases we request you to notify us in writing that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter. You can also register a new contact, if applicable. However, we cannot stop sending you the newsletter if you are a contact. Contacts, registered by a company, automatically receive the newsletter.