

English summary

The Taal- en Schakel cursus (TSC; Language and Transition Course) is a preparatory year for foreign students who wish to follow a program at HBO level at the Hogeschool INHolland in Amsterdam, Diemen, Haarlem or Alkmaar. HBO stands for Hoger Beroeps Onderwijs (University for Professional Education). The TSC offers a full-time programme in which Dutch is one of the major subjects. In addition, students are taught various skills that are essential for higher education, e.g. project work and ICT-skills.

Three components

The TSC educational program consists of three components: language training, study skills and specific compulsory subjects (different for each discipline e.g. Mathematics, English, Economics, Chemistry).

The TSC starts in the summer at a basic level, see below for other levels and starting dates. On successful completion you are well-equipped to study at HBO level and have the necessary competence to understand lectures, textbooks and examinations. Although the Dutch language can still be a challenge, most students who complete the preparatory year obtain their HBO qualification.

Levels of competence in Dutch

We distinguish 5 levels of competence in Dutch, following the Common European Framework of Reference; depending on your level you can start the TSC at different moments during the year:

Level 0 & A1 (beginner), course starting in July

Level A2 (beginner-plus), course starting in September

Level B1 (semi-advanced), course starting in November

Level B2 (near-advanced), course starting in February

Level C1 (advanced), now you're able to successfully participate in the HBO.

You can also enter HBO by passing a national examination: Staatsexamen NT2-II. The level of this exam is B2. However, statistics show that students with the TSC-certificate are far more successful in their HBO-studies than those who entered with the National Exam only.

For detailed information (in Dutch) see: www.inholland.nl/tsc