

To the heads and career advisors of the  
international schools in the Netherlands

Oegstgeest, September 2013.

The successful heads' meeting of the 10th of October 2012 has led the Board of the Foundation for International Education (Stichting Internationaal Onderwijs, SIO) to consider the possibilities for a sequel.

The following topic is on the agenda of the Board and struck the eye as a first: the question to what extent internationale schools for secondary education can provide so called *suitable/ effective/ appropriate*, education.

Just like the regular Dutch secondary education, international secondary education in the Netherlands has pupils that are not able to achieve the highest end level.

As far as the International Baccalaureat is concerned this is the Diplome Programma (DP). A reasonable number of pupils does finish the Middel Years Programme (MYP), but does not come round to the DP. The same applies to the pupils with an International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE): not all of the pupils manage to move on to their A-levels. Similar kind of problems occur with other international curricula.

Compared to the situation in regular Dutch secondary education, with a relatively high percentage of pupils in lower vocational education (v.m.b.o.) that finish on a lower level than VMBO-tl, drop outs in international secondary education are limited. Very often this is the result of favourable home situations and very attentive school .... of these pupils. However, on average the percentage of pupils that do finish MYP, but not DP is estimated to be around 10%. If we include private international secondary education we would come to a total of 6 to 7,000 pupils in secondary education of which 6 to 700 depend on a different kind of secondary education.

In the beginning of 2013 the Board of SIO contacted IVS Alliance, a collaboration of 11 Regional Education Centres (ROC's) that offer a curriculum International Business Studies in English conform the criteria of the British BTEC. The training is of a same level as MBO-4 and opens the door to (international) continuation of schooling at HBO level.

The ROC's connected to IVS Alliance are quite well spread over the Netherlands, with a slight concentration in the west and middle of the country. Both the MYP and the IGCSE A\*, A, B or C grades, in principal, give access to the BTEC-training. In this way suitable continuation schooling could be provided for a relatively large group of international pupils depending on that kind of education.

It should be mentioned that for the last few years the Dutch language has been made compulsory as part of the exam of English studies at ROC's.

However, there are several initiatives at the moment to get exemption for examinees of international schools.

SIO and IVS Alliance have taken up the plan to give heads and career advisors of both school types to chance to get acquainted with each others approach at a mutual informative meeting and to create bridges which will enhance the chances of succeeding for the above mentioned pupils.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Stichting Internationaal Onderwijs

Hans 's-Gravesande  
(secretariat)

Reply form

(Name and emailaddress) .....  
of the  
(Name school) .....

would like to receive more information about the coming SIO heads' meeting in  
Vergadercentrum Vredenburg in Utrecht, on wednesday afternoon the 27th of November  
2013 and, in principle, signs on for the above mentioned meeting.

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(date and signature)