



UTRECHTS
STEDELIJK
GYMNASIUM

SCHOOLPROFILE UTRECHTS STEDELIJK GYMNASIUM

(UTRECHT CITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL)

DUTCH SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Children in the Netherlands begin primary school at the age of four. They stay at primary school until they are approximately twelve years old. All schools are open to all children; no examinations or selection procedures take place. However, denominational schools expect parents and children to endorse the principles of the school.

When children are in their final year they take a test. The child's Maths, Dutch and global knowledge is tested. Partially based on the results of these tests, the primary school gives an advice as to the type of secondary education they should pursue. Children who want to go to a VWO (grammar school) are required to score the highest levels. Only 10% of the children qualify for VWO.

All courses taken at a VWO school are at the highest level possible, comparable to A-level in England or AP courses in the United States.

Dutch VWO pupils go to school 25 hours a week and 40 weeks a year. They are also expected to spend 15 hours a week on their homework. The VWO curriculum prepares pupils for university, only the VWO diploma grants access to universities.

All pupils who graduate from secondary school receive a graduation list with subjects they have graduated in and the grades they have obtained for these subjects. This list is an important factor in the admission process of Dutch universities.

CE examinations make up half of the final grade in secondary education. The level of these examinations is government controlled, which makes it possible to compare the results of pupils from different schools and to determine the educational level of schools.

UTRECHTS STEDELIJK GYMNASIUM (USG)

Utrechts Stedelijk Gymnasium (Utrecht City Grammar School) is one of the oldest grammar schools in the Netherlands. The school was founded in the year 1474. Our school is located in the centre of Utrecht (400.00 inhabitants, centre of The Netherlands, medieval city) .

The number of pupils is around 700. Some 50 percent of our pupils are from surrounding or nearby towns. Because we are a public school, pupils with all possible religious backgrounds attend our school.

The USG is one of the most prestigious public VWO schools in the Netherlands. Appr. 90% of our students continue their studies at universities in the Netherlands or abroad. This is 70-80% at most other grammar schools. Our students can easily compete with the top students at universities.

Cambridge English:

Our school is the only school in The Netherlands where we teach all students Cambridge English: speaking, reading, writing and listening are brought to the level of Cambridge Proficiency in the 5th form. Students can take Cambridge Exams (Advanced or Proficiency and most do so with good or excellent results).



We offer courses in a wide range of academic subjects. We force our students to take more courses compared to other grammar schools. Next to the extra courses, we stimulate students to participate in extra-curricular activities, for example

- to take extra courses in foreign languages such as Spanish, Chinese or Italian.
- to participate in exchange programmes with Germany, Italy or the Czech Republic.
- to participate in community service.
- to participate in school life. We have flourishing committees for music, theatre, debating, sports, arts and the school paper.
- to participate in having a say in school decisions at all levels: appointments of new teachers or headmaster/deputy headmaster, quality of education etc.
- to participate in national competitions. Various pupils have received awards for this.



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