

Dutch grading system and grading culture

When studying at European institutions, one will immediately notice the difference in grading scales but also different ways of using them in different subject areas. There are many different grading systems, such as (from lowest to highest grade) 1 to 5, 1 to 10, 1 to 20, 1 to 100, 5 to 1, F to A. In the Netherlands, a ten-point system is often used in both secondary and higher education. A grade of 10 is the highest and 6 is the minimum pass grade. The grade 5.5 (up until 5.9) will often be rounded up to 6. At the Amsterdam University of the Arts (AHK), different grading systems are applied depending on the subject area, such as music, theatre, dance or architecture. This could be a ten-point system, a system with letters or a description; a four-point system is applied, for example, in architecture.

The grading system of the Bachelor for Fine Arts in Education, Breitner Academy

The bachelor for fine arts in education of the Breitner Academy applies a ten-point grading system ranging from 1(fail) to 10 (excellent). Grade 10 or 9 are rarely awarded. The Academy applies a so-called 'absolute system': the grade reflects the individual score of the student and, unlike the US system, the grade is not given in relation to the level of the entire group in the same course. An average grade 8 encompasses grades between 7.5 and 8.4; the grades are, therefore, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

Grades less than 5.5 are not taken into account in this grade distribution table.

Grade distribution table bachelor, Breitner Academy

Grade	Definition	Frequency %	Percentage range (accumulated frequency)
10	Excellent	0.0%	0.0%
9	Very good	8.6%	0.0 – 8.6%
8	Good	25.8%	8.7 – 34.4%
7	More than sufficient	37.1%	34.5 – 71.5%
6	Sufficient	28.5%	71.6 – 100%
Total		100%	

The distribution table shows the grades of the third year's students from the four-year Bachelor's programme (2013-2014). Level EQF and NLQF: 6

P = Passed*

The Dutch educational credit system is 60 ECTS per year. An academic year consists of two semesters of 30 ECTS.

*If pass requirements have been laid down for a particular examination, test or proficiency assessment, the requirement shall be met when the student achieves a grade of higher than 5.5 or the assessment "Passed".

For more information about the grading system in the Netherlands, please visit this link to Study in Holland website of the Dutch expertise center for internationalization (EP-Nuffic):

<https://www.studyinholland.nl/education-system/dutch-grading-system>