



## 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 Modern Theatre Dance programme at de Theaterschool

*The Modern Theatre Dance (MTD) study programme applies a grading system from 5.5 (Doubt) to 10 (Excellent). The learning process is never deemed to be finished for MTD students. Therefore, a grade 10 (Excellent) is rarely given. A so-called 'absolute system' is applicable for MTD: 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.*

*A grade of 5.5 or less (Doubt) is rarely given, because exchange students have to pass a pre-selection phase before being admitted to the course. Due to the limited exchange spaces, MTD only selects the candidates with the highest potential. Exchange students are only allowed to take courses from the third year MTD curriculum.*

## Grade distribution table MTD

	Modern Theatre Dance grades and description	Grade	Frequency	Percentage range (accumulated frequency)
E	excellent	10	8.4%	0.0 – 8.4%
VG	very good	9	19.3%	8.5 – 27.7%
G/VG	good to very good	8.5	4.9 %	27.8 – 32.6%
G	good	8	26.4%	32.7 – 59.0%
Sat/G	satisfactory to good	7.5	7.7%	59.1 – 66.7%
Sat	satisfactory	7	16.1%	66.8 – 82.8%
Suf+	more than sufficient	6.5	7.6%	82.9 – 90.4%
Suf	sufficient	6	9.6%	90.5 – 100%
Doubt	(minimum for 'passed')	5.5	0%	100%
Total			100%	

The distribution table shows the grades of the third year's students from the four-year MTD Bachelor's programme (2012-2015). Level EQF and NLQF: 6

P = Passed\*

NE = no Evaluation

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 higher than 5.5 or is assessed to have 'Passed'.

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

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