

DUTCH NATIONALITY CERTIFICATE
(Verklaring omtrent bezit van het Nederlanderschap/Verklaring Nederlandse nationaliteit/Bewijs van Nederlanderschap)

Are you (cumulatively):

1. a **DUAL** Dutch national?; AND
2. are age 18 or over?; AND
3. have been living continuously outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands (*i.e.*, the European Netherlands (and Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba) + Aruba + Curaçao + Sint Maarten)?; AND
4. are unable to travel to a Netherlands embassy or Consulate General (or to an authorized service provider abroad mandated by the Dutch government, such as VFS Global) in order to “renew” your Dutch nationality?

You may apply for a Dutch nationality certificate (*Bewijs omtrent het bezit van het Nederlanderschap; Verklaring Nederlandse nationaliteit; Bewijs van Nederlanderschap*) by post (and now via upload online)!

The Certificate contains no biometric data (fingerprints). Therefore, it is not a travel document.

Only Dutch passports and national identity cards (*nationale identiteitskaart* or “NIK”) contain biometric data. These two (2) documents must be applied for in person by European Union directive and the *Paspoortwet*. New biometric data is taken at each subsequent passport or NIK renewal.

FYI: This EU directive requires that all member state passports and identity cards may only be applied for in person (so German, French, Spanish, Italian, Maltese and all the other EU member state nationals also must apply for their respective passport or identity card in person only).

Required documents for the Certificate (all links are the official Dutch government weblinks)

To find out which documents you will need to submit for your country of residence, click here:

<https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/wonen-werken/verklaringen-regelen/verklaring-van-nederlanderschap>

To find out which language further information is available in your country of residence, click here:

<https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/help/in-welke-taal-communiceert-welk-land>

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Applying for the Certificate while in the Netherlands on vacation or business

You may also apply for the Certificate (or a Dutch passport or national identity card) at Schiphol Airport or at one (1) of eleven (11) border municipalities in the Netherlands.

- Bergeijk
- Bergen op Zoom
- Breda
- Den Haag
- Echt-Susteren
- Enschede
- Maastricht
- Montferland
- Oldambt
- Sluis
- Venlo

▪ **Applying at Schiphol Airport**

To find out more information on applying for the Certificate at Schiphol Airport (under the jurisdiction of the town of Haarlemmermeer) or Dutch passport or NIK), click here:

<https://haarlemmermeergemeente.nl/taak/gemeentebalie-schiphol>

For the Schiphol Airport appointment booking page, click here:

<https://haarlemmermeergemeente.nl/taak/reisdocument-voor-nederlanders-het-buitenland>

Note: As of 2 December 2020, the Schiphol Airport desk is not accepting appointments for Certificates. It is, however, accepting appointments for Dutch passport or NIK applications. Review the official information provided in the links.

For a Certificate, you must apply at the Raadhuis or in Nieuw-Vennep or Halfweg.

▪ **Applying in Den Haag or a designated border municipality (*grensgemeente*)**

To find out more information on applying for the Certificate in Den Haag or at a border municipality, click here:

<https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/wonen-werken/paspoort-en-id-kaart/paspoort-of-id-kaart-aanvragen-bij-een-grensgemeente-in-nederland>

Fees

Fees for the Certificate are slightly lower if you apply in the Netherlands than at a Netherlands embassy or Consulate General abroad.

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For 2020, the fee is: EUR 30.00 at the embassy or consulate general. Fees are readjusted each year by the Dutch government.

The Dutch nationality certificate is not a safeguard against losing Dutch nationality

The same rule applies as for a Dutch passport or NIK: the Dutch nationality certificate attests you had Dutch nationality **on the date of issue only**.

The Certificate is **not** a safeguard that you have retained Dutch nationality **after** the Certificate has been issued **AND** you naturalize as an adult age 18 or over to a foreign nationality **AND** you do not fall under an exception in which you may retain your Dutch nationality (**in effect since 1 April 2003 only**):

- 1) you were born in a country whose nationality you did not acquire at birth. At age 18 or over, you naturalize to that nationality. In this case, it is required you are still residing in that country when naturalizing; or
- 2) you lived for at least five (5) uninterrupted years as a minor under age 18 in the country whose nationality you acquire at age 18 or over. In this case, you are not required still to be living in that country when that nationality is acquired; or
- 3) you are married to or in a registered civil partnership with a national of that country. During the marriage or registered civil partnership you naturalize to that nationality (**note**: you must still be married or in the registered civil partnership on the day the foreign nationality is acquired; your spouse or registered civil partner has not passed away or you have not divorced or disbanded the registered civil partnership **before** you acquire his/her nationality).

What about children under age 18?

Dual Dutch national minor-aged children do **not** need to be issued with a Certificate. The general rule is that as long as you do not lose your Dutch nationality, your child under age 18 will not lose Dutch nationality either (valid Dutch passport, NIK or Certificate or not).

If you “renew” your Dutch nationality on a timely basis as a dual Dutch nationality residing continuously **outside** the Kingdom of the Netherlands or any other EU member state, your dual national minor-age child will not lose his/her Dutch nationality.

How long is the Certificate valid?

The validity (“geldigheidsduur”) of a Dutch nationality certificate is not stipulated by law (unlike a Dutch passport or NIK, which from 9 March 2014 is ten (10) years from date of issue for an adult age 18 or over).

Any Dutch authority or private institution (such as a bank in the Netherlands or the *Belastingdienst*) may request a more recently-issued Certificate from you.

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For Dutch nationality retention purposes, the Certificate is valid for ten (10) years from date of issue (*provided* you have not lost your Dutch nationality in the interim. See above point where you will not lose your Dutch nationality when naturalizing to a foreign nationality).

*** On the document issuance date, a new 10-year period begins to run for as long as you continue to reside outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands or any other EU member state. ***

Concluding remarks

You do not need to be issued all three (3) documents (passport; NIK; and Certificate) in order to retain your Dutch nationality. One valid document within each 10-year period is sufficient.

To retain your Dutch nationality as a dual Dutch national residing outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands or any other EU member state, you must be issued with (not just have applied for!) the Certificate (or Dutch passport or NIK) before 10 years has elapsed since your last document was issued.

Application submittal is not sufficient.

The document must indeed have been issued **before** 10 years has elapsed. You miss the 10-year mark by even one day, you will lose your Dutch nationality.

You will not lose your Dutch nationality for failure to be issued with a Certificate, Dutch passport or NIK on a timely basis if you are residing continuously in the Netherlands or any other EU member state.

Residence in any other EU member state equates to residence in the Netherlands itself under EU treaties.