

International Military Student (IMS) Training Opportunities in the United States

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What training courses are available?

The International Training Program offers training to foreign countries through Department of Defense (DoD) schools and DoD-contracted facilities. Training includes formal, informal, correspondence or other form of distance learning, and computer-aided instruction in the United States (U.S.) or overseas. Eligible foreign Governments or international organizations may purchase training through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

Training is an integral part of a successful weapon system program. The time required to conduct training must be considered when estimating delivery dates of equipment. Training programs must consider the availability of personnel, skills to be developed, and the time required to plan, implement, and complete the program.

How is the training funded?

Netherlands pays for Military Training utilizing Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases.

Who can be trained under an FMS case?

Military from the host country's defense establishment may receive FMS training. International civilian personnel may also receive FMS training if they are MOD employees of eligible purchasers.

What requirements are there to attend U.S. DoD training?

All Students traveling to the U.S. for training must be complete a medical examination, meet English proficiency requirements and be clear of any Human Rights Violations. Once these requirements have been validated, the student will be issued an Invitational Travel Order (ITO) and may be required to obtain a Visa if the training exceeds ninety days in the U.S.

- **Medical Screening:** The Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) must receive a signed statement from a competent medical (including dental) authority stating that the international student has received a thorough physical examination within the three preceding months (including a chest X-ray and a screening for serologic evidence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)) and that the student is free of communicable diseases. The foreign Government or a U.S. in-country authority must certify that the student is medically fit for military training and free of communicable diseases before leaving their country and prior to the ODC issuing the ITO.
- **English Language:** ODCs must screen students for the minimum English Comprehension Level (ECL) prescribed by the Implementing Agency for each course of instruction or for entry into the Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC). Test materials to determine the ECL of selected candidates for U.S. training are provided annually by DLIELC, together with instructions for administering the test. The minimum ECL requirement for each course is listed in the Military Articles and Services List (MASL). The ODCs must also schedule Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI)

for students scheduled for flight and certain other training. The Netherlands is currently exempt from all in-country ECL & OPI testing **except** for certain courses and exercises (e.g. RED FLAG) involving live firing of ammunitions such as.

- **Human Rights Vetting:** Students must be screened for records of human rights abuses, drug trafficking, corruption, criminal conduct, or other activities inconsistent with U.S. policy goals. If an individual's reputable character cannot be validated, the individual shall not be approved for training.
- **Visa:** Students attending training courses for less than ninety (90) days do not require a Visa if they have an Invitational Travel Order or NATO Travel Order and a valid Military ID card. These students are not required to fill out the on-line Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) forms that normal Dutch tourists (visiting the U.S. for less than 90 days) must complete under the U.S. Visa Waiver program. More info at: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/faq_vwp.xml
- However, students attending training that last longer than ninety (90) days, must obtain a non-immigrant Visa (NATO-2 type) from the U.S. Consulate in Amsterdam. To begin the Visa application process, please contact the Ministry of Defense's International Support Service Centre in Utrecht at (0)30 284 4264. Also reference the U.S. Consulate's website: http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/how_apply_types_niv.html
- **What if my Visa expires before the end of my training due to unforeseen delays?** The NATO-2 Visa is automatically extended to cover any extra, unscheduled training delays. When you are admitted to the US, you will receive an I-94 form which will be marked with a N2/DS or NATO2/DS. DS stands for duration of status; therefore you will not have to update your Visa for the duration of your training unless you receive a new Passport during that time.

Do I need an Invitational Travel Order or a Request for Visit?

Invitational Travel Orders (ITOs) are written for Dutch military and civilian persons attending any course of instruction in the United States being paid for by a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case. Anybody not traveling on an ITO will need a Request for Visit (RfV). This is normally used for combined exercises, where Dutch participants are not receiving training, but are directly participating in the exercises or unit exchange. The ODC does not coordinate RfVs. To obtain an RfV, the student should contact their Base Security Officer who will send the RfV to MIVD. MIVD will verify the student's security clearance and forward the request to the Netherlands Embassy in Washington DC. The Dutch Embassy enters the request into the US Pentagon's RfV system for approval. The Pentagon only replies back to your Embassy in Washington DC if the request was disapproved. Please contact LTK Marc Sleven (001 202 274 2695) or Paul Mulder (001 202 274 2796) for more information and help with RfVs.

What is an Invitational Travel Order (ITO)?

The ITO is the controlling document for training provided to international students under Security Cooperation training programs. No student enters a Security Cooperation-sponsored

training program without a properly executed ITO. The ITO is used for accounting purposes and provides guidance for determining which support is payable and which is not, status, and privileges. The ODC is responsible for preparation of the ITO and issues an individual ITO for each student. ITOs are issued only after the student screening requirements are completed.

May I take my dependents with me?

Normally, students are not allowed to take their dependents with them during their training period. However, the International Military Student is encouraged by the Department of Defense to bring dependents to the following courses:

- Air Command and Staff College
- Air War College
- Armed Forces Staff College
- Army War College
- Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth and at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)
- Graduate Programs at Naval Postgraduate School
- Graduate Programs at the Air Force Institute of Technology
- The Inter-American Defense College
- National Defense University
- Naval Command College
- Naval Staff College
- Sergeants Major Academy
- Squadron Officer School
- United States Marine Corps (USMC) Command and Staff College
- USMC Expeditionary Warfare School
- USMC School of Advanced Warfighting

An International Military Student scheduled to attend any of the above courses may also bring dependents to prerequisite courses, follow-on courses, and authorized leave periods. Again, students are not encouraged to bring dependents to any other courses. However, if the school does not object and you are being housed off the military base, exceptions to this rule can be made. Please call the ODC Netherlands Training Manager for additional details.

Are there penalties for cancelling quotas?

For certain dedicated (all international) and contract courses, a 100 percent penalty is charged for cancellation unless filled by another international student. For all other courses, if the country requests cancellation or rescheduling less than 60 days prior to the course start date, the country's FMS case is charged 50 percent unless filled by another international student.

For additional information on any of the above subjects, please contact the ODC's Training Assistance Manager at +31 (0)70 210 2285.