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SUSP program The Netherlands

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Background:

Stichting Uitwisseling (referred to as SUSP/ Agency for Agricultural Exchange and Study Tours) was founded in December 1949 as a non-profit organization. SUSP aims to provide a cultural, educational and personal development experience for young people from all over the world.

The Netherlands has a good reputation in agriculture and horticulture and, therefore, has a lot to offer to a trainee who intends to have a career in this sector and is interested in learning by doing.





History cooperation SUSP with Japan:

In 1952 the Japanese Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC) started sending Japanese trainees to the USA. Since 1953 the exchange to EU countries developed. Japanese Trainees went to Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and in 1963 The Netherlands received the first 3 trainees from Japan.





History cooperation SUSP with Japan 2:

Up until and including 2023 SUSP has received 568 trainees from Japan via JAEC. Dutch trainees went to Japan as well. The number of Dutch trainees is much lower because most Dutch people cannot speak Japanese and are unable to go abroad for 12 months.

In total around 25 trainees from the Netherlands went to Japan since 1978 via SUSP/JAEC.





Placements in the Netherlands:

dairy- (f.e. traditional, with robot equipment, or with cheese making), livestock- (f.e. pigs, cattle, poultry, sheep, or goats), mixed-, arable farming, horticultural companies (field vegetable production -regular or organic, shrub nursery, tree nursery, plants, flower bulbs, glasshouse -potted plants, cut flowers, or vegetables.



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Placement period:

In general arrival throughout the year is possible. Most placements are available in spring and summer (April-September). Some placements are available year-round. Finding placements can be more difficult in wintertime, depending on the requested placement (f.e. a vegetable training in a greenhouse). Sometimes it is just not possible to find a training placement. This can depend on the season, the economic situation, the application form or motivation, the length of the training period, etc.





Placement period 2:

JAEK usually sends trainees for 12 months to the Netherlands.

This is challenging for SUSP because not many placements are available for 12 months. The JAEK trainees arrive together in March / April. They start with a 2 weeks preparation in Enschede area. They can get a little bit used to a completely different culture and environment, listen to Dutch people speaking English, learn how the public transport system works and much more.



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Placement period 3:

After the introduction period is finished the trainees travel to their placement addresses by public transport to start the practical training. The content of the practical training is described in a training plan. The Dutch authorities require both company and trainee to follow and keep record of the competences achieved by following the training plan. This is all very important.



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Where do trainees live?

Some trainees will live with their host/employer and experience Dutch family life. This usually is the situation on dairy farms. A trainee might feel as a family member. Other trainees, mostly horticultural trainees, will live with another host family, or independently in an apartment or trailer, or they may share a separate house with other trainees or colleagues. The relationship then is more employer vs employee. It is important that every trainee can ride a bicycle as the accommodation can be on biking distance (max. 10 km). SUSP determines the housing situation based on the training placement. All trainees pay the same amount per month for housing, the company covers the real costs.





Costs / fees:

SUSP charges a fee to the trainees via JAEC

This fee Includes: a placement, housing, work permit, introduction meeting, follow-up, dictionary, a trainee handbook, competence document, invitation for a Midpoint meeting and 24-hr a day assistance in case of an emergency.

The Dutch ministry of justice also charges a fee for the residence permit (is needed for all non-EU trainees who stay longer than 90 days)



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Requirements:

- Age 18-26;
- **Be a student during the full duration of the training** at a College¹ or University¹ and the training is voluntary or an obliged part of the study or
- **Be a recent graduate¹** and the starting date of the training is within two years after the graduation date and **in the possession of a diploma;**
- **The educational specialty of the student/graduate should be clearly connected to the desired training placement;**
- Be able to have a conversation, understand explanation and ask questions in English when the application is sent in;



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Requirements 2:

- Motivated to build a professional career in this field;
- Interested in the Dutch culture;
- Some experience in agriculture / horticulture;
- Able to ride a bicycle (10 kilometers within an hour, without sidewheels);
- In good health;
- Not married;
- No criminal record;
- In possession of good references;



Susp Insurance:



SUSP requires all trainees to have proper insurance

SUSP works with AON insurance company.

The price of this insurance is € 39,23 per month (1,31 per day)

It covers medical costs including urgent dental help, repatriation, liability, extra costs and 24/7 emergency assistance helpline, home contents and baggage, accidents & legal aid





What do trainees earn:

All trainees receive € 1096,- before taxes per month.

From the € 1096,- reservations are made for housing and food:

All trainees pay € 200,- for housing to the company, company pays the real costs. (Housing is in fact more expensive)

If a trainee receives meals from the company, the costs for this are € 324,- per month. If a trainee must cook his/her own meals, the trainee receives € 10,65 per day to buy groceries (for 3 meals per day)





When to apply:

ASAP, at least 4 months before the desired start date

SUSP plans a Skype interview with the participants, finds a placement, finds housing, prepares the paperwork. This may take from a few weeks, until a few months depending on the time of the year, the application, how soon the trainee can Skype etc. Then we need to wait until we have received all necessary documents from the trainee and the company. Then we apply for a work permit which takes 5 weeks and then the participant might still need to apply for a visa (3 weeks)





Visa information:

Participants from Japan need a work permit. They do not need an entry visa and can apply for the residence permit when they have arrived in the Netherlands.

SUSP/JAEC prepare these procedures.

JAEC assists all trainees before coming to the Netherlands.

SUSP takes over when they have arrived and both organisations stay in close contact during the training period about how the trainees are doing.



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Questions?

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