



# Widening Borders

# ROC Midden Nederland

ROC Midden Nederland is the leading Regional Education and Training Centre for central Netherlands, with approximately 18,000 students and 1,800 staff. The student population is made up of numerous national backgrounds across all ages and reflects the rich diversity of Dutch society. With thirteen vocationally oriented and one 'second chance' college, ROCMN delivers specialised vocational courses and pre-vocational adult education.



## Vision and Mission

ROC Midden Nederland is an innovative organisation that works according to the concept of 'enterprising education'.

Knowledge and skills are the essential ingredients for professional practice and citizenship. That is the perspective for our responsibility as an educational institution in a rapidly changing world that is developing on all levels into a knowledge society.

Our own distinctive vision of education is best summarised as follows:

**“ROC Midden Nederland is a community characterised by the key values: curious, entrepreneurial and personal. We offer present day, relevant education and training developed in co-creation with learners and the world of work.”**

At the core of our learning vision is the integral synergy and interaction between students, the college, companies, community organisations and our partners. As one of the largest in the Netherlands, ROC Midden Nederland plays a leading role in the economic and social development of the region. Our partnerships with local authorities, employers, social institutions and other schools and colleges are key to making this interaction a reality.





### **Utrecht: The heart of the Netherlands**

*Utrecht is perhaps best known internationally for the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713. Today it is a vibrant student city in the heart of the Netherlands and boasts the largest university in the country. With an excellent road and rail infrastructure, Utrecht attracts millions of visitors from the Netherlands and abroad every year. Its iconic landmark is the Dom tower that soars 112 metres into the Dutch skies. Against this historic backdrop, with its medieval churches and romantic canal side walkways, ROC Midden Nederland provides cutting edge education and training.*



The training and education we provide is progressive and innovative. Our aim is to integrate education and training seamlessly with the labour market. Students learn in realistic practical situations, with teachers taking on more the role of a coach. We have on-site training and business units in areas such as Information Technology, where students run the service desk and have responsibility for keeping the IT systems at a particular location up and running.



# Vocational programmes

Our vocational programmes are offered through thirteen colleges. They operate close to the market, and work in cooperation with companies and partners. Because the programmes are organised collaboratively, the supply fits the demand as closely as possible. The companies themselves have a direct and important role in giving form and content to the education and training offered. This 'co-makership' leads to the continuous quality improvement of our courses and trains the students to be flexible and valuable employees.

## Small-scale and personal

Our thirteen colleges are all strongly oriented towards their own sectors. This way we are able to organize our education and training provision on a small scale, and focus on the individual.

## Close to professional practice

All colleges work in intensive partnership with the regional business community, sector organisations, knowledge centres and other educational institutions. This way we can guarantee work placements, and keep our training at the cutting edge of the latest developments.

## Personal guidance

It is important that all students feel confident and do well during their course. We provide personal guidance throughout their college studies, as well as at their work placement.

## Two educational routes

Some students prefer to study part-time in combination with a paid job. Others would rather go to college first to learn vocational skills. We therefore offer two educational routes in intermediate vocational education:

1. Apprenticeship training, in which young people work at a company and come to college for theoretical training. This system requires that the student has a contract with a company accredited for apprenticeship training.

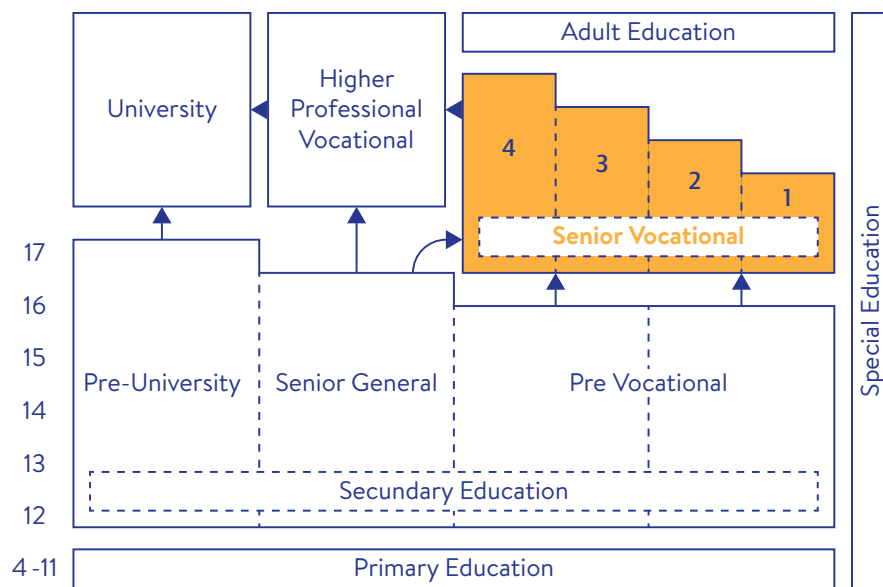
2. Vocational training, college + work placement. Students mainly learn vocational skills at college. They build up practical working experience during work placements and through simulations, projects and learning tasks within the college or in companies.

## Four levels

*There are four levels of vocational courses. Students mainly enter the college when they are 16, after secondary school. A preliminary programme determines the level for which a student can be considered.*

- *Level 1/entry: Assistance training (1/2 – 1 year) – Working on simple tasks under supervision.*
- *Level 2: Basic vocational training (2-3 years) – Working on simple tasks*
- *Level 3: Professional Training (2-4 years) – Working independently*
- *Level 4: Middle Management Training (3-4 years) – Working independently and flexibly*





# GET TO KNOW OUR COLLEGES



The technicians, salespersons, mechanics and drivers of the Automotive College have petrol running through their veins. In the various learning tracks that are offered, you can find the technical all-rounders (Bodywork, Motor Vehicle and Two-Wheeler Technology), salespersons with a customer-friendly attitude and commercial insight (Management and Commerce) and logistics specialists (Transport and Logistics).



The students of the Business & Administration College will soon be the pivotal figures of our economy: without them it all comes to a grinding halt. In our programmes you will find students who can be deployed in numerous fields. For example, as creative marketers, meticulous administrative or secretarial employees, stress-proof legal affairs employees, service-oriented information providers or results-oriented sales employees in the national and international wholesale or retail trade.



The construction of buildings, roads and bridges gives form to the world, as does providing the exterior and interior of houses, offices and schools with modern solutions and innovative technologies. Our students make a deliberate choice for a profession. A profession, in which they design, create or maintain something. In which they make something permanent and visible, something that changes the environment.





Students of Media, ICT & Design College are passionate, curious, creative and ambitious. They like to discover. This is all about media applications, ICT solutions and communications. With presentations and assignments our students form their own education. Students will be accompanied by involved other students working in the field. In addition, there is a lot of collaboration with students from other courses.



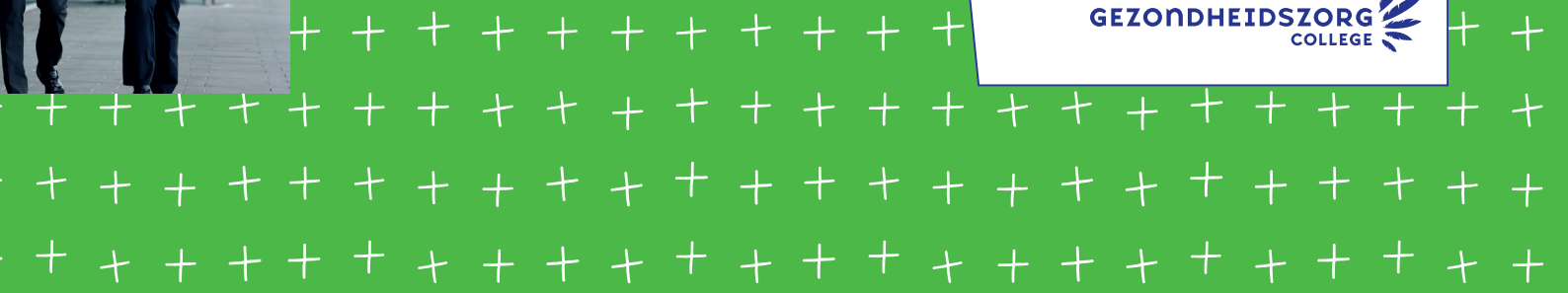
Creative College offers students the opportunity to develop their talent with passion. We are the place to be: for entrepreneurship in music and dance (the Artiste programme); for knowledge of images, sound and lighting (Audiovisual Production and Stage and Events Technology); for the organisation of festivals and events (Leisure & Events); and for creating TV or radio programmes, films and video productions (Media Design).



The students of the Uniformed Services College stand for a safe world. Either as security staff, as community support officers or as soldiers the young people of uniformed services contribute to a secure environment. They are able to deal with very different situations and diffuse conflicts with effective interventions. For them service to society comes first.



The Health Care College offers three learning tracks: the nurse or nursing assistant as link between patient and doctor (Nursing and Medical Support). Students of Healthcare and Living help and care for disabled people or the elderly, for example, to enhance their quality of life. The laboratory technician or analyst students contribute to important work in laboratories.





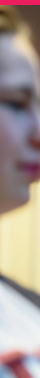
Students of the Sport College help people to take exercise in the right way, build up their fitness or simply enjoy sport. They are not only in top physical condition, but are also full of ideas for sporting activities and the organisation and presentation of events and tournaments.



A range of learning tracks provide the ideal settings for students who are skilled in the development, innovation and application of objects, machinery and equipment (Electrical Engineering, Design & Engineering and Mechanical Engineering); students who ensure that these devices and machines work properly (Installation Technology and Refrigeration Technology); or students who make sure that machinery and processes can make finished products from raw materials (Process Technology).



The Social Care College offers four learning tracks: we have students who want to transfer their knowledge and commitment to pupils (Teaching Assistant); or provide daycare, welfare and education services for children (Pedagogic Work); students who want to build a career in organising recreational activities, sociability and education (Social-Cultural Work); or advise and support vulnerable individuals so they can take a full part in society (Social-Cultural Services).





At the ICT College students learn to control technologies, and how they can work together. The ICT employee helps individuals and organisations with the construction and maintenance of networks and the installation of equipment (ICT Level 2). The network controller has a pivotal position in the digital web. The private investigator works to combat digital criminality. And finally, the application developer can map out your company's requirements and transform ideas into effective applications (ICT Levels 3 and 4).



Students of the Beauty College ensure that their customers look perfectly groomed. As hair-dressers they find out the customer's wishes and know how to respond to them with their own, inspiring ideas. They have outstanding interpersonal skills, and are enthusiastic and dedicated. That applies equally to our beauty specialists and pedicurists. With their knowledge of the human body, they give professional skin treatments, massage, and advice on cosmetics.



Students of the Hospitality & Tourism College do everything to help others to enjoy themselves. On a relaxing holiday, for example, or a fun night out. In the Catering Trade programme our students learn how important it is to combine a sociable attitude with accuracy and stress-proof working. That also applies to working in tourism as a travel agency employee or tour guide. Our Facilities Services students have a great talent for organisation, and their social skills help any business run smoothly.



# ROC Midden Nederland: Thinking global

**At ROC Midden Nederland we don't confine our view to the Netherlands, we also set our sights internationally. Many students go on work placements in other countries, and our lecturers also have many international contacts. In recognition of the high quality international work done, the college received the Erasmus Mobility Charter in September 2016 for the duration of the Erasmus Plus Programme.**

For our students, internationalisation means:

- An international career
- Following part of their course abroad
- Studying English language or doing a bilingual course
- Including an international element to their vocational competencies

For our staff and for the organisation, globalisation means:

- the opportunity to build up international experience
- strategic partnerships with partners in Europe and beyond
- international solidarity

These seven principles form a major contribution to the quality of our education, making ROC Midden Nederland an attractive college for students, employers and staff alike.

## Work placements

All our students are given the chance to gain international work experience. Students who stay in a country of the European Union can receive a grant from the Erasmus Plus mobility programme. Of course arranging work placements outside of Europe is also possible. Siobhan Schuurman, for example, stayed for four months in Pretoria, South Africa. Here she worked as a teacher and coach with young children for one of Cordaid's projects.

## Excellence programmes

ROC Midden Nederland offers a wide range additional programmes for ambitious and talented students. A substantial number is focused on international opportunities for students. Students of Social Care for example do a comparison between systems in different countries in Europe which includes on the spot research. Students of creative courses can receive grants by proposing plans to develop their skills in other countries. These are evaluated by an external panel. Students of tourism have been to Nepal to develop a broader touristic programme together with local organisations. Key to the success of the programmes is that they are student driven and demand extra effort from the student.

## Global Top placements for Talented students

This excellence programme offers high achievers with an international outlook the opportunity to fulfill their ambitions. A limited number of grants is available every year to students wanting to do a placement at a top company outside of Europe. Students have to present a plan to a panel of experts explaining why they should qualify for this grant. They have to focus on personal and professional development and argue their case convincingly. Each candidate is supported by two sponsors; a teacher and an employer. Students funded by this programme have already been to exciting placements in countries such as New Zealand, China and Argentina.

## USA Exchange Programme

Every year, six staff members from ROC Midden Nederland go on a two-week working visit to the USA. They are linked up with American colleges on the basis of their positions within our organisation and their learning aims, and our American colleagues draw up customised programmes for their visits. Six months later, the Americans come on an exchange visit to the Netherlands. A detail that makes the exchange even more memorable is that the staff members stay as guests in each other's homes.



## Entrepreneurship: A serious Game

This ERASMUS+ project with partner from Austria, Czech Republic, Spain and the UK addressed the need for more young people to acquire entrepreneurial skills to make them more innovative and creative. The key element was to design SimBiz, an online game that would be attractive & engaging but also develop the players' enterprise skills.

The first task was to identify the competences employers thought were displayed by good entrepreneurs & enterprising employees. This resulted in the Enterprise Competence Framework that describes competences the relevant enterprise skills in terms of learning.

The serious game SimBiz is based on the framework. It simulates real business activities & presents the player with many choices: renting offices, hiring personnel & choosing different deals. Random events have to be responded to wisely if a business is to survive & prosper. SimBiz users can also compete against others & can play the game in different languages at school & home against players from other countries.

Further information about SimBiz & the Competence Framework can be found at [www.simbiz.eu](http://www.simbiz.eu).

## Junior Job coach

This ERASMUS+ project addresses the important European issue of early school and college leaving (ESL), particularly those students who drop out of their vocational programme during their work placement. Junior Job Coach improves the effectiveness and success of work-based learning and apprenticeships by offering students at risk with support from their peers. It also offers leadership opportunities to higher-level students and targeted support for employers to get the best out of work placements and apprenticeships.

Three key products are developed to fulfil these objectives:

A Competence Framework will detail the key skills that are required to be a job coach. This is to be informed by field research in five European countries.

A Junior Job Coach Training Programme, is to be offered to higher-level students. Young people at risk in work placements and apprenticeships will be matched with a higher-level student in a speed-dating session to gain maximum compatibility with needs and skills. Support for the in-work placement student will be provided face to face, by text or social media.

A Junior Job Coach ToolKit, containing information on the training programme, is to be customised for employers.

*Nina van Zouwen is a serious student who has developed into a young maker in dance during her studies. She has been an assistant choreographer in a school project. And participated in the international theater project 'Etoile' in Italy as a participant, teacher and choreographer. In March she made the performance 'Tongues of Denials' for the Café Theater Festival and danced with the dance group NEVA. She received loving criticism for this. At this moment she is currently studying at Juan Onofri Barbato in Argentina (Worldwide Topstage).*



# ROC Midden Nederland also offers...

## **VAVO lyceum**

Our VAVO lyceum offers general pre-vocational adult education. Students can follow a theoretical learning track and gain a diploma or study credits for:

- pre-vocational secondary education (vmbo-tl);
- senior general secondary education (havo);
- and pre-university education (vwo).

Students only follow the subjects they require to gain a diploma that will give them access to higher education of other further studies.

## **Business Training**

ROC Midden Nederland makes knowledge and expertise from our educational organisation available to both businesses, as well as the private market. We offer tailor-made courses and professional training, also known as contract education, to regional and national customers. We also collaborate with other training institutions and partners.

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