

# UN-PROOF HIGHER EDUCATION

What do you need to know?

## Why?

### Why does the Netherlands have the UN Convention?

The UN Convention on the rights of persons with a disability (CRPD), which took effect in the Netherlands on 14 July 2016, is designed to improve the position of people with a disability. The CRPD assumes inclusion, personal autonomy and full participation.

## Who?

### Who plays a key role?

- + **People with a disability**  
the CRPD requires that people with a disability contribute to the decision-making process for creating policy, legislation and implementation.
- + **The government**  
the government makes laws, implements policy and ensures that others likewise comply with the obligations of the CRPD.
- + **The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights**  
the Institute monitors the CRPD in the Netherlands and investigates individual complaints about admission and adaptations.

### What does this mean for higher education institutes?

The content of the CRPD (article 24) applies to all education institutes. They are required to actively promote the inclusion of students with a disability. This means that they must make adaptations and ensure general accessibility to buildings and information systems.



## What?

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What can you do?

## Working towards more inclusive education in **5** steps

### Create commitment

Announce internally that you support the UN Convention on the rights of persons with a disability (CRPD) and what it means.



1

Curious whether your policy satisfies the requirements? Do the policy scan! Go to [www.handicap-studie.nl/english](http://www.handicap-studie.nl/english).

2



### Draft policy or adapt your policy

'Studying with a disability' policy helps with implementing the CRPD.

Want more insight into who plays a role and where? Visit [www.studieprocesinkaart.nl](http://www.studieprocesinkaart.nl) (only available in Dutch for now).

### Be proactive

Everyone in the organisation has a responsibility to both identify and act on opportunities for improvements.



3

4



### Think social

Promote a shift in thinking from medical (based on individual diagnoses) to social (based on environmental factors).

From 'what is wrong with you?' to 'what do you need?' Go to [www.handicap-studie.nl](http://www.handicap-studie.nl) > downloads > Wat heb je (nodig)? (only available in Dutch).

### Monitor what works

Continuously monitor whether your policy works in practice. Involve students in the process! For example by asking for their input, or using an analysis of the National Student Survey data.



5

### Need advice?

The handicap + studie centre of expertise offers support for realising inclusive education. For more information, please contact us!