

THEA¹

Flexible programme for refugees and foreign-speaking newcomers in an integration programme with higher education prospects: Guidelines & Conditions

What the THEA programme involves

1 Selection

Candidates are selected by Atlas on the basis of their higher education prospects. They follow a study orientation plan with Atlas and have a clear idea about which study programme they would like to enrol in. Of course, they must also fulfil certain criteria (see below). Atlas draws up an agreement with each candidate.

2 Induction into the higher education institution

Participants are referred to a contact person at the higher education institution. This contact person organises an intake interview between the participant and the student counsellor for the programme the participant would like to enrol in. The rights and responsibilities of each party are discussed.

3 Composition of the programme

The participant and his/her student counsellor discuss the choice of programme components for the THEA programme. Administrative aspects are also discussed. The student counsellor contacts the relevant lecturers and arranges a place for the 'extra' student in their education and evaluation activities. The institution draws up an agreement with the participant.

4 Participation in the THEA programme

The participant takes part in all education and evaluation activities. The lecturers involved provide appropriate information about the quality of the participant's study activities (level, progress etc.), especially in terms of programme choice and chances of successful programme completion.

5 Definitive enrolment on the most suitable higher education programme following successful completion of the required Dutch language exams.

Conditions for participation

The conditions for participation in the THEA are as follows:

- The candidate should belong to one of the following categories: a refugee, a person receiving protection on humanitarian grounds (Dutch: *subsidiar beschermd*), or a family member being reunited with a refugee or a foreign-speaking newcomer in an integration programme.
- The candidate fulfils the qualification requirements for higher education and the relevant documents have been verified by the higher education institution concerned.
- The candidate has achieved CEFR level B1 in Dutch (equivalent to Level 3 at Linguapolis or Level 2.4 in an adult education centre) and has registered for the next level.
- The candidate has been selected by Atlas as a candidate with higher education prospects.
- The candidate has completed a study orientation plan at Atlas.

Other terms and conditions

THEA is organised according to the following agreements:

- The programme can only be taken once and may be completed over one or two semesters of one academic year.
- The programme consists of a maximum of 12 ECTS credits, to be determined in consultation with the coordinators of the study programme.
- The participant is enrolled as a visiting student and receives access to all student facilities.
- In principle, the participant should participate in all education and evaluation activities.
- No tuition fees apply for participation in the programme.
- Each participant is supervised by a student counsellor.
- The higher education institution keeps Atlas informed of the participant's progress, any potential pitfalls and the expected outcome of the programme.
- Participants cannot earn credits through participation in the programme, neither must they make use of the learning account.
- Participants are generally expected to participate in evaluations (exams, tests, papers, etc.). They receive feedback, but no scores.

Higher education institutions and THEA contact persons

- University of Antwerp: Parul Goel – parul.goel@uantwerpen.be – T 03 265 31 91
- Artesis Plantijn University College: Kris Van Elsen – kris.vanelsen@ap.be - T 03 220 58 21
- Karel de Grote University College: Sylvie Campforts – sylvie.campforts@kdg.be – T 03 502 28 18
- Antwerp Maritime Academy: Bea Wauters – bea.wauters@hzs.be – T 03 205 64 81
- Antwerp University Association: Veerle Van Houwenhove – veerle.vanhouwenhove@auha.be – T 03 265 30 56

Contact for introduction

- Atlas: Eveline Philippaerts – eveline.philippaerts@stad.antwerpen.be – 03 338 70 16

¹ THEA is a fictitious name, but could serve as an acronym for *Try Higher Education in Antwerp* or (in Dutch) *Traject Hogere Educatie Antwerpen*.