

Exemption from a civic integration course if you are ill or have a disability

Steps that you must take, key points of attention and examples

Do you have a long-term illness or a disability? Does this mean you cannot participate in the civic integration course? If so, you can request a medical exemption. If you are granted an exemption, you will only have to complete part of the civic integration course or you will not have to participate in the civic integration course at all. You can apply for an exemption through DUO. You must submit this request yourself. Your contact at the municipality can help.

DUO will ask Argonaut for an opinion. There are doctors working at Argonaut who will review your medical records. So, before you can request an exemption, you must already: 1) have a diagnosis (know what is wrong with you); 2) have medical records (information about the diagnosis and treatments you have had). Based on your medical records, a doctor at Argonaut will conduct an examination. That examination consists of two parts: 1) reading any important information from medical specialists about your illness or disability; 2) a meeting with you.

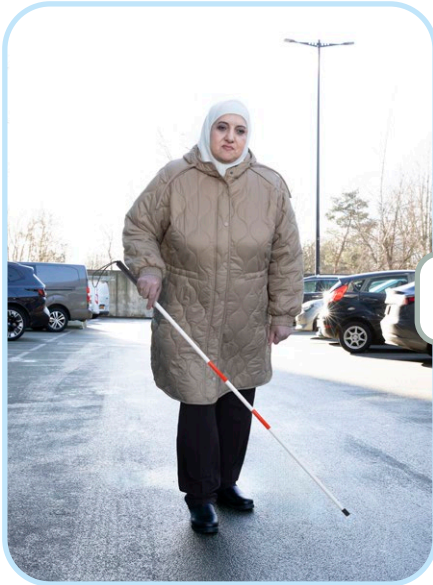
Each request costs €225. But the amount can end up being even higher. It is therefore important to first

carefully consider whether your application will lead to a medical exemption.

After the examination, the doctor at Argonaut will issue their advice to DUO. After that, DUO will decide what happens. The doctor at Argonaut may advise that you do not need to participate in the civic integration course. This is called an exemption. You will then get back the money from the application. The doctor at Argonaut may also advise that you only need to do some of the exams of the civic integration course. Or that the exams will be modified. This is called a partial exemption. You will then get back the money from the application. If the doctor at Argonaut advises that you can fully participate in a civic integration course, you will not receive an exemption. In that case, you will not get back the money from your application.

In this chart, you can see what things you must do if you want an exemption. It also includes examples. That way, you can consider whether there is any point in submitting an application.

Start



I am ill or have a disability

No

I will continue the civic integration course

Yes

I go to the doctor and ask for treatment



Important: If I cannot come to the classes as part of the civic integration course for 3 months in a row or longer because I am sick, I can apply for an [extension due to illness](#). I will then be given more time to complete the civic integration course. A request for an extension is free of charge. For this application, I will need my medical records. These medical records must show that I cannot attend the classes. I can only apply for an extension if my civic integration term started more than 2.5 years ago.



I get better

When I am better, I will go back to school



The doctor says I am not getting better. My illness or disability remains.

I am not getting better and tell my contact at the municipality this



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Important: The issue is not whether I am ill, but whether this illness prevents me from participating in the civic integration course.

The doctor believes I will be seriously ill for at least 5 years and I won't get better. As a result, I cannot participate in the civic integration course.

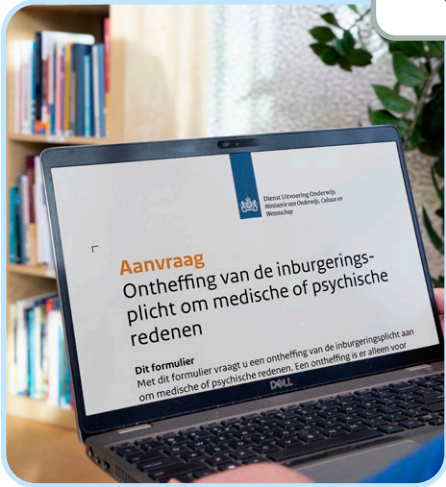
I have a disability that won't go away, such as stuttering or being deaf or hearing impaired



Important: It may take a long time to get back the results of my application. All the while, my civic integration term will continue. Therefore, it is smart to keep going to the classes. Because if my application is rejected and I therefore must continue to participate in the civic integration course, I cannot apply for an extension for lost time.

I will fill in the [application for sickness exemption](#) on the DUO website

I will fill in the [application for a modified exam](#) on the DUO website



Important: This application costs money. I first have to pay €225. DUO then asks the doctor at Argonaut to conduct an examination.

Important: Argonaut may advise that I take modified exams rather than issue an exemption.

Important: DUO will send the application to Argonaut. I will then receive an invitation from Argonaut for an examination. The doctor from Argonaut will examine whether a modified exam is needed. This examination is free of charge.

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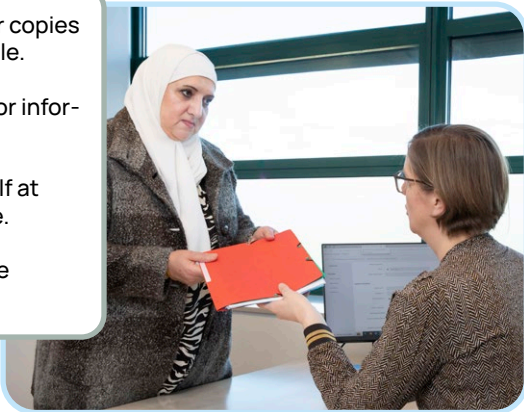
Important: Argonaut needs this medical information. If Argonaut has to request this information itself, it will take longer. I will also have to pay Argonaut €100 for each doctor who must be asked for my medical information. I will not get that money back. Even if my application is approved, I will not get that money back.

I will ask my contact with the municipality for copies of the PIP and our appointment schedule.

I will ask my doctor and medical specialists for information about my medical records.

I can also print my medical records myself at uwzorgonline.nl. This is free of charge.

I will bring these papers with me to the appointment with Argonaut.



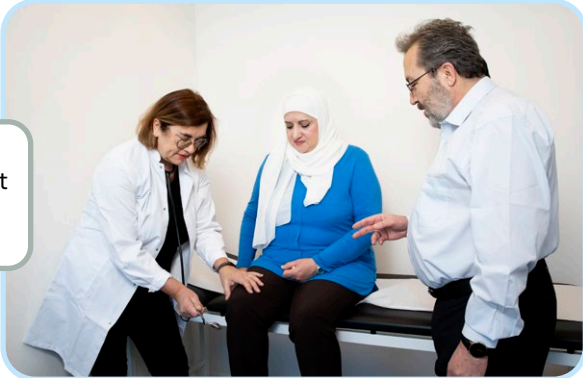
I will bring this information to the appointment with the doctor at Argonaut

Important: If I do not bring these papers to the appointment with Argonaut, the doctor at Argonaut will not be able to issue an opinion.



Important: The doctor from Argonaut speaks Dutch. If I do not speak Dutch well enough yet, I will bring someone with me to the appointment who can translate well. *Please note: medical issues will be discussed. It is sometimes better if the interpreter is not a family member. Please note: the interpreter cannot be under 18 years of age.*

I will arrange for an interpreter for the appointment with the doctor at Argonaut



I do go to the appointment at Argonaut

If I know I cannot come to the appointment, I must try to reschedule as soon as possible.

If I do not come to the appointment without letting Argonaut know, my application will be rejected. I will then have to reapply. This will cost me another €225.



The doctor will then issue their opinion to DUO. This will state that I:

- cannot participate in the civic integration course, in which case I get the €225 back, or
- will need adjustments to participate in the civic integration course, in which case I get the €225 back, or
- can participate in the civic integration course, in which case I do not get the €225 back.



Important: Argonaut issues the advice to DUO. I cannot object to this opinion. DUO will then make a decision. I can, however, object to DUO's decision.

Examples

A doctor's advice from Argonaut costs money.
Many requests are rejected. Some examples:

Iris



Iris did not go to school. Iris therefore cannot read. When she was little, she played outside a lot. She also looked after the goats and helped her mother with the cooking. Iris is now in the Netherlands. She finds school difficult. The letters are difficult and learning is going slowly. This is not an illness. Therefore, there is no medical reason for an exemption. Iris must pass the civic integration exam.

Amir



Amir cannot see well. He wears glasses. This helps a little. Amir has been to the doctor. The doctor sent him to VISIO. VISIO says he needs a magnifying glass. The light must also be on to help him see properly. This is a medical reason for special examination arrangements. Amir can sit the exam using a magnifying glass, a large screen and large print.

Ivan



Ivan is 56 years old. Ivan has had a heart attack. He has been in hospital. He had a heart operation. Ivan is on medication and he is feeling a bit better now. He just can't cycle or play sports very well anymore. Ivan has been ill, though, and does have limitations. Ivan can take public transport to school. Ivan can learn. There is no medical reason for an exemption.

Willem



Willem is 71 years old. He is allowed to stay in the Netherlands. Willem did not go to school. Now he wants a Dutch passport. For this, the IND requires him to pass the civic integration exam. But Willem is already quite old. As a result, he is unable to learn quickly. It also prevents him from remembering things easily. This is not an illness. Therefore, there is no medical reason for an exemption. Willem must pass the civic integration exam.

Laila



Laila cannot see well. She wears glasses. This helps a little. She has been to the doctor. The doctor says she does not have the proper glasses. A new pair of glasses is one possible solution. There is no reason for special examination arrangements.

Charissa



Charissa is 62 years old. Three months ago, Charissa suffered bleeding in her brain. As a result, she now has a paralysed arm and leg. She can now no longer walk properly. She is also unable to speak properly now. Charissa is undergoing rehabilitation. The doctor knows that Charissa can still get better in the coming months and cannot yet say for certain that she has permanent disabilities. There is no medical reason to say that she cannot participate in a civic integration course for 5 years and therefore there will be no medical reason for an exemption.

Sarah



Sarah is 60 years old. She forgets what day it is. She also no longer knows how to cook. Sarah therefore can no longer be left alone. The doctor ran a test and said her condition is getting worse. The doctor says someone must be with Sarah at all times. The condition is called dementia. This is a medical reason for an exemption. Sarah does not have to pass the civic integration exam.

David



David is 25 years old and has never been to school. He has a learning disability. He lives with his father and mother and cannot live independently. There are certain things he is unable to do and he therefore requires guidance. David cannot learn or take a civic integration exam. This is a medical reason for an exemption. David does not have to pass the civic integration exam.