

FAQ The International Award for Young People

Q: What is the programme The International Award for Young People?

A: The International Award for Young People (IAYP) is a programme for young people in the age of 14 to 24. The programme IAYP presupposes the opportunities and chances for all young people. The aim is that all participants between the age of 14-24 will discover their talents and power, and make themselves the best they can be. In their spare time, they will engage voluntarily in four activities, in four different domains: community service, skills, sports, and expedition/exploration. When the participants have determined their goals in those domains, and work on them for the predetermined amount of time, they will receive a Bronze, Silver or Golden Award. The experiences they will gain during the programme, will boost their confidence. Besides the growth in confidence, they will learn how to persist, and they will discover what they can do for others.

Q: What is unique about the IAYP?

A: The Award programme offers a strategy with international aspects, proven by methodological research, to schools and youth work organisations. The latter makes it suitable for personal all-round development. It emphasises the positive power, present in every human being, and stimulates an active and initiative taking attitude. Throughout the programme the participants will push their limits and their talents will come to the surface. The Award Programme makes a valuable contribution to youth policies and community service. Many participants stay active as a volunteer after finishing their Community Service requirements. Since 2011, the Erasmus University of Rotterdam conducts research to find the measurable long term effects of the Award Programme.

Q: How can prospective participants join?

A: At this point in time, they can join the existing projects at secondary schools, at youth work organisations or at the scouting. One can find an overview at www.award.nl under the heading of "meedoen". If there is no organisation offering the Award programme close to a youngster, independent Award leaders are available for guiding him or her.

Q: Is the IAYP a public body?

A: The IAYP is not a public body. It is an association working with a licence of the The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association based in London. Since 1995 the Award programme operates in the Netherlands. The Dutch organisation exists of a (part-time paid) managing director, a nine-headed board on voluntary base, and an advisory council on voluntary base (10 members). A group of assessors is in assessing the expeditions. Furthermore a group of Golden Award Holders assists as the ambassadors.

Q: How did the IAYP come into being?

A: The IAYP is founded by Prince Philip in collaboration with Kurt Hahn and Lord Hunt in 1956 in England, as a consequence of the closing down the mines in England. The programme was and is focused on underprivileged young people, aiming to help the youngsters experiencing success, which will increase their chances in society.

Q: How many youngsters participate in the Netherlands on a yearly base?

A: Around 700 young people took part in the Award programme the Netherlands in 2014.

Q: Are the participants mostly from an upper class background?

A: Everyone in the age of 14-25 can participate. Originally, the programme is focused on the underprivileged youth to help them experiencing success, which will develop them as a person, and which will increase their chances in society and it will make their future of independence more likely. However, now everybody can participate, and in the Netherlands we notice among the participants a wide range of socio-cultural backgrounds, socio-economical situations and educational levels.

Q: How is the IAYP financed?

A: Every academic year, the participating schools and organisations make a financial contribution. The participants will also pay a small fee. Furthermore, the programme is supported by donations by individuals, the corporate community and funds. The proceeds go to the participants and to the development of the Award programme in the Netherlands.

Q: Which organisations can participate in the IAYP?

A: Every organisation that can and wants to contribute to the development and the character building of young people, can participate. For instance, secondary schools and institutions for vocational training, scouting groups, universities of applied sciences, universities, sport associations, youth detention centres, youth work organisations, youth care organisations or enterprises.

Q: How will the programme end for the participants?

A: If the programme is finished by the participants, they will receive a Bronze, Silver or Golden Award. On all the levels will be worked with the same four sections (when going for Gold, you will also have another project). The duration and completion of the four activities differs for each level (it mounts up). The participant can choose to work on several activities simultaneously, or one after the other.

Q: What will participating in the IAYP bring to the youngsters?

A: By working on projects the participants of the IAYP personally like, they will unconsciously work on their confidence, their sense of responsibility, their planning and organisational skills, and their social consciousness. The gained knowledge, skills and experiences will make the difference in their lives. In application procedures and job interviews they will stand out. For example by telling their beautiful stories; we are often told about these experiences. The Award programme also offers possibilities to gain experiences abroad, and network internationally.

Q: Will the participants stay involved in the IAYP once they have finished the programme?

A: Yes, they can become part of the Award Network for young people. If they have received their Golden

Award, they can sign up to become an Ambassador. They will get an appropriate training, after which they can start to promote and support the Award in the Netherlands, together with the national board and managing director. Possible positions are to become a promotor, a member of the social media team, or as a staff writer for the Award World.

Q: How do you motivate a participant to receive his/her Award?

A: During the programme the participant will receive support from an Award leader, who is trained by the national Award organisation. The focus lies on achieving success, not on failing. The Award leader is there to make sure that the participants will set reasonable goals, but also to help them when things are not going that well, by giving them some tips, tricks and by having a decent conversation. Interviews conducted by students of the Pedagogy department of the University of Applied Sciences Windesheim show that personal guidance, contact, and an informal ambiance are highly important to stimulate the intrinsic motivation of the participant.

Q: Over the past 60 years the world has changed. How do you stay connected to the world of youth?

A: The IAYP is the biggest leading youth programme in the world that enables young people in the age of 14-24 to find their talents and inner power. At the moment the programme operates in 140 countries, and around 8 million youngsters take part. The programme focusses on chances, opportunities, personal choices and experiencing success.

Q: Do you collaborate with other organisations who have the same objectives?

A: In 2014 the IAYP started a close collaboration with Scouting Nederland and the University of Applied Sciences Windesheim Flevoland. In 2015 a collaboration with among others Jong Nederland and Fontys Hogescholen will start.

Q: What are the future expectancies of the IYAP?

A: We have the ambition to increase the amount of participants in the coming years. We are looking to collaborate with other organisations, willing to give young people a chance to develop their talents. We have elaborated on the different parts of achieving our goals in our long-term plan of 2014-2017. The main goal for the coming three years is to make the amount of participants grown from 600 participants in 2013 to ca 2500 in 2017 on the pretext of "The Award- Available to all young people in the Netherlands!".