

Netherlands – EC-VPL and IVC den Helder

Institution	EC-VPL and IVC den Helder
Interviewed Person	Nawras (27), refugee from Syria

I – Preparation

Nawras (27) was born in Damascus in Syria. He is married and doesn't have any children. Nawras has been in the Netherlands for two and a half years.

"I have passed my integration. I am learning for the state exam and do not have an international diploma, because I don't have the official document".

II – Awareness

"I participated in the pre VPL training "Spreek je Uit!". I have learnt a lot' self-growth, what I can do, what I want to do and how I am going to do it. I take a lot of initiative myself. I have done a lot on my own and I am very determined in doing it".

III – Starting up

"In Syria I studied to become an interior decorator. I wasn't able to finish the study, but I have a lot of experience designing the interiors of offices and large food establishments. I have learned a lot from my father. It was my dream to become an interior decorator. I want to learn new things. I want to go back to school. I have signed myself up for the preparation CCVX (the equivalent to VWO/A-levels), commission Maths at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The UAF need papers to help me further."

IV – Documentation and support

"Although I am very independent, the IVC offers me further support. If I can't get in to the University the IVC could help me with a VPL training. I am going to do the state exam in Dutch and English and when I pass I can do the entry test."

"It is difficult for me to prove on which level of knowledge I am. My degree is in Syria and I only have a copy. The IDW doesn't think this is enough. That's why it would be good for me to follow the VPL training, if I don't get accepted into university."

V – Assessment

"I did an assessment in which I presented myself and showed photos of the designs that I have worked on within teams. I didn't find it difficult to present myself. I was relaxed and confident. I was well prepared. The assessment / presentation was in Dutch."

VI – Impact

“The first step I will take is doing the state exam level B2 and then the state exam English. After that the preparation year at the VU and then university.”