

Government of St. Maarten

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

DIVISION OF STUDY FINANCING

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Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs

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Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Division Study Financing's 2014 Annual Report, which sets out, for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Affairs and the general public, what we have achieved in the past twelve months and our future plans.

It has been another productive and eventful year, with many important developments in area of study financing. The economic and financial situation of St.Maarten and the Government continued to be very challenging. The impact on study financing recipients was however very limited as Government was still able to meet all financial obligations to recipients in a timely manner. This was mainly due to the efforts of our financial officer and the excellent working relationship with the Departments of Finance and Treasury .

However, in 2015 it is of vital importance to continue our efforts to reduce study financing expenditures in general and increase our return on investment through the facilitation of employment for study financing recipients on St.Maarten and the collection of outstanding study loans.

Both objectives will be addressed in 2015 via the Brain Gain -,career development center projects and the project study loans which falls under the "Inkomsten Verhogende en Uitgaven Verlagende maatregelen (IVUV)" project being executed in collaboration with the SOAB.

In 2014 the Division Study Financing faced several legal challenges from study financing applicants , former recipients and even the Minister of Finance who refused to sign any ministerial decrees related to study financing. This further highlighting the need for the formal enactment of study financing legislation and in this regards in December 2014, the first draft of the new study financing legislation was sent to the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs for approval.

Below you will find a brief summary of some of the major accomplishments for 2014:

- The staff of Division Study Financing received Customer Service training. The training was provided in collaboration with PnO, Smart Suriname and TDS training center.
- The promotion of studying in the region kicked into high gear with production and distribution of a brochure, the information campaign in the local media and information sessions at the various high schools.
- The study on care, guidance and supervision was awarded to Imbrace, the study is currently ongoing and the first progress report was submitted.
- A new study financing website was developed which includes an online application feature.
- 30% of the study financing archives was digitalized thus reducing the need for storage space.
- The MOU with Tallahassee Community College was extended thereby guaranteeing instate tuition for St.Maarten students. To facilitate this the Tallahassee St.Maarten Foundation was reorganized with a new board.

More details of these and other accomplishments will be found on subsequent pages but, of course, none of our achievements would have been possible without hard work and dedication of our staff. As such I would like to thank them.

Vision and Mission

Vision:

As an organization that assists students in the pursuit of higher-and tertiary level education, the Division Study Financing (DSF) is:

- A reliable partner who thinks along with the policymakers. DSF executes financial and administrative processes and in accordance with the Study Financing Ordinance;
- An expert link between pupils, students, parents, teachers, schools, universities, policymakers and other partners. DSF connects these parties together and involve them actively in the implementation;
- A forward-looking organization that makes processes as easy as possible for its customers and associates. DSF will continually works to improve service and adapt quickly to technological innovations;
- An attractive organization for its personnel. DSF has an open and respectful culture where employees will have opportunities to grow.

Mission:

- To provide study financing, information and support for those following training programmes at MBO, SBO, Associates, HBO/Bachelor, and Master levels on St.Maarten, in the Netherlands, in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean region and other places.
- To provide professional development opportunities to eligible citizens of St.Maarten via information, support and financing in a dynamic, innovative and client-friendly manner.
- To play a role in the personal development of the citizens of St.Maarten and to assist in creating opportunities for a better future for individuals and the community at large.

Activities based on Regulation and Policy Plans

General Tasks and Focus Areas

The Division of Study Financing is an executive service within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports.

The Division of Study Financing executes the following tasks:

- Facilitation of the study financing application-, issuance- and revocation process;
- Providing study financing information;
- Issuance of statement letters (Financial, VISA, etc), study loan contracts, warning letters;
- Preparing students to live and study abroad;
- Processing requests for:
 - 100 % study loans;
 - Computer loans and additional study materials;
 - Tickets (Vacation, completion of study, death and first time travel to place of study);
 - Study financing extensions;
 - Reallocation fees;
 - Reimbursement of funds;
 - Change of study and/or place of study;
- Monitoring study financing recipients study progress and results;
- Maintaining regular contact with students, educational institutions and student support services providers;
- Maintenance of the study financing recipients database, website, financial administration and archives;
- Facilitation of the repayment of study financing funds granted in the form of loans;

- Providing study financing recipients with medical-, health- and accident insurance;

The short-term objectives:

1. To provide competency and professional development training for study financing staff;
2. To promote studying in region;
3. To Increase the study financing return on investment;
4. To facilitate the upgrading of the study financing website and the development of a multi-user web based database administration software system;
5. To facilitate the digitalization of the study financing archives;
6. To facilitate an increase in the repayment and collection of study loan;
7. To provide a better preparation for students to live and study in Holland;
8. To determine the future working relationship with S4 and optimal level of care, guidance and supervision required in the Netherlands to improve the return on investment.

Evaluation of 2014 objectives:

Objective	Evaluation
To provide competency and professional development training for study financing staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customer service training was provided in collaboration with PnO ▪ Training in the preparation of advices ,decree and database were executed internally via coaching
To promote studying in region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 of the 6 indicators were not accomplished ▪ The MOU's with UVI and AUC are still being worked on. ▪ The draft policy is still being working on by Mrs. Gaari ▪ However 3 of the 5 outcomes were realized namely: ▪ In 2013 75 students were granted SF compared to 65 in 2014 ▪ Students at regional institutions: 55% in 2013 compared to 57% in 2014 ▪ Promotional campaign for studying in the region is ongoing with ads in the newspapers, information sessions and brochures

Objective	Evaluation
To Increase the study financing return on investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 of the 7 indicators were not accomplished completely. The graduate lists and the study loans proposal is still being worked on. ▪ The increase in the repayment of study loans was not fully accomplished. However, compared to 2013 more students began repaying despite the lack of cooperation of the minister of Finance and his cabinet. DSF prepared 30% more revocation decrees for the repayment of study loans.
To facilitate the upgrading of the website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed with online application feature
To facilitate the digitalization of the study financing archives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30% of the archives have been digitalized.
To facilitate an increase in the repayment and collection of study loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outsourcing of the collection of study loans is still being worked on with SOAB ▪ Revocation of study financing became stagnant due to problems with the cabinet of the MIN FIN. All advice were sent back. ▪ All study financing recipients received loan specification overviews .
To provide a better preparation for students to live and study in Holland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed
To determine the future working relationship with S4 and optimal level of care, guidance and supervision required in the Netherlands to improve the return on investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 of the 3 indicators were accomplished within the timeline. ▪ The start-up of the execution of the study was delayed for 2 months due to bureaucracy. The is currently ongoing and progressing well.

Challenges:

- Collection of outstanding study loans
- Maintaining an accurate study financing recipients administration system;
- Finalization of the new study financing laws;
- Changes in Dutch educational laws and admittance criteria;
- Reducing study financing expenditures in the Netherlands and optimizing the functioning of S4;
- Working relationship with SSSD;

Staff

Formation

The Division of Study Financing is presently fully staffed, however there is currently four (4) study financing officers employed whilst only three are allowed in accordance with the formation plan. To avoid budgetary overruns, the secretary position has remained vacant since the former secretary went on pension.

Training

In September 2014 , four (4) staff received training in customer service. One staff member also received training in taking minutes. During the year all members of staff received extensive coaching in the areas of:

- Comprehension and application of the draft study financing ordinance;
- Case research and analysis;
- Preparation of advices/decrees;
 - Formulating and writing decision points;
 - Formulating and summarizing the most important points in the general elucidation.

Work hour –and sick leave regulation

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Staff	3	8	7½*	7½ *
Increase/decrease in % compared to previous year	-40%	0 %	-6.25%	0%
Absenteeism due to illness %	5%	5%	8.5%	13.3%
Vacation %	-	6.6%	8.4%	8.8%

- The increase of 4.8% in the percentage of absenteeism due to illness can be mainly attributed to the fact that one employee was 50% AO for the entire year.
- If the aforementioned is excluded from the calculation then there would actually be a decrease of approximately 2.4% in the percentage of absenteeism due to illness .
- * One employee has been 50% AO for the entire 2014.

H & R Cycle

The performance of all but one staff member was evaluated in accordance the H&R Cycle policy. One staff member received a “dienstopdracht” after all efforts to arrive at a consensus regarding the tasks and objectives for 2014. The planning interviews were conducted in the month of January. The midterm assessment interviews were conducted in September and the final assessment interviews were conducted in December.

Overview of the staff performance

Final Assessment End Score	Explanation	Amount
EP-2	Exceptional performance	1
SP-5	Strong Performance	4
NI-8	Strong Performance for results and weak performance for competencies	1
NI-9	Extremely weak Performance	1

2014 Study Financing Applications

Study Financing request are approved based on the criteria listed in the Study Financing Ordinance. The Study Financing Committee advises the Minister in this regard. The final decision is made by the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports.

Overview of requests by country

Place of Study	Applications
ARUBA	7
BONAIRE	2
CANADA	11
CURACAO	9
ENGLAND	8
HOLLAND	118
SCOTLAND	1
ST.KITTS	1
ST.LUCIA	1
ST.MAARTEN	25
TRINIDAD	3
USA	77
TOTAL	263

Overview of requests from applicants attending high school on St.Maarten

High School	Number of Applicants	Percentage of total applications
Milton Peters College HAVO	28	10,6%
St. Dominic High	26	9,9%
Milton Peters College TKL	17	6,5%
St.Maarten Academy Academic	15	5,7%
Milton Peters College VWO	11	4,2%
Learning Unlimited	8	3,0%
GED	5	1,9%
Caribbean International Academy	3	1,1%
Milton Peters College PKL	3	1,1%
Sundial	2	0,8%
St.Maarten Academy PSVE	1	0,4%
TOTAL HIGH SCHOOLS	118	45,2%
TOTAL APPLICATIONS	263	100%

In 2014, approximately 45% of the applications for study financing were from students attending high schools on St.Maarten. This is an increase of 5% compared to 2013. Milton Peters College HAVO (10.6%) was the biggest contributor of applicants closely followed by St. Dominic High (9.9%) and Milton Peters College TKL (6.5%)

Overview of applicants not attending high school

	Applications	Percentage
Not attending in school or working	110	41,8%
Already attending college/HBO/University	20	7,6%
Already attending SBO/MBO	8	3,0%
University of St.Martin	5	1,9%
Lycee Polyvalent (French St.Martin)	1	0,4%
SUBTOTAL	144	54,8%
TOTAL APPLICATIONS	263	100,0%

Forty two percent (42%) of all study financing applicants was either not attending school or working. There is no real explanation for this relatively high number other than the fact that most person take a year or two off from school to work or to regulate their immigration status before pursuing higher education .

Study Finance Committee Recommendations

The study financing committee (SFC) is tasked with advising the minister with reference to the study financing applications. In cases where the minister deviates from the recommendations of the committee, the minister is required inform the committee by motivating her decision. In 2014, one member resigned from the study financing committee namely Antonio Aventurin who was appointed by former Minister ECYS Jacobs. Mrs. Claudette Forsythe-Labega was appointed to the committee . The other members of the committee were Valya Lake-Pantophlet, Lissa Coffi , Marcellia Henry, Cassandra Wilson and Henry Lynch. The meetings were held on April 8, 9 and 11, 2014.

According to the approved 2014 Division Study Financing budget an amount of Naf. 4,498,110.00 was available for study financing grants and Naf. 5,279,580.00 for loans.

Based on the determination as stipulated in article 3 paragraph 1 of the policy as described in the Island Ordinance Study Financing approximately 25% of the available budget was reserved for new application. To ensure budgetary compliance, the committee attempted to maintain the recommended quota given for USA, Canada and England jointly 35, Curacao and Aruba 20, St. Maarten 20 and 70 students for Holland.

This turned out to be a greater challenge than expected based on the number of applicants of which many who met the minimum requirements for the granting of study financing. However in accordance with article 13 sub c of policy as described in the study financing ordinance, the students best academic qualifications were given first preference.

Due to financial constraints, the granting of study financing for Masters Studies was suspended. However, two of the six applications received a positive advice based on the applicable exemptions.

The SFC expressed serious concerns with reference to the relative low taxable income submitted by predominantly business owners and self-employed persons compared to civil servants and private sector workers. Nine applicants received a negative advice because of their parental income exceeding Naf. 200,000.00 per annum however, in these cases the SFC advised that study financing be awarded as a 100% loan taking into account the priority of study and the increasing cost related to tertiary level education.

Considering the increasing number of legal challenges and appeals cases, the SFC adhered strictly to the criteria for granting and denying study financing. Consequently, a record number of students (64) including some VWO- and IB students received negative advices with reference to their study-financing request, as the chosen study major is not a priority study.

A record number of students requested study financing to pursue the study International Business Management (IBMS) and International Business Administration. The Division Study Financing advised all these applicants beforehand that this study was not a priority study.

However, in keeping with the policy to support the University of St.Martin (USM) and to promote studying in the region, applicants requesting study financing to pursue the study Business Administration at USM and meeting all other criteria received a positive recommendation from the SFC.

It was noted that in an attempt to circumvent the study financing policy, students are requesting study financing for education related majors based on the fact that this is high priority area of study and once the study financing is approved these students are subsequently requesting a change of study major. The study financing committee advised the Minister ECYS to revoke the study financing in such cases.

There was a great deal of uncertainty regarding the number level 3 and 4 courses that would be offered by the NIPA as of August 2014. Three students were referred to the NIPA for nursing, however this program did not start and the students were referred to Curacao and Aruba.

Study Financing Committee (SFC) Recommendations:

Place of Study	Requests	Positive		Negative		Pending	
		Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
ARUBA	7	4	1.5%	3	1.1%		0.0%
BONAIRE	2	1	0.4%	1	0.4%		0.0%
CANADA	11	8	3.0%	3	1.1%		0.0%
CURACAO	10	4	1.5%	5	1.9%	1	0.4%
ENGLAND	8	4	1.5%	4	1.5%		0.0%
HOLLAND	118	68	25.9%	50	19.0%		0.0%
SCOTLAND	1		0.0%	1	0.4%		0.0%
ST.KITTS	1		0.0%	1	0.4%		0.0%
ST.LUCIA	1		0.0%	1	0.4%		0.0%
ST.MAARTEN	23	14	5.3%	6	2.3%	3	1.1%
ST.THOMAS	1		0.0%	1	0.4%		0.0%
TRINIDAD	3	2	0.8%	1	0.4%		0.0%
USA	77	30	11.4%	42	16.0%	5	1.9%
TOTALS	263	135	51.3%	119	45.2%	9	3.4%

In accordance with article 10 paragraph 5b of the Island Ordinance Study Financing, the SFC refrained from rendering advices in eight (8) cases pending submission of GED results. In one (1) case, the decision was suspended until the student completes year one of the current study.

The SFC gave a positive advice for 51.3% of the applications whilst approximately 60% of the applications for Holland compared to 40% of the applications for USA received a positive advice.

Main reasons for negative recommendation:

Reason for negative advice	Amount	%
Exceeds age limit.	3	2,5%
GED score below the required minimum of 480.	8	6,8%
GPA below the required minimum of 2.50.	4	3,4%
Insufficient budget	5	4,2%
Insufficient CXC's at General level I,II,III.	5	4,2%
Insufficient grades relevant for study major. Not a priority study.	1	0,8%
Not a priority study and parental income exceeds Ang 200.000,00.	3	2,5%
Not a priority study and weak grades for relevant subjects.	2	1,7%
Not a priority study.	56	47,5%
Not a priority study. Insufficient CXC's at General level I,II,III.	2	1,7%
Parental income exceeds Ang 200, 000.00. Positive as 100% loan budget permitting.	1	0,8%
Parental income exceeds Ang 200,00.00. Positive as 100% loan budget permitting.	5	4,2%
Weak grade for language of instruction. Referred to Bonaire.	1	0,8%
Referred to NIPA.	3	2,5%
Referred to USM.	3	2,5%
Requesting a second scholarship	2	1,7%
Was not registered on St. Maarten for 5 years prior to request for SF.	2	1,7%
Weak grades for the relevant subjects.	12	10,2%
TOTALS	118	100,0%

In approximately 50% of the cases the SFC advised negatively regarding an application because the study was not a priority study.

Overview of Minister Decisions per country

Place of Study	Applications	Granted		Denied	
		Amount	%	Amount	%
ARUBA	7	5	1,9%	2	0,8%
BONAIRE	2	2	0,8%		0,0%
CANADA	11	8	3,0%	3	1,1%
CURACAO	9	5	1,9%	4	1,5%
ENGLAND	8	4	1,5%	4	1,5%
HOLLAND	118	72	27,4%	46	17,5%
SCOTLAND	1		0,0%	1	0,4%
ST.KITTS	1		0,0%	1	0,4%
ST.LUCIA	1	1	0,4%		0,0%
ST.MAARTEN	25	16	6,1%	9	3,4%
TRINIDAD	3	2	0,8%	1	0,4%
USA	77	39	14,8%	38	14,4%
TOTALS	263	154	58,6%	109	41,4%

The minister approved 58,6% of all requests. The most scholarships were granted to students to pursue their education in the Netherlands followed by the USA.

Overview of minister's decisions per degree type

Degree Type	Applications	Granted		Denied	
		Amount	%	Amount	%
Associates	7	3	1,1%	4	1,5%
Bachelor's/HBO	193	110	41,8%	83	31,6%
Certificate program	1	1	0,4%		0,0%
Masters	6	2	0,8%	4	1,5%
MBO	25	15	5,7%	10	3,8%
SBO	12	7	2,7%	5	1,9%
WO/ university	19	14	5,3%	5	1,9%
TOTAL	263	152	57,8%	111	42,2%

In 2014, most scholarships were granted to students to pursue bachelor/HBO degrees.

Overview of deviations from the Study Financing Committee (SFC) recommendations

Place of Study	Applications	Granted	Positive advice SFC	Denied	Negative advice SFC	Deviated from SFC advice
ARUBA	7	5	4	2	3	1
BONAIRE	2	2	1	0	1	1
CANADA	11	8	8	3	3	0
CURACAO	9	5	4	4	5	1
ENGLAND	8	4	4	4	4	0
HOLLAND	118	72	68	46	50	4
SCOTLAND	1	0	0	1	1	0
ST.KITTS	1	0	0	1	1	0
ST.LUCIA	1	1	0	0	1	1
ST.MAARTEN	25	16	16	9	9	0
TRINIDAD	3	2	2	1	1	0
USA	77	39	30	38	47	9
TOTALS	263	154	137	109	126	17

The minister deviated from the advice of the SFC in 17 (6,5%) cases. In all cases the negative advice was not followed.

Comparison of approved requests from 2010 - 2014

Year	Total Requests	Granted		Denied	
		Amount	%	Amount	%
2014	263	154	59%	109	41%
2013	344	180	52%	164	48%
2012	235	164	70%	71	30%
2011	272	182	67%	90	33%
2010	209	136	65%	73	35%

The numbers requests decreased in 2014 by 24%, however the scholarship approval rating increased by 7% from 52% in 2013 to 59% in 2014.

Appeal Cases

In accordance with article 23 of the policy as described in the study financing ordinance and the National Ordinance Administrative Decisions, persons whose study financing was denied may appeal this decision. The Study Financing Appeals committee has been tasked with organizing hearings and advising the Minister with reference to the appeals. The members of the appeals committee are Mr. Ajamu Baly (Ministry of Justice) , Ms. Faye Arnell (Department of Youth Affairs) and Ms. Priscilla Bell (Division Inspection). The overview below depicts the number of appeals per place of study and the minister decision.

Place of Study	Appeals	Granted		Denied	
		Amount	%	Amount	%
ARUBA	1	1	3,2%	0	0,0%
CANADA	1	1	3,2%	0	0,0%
CURACAO	1	1	3,2%	0	0,0%
ENGLAND	1	0	0,0%	1	3,2%
HOLLAND	10	3	9,7%	7	22,6%
SCOTLAND	1	0	0,0%	1	3,2%
USA	16	6	19,4%	10	32,3%
TOTALS	31	12	38,7%	19	61,3%

Thirty eight comma seven percent (38,7%) of the denials were overturned upon appeal. This is an increase of 11,7% compared to 27% in 2013. In all cases the Minister followed the recommendations of the appeal committee.

Active Study Finance Recipients

Overview active study financing recipients per country

Place Of Study	Amount	Percentage
ARUBA	13	2,7%
BONAIRE	2	0,4%
CANADA	25	5,1%
CURACAO	47	9,6%
DOM.REPUBLIC	1	0,2%
ENGLAND	6	1,2%
HOLLAND	203	41,6%
SCOTLAND	1	0,2%
ST. LUCIA	2	0,4%
ST.MAARTEN	52	10,7%
ST.THOMAS	3	0,6%
THAILAND	1	0,2%
TRINIDAD	4	0,8%
USA	128	26,2%
TOTALS	488	100,0%
Studying in the region	277	56,8%

From the table above it can be concluded that 56,8% of the study financing recipients are studying in the region compared to 43,2% outside of the region. The countries that are considered the region have been highlighted in green. This is an increase of 2,5% compared to 54,3 % in 2013.

Overview Active Study Financing Recipients based year started

Year Started	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Amount	2	1	0	17	35	50	78	126	130	488
Percentage	0,4%	0,2%	0,0%	3,5%	7,2%	10,2%	16,0%	25,8%	26,6%	100,0%

From the overview it can be concluded that 10,72% of the active study financing recipients are studying between 4 and 6 years, whilst 0,8% is studying 8 years or more. The students who are predominantly pursuing degrees in the medical field.

Study Financing Recipients per area of study major (category)

Below you will find an overview of all study financing recipients per study major category. From this overview it can be noted that the most popular areas of study are Business, Education and Healthcare .

Nr.	Area of Study	Amount	%
1	Business	59	12,1%
2	Education	58	11,9%
3	Healthcare	38	7,8%
4	Medicine	29	5,9%
5	Other	27	5,5%
6	Accounting and Finance	26	5,3%
7	Hospitality	26	5,3%
8	Computer	24	4,9%
9	Engineering	24	4,9%
10	Law	18	3,7%
11	Communication	17	3,5%
12	Psychology	15	3,1%
13	Science	15	3,1%
14	Culinary Arts	13	2,7%
15	Lab Technology	11	2,3%
16	Social Work	11	2,3%
17	Management	9	1,8%
18	Technology	9	1,8%
19	Architecture	8	1,6%
20	Aviation	8	1,6%
21	Economics	8	1,6%
22	Therapy	7	1,4%
23	Human Resources	6	1,2%
24	Electronics	4	0,8%
25	Mathematics	3	0,6%
26	Political Science	3	0,6%
27	Facility Studies	2	0,4%
28	International Studies	2	0,4%
29	Languages	2	0,4%
30	Sociology	2	0,4%
31	Dentistry	1	0,2%
32	Dietetic	1	0,2%
33	Environmental Studies	1	0,2%
34	Pharmacy	1	0,2%
	TOTALS	488	100,0%

Academic performance

All study financing recipients are required to submit their study results annually before July 15 to qualify in order to qualify for an extension of their study financing. Below you will find an overview of the students who were extended for FALL 2014.

Overview of the academic performance of study financing recipients

Place Of Study	GPA					Academic Performance		ECTS				TOTALS
	< 2.0	2.0 - 2.5	2.5 - 3.0	3.0 - 4.0	> 4.0	Promoted	Not Promoted	<10	10 - 45	45 - 60	< 60	
ARUBA	1	1				3	0		1			6
CANADA	3	4	3	5	1	2						18
CURACAO						29	7		3		2	41
DOM.REPUBLIC				1								1
ENGLAND				1		1						2
HOLLAND						22	3	9	36	43	26	139
SCOTLAND						1						1
ST. LUCIA				1								1
ST.MAARTEN	4	5	8	16		1				2		36
ST.THOMAS			1	2								3
THAILAND			1									1
TRINIDAD				3								3
USA	2	9	18	62	5	1						97
TOTALS	10	19	31	91	6	60	10	9	40	45	28	227
%	4,4%	8,4%	13,7%	40,1%	2,6%	26,4%	4,4%	4,0%	17,6%	19,8%	12,3%	100,0%

From the overview, it can be concluded that 12,8 % of study financing recipients attending schools using a GPA system did not earn a GPA of 2,50 or higher , whilst 4,4% of the study financing recipients attending MBO or SBO were not promoted. 21,6% of the study financing recipients attending school using the ECTS system did not earn 45 ECTS or higher.

Overview of warning letters issued

Warning letter	Amount
First	116
Second	23
TOTAL	139

In 2014, 139 warning letters were issued due to students not meeting the academic performance requirement. This is 63 more warning letters than in 2013.

Dropouts

In study financing terms dropouts are study financing recipients who did not qualify for an extension of their study financing because they did not submit their study results or proof that they have graduated. This entails in some cases that the student has chosen to continue their study with their own funding or funding from another financing institution. The number of dropouts in Holland is extremely high 83,5% followed by USA at 2,9 %. However it is presumed that most of the dropouts residing in the Netherlands will actually continue their studies making use of funding from the Dutch Government. The total number of dropouts decrease by 38,1% compared to 2013 when the number of dropouts were 176.

Place of Study	Dropouts	%
ARUBA	5	4,6%
BARBADOS	1	0,9%
CURACAO	7	6,4%
HOLLAND	91	83,5%
ST. MAARTEN	2	1,8%
USA	3	2,8%
TOTAL	109	100%

Graduates

In 2014, approximately 48 study financing recipients reported to the Division Study Financing that they had completed their studies. The number of expected graduates for 2014 was approximately 136. As such, it can be concluded that approximately 35% of the study financing recipients graduated in 2014. This is an increase of 5% compared to 2013. It has also been noted that most study financing recipients' breaks off all contact with the Division Study Financing once they are not longer entitled to payments. This makes it very difficult to record this data accurately. Below you will find an overview of the graduates per place of study.

Place of Study	Graduates	%
ARUBA	4	8%
CANADA	2	4%
CURACAO	7	15%
ENGLAND	1	2%
HOLLAND	9	19%
ST.MAARTEN	7	15%
ST.KITTS	1	2%
ST.LUCIA	1	2%
USA	16	33%
TOTAL	48	100%

Requests for change of study

In accordance with article 16 of the study financing ordinance, students may not change their study without approval of the minister.

Area	Amount
HOLLAND	56
ARUBA/CURACAO/CARIBBEAN REGION	6
USA/CANADA/ENGLAND/SCOTLAND	0
TOTAL	62

In total 62 requests for change of study was processed and approved in 2014. This a decrease of 43% compared to the 109 request in 2013..

Unauthorized changes of study

Area	Amount
HOLLAND	14
ARUBA/CURACAO/CARIBBEAN REGION	0
USA/CANADA/ENGLAND/SCOTLAND	1
TOTAL	15

During the annual monitoring and control exercise, it was noted that an amount of 15 students had change their study major without requesting approval of the minister. The Division Study Financing suspended payments to all these students until they were in full compliance of the regulations.

Fraud cases

Fraud cases are instances whereby students receive their study financing payment and do not attend school. The funds are used predominantly for other purposes than intended.

Place of Study	Amount
USA	2
TOTAL	2

This is a decrease of 75% compared to 2013. The students will be requested to repay these monies as a 100% loan.

Financial Information

Tuition, living expenses and study materials

Overview of cost related to the extension of study financing for Spring and Fall 2014

PAYMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO STUDY FINANCING EXTENSIONS FOR 2014				
Place Of Study	Subtotal Payment	Loan (100% -60%)	Scholarship (40%-0%)	Number of payments
ARUBA	145.500,00	87.300,00	58.200,00	26
BARBADOS	26.700,00	16.020,00	10.680,00	1
CANADA	440.550,00	264.330,00	176.220,00	33
CURACAO	587.600,00	352.560,00	235.040,00	99
DOM.REPUBLIC	26.700,00	16.020,00	10.680,00	2
ENGLAND	66.750,00	40.050,00	26.700,00	5
Grand Cayman	44.500,00	44.500,00	-	2
HOLLAND	191.820,00	115.092,00	76.728,00	139
SCOTLAND	40.050,00	24.030,00	16.020,00	3
ST. LUCIA	24.920,00	14.952,00	9.968,00	2
ST.KITTS	6.750,00	4.050,00	2.700,00	1
ST.MAARTEN	226.510,00	144.806,00	81.704,00	115
ST.THOMAS	74.760,00	44.856,00	29.904,00	6
THAILAND	13.500,00	8.100,00	5.400,00	2
TRINIDAD	40.500,00	24.300,00	16.200,00	6
USA	2.493.430,00	1.523.470,00	969.960,00	193
TOTALS	4.450.540,00	2.724.436,00	1.726.104,00	635

Overview of cost related to the issuance of study financing

Cost with reference to new study financing applications				
Place Of Study	Recipients	Payments	Loan (100%-60%)	Scholarship (40%-0%)
ARUBA	2	12.400,00	6.600,00	5.800,00
BONAIRE	1	7.450,00	4.050,00	3.400,00
CANADA	3	42.150,00	24.030,00	18.120,00
CURACAO	5	33.650,00	18.090,00	15.560,00
ENGLAND	3	51.300,00	38.520,00	12.780,00
HOLLAND	72	172.668,60	103.601,16	69.067,44
ST.LUCIA	1	14.050,00	8.010,00	6.040,00
ST.MAARTEN	16	50.637,21	30.382,33	20.254,88
TRINIDAD	1	7.450,00	4.050,00	3.400,00
USA	18	261.100,00	163.760,00	97.340,00
TOTAL	122	652.855,81	401.093,49	251.762,32

Working visits

In 2014, a number of working visits were conducted to various countries/islands namely:

- Holland
- Curacao

During these visits, discussions were conducted with various stakeholders and with the study financing recipients.

Destination	Amount of persons	Per diem	Tickets	Total
Holland	2	4.600,00	3396,4	15.992,80
Curacao	1	836,97	701,16	1.538,13
Total	3	5.436,97	4.097,56	17.530,93

Miscellaneous Expenses

Description of cost	Total	Loan (100%-60%)	Grant (40%-0%)
Summer Course Funding	128.212,67	76.927,60	51.285,07
Resettlement Allowance	2.000,00		2.000,00
Computer Loans	34.560,00	34.560,00	
Tickets	179.929,67		179.929,67
100% loans	24.030,00	24.030,00	
* <i>S4</i>	2.125.200,00		2.125.200,00
* <i>Aruba</i>	10.920,00		10.920,00
* <i>Curacao</i>	39.480,00		39.480,00
* <i>preparatory workshops</i>	4.389,06	-	4.389,06
Insurance	204.375,35	-	204.375,35
TCC scholarship bridge	10.800,00	-	10.800,00
FAMU scholarship bridge	24.300,00	-	24.300,00
USM tuition payments	381.007,46	228.604,48	152.402,98
New study financing website	4.286,96		
Consultant fees Study Financing Ordinance	8.586,40		
Study Care, Guidance and Supervision in the Netherlands	106.200,00		
Legal expenses Gibson and Associates	3.054,48		
TOTAL	3.169.204,21	364.122,08	2.805.082,13