



## ADMISSION CRITERIA DUTCH SP TRAININGS

JUNE 2026

### Admissibility Dutch Students to SPI trainings in the Netherlands

Sensorimotor Psychotherapy is a 'body oriented' talking therapy. The SP -site states ' The Training Program is designed for **legally authorized mental health professionals** to integrate and apply Sensorimotor Psychotherapy theory and techniques into clinical practice."

The Dutch mental health field is complex. By offering trainings in the Netherlands, the organization aims to firmly position Sensorimotor Psychotherapy within regular mental health services. The curriculum is aligned with the Dutch system of professional registrations and accreditation, ensuring compliance with registration committees and the awarding of continuing education credits (nascholingspunten), so that it fits seamlessly with clinical practice in the GGZ. Admission criteria and verification of registrations are therefore essential to safeguard the quality and high professional standards of both training and trainee. Sensorimotor Psychotherapy is a post-academic training at post-master level (NLQF 7), designed for professionals with proven clinical experience in the field of mental health.

Hence the clarification up front on admissibility of Dutch Mental Health professionals. We limit ourselves to two groups:

BIG-registered psychologist, psychotherapists or psychiatrists -and with additional requirements Nurse Practitioners GGZ, their equivalents and/or those that are in an advanced stage of their training to hold a post academic therapeutic license (VGcT/NIP/NtvP/GGZ-arts) as well as senior psychomotor or dance therapists that have an academic background.

All those that hold a **UNIVERSITY MASTER DEGREE** (or in the pre 2000 system title drs./doctorandus) in one of the behavioural sciences AND have had at least 2 years of post graduate clinical training, have worked under supervision plus have relevant working experience are admissible.

These professionals have to re-register every 5 years during which they have to prove to have been involved in accredited professional education. Also they are liable for their actions under Dutch law (Medisch klachten tuchtrecht)

Applicants that do not meet the pre-requisites, can not be admitted to the Dutch Trainings.

For them workshops and shorter trainings are provided through RINO-groep Utrecht by the SP trainers.

### 1. BIG

**A. Fully Licensed Mental Health professionals that hold a governmental BIG registration or can prove to be currently in training to become licensed ([www.bigregister.nl](http://www.bigregister.nl))**

- \* GZ-psycholoog BIG
- \* Orthopedagoog BIG
- \* Psychotherapeut BIG
- \* Klinisch psycholoog BIG
- \* Klinisch Neuropsycholoog BIG
- \* Psychiatrists BIG



**B. Fully Licensed Mental Health professionals that hold an equivalent to the BIG registration or that can prove to be (advanced) in training to become licensed in one of the following professional registers**

- NIP Register Psycholoog Kind & Jeugd
- NIP Eerstelijns Psycholoog (ELP)
- VCGT - Cognitive Behavioral Therapists / Cognitief Gedragstherapeut (<https://www.vgct.nl/>)
- Dutch Psychotrauma therapists / NtVP full registered members (<https://www.ntvp.nl/register/>)
- Mental health / youth doctors (medical) that are experienced in trauma treatment / work clinically e.g. administer therapy as part of a multidisciplinary team for example (admission based on CV) (BIG registration)

**C. Nurse Practitioner (Mental Health) – Dutch title: Verpleegkundig Specialist GGZ.**

Nurse Specialists in Mental Health (VS GGZ) are only admissible, when they can demonstrate additional education and clinical experience consistent with the post-master/post-academic level of the SP training.

**Admissible are those who:**

- are registered in the BIG-register as **Nurse Specialist Mental Health (VS GGZ, NLQF 7, professional master)**,
- can document **at least 5 years of clinical experience** in specialized mental health care (trauma and personality disorders, multidisciplinary treatment teams),
- have **training and experience in psychotherapeutic methods** (e.g., EMDR, CBT, schema therapy, trauma treatment within a GGZ setting),
- have completed **a minimum of 45 hours of supervision and/or own therapy**,
- are active participants in **peer supervision or intervision groups**.

**Not admissible are:**

- Psychiatric nurses (SPV) without a master's degree,
- Nurse Specialists in somatic domains (AGZ, somatics, elderly care),
- nurses without a VS-registration.

**Rationale:**

These additional requirements are necessary because the SP training is aimed at professionals working from a psychotherapeutic framework. For VS GGZ the professional master degree, theoretical basis, is combined with substantial clinical experience, supervision, and additional training, thus safeguarding a comparable post-master entry level for all students.

2. Register vaktherapie

**3. Senior Psychomotor/Movement Therapists that are registered as VAKTHERAPEUT in Register Vaktherapie ([www.registervaktherapie.nl](http://www.registervaktherapie.nl)) that can also prove to hold**

- \* **Master** degree Psychomotor Therapy (finished Master studies > 2 years prior to taking SP)
- \* **> 5 years of working experience** ( min. of 16 hours per week over 5 years)
- \* working experience in relevant Mental Health setting (member of multidisciplinary team, trauma focus e.g.)
- \* **a minimum of 45 hours of supervision** / own therapy
- \* is part of an active peer supervision group

**Rationale:**

These additional requirements are necessary because the SP training is aimed at professionals working from a psychotherapeutic framework. Hence the professional master degree, theoretical basis, is combined with substantial clinical experience, supervision, and additional training, thus safeguarding a comparable post-master entry level for all students.



## **NOT ADMISSIBLE:**

Not admissible are those holding a master in Psychology/Orthopedagogy - post academic training and registration is mandatory. Physicians without clinical experience in mental health care are also not admissible. In addition, all other mental health professionals are excluded if they do not hold an academic degree at master's level in the behavioral sciences. This includes those whose highest qualification is a bachelor's degree (HBO) or a post-bachelor/complementary certificate. Examples include:

- *Basic Psychologist / Basic Orthopedagogue*
- *Physicians without clinical experience in mental health care*
- *All other practitioners without an academic master's degree in the behavioral sciences*
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Also not admissible are professional groups holding Bachelor or complementary degrees, such as (some examples):

- *Social work*
- *Haptotherapy*
- *Integrative child or adult psychotherapy (HBO, Academie voor Psychotherapie)*
- *European Certificate of Psychotherapy*
- *Play therapy*
- *Systemic or couples therapy (HBO level)*
- *NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming)*
- *General nursing / Social psychiatric nursing (SPV)*
- *Physiotherapy / Psychosomatic physiotherapy*

The examples listed above are not exhaustive; other professional groups that do not meet the admission criteria are also excluded.

**We no longer admit people with a waiver on the Dutch trainings. Where admissibility is not clear, the training coordinator will decide in consultation with the trainer. The decision taken is final.**

**For foreign students, different admission criteria may apply, depending on the legal framework in their country of residence for practicing therapy. These criteria will be aligned as closely as possible with the Dutch admission standards described above**

Everybody that is not admissible is invited to join the MasterClass Body Basics offered by RINOGroep in Utrecht in collaboration with Sensorimotor Psychotherapy Institute <https://www.rinogroep.nl/opleiding/7767/masterclass-body-basics-vanuit-sensorimotor-psychotherapy.html>

People having been trained in SPI trainings in the Netherlands, and working the general Mental Health Field in the Netherlands or Dutch speaking part of Belgium, **can become (aspirant) member of the Sensorimotor Psychotherapy Institute Professional Association (SPIPA) - NL** . After completing level II alumni can become full members, provided they are registered as GGZ-professionals and as such accountable for their professional work by means of law (BIG) or by means of professional membership (Verenigingstuchtrecht).

SPIPA-NL aims at positioning sensorimotor psychotherapy as a main stream psychotherapy in the Dutch field of psychology and psychotherapy. More info on SPIPA-NL : [www.sensorimotorpsychotherapy.nl](http://www.sensorimotorpsychotherapy.nl).