

# Gaming in UTRECHT

## The Province of Utrecht offers:

- Central location in the heart of the Netherlands
- World class universities and research institutes; Utrecht University is ranked No. 1 in the Netherlands in the 2010 Shanghai Ranking
- Highest educated workforce in the country
- Most competitive EU region according to the European Commission (2010)
- Booming industries include ICT, Gaming, Life Sciences and Sustainability
- Competitive prices for top business facilities
- Utrecht: the most sustainable region of the Netherlands (Rabobank, 2010)

Utrecht's high level of education; convenient location with excellent connections to the European market; and competitive real estate prices have already attracted more than 900 foreign companies to the province.

## Utrecht: hotspot for gaming companies

The game industry in the Netherlands has increased tenfold since 2002, when the industry counted at most 200 developers. In 2009, there were nearly 2000. The game industry encompasses entertainment, casual, online and serious games. Utrecht has become a hotspot for game companies because of the excellent educational programs offered by [Utrecht University](#), the [University of Applied Sciences Utrecht](#) and the [Utrecht School of the Arts](#); a strong network of research centers; and a talented group of young game developers. In addition, the Dutch game market is very demanding, which makes it an ideal test pilot for newly released games.

### Gaming education:

Utrecht's educational institutes offer various degrees in game design and related fields. For instance, the Utrecht School of the Arts, one of the largest universities of Applied Sciences specialized in Arts and Culture in Europe, offers various degrees in Games and Interaction Design. Furthermore, the Dutch labor force ranks among the most multilingual in the world and is qualified to develop game contents in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and more.

### Initiatives and events:

The gaming industry is actively supported by the regional and national government. Examples of initiatives are the **Dutch Game Garden** and the **NLGD Festival of Games**. **Dutch Game Garden**: incubator and business center in downtown Utrecht providing wide-range support for starting and established game developers. ([www.dutchgamegarden.nl](http://www.dutchgamegarden.nl))

### About us:

**Invest Utrecht**, the foreign investment office of the province of Utrecht, is a one-stop shop for practical assistance and information services to help companies establish and maintain operations in Utrecht.

Our services include:

- Organisation of tailor-made fact finding trips
- Selection of real estate (insight, data on site selection issues, showing potential investment sites)
- Initial advice on available incentives, permit procedures, tax structures, legal and hr matters
- Introduction to potential regional partners and networks

All our services are free of charge and highly confidential.

For more information visit: [www.investinutrecht.com](http://www.investinutrecht.com) or email at [info@investinutrecht.com](mailto:info@investinutrecht.com)



### The Province of Utrecht

Population: 1.2 Million  
Size: 524 square miles  
Major cities: Utrecht and Amersfoort  
Distance to Schiphol International Airport: 30 minutes

### Who's here?



### Research institutes

- Game Research for Training and Entertainment (GATE)
- Center for Advanced Gaming and Simulation (AGS)
- Expertise Center on Games and Game Design

### Incubator

### Festival



### Media

- Control Magazine

**Invest :: Utrecht**  
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