

The Netherlands, 12 September 2013

Hello, my name is Alberto Soto, I'm from Jabugo, Huelva. I'm a nurse just like you.

At the end of September 2013, I've started working at a big and modern Dutch healthcare institution. I chose this, because within our profession it's very difficult to find a steady job in Spain. If you were very lucky, you could have found a temporary job, but the conditions got worse. I didn't have a preference for a specific country to go to and a friend of mine found a website for work in the Netherlands. We thought it was a good offer and therefore I started a Dutch language course in Seville with ROCA-BHR.

We had classes Monday to Friday. The course was very intensive. At the beginning we learned very fast and after a few months we could already easily have conversations in Dutch. At a certain point we reached a quite a good level and after that there was less improvement then before. The reason for this, I believe, was the intensiveness of the course and all the homework we had to do daily. Fortunately I successfully ended the course in Spain and I was able to go to the Netherlands.



The first weeks in the Netherlands were very busy; because we had to fill in a lot of paperwork like registration as an immigrant, rent compensation, health insurance compensation, a Dutch bank account etc. The daily support of ROCA-BHR in the first month was very necessary, because we didn't have any idea about the Dutch system. This support meant a lot to me, because most procedures require several steps that are difficult to solve on your own. The team of ROCA-BHR has contact with us through Skype, e-mail and telephone. ROCA-BHR's teacher has visited us during this period to talk to us about how things were going and if we still had questions. In December she will visit again and in the meantime we keep in touch through phone or e-mail. That is very nice.



Our job in the Netherlands is very different to the work of a nurse in Spain. Here we have to do many caretaker tasks and less medical treatments. In Spain our job is restricted to mainly nurse-technical procedures. At the moment I don't work at one fixed department, but I do my job at different people's homes. You have everything here for the care of the patients; in Spain the supplies are scarce. Every day I learn new things. I also found a nice football club, where I can play football and get to know Dutch people outside of the job. That's very important to me.

My future is clear to me. I will return to Spain. I think the Netherlands is a beautiful country, but I prefer the way of living in Spain and I miss my family and friends too much. My wish is to work as a nurse for the Spanish army one day.



At this time I'm trying to gain two years of experience in the Netherlands and of course I'm making money here. I'm also continuing studying Dutch.

My girlfriend is also a nurse and just like me she chose to go to the Netherlands through ROCA-BHR. We found a nice place to live together and are very happy.

Leaving your country is not an easy decision. You leave behind your family, friends and traditions. But at the same time you get the possibility to experience a different culture, develop your career and to make money. I am very happy with my decision.

Alberto

You also want to be very really happy about the decision you made? Apply now.



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