

DUO's Discriminatory Fraud-Detection Algorithm — A National Cautionary Case in Automated Student-Grant Checks

AI in Education · Good practice · Netherlands

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

From 2012 to 2023, the Netherlands' DUO used an opaque risk-scoring algorithm to select students for financial-aid fraud checks. The Dutch DPA ruled it unlawfully discriminatory in 2024; compensation for thousands of affected students was announced in 2026.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	0/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-31

[Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs \(DUO\), Dutch Ministry of Education](#) — accessed 2026-07-31

[Dutch DPA ruling: DUO's approach to fraud found discriminatory and illegal](#) — accessed 2026-07-31

[Amnesty International: Profiled without protection](#) — accessed 2026-07-31

[NL Times: Government to refund over 10,000 students over discriminatory DUO fraud checks](#) — accessed 2026-07-31

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