

[NL](#)

Pre-master's in Data Science for Decision Making

Does your degree not give you access to the two-year [UM master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making](#) at the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE)? Maybe you are eligible for our pre-master's programme! This pre-master's is a preparation programme that bridges the gap between your previous education and the master's. It is a tailor-made programme based on your previous knowledge and skills. Upon successful completion within the semester concerned, you will directly qualify for admission to the UM master's in Data Science for Decision Making.

You apply for the [master's programme](#) directly at Studielink. If the Board of Admissions decides a pre-master is the best option for you, you will be informed and we will arrange the enrolment.

Fast facts

- ⦿ two starting moments: **September and February**
- ⦿ duration: one semester, equivalent to circa 6 months (30 ECTS)
- ⦿ taught in English

- ⦿ start programme: **September 2026**
- ⦿ application open: **1 October 2025**
- ⦿ application deadline: **1 May 2026 (non-EU/EEA) and 1 June 2026 (EU/EEA)**

- ⦿ start programme: **February 2027**
- ⦿ application open: **1 July 2026**
- ⦿ application deadline: **1 November 2026 (non-EU/EEA) and 1 December 2026 (EU/EEA)**

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⚠ Please note:

- ⦿ Admission is only possible for applicants with minor deficiencies, or applicants who meet all the requirements but on a university of applied sciences level. [Read more >>](#)
- ⦿ Applicants with a non-EEA diploma cannot apply directly for this pre-master's; they will have to apply for one of FSE's regular master's programmes first. [Read more >>](#)

Programme content

The pre-master's programme is tailor-made for each individual applicant and the courses you will follow depend on the knowledge and skills you have already obtained.

The programme has a duration of one semester which is equivalent to +/- 6 months (30 ECTS).

The programme should be successfully completed within one semester.

Study fee

The pre-master's programme has a duration of one semester which is equivalent to +/- 6 months.

The pre-master's programme study fee is about **half of the [statutory tuition fee for the master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making](#)**, for both EU/EEA & non-EU/EEA students.

General requirements: previous education

If you finished a bachelor's programme at a research university but just fell short of meeting the [admission requirements for the master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making](#), our pre-master's programme offers you the opportunity to obtain your starting credentials.

Admission to this pre-master's programme is only possible if you have minor deficiencies: you must meet at least 90% of the admission requirements for the master's programme in Data

Science for Decision Making and have finished at least Calculus or Linear Algebra and discrete mathematics on a bachelor's level. Also you have some object-oriented programming experience.

Graduates from a Dutch HBO in a related field

The pre-master's programme is also a suitable option for students who have a degree from a Dutch university of applied sciences (HBO) in a related field, Mathematics, Computer Science, Technical Data Science, Operations Research, Artificial Intelligence, Econometrics, Engineering or Physics. and who meet **all** the requirements for the master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making but on a university of applied sciences level (Dutch HBO) level. This means that you also need to have **finished bachelor's courses in calculus, discrete mathematics and linear algebra**.

You will follow a one-semester programme at our department, and gain access to the master's programme upon successful completion of the pre-master's programme. Again, our admissions office is your first point of contact.

Admissions office

Before applying for this pre-master's programme, please feel free to contact the FSE admissions office regarding your specific situation. Admissions officer Miranda Vermeer is happy to look at your options.

✉ dacs-admissions@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Additional requirements

Language requirements for English-language programmes

As English is the language of instruction in this study programme, it is essential that your English language skills are good enough for you to undertake intensive and challenging academic courses that are taught and examined in English.

Do you hold a bachelor's or master's degree in which English was the sole language of instruction?

Yes

No

Handling fee

Applicants for this study pre-master's programme **who received their previous education in a non-EU/EEA country** will have to pay a handling fee. More information on this handling fee and how to arrange this payment can be found on the [Handling fee web page](#).

Important deadlines

It is important that you inform yourself of the deadlines that you need to meet for a successful application.

The regular application deadlines for the master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making apply. [You can find the application deadlines here](#).

Visa/residence permit for study

Are you a non-EU/EEA national requiring a visa/residence permit for study? Click here for more information

Please note that Maastricht University can **only** formally apply for your [visa/residence permit](#) if you have met all admission and enrolment requirements.

This means you have to have completed all admission and enrolment tasks in the MyApplication portal (except the 'visa/residence permit'-task and the 'send certified copy of diploma'-task) before we can send your application to the IND (Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service).

We have to send the application to the IND before 1 July if you are starting your studies in September. Please note: a few pre-master and master programmes offer a start in February. If your study programme offers a start in February and you want to start your studies in February, we have to send the application to the IND before 1 December. You can find out if your study programme offers a start in February on the admission requirements web page of that programme ([pre-master's](#), [master's](#)).

Therefore, we **strongly recommend** that you reconsider applying for this study programme if you are not sure that you will meet the following requirements before 1 July/1 December (if applicable in your situation):

- ⦿ Having remedied all subject and/or language deficiencies (if applicable)

- ⦿ Having qualified for admission to your study programme, including being selected ([if applicable to your study programme](#)) AND
 - ⦿ Having paid the tuition fee for your study programme
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How do we assess your application?

To determine whether you qualify for admission to a pre-master's programme, our Board of Admissions will carefully evaluate your diplomas, academic portfolio and proof of proficiency in English.

After successful completion of the pre-master's programme, you will then be able to continue with the master's in Data Science for Decision Making.



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Bluesky

Facebook

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LinkedIn

TikTok

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Contact

Transparency & Accountability

Privacy & security

Support

Feedback

