



Pre-master's in Systems Biology and Bioinformatics

Does your degree not give you access to the two-year [UM master's programmes in Systems Biology and Bioinformatics](#) at the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE)? Maybe you are eligible to 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 either Biobased Materials, Imaging Engineering or Systems Biology and Bioinformatics.

On this page, you will find important details of the application process for the pre-master's (such as deadlines, admission requirements, required documents and application assessment). Check if you qualify for admission to this pre-master's programme.

We have rolling admissions. The earlier you apply, the earlier you will know whether or not you have a place in the programme. We advise you to apply as early as possible, especially if you think you are likely to receive a pre-master's advice. We suggest you apply at least one month before the deadline.

Fast facts

- ⦿ 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)**

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 study fee is about **half of the statutory tuition fee for the master's programme in Systems Biology and Bioinformatics, for both EU/EEA & non-EU/EEA students.**

General requirements: previous education

If you just fall short of meeting the [admission requirements for the master's programmes in Systems Biology and bioinformatics](#), our pre-master's programme offers you the opportunity to obtain your starting credentials.

Admission to this pre-master's programme is only possible for:

- ⦿ candidates with minor deficiencies or,
- ⦿ candidates who meet all the requirements but on a university of applied sciences level (Dutch HBO).

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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). 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. Our admissions office is your first point of contact.

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](#).

How to apply

Ready to apply? The application and enrolment process consists of three phases. More information on each of these phases is provided below. Carefully read through the information provided and make sure to complete all tasks as soon as possible (and definitely before the indicated deadlines).

Please note: for applicants with a non-EEA diploma it is not possible to apply for the pre-master's programmes directly. You will have to apply for one of FSE's regular master's programmes first. If your credentials and educational background are insufficient for direct admission into one of our master's programmes, the Board of Admissions will determine whether a pre-master's programme can be offered.

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 Systems Biology and Bioinformatics apply. [You can find them here](#).

Phase 1: Apply via Studielink

Let us know you want to apply for this study programme

To start the application process for this pre-master's programme, you first need to apply via [Studielink](#). Studielink is the Dutch central organisation that keeps track of applications and enrolments at institutions of higher education in the Netherlands. In Studielink, you can apply by indicating which study programme at Maastricht University (UM) you would like to apply for, whether you'd like to start the programme in September or February (if the latter is an option), what previous education you followed, and you might need to provide a number of other details.

Studielink offers two methods of signing in: with or without using DigiD:

- ⦿ If you live in a Dutch municipality, you can only register using your DigiD. If you live in a Dutch municipality, but do not yet have a DigiD yet, you will need to request one ([Apply for a DigiD](#)).
- ⦿ If you do not (yet) live in the Netherlands, you can register by creating a Studielink account (without DigiD). As your personal details will not have been verified through DigiD, UM will check your personal details.

[Apply via Studielink](#) 

Please note:

- ⦿ You have to select your 'starting moment' in Studielink. Please make sure to select the right month and year in the dropdown-menu, so that you are applying for a start of the study programme in next academic year.
- ⦿ You will receive an email from UM within 24 hours of having applied in Studielink. This email contains your username/UM student number and a link to create your personal password. You can use these login details to access the MyApplication portal, the online environment in which the rest of your application process will take place. The portal will provide you with a clear overview of all the tasks you need to complete, such as uploading documents and paying your study fees.

Phase 2: Admission

Allow UM to assess if you meet the admission requirements

MyApplication portal

To allow UM to assess whether you qualify for admission to the study programme of your choice, you need to complete a number of tasks in the MyApplication portal, the online environment in which the rest of your application process will take place. All the tasks you need to complete, such as uploading certain documents, will be presented here in a clear overview. You can log into the portal using your username/UM student number and the password you have created (your login name and an explanation on how to create your own password are provided in the email you received from us after your application in Studielink).

Make sure you fulfil the tasks indicated in the MyApplication portal on time. This means that you should upload documents as soon as you have finalised them and/or have them in your possession. The sooner you complete a task, the sooner we can give you feedback if you need to add or correct anything. Please pay attention to the deadlines indicated, as they can differ per study programme.

Once you have completed all of your admission tasks, your application dossier is ready to be presented to the Board of Admissions. Depending on your programme, this will be done immediately when it is complete (rolling basis), or after an indicated deadline.

Required documents

During the application process for this pre-master's programme, you will need to complete a number of tasks for which you will often have to upload documents in the 'MyApplication portal':

🕒 A recent passport picture

The passport picture must satisfy certain requirements. You can find these requirements in the task description 'Upload portrait picture' in the MyApplication portal.

🕒 A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card

Make a copy of the page with your personal details. Save this copy as 'passport copy' and not as 'passport picture'.

🕒 A copy of your most recent grades transcript AND/OR A copy of your bachelor's diploma

If you have not graduated yet, you can upload your official grades transcript from your bachelor's programme, that will suffice.

🕒 Your curriculum vitae

Please list your education, relevant extracurricular activities and internship/professional experience.

🕒 An essay of motivation

The essay must be 2 pages long (in A4 format). Give good arguments about why you want to do this pre-master's programme at Maastricht University, and why you expect that you can successfully complete the programme.

🕒 Document(s) that demonstrate your proficiency in English

Answer the questions concerning language requirements under 'Language requirements for English-language programmes' on this webpage to find out if you need to provide additional documentation. The outcome of your answers will indicate which document(s) you can use to prove your proficiency.

Status updates about your application

From now on, you will receive important information and calls to action regarding your application in the message inbox in the MyApplication portal. We recommend that you regularly log in to the portal to make sure you stay updated. However, we will also notify you of important changes via the email address you provided to Studielink.

Phase 3: Enrolment

Arrange the practical matters required to start your studies at UM

Once you have been offered a place in the pre-master's programme, you need to arrange your enrolment. The tasks you need to complete to be enrolled are listed in the MyApplication portal under 'Enrolment tasks'. You can find a brief overview below.

Pay your study fee

Every applicant will need to pay their study fee. More information on how to go about arranging your study fee payment is provided in the task description in the MyApplication portal.

Once you've received an invite to pay your study fee, it is important that you indicate how you wish to arrange your payment (in Studielink). Do so on time (in any case before the start of your studies). Please also make sure that you pay (the first instalment of) your study fee in a timely manner. Otherwise, you won't be able to start your studies.

Allow UM to verify your diploma

Dutch diplomas

Did you acquire the diploma on the basis of which you have been offered a place in your study programme in the Netherlands? Then DUO will pass on their verification of your diploma to UM. No further action on your part is required.

Non-Dutch diplomas

Did you acquire the diploma on the basis of which you have been offered a place in your study programme outside of the Netherlands? Then you will need to send a [\(certified\) copy of that diploma](#).

Have you completed your previous education outside of the Netherlands and will you not receive your diploma before the start of your study programme? Then you can send a [\(certified\) graduation statement](#).

More information on the requirements for a (certified) copy of a diploma and for a certified graduation statement, as well as the address these documents should be posted to, is provided in the task description in the MyApplication portal.

Make sure all application and enrolment tasks are fulfilled

UM can only enrol you if you have completed all the tasks in the MyApplication portal. Please make sure this is the case, so that your application and enrolment can be completed and you'll be ready to start preparing for your studies as soon as possible.

Confirmation of Enrolment

When you have been enrolled for your study programme at UM, you will receive confirmation of this from UM (in the message inbox in the MyApplication portal) and from Studielink (by email).

Enrolment is for the duration of one academic year and is only possible upon submission of your bachelor's degree. You must complete your registration before September 1 of the corresponding academic year. You are only enrolled when you have fulfilled all requirements, including payment.

Rights associated with enrolment

Once enrolled, you have access to the pre-master's education and exams and the use of the university library. If you fail to pass the regular exam, you have one re-sit opportunity during the enrolment period of one academic year. There is no resit opportunity for the written paper within the programme. Upon completion of the programme, you will receive a certificate with the results obtained.

UM email account

Before you start your studies, you will receive the login details for your UM email account. Your UM email address will be used for all correspondence about your introduction programme and the start of your studies. Your private email address will only be used to inform you about the application and enrolment process.

How do we assess your application?

When you want to apply or are applying to this study programme, it is useful to know how we assess your application. You can find more information about this in this section.

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 Systems Biology and Bioinformatics.





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Bluesky

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

TikTok

YouTube

Contact

Transparency & Accountability

Privacy & security

Support

Feedback

