



English
Language



Full Time
Format



September
Start date



Maastricht
Location

Master

Arts and Culture: Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context

How are politics and culture interrelated? This specialisation zooms in on key contemporary challenges such as the tensions within democracies, the construction of national identities, the origins of political violence, and the legacies of colonialism.

[Download brochure](#)

Admission requirements

On this page you will find important details of the application process (such as deadlines, admission requirements, required documents and application assessment) for the master's programme in Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context for *academic year 2026-2027*.

For the master's programme in Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context enrolment is based on your quality and suitability. For this your motivation, previous education and (professional) experience are important.

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Application deadlines

This master's programme starts in September.

The deadlines below are applicable for applicants who want to start their studies in September 2026.

Note: if you are viewing this webpage on your phone, we recommend that you use landscape mode.

Date	What you need to know about this date
As soon as possible after 1 October 2025	Apply via Studielink* (open for applications for the academic year 2026-2027 from 1 October)
1 May 2026, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process if you have a non-EU/EEA nationality (in most cases, you will need a visa and/or residence permit)
1 June 2026, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process if you have an EU/EEA or Swiss nationality
1 August 2026	Strongly recommended deadline for paying the tuition fee .
31 August 2026, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing all tasks in the MyApplication portal** If you need a visa or residence permit , you must complete most tasks by an earlier date.

**Studielink is the national registration system for higher education,*

***The MyApplication portal is Maastricht University's application and enrolment platform.*

Please note:

Find out if you can apply for a [scholarship](#) or [financial aid](#).

Deadlines for scholarships are often earlier than the dates mentioned above. In Studielink, you need to choose the starting moment. Please make sure to select **September 2026** in the

dropdown-menu, so that you will apply for the start of the next academic year.

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
-

General requirements: previous education

The admission requirements for academic year 2026/27 for the master's programme in Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context depend on your previous education. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

Graduates from the UM bachelor's programme Arts and Culture applying for a continuing Master

If you apply via Studielink for the continuing master's programme, with a UM BA European Studies diploma, you are guaranteed a place. Please note: you must have graduated from BA European Studies at Maastricht University before 1 September 2026.

You will be asked to upload a valid passport/ID (if the one we have on file will not be valid on 1 September 2026) in the MyApplication portal. You will not have to upload a portrait picture or a letter of motivation.

Graduates from a relevant university bachelor's programme

You qualify for admission if you have a bachelor's degree from a relevant academic field in the humanities or social sciences such as philosophy, (art) history, sociology, social anthropology, cultural studies, political science, area studies or liberal arts.

Graduates from another bachelor's programme

Applicants with a relevant university of applied sciences degree (e.g. HBO/Hochschule), or an academic BA or BSc Bachelor in a field that does not grant direct admission into this programme, can follow a pre-master year. Once successfully completed, this will guarantee you access to the programme in Modern Political Culture.

Additional requirements

Language requirements for English-language master's 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.

Answer the questions below to find out if you meet the language requirements.

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

Yes

No

Applicants whose diploma is based on a non-EU-EEA curriculum (handling fee)

Applicants for this study programme whose diploma is based on a non-EU/EEA curriculum are required to pay a handling fee. This applies even if the educational institution is located within the EU/EEA, as the fee is based on the curriculum, not the location of the institution. More information on this handling fee and how to arrange this payment can be found on the [handling fee page](#).

Documents required for application process

During the application process for this study programme you will need to complete a number of tasks for which you will often have to upload documents. The list below gives you an insight into what documents you will (and might) need to prepare.

Required documents for all applicants to this study programme

🕒 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 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'. Your passport must be valid on 1 September 2026.

🕒 A copy of your most recent grades transcript and a copy of your bachelor's or master's diploma if you have obtained it

If you have not graduated yet, you can upload your official grades transcript from your bachelor's or master's programme.

🕒 Your Curriculum Vitae

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

🕒 A motivation letter

Please provide good arguments about why you want to do this master's programme at Maastricht University and why you believe that you can successfully complete the programme. The motivation letter should be between 800 – 1,200 words.

🕒 A writing sample

All candidates should provide proof of sufficient academic writing/research skills. The Board of Admissions asks the candidate to submit an independently written research paper of at least 2,000 words (excluding the footnotes and reference list) on a relevant topic. You can use a paper from earlier

studies or another occasion. The submitted work should be written in English.

**As a UM student it is not necessary to upload this document in the MyApplication portal unless your passport is not valid on 1 September 2026. In that case, you do have to upload a copy of your passport.*

Documents that might be required depending _ on your (academic) background

🕒 Document(s) that demonstrate your proficiency in English

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

🕒 Additional writing/paper samples

You might be asked to send additional writing/paper samples.

🕒 Permission for document verification form

If your diploma is not verified by DUO (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs, the Dutch government agency responsible for education-related matters), you will need to upload the form 'Permission for document verification' in the MyApplication portal. This form allows Maastricht University to verify your diploma, grades transcript or other required documents directly with the issuing institution or relevant qualification registry.

How do we assess your application?

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

If necessary, you will be invited for an interview with the Board of Admissions of the Modern Political Culture programme (face to face or via Skype).

Message about admission

Based on the documents you have submitted and the admission procedure for your chosen programme, the UM decides on whether to admit you. Once UM has made a decision on your admissibility, you will be informed about this by email.



UM visiting address

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UM postal address

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Bluesky

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn Arts and Culture:

TikTok Modern Political

YouTube Culture: Ideas and
Discourses in
Context

Why this
programme

Courses &
curriculum

Your future

› Admission

Contact **Admission requirements**
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