



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)? 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, you will be directly admissible to the UM master's in Data Science for Decision Making.

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.

Fast facts

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

- ✓ start programme: **February 2025**
- ✓ application open: **1 July 2024**
- ✓ application deadline: **1 November 2024 (non-EU/EEA) and 1 December 2024 (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 can not 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've already obtained.

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

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.

Admission requirements: previous education

If you just fall 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 for:

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

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, like ICT or (Technical) Informatics. 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 officers Miranda Vermeer and Céline Duijsens-Rondagh are happy to look at your options.

✉ dacs-admissions@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Additional admission 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.

Handling fee

Prospective pre-master's students **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 (to be found in Studielink with the 'transnationale Universiteit Limburg'). 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



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 them here](#).

Let us know you want to apply for this study programme

Phase 1: Apply via Studielink



Let us know you want to apply for this study programme

Phase 1: Apply via Studielink

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.

Allow UM to assess if you meet the admission requirements

Phase 2: Admission



Allow UM to assess if you meet the admission requirements

Phase 2: Admission

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](#).

- 🕒 **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 certified copy of your most recent grades transcript**

- 🕒 **A certified 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.

- 🕒 **Proof of proficiency in English**

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.

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.

Arrange the practical matters required to start your studies at UM

Phase 3: Enrolment



Arrange the practical matters required to start your studies at UM

Phase 3: Enrolment

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?

To determine whether you are eligible for 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.



UM postal address
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

UM visiting address

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6211 LK Maastricht
The Netherlands
+31 43 388 2222

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Education

Why UM?	>
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Excellence and honours programmes	>
PhD	>
Professionals	>
Exchange	>
Other courses	>
EDLAB Centre for Teaching & Learning	>

Research

Research institutes and themes	>
Graduate schools	>
PhD	>
Research Information Portal	>
Distinguished university professors	>
Professors	>
Maastricht Young Academy	>
Research quality	>
Integrity & ethics	>
Data Science @UM	>
Open Science	>
Academic ceremonies	>

UM in the world

International Classroom	>
International programmes	>
Partnerships	>
Students	>

Life@UM

Study in Maastricht	>
Work in Maastricht	>
Life in Maastricht	>
Relax in Maastricht	>
Sports in Maastricht	>

News & events

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Alumni	>
Staff	>
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Recognition & Rewards	>
Employability	>
Diversity & Inclusivity	>
Sustainability	>
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Support

Before your studies begin	>
During your studies	>
Your career	>
UM employees	>
Language support	>
UM SPORTS	>
ICT Facilities	>
Outages	>
Communications guide	>
Accessibility	>
General conditions UM	>
The Student Portal	>

WiFi for guests (eVA)

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