



Pre-master's in Law

⚠ *The academic year 2024-2025 is the last year the pre-master's in Law is offered. As of academic year 2025-2026, this pre-master's is no longer offered. Therefore, it is no longer possible to apply for this pre-master's.*

If your degree does not give you direct access to the UM masters [European Law School](#); [Globalisation and Law](#); [Forensics, Criminology and Law](#) (in English); or [International and European Tax Law](#), you may be eligible to pursue a pre-master in Law.*

The pre-master's in Law programme comprises a set of courses from the second and third year of our bachelor European Law School. To successfully complete the pre-master programme, you must fulfil at least 50 of the 60 ECTS, including the final dissertation. This renders you directly admissible to the master programme you seek admission to, provided you also meet the additional admission requirements of that specific programme.

**If you already hold a WO (research university) bachelor's degree and have completed several law subjects, we request that you first apply for the master's programme you intend to take. Your application will then be considered and you will be informed whether you immediately qualify for admission to the relevant master's programme or whether you need to take the pre-master's programme first.*

Fast Facts

- ✓ for graduates of a university of applied sciences (HBO) or research university (WO) bachelor
- ✓ start programme: **September 2024**
- ✓ application open: **1 October 2023**
- ✓ application deadline: **1 May 2024 (non-EU/EEA)** and **1 June 2024 (EU/EEA)**
- ✓ duration: one year (60 ECTS)
- ✓ does not grant access to professional qualifications

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.

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⚠ Please note: this pre-master's programme **does not provide automatic access to the professional qualifications** needed to practice law as a lawyer, public prosecutor or judge.

Following a master's programme in Law while having obtained a non-legal pre-education may have added value, but that this is not self-evident. Generally speaking such a combination will not give you access to the professional training for regulated legal professions or, in Dutch, 'civiel effect'.

Important information to consider

To make sure that you have the right expectations when considering to apply for this pre-master, please take note of the important remarks below:

- ⦿ If you have no – or limited – experience in law or legal subjects, we ***strongly discourage*** you from starting this pre-master. The pre-master is **not** designed to prepare you for the master of your choice. Successfully completing the pre-master merely serves as proof that you are admissible for the master even though you do not have the necessary qualifications to start an LLM programme directly.
- ⦿ The pre-master is **not a designated programme**. You follow second and third year LLB courses and even though pre-master students are all scheduled in the same group, you follow these courses among LLB students. You will be held to the same requirements, deadlines, and the like as LLB students.
- ⦿ You **must complete** the pre-master within 1 academic year. Besides very strict exceptions, there is no right to re-enroll in the pre-master.

- ⦿ The pre-master is **very demanding**. The dropout rate is well above 50%. Successfully completing the pre-master requires resilience, a high degree of self-reliance and requires you to be strongly motivated.
- ⦿ The pre-master is offered exclusively in a **full time** setting and participating in it **requires your physical presence** in Maastricht. Please note that it is very difficult to find living arrangements in Maastricht over the summer months and in the beginning of the year (June – September) and that you are ***strongly discouraged*** from starting the pre-master if you have not found a room in Maastricht.

Please remember that the default way to enter into a Master of Laws (LLM) programme is via a Bachelor of Laws (LLB). If you are not confident regarding the pre-master we encourage you to look at applying for an LLB programme.

Programme content

This pre-master's programme has a study load of 60 credits and is offered over the period of one academic year. You must complete a minimum of 50 credits, including the final dissertation, within one academic year to gain admission to the master's programme in which you wish to continue.

It's crucial to understand that the pre-master's programme is **not a designated programme**. The pre-master comprises a set of pre-determined courses from the second and third year of the bachelor European Law School that cover the main fields of law, and a number of specialist courses depending on the master programme you seek to be admitted to.

Even though pre-master students are all scheduled in the same group, you adhere to the same requirements, deadlines, and expectations as Bachelor of Laws (LLB) students.

Communal courses, period 1-4

- ⦿ Private Law (PRI2201)
- ⦿ Law of the European Union (IER2201)
- ⦿ Legal Research (SLC2001)
- ⦿ Premaster Law Essay (LAW3503)

Master specific courses, period 4-5

The master specific courses that need to be taken and passed, to gain admissibility to the following master's:

Master's in European Law School and master's in Globalisation and Law

- ⊙ International Business Law (PRI3008)
- ⊙ Criminal Law (CRI2201)
- ⊙ Legal Philosophy (MET3003)
- ⊙ Administrative Law (PUB2201)

Master's in Forensics, Criminology and Law

- ⊙ Criminal Law (CRI2201)
- ⊙ European Criminal Justice Area (LAW3012)
- ⊙ Criminal Procedure (CRI2202)
- ⊙ Internet Law & Governance (LAW3026)

Master's in International and European Tax Law

- ⊙ International Business Law (PRI3008)
- ⊙ Concepts of Income and Business Taxation (TAX3009)
- ⊙ Legal Philosophy (MET3003)
- ⊙ International and European Tax and Customs Law (TAX3013)



Education and Examination Regulations

There is a an [EER \(Education and Examination Regulations\)](#) for this pre-master's programme.

Further information is available from: admissions-law@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Study fee

For this pre-master's programme you have to pay a study fee equal to the statutory (low) fee. The statutory fee for 2024/2025 is: € 2,530.

For more information, see the [UM enrolment provisions](#) (art. 28).

The programme must be taken prior to the master's programme.

Admission requirements: previous education

You are eligible for admission to this programme if you have a bachelor's degree (in Law or another field) from an accredited research university (WO) or university of applied sciences (HBO).

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.

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

Do you hold a Dutch pre-university education (VWO) diploma?

Yes

No

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).

Important deadlines



Important deadlines

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

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

Date: 1 October 2023

What you need to know about this date: Studielink is open for applications for the academic year 2024-2025

Date: Up to and including 1 May 2024, 23:59 CET

What you need to know about this date: Deadline for completing the entire application process for non-EU/EEA applicants

Non-EU/EEA applicants require a [visa or residence permit](#))

Date: Up to and including 1 June 2024, 23:59 CET

What you need to know about this date: Deadline for completing the entire application process for applicants from the **EU/EEA or Switzerland**

Let us know you want to apply for this study programme

Phase 1: Apply via Studielink



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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.

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?

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 [here](#).

For this master's programme selection takes place on the basis of your quality and suitability. For this your motivation, previous education and your (academic) experience are important.

Note: only complete applications will be assessed. We therefore recommend that you adhere to the deadlines provided in the table under 'Important deadlines' on this page. We strive to assess your application and communicate the result to you within three to four weeks.

Interested in this programme?

Apply via Studielink



UM postal address

P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

UM visiting address

Minderbroedersberg 4-6
6211 LK Maastricht
The Netherlands
+31 43 388 2222

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Education

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Master's	>
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	>

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Support

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UM employees	>
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UM SPORTS	>
ICT Facilities	>
Outages	>
Communications guide	>
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The Student Portal	>
WiFi for guests (eVA)	>