



English

Language



Full Time

Format



**February
September**

Start date



Maastricht

Location

Master Data Science for Decision Making

Do you enjoy solving complex problems? Do you see patterns in data? Then our master's in DSDM is for you. We create more and more data; you will learn how to process it efficiently and be ready for a career as a data scientist or researcher.

[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 Data Science for Decision Making for *the academic year 2026-2027*.

Application deadlines

The master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making has two intakes: September and February

The deadlines below are applicable for applicants who want to start their studies in September 2026 or February 2027.

Note: If you are viewing this webpage on your smartphone, we recommend using landscape mode.

Start in February 2027 (academic year 2026-2027)

Date	What you need to know about this date
As soon as possible after 1 July 2026	Apply via Studielink* (open for applications for the February intake for the academic year 2026-2027 from 1 July). The study starts in February 2027.
1 November 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 December 2026, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process if you have an EU/EEA or Swiss nationality
1 January 2027, 23:59 CET	Strongly recommended deadline for paying the tuition fee
31 January 2027, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing all tasks in the MyApplication portal**, including (if applicable) submitting English proficiency test results (TOEFL/IELTS) for all applicants If you need a visa or residence permit , you must complete most tasks by an earlier date.

Start in September 2026 (academic year 2026-2027)

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). The study starts in September 2026.

Date	What you need to know about this date
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 if you have an EU/EEA or Swiss nationality
1 August 2026, 23:59 CET	Strongly recommended deadline for paying the tuition fee
31 August 2026, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing all tasks in the MyApplication portal**, including (if applicable) submitting English proficiency test results (TOEFL/IELTS) for all applicants 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:

- 🕒 The February intake of our study programme starts on 26 January 2026 (introduction day on 23 January 2026). This will not impact the deadlines above.
- 🕒 The master's programme in Data Science for Decision Making is listed under the ['transnationale Universiteit Limburg.\(tUL\)'](#) in the 'Educational institution' tab in Studielink. Maastricht University (UM) is part of the tUL; this programme is taught at UM just like our other master's programmes
- 🕒 In Studielink you also need to **choose the starting moment**. Please make sure to **select September 2026** in the pulldown menu if you wish to start on 1 September 2026
- 🕒 Find out if you can apply for a [scholarship](#) or [financial aid](#). Deadlines for scholarships are often earlier than the dates mentioned above

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 the academic year 2026-2027 for the master's programme in Data Science for Decision

Making depend on your previous education. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

The Board of Admissions will consider whether you qualify for admission if you have a bachelor's degree or an equivalent diploma in a programme such as Mathematics, Computer Science, Technical Data Science, Operations Research, Artificial Intelligence, Econometrics, Engineering or Physics.

Note: You must have passed all your bachelor's requirements by 31 August at the latest for the September intake or by 31 January for the February intake.

Graduates from related programmes at Maastricht, Hasselt and Aachen universities

Graduates from the following bachelor's programmes qualify directly for admission: —

- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (formerly known as Data Science and Knowledge Engineering) from Maastricht University
- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Econometrics & Operations Research from Maastricht University
- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Computer Science from Maastricht University
- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Computer Science from Hasselt University
- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Angewandte Mathematik und Informatik (formerly known as Scientific Programming) from Aachen University (MATSE)

Graduates from the following bachelor's programmes qualify for admissions, depending on the courses they followed: —

- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Business Engineering from Maastricht University
- ⦿ Bachelor's programme in Maastricht Science Programme from Maastricht University (depending on curriculum)

Graduates from other institutes

The Board of Admissions will consider whether you qualify for admission if you have a bachelor's degree or an equivalent diploma in a programme such as Mathematics, Computer Science, Technical Data Science, Operations Research, Artificial Intelligence, Econometrics, Engineering or Physics.

Graduates from a research university, please note!

⚠️ You may qualify for admission to the programme if your qualification provides sufficient preparation both in terms of academic level and content. The level of your degree should be equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a research university in the Netherlands. This is indicated as '3 years of WO' in the [Nuffic list of equivalent diplomas](#) that we use in our assessment (Nuffic is the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education).

Please carefully check the Nuffic information on your country before applying. If your previous diploma is not equivalent to a Dutch WO bachelor (3 years of WO), you do **not** qualify for admission. If your diploma is equivalent, we will assess your application further and take into account the national standing of your university and the grades you obtained. If there is no Nuffic qualification available for your country or diploma type, a credential evaluation has to be requested with Nuffic. This can take up to six weeks. The credential evaluation by Nuffic is binding.

⚠️ We do **not** accept bachelor diplomas from online universities.

Graduates from a research university

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The required competences are:

- ⦿ **Mathematics:** a strong background, including, but not limited to, calculus, linear algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and statistics
- ⦿ **Computer science:** basic knowledge of data structures and algorithms, with some programming experience

Graduates from a university of applied sciences

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Students with a degree from universities of applied sciences (Dutch HBO or international equivalent) in a related field could gain access to the master's programme upon successful completion of a one-semester pre-master's programme. Admission is only possible if you meet the above-mentioned required competences on a university of applied sciences level.

We have rolling admissions. The earlier you apply, the earlier you will know whether 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.

[More information about the pre-master's programme for the master's in Data Science for Decision Making](#)

Pre-master's in Data Science for Decision Making

You can follow this pre-master's if you have studied at a research university and have minor deficiencies in your prior knowledge or if you have studied at a university of applied science and meet the above-mentioned required competences. The Board of Admissions may then offer you a one-semester pre-master's programme at the Department of Advanced Computing Sciences. If you complete the pre-master's successfully in one semester, you are directly admissible to the master's programme.

The pre-master's programme will be tailor-made based on your previous knowledge and skills. For more information, please contact dacs-admissions@maastrichtuniversity.nl

It is not possible to register (or apply for) our premaster's programmes directly. You will have to apply for one of our regular master's programmes first (to be found in Studielink with the 'transnationale Universiteit Limburg').

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](#).

Exemptions

You can apply for course exemptions if you have completed courses at a recognised and accredited higher education institution that are similar in terms of content and level.

For more information, please contact the Board of Examiners: dacs-boe@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Documents required for the application process

During the application process for this study programme you will need to complete several 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.

Please note:

- ⦿ Only **complete** applications will be reviewed
- ⦿ All **other documents** may be handed in in **English, Dutch or German**

Required documents for all applicants to this study programme

⦿ A recent portrait photo*

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

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

Scan your personal details page(s). Save this copy as 'passport copy' (and not as 'passport picture').

⦿ A copy of your most recent grades transcript

⦿ A copy of your diplomas if you have obtained it

If you have obtained a diploma for more relevant studies than

one, please upload all diplomas and grade transcripts.

🕒 **Your curriculum vitae**

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

🕒 **A motivation letter**

Give good arguments about why you want to do this master's programme at Maastricht University, and why you expect that you can successfully complete the programme.

*As a current UM student it is not necessary to upload these documents in the MyApplication portal, unless your passport will not be valid on 1 September 2026. In that case, a specific task to upload a copy of your passport will appear in the MyApplication portal.

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

🕒 **Course descriptions** (in English) of the **mathematics and computer science courses** that are listed on your grades transcript.

We always advise you to provide this document, especially if your grades transcript does not contain the same course names as the topics mentioned in the [admission requirements](#)

🕒 **Evidence of other courses or tests in mathematics/computer sciences** that are not part of your grade transcript, but which you think are relevant to assess your application (for instance an additional online programming course)
Advised for all applicants

🕒 **Document(s) that demonstrate your proficiency in English**
Answer the questions concerning language requirements under 'Language requirements for English-language master 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.

🕒 **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?

Based on the documents you have submitted and the admission procedure for your chosen programme, the UM decides on whether to offer you a place in the study programme. Once UM has decided on your admissibility, you will be informed about it by email.



UM visiting address

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

UM postal address

P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht

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Facebook
Instagram
LinkedIn
TikTok
YouTube

Contact

Transparency & Accountability

Privacy & security

Support

Feedback

Data Science for
Decision Making

Why this
programme

Courses &
curriculum

Specialisations

Your future

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Admission &
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Tuition fees

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