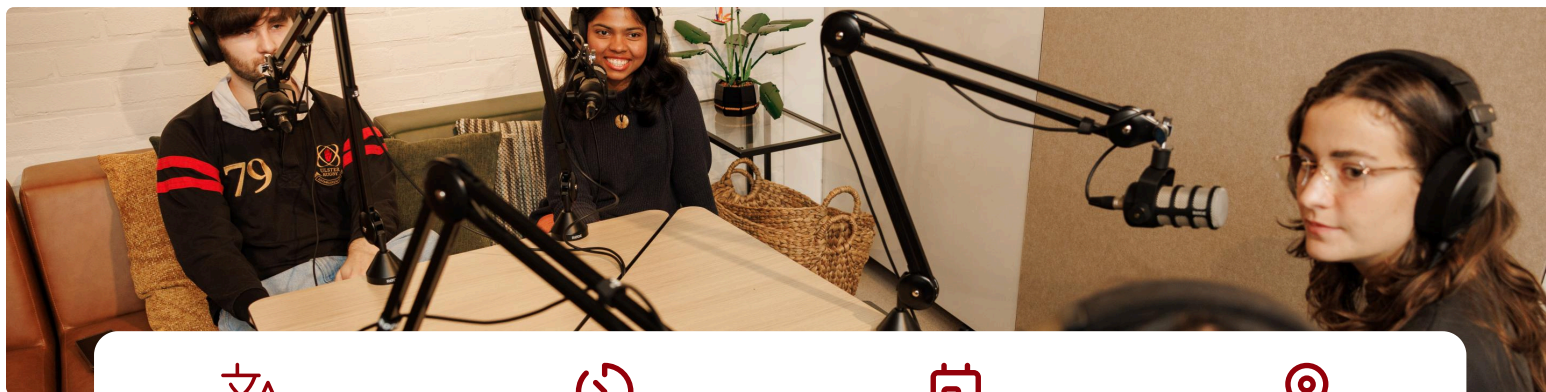




English
Language



Full Time
Format



September
Start date



Maastricht
Location

Master Media Studies: Digital Cultures

Combine critical and creative skills to explore how digital media co-shape society. Understand the sociotechnical dynamics of digital cultures, ethics, and politics. Use digital tools and design thinking to tackle challenges and lead sustainable change.

[Download brochure](#)

Media Studies:
Digital Cultures

Why this
programme

Courses &
curriculum

Your future

> **Admission
requirements**

Admission &
enrolment

Tuition fees

Contact

Does this suit you?

- ✓ Do you have a critical and creative mindset, ready to explore both the challenges and opportunities of digitalization?
- ✓ Are you intrigued by the moral transformations and ethical issues

Your future

- ✓ Acquire in-depth knowledge and skills to analyse how digital media are co-shaping society, including an understanding of their moral implications.
- ✓ Combine critical thinking with creative design

posed by digital media and technologies?

- ✓ Are you looking for an interdisciplinary, broad programme that tackles digital transformations across various fields?

practices and a solution-oriented mindset, getting you ready to link analysis with intervention and action.

- ✓ This programme opens up exciting career prospects in digital media and technology corporations, organisations or departments dedicated to digital communication, management, policy development, research, and strategy.

Good to know

- ✓ You'll obtain a Master of Arts (MA) degree
- ✓ This is a one-year, full-time programme
- ✓ To start in September, apply before 1 May (non-EU/EEA) or 1 June (EU/EEA)

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 Media Studies: Digital Cultures for *academic year 2026-2027*.

For the master's programme in Media Studies: Digital Cultures, admission is based on your quality and suitability. For this, your motivation, previous education and (professional) experience are important.

🕒 [Important deadlines for application](#)

- 🕒 [General requirement](#)
- 🕒 [Additional requirements](#)
- 🕒 [Documents required for the application process](#)
- 🕒 [How do we assess your application](#)

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 Media Studies: Digital Cultures depend on your previous education. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

Graduates from the UM bachelor's programme Digital Society applying for a continuing Master

If you apply via Studielink for the continuing master's programme, with a UM BA Digital Society diploma, you are guaranteed a place. Please note: you must have graduated from BA Digital Society 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

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You qualify for admission if you have a bachelor's degree from a relevant academic field: media or communications studies, film or television studies, history, social science, humanities or liberal arts.

Graduates from another bachelor's programme

Applicants with a relevant university of applied sciences degree (e.g. HBO/Fachhochschule) 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 master's programme Media Studies: Digital Cultures.

➤ [Read more about the pre-master year](#)

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.
- If you already have a language test certificate, we strongly recommend that you submit this certificate as part of your application.

🕒 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 to for this study programme, it is useful to know how we assess your application. You can find more information about this in this section.

For the master's programme in Media Studies: Digital Cultures, admission is based on your quality and suitability. For this your motivation, prior qualifications and your (professional) experience are important.

In case the Board of Admissions is not entirely convinced about your academic writing skills we may send you an academic writing assessment. An interview may also be part of the selection procedure for admission to this programme.

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.

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