



English
Language



Full Time
Format



September
Start date



Maastricht
Location

Bachelor Brain Science

Numerus fixus

Discover how our brain functions. A network of billions of neurons and other cells. You'll study it from different perspectives, combining knowledge of Psychology, Biology and Computational Science to create a complete picture of the brain.

Admission requirements

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 bachelor's programme in Brain Science for the *academic year 2025-2026*. Questions about admission? Contact us via study@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Non-EU students: make sure to check the [study progress](#)

Important deadlines for application

The bachelor's programme in Brain Science starts in September.

The deadlines below are applicable for applicants who want to start their studies in September 2025.

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
1 October 2024	Studielink is open for applications for the academic year 2025-2026
15 January 2025, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process for all applicants (from the EU/EEA or Switzerland, and from non-EU/EEA countries) Note: non-EU/EEA applicants require a visa or residence permit .
Before 31 January 2025, 23:59 CET	Applying for sufficiency check (if applicable) by uploading a syllabus A number of candidates can apply for a 'sufficiency check', if the knowledge in a specific subject needs to be assessed. Students notified of this in the MyApplication portal will have the opportunity to upload a syllabus in the MyApplication portal before the deadline of 31 January.
Around 1 February 2025	The selection procedure will be accessible in the MyApplication portal
1 March 2025, 16:59 CET	Deadline for completing the selection procedure
15 April 2025	Your ranking number will be published in Studielink

**31 August
2025**

Please note: you must accept your place in Studielink **within two weeks** (14 x 24 hrs). This is an absolute deadline! If you don't accept your placement by the deadline, you will forfeit the place you have been offered and the next candidate in the ranking is offered the opportunity to accept the placement.

Deadline for completing your enrolment tasks
Make sure that you have completed all the enrolment tasks in the MyApplication portal.

⚠ Please note: if your diploma or degree is not on the list of European previous education ([see here](#)), UM will assess on an individual basis whether your previous education makes that you qualify for admission. This assessment will take extra time. Therefore, if your diploma is not on the list, please apply as early as possible, preferably before 1 November 2024. If you register after 1 November 2024, you risk that your qualification for admission and/or eliminating one (or more) of your deficiencies will not be completed in time. Resulting in not being able to start the study programme in the academic year 2025-2026.

Are you a non-EU citizen requiring a visa/residence permit for study?

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 tasks 'Arrange visa / legal residence' and 'Send certified copy of diploma') before we can send your application to the IND (Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation 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's and master's programmes offer

a start in February. If you are applying 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 2025-2026 for the bachelor's programme in Brain Science depend on your previous education. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

Applicants with a Dutch diploma

For the following Dutch diplomas, Maastricht University (UM) will assess whether you qualify for admission. This depends on your previous education, and whether this guarantees sufficient knowledge at VWO-level of the subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

You also need to be able to prove you hold:

- ⦿ a new-style VWO diploma with profile Science and Health including the subject Physics,
- ⦿ a new-style VWO diploma with profile Science and Engineering including the subject Biology,
- ⦿ an Open University (OU) propaedeutic diploma, HBO propaedeutic diploma, HBO degree diploma, university

propaedeutic diploma or university degree diploma.

Sufficient knowledge at VWO level of the subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics is required.

Please note: an old-style VWO diploma (from before 2007) no longer qualifies for admission.

Applicants with a non-Dutch diploma —

If you have a non-Dutch diploma equivalent to the Dutch VWO diploma you qualify - in principle - for admission to this programme. Check if this applies to your diploma.

➤ [List of non-Dutch diplomas equivalent to the Dutch VWO diploma 2025-2026](#)

Please note: if your diploma is not on this list, UM must first assess your diploma on an individual basis to see if you qualify for admission.

Your previous education must not only be equivalent to the Dutch VWO level, but must also contain specific subjects. The subjects Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology need to have been included at VWO exam level in your previous education. Please see the [diploma requirements](#) for these required subjects for several European diplomas.

Additional subject requirements for non-Dutch applicants

To qualify for admission to the bachelor Brain Science, you need to have the following subjects in your previous education: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology with a duration and depth equivalent to the Dutch VWO. The following diplomas satisfy those requirements:

⦿ German ‘Zeugnis der allgemeinen Hochschulreife’:

- Mathematics: as ‘Grundkurs’ up to and including the final year
- Physics: as ‘Grundkurs’ up to and including the final year
- Chemistry: as ‘Grundkurs’ up to and including the final year
- Biology: as ‘Leistungsfach’

⊙ **Belgian Diploma of Secondary Education** of one of the following tracks:

- Greek-Sciences
- Latin-Sciences
- Modern Languages-Sciences
- Sciences-Mathematics

⊙ **Diploma International Baccalaureate from Geneva** with:

- Mathematics Analysis and Approaches HL or SL, or
- Mathematics Applications and Interpretations HL, or
- Mathematics SL or HL (exam before 2021).
- Physics and Chemistry SL or HL
- Biology HL

⊙ **Diploma European Baccalaureate** with:

- Mathematics: written or oral exams, at least 3 hours/week in the last 2 years;
- Physics: written or oral exams
- Chemistry: written or oral exams;
- Biology: written or oral exams, at least 4 hours/week in the last 2 years.

⊙ **British A/AS levels, (I) GCSEs and/or AICE:**

- Mathematics: GCE A or AS level
- Physics: GCE A or AS level
- Chemistry: GCE A level
- Biology: GCE A level

⊙ **US High School Diploma:**

- Mathematics: AP exam Statistics or Calculus
- Physics: AP exam Physics 1+2 or AP exam Physics 1 + C: Mechanics or AP exam Physics 2 + C: Mechanics
- Chemistry: AP exam Chemistry
- Biology: AP exam Biology

⊙ **Diplôme du Baccalauréat Général:**

- Mathematics: Spécialité Mathématique (Première) + Mathématique Complémentaires (Terminale) or Spécialité Mathématique (Première and Terminale) or Spécialité Mathématique (Première and Terminale) + Mathématiques Expertes
- Physics: Spécialité Physique-Chimie (Première and Terminale)
- Chemistry: Spécialité Physique-Chimie (Première and

Terminale)

- Biology: Spécialité Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre
(Première and Terminale)

➤ [Additional subject requirement pertaining to non-Dutch entry qualifications 2025-2026](#)

As stated earlier: if your diploma or degree differs from those listed above, UM will assess whether you can demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the four compulsory subjects (Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology) and therefore qualify for admission.

Applicants who do not meet the requirements _ and are 21 years of age or older

If you do not have the required diplomas, you may still qualify for admission based on the Colloquium Doctum. For this, you must be 21 years of age or older.

In order to obtain the Colloquium Doctum, you must demonstrate with certificates that you have mastered the required subjects at **Dutch VWO-level new style**. It concerns: English, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

The Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience of the UM does not organise a Colloquium Doctum exam. You must demonstrate with certificates that you have mastered the required subjects at Dutch VWO-level new style.

Application

Please submit and complete your application before 15 January 2025 and indicate in Studielink that you want to be admitted based on Colloquium Doctum. The following documents need to be uploaded in the MyApplication Portal:

- ⦿ a copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card;
- ⦿ a statement in the MyApplication Portal in which you declare that it is a Colloquium Doctum application.

Please note: In order to be admitted based on Colloquium Doctum you must arrange obtaining the certificates yourself.

- ⦿ For the Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics exams, you can go to [Boswell-Bèta](#) and/or [Central Committees for](#)

- ⦿ For the English subject exams, please submit one of the following language-test certificates as part of your application:
 - IELTS: 6.0
 - TOEFL iBT: 80
 - TOEIC listening and reading: 670; speaking and writing: 290
 - Cambridge First B2: Grade B (scale 173-175) or, Grade C (scale 169-172)
 - TOEFL Paper-delivered Test: Reading: 20-30; Listening: 20-30

Once you passed the exams, you need to upload the five certificates in the MyApplication portal. Notify the UM Admissions Office via email (study@maastrichtuniversity.nl) when you have uploaded the certificates.

Applicants who do not meet the subject requirements

UM will always check whether you qualify for admission, and you will be informed if you do not meet the admission requirements. If you do not (completely) satisfy the [additional subject requirements for Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology](#) you must take (an) additional examination(s) to qualify for admission. These deficiencies have to be eliminated before the start of the academic year, before **31 August 2025**.

- ⦿ These examinations can be conducted both in Dutch and English at [Centrale Commissies Voortentamen](#) (CCVX) or [Boswell-Bèta](#).
- ⦿ German students can also opt to complete the so-called Vorsemaster at the Rheinische Bildungszentrum in Cologne for deficiencies in Biology, Physics or Chemistry.
- ⦿ For students proficient in Dutch, deficiencies can also be lifted by obtaining 'vwo-deelcertificaten'

Please note: you have to arrange these examinations yourself. Once you have successfully completed your examinations, you need to upload the certificates in the

MyApplication portal.

Only [certified copies](#) of the CCVX or Boswell-Betà certificates are accepted!

Applying for a sufficiency check

In the evaluation of your previous education, it is possible that it is not clear whether you meet the subject requirements in a specific subject. Since study programmes can vary widely, we may require detailed information about the content of the specific subject you have taken in order to assess your knowledge level.

The knowledge requirements are based on the attainment levels for the final examination in Dutch pre-university education (VWO) and the national agreements made within the Dutch Central Committees for Entrance Exams (CCVX).

If this is applicable to you, we offer you the possibility to fill in a syllabus to have your knowledge of the specific subject assessed by the Colloquium Doctum committee. Guidelines and requirements of the syllabus can be found in the MyApplication portal.

The deadline for requesting the sufficiency check (and thus for uploading the syllabus) is **31 January 2025 (23:59 CET)**. Requests submitted after this date will not be taken into consideration.

Additional 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 wish to apply for the bachelor's programme in Brain Science, or the English-language Psychology track?

Yes

No

Applicants who received their previous education in a non-EU/EEA country (handling fee)

Applicants for this study programme 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 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 (for the most part in the MyApplication portal). The list below gives you an insight into what documents you will (and might) need to prepare.

Please note: you have to complete all tasks in the MyApplication portal before the start of the academic year, but no later than 31 Augustus 2025.

Required documents for all applicants to this study programme

⦿ A recent portrait picture

This 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 **valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card**

Make a copy of the page with your personal details. Save this

- ⦿ A copy of your most recent **grades transcript** AND/OR a **copy of your diploma** *if you have obtained it.*
-

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

- ⦿ Check on the [Handling fee page](#) if you need to pay a handling fee (administration costs). Arrange the payment or submit the exemption form if you think that you are eligible for exemption.
 - ⦿ Check if your knowledge of **Mathematics** is sufficient and provide proof
 - ⦿ Check if your knowledge of **Biology** is sufficient and provide proof
 - ⦿ Check if your knowledge of **Physics** is sufficient and provide proof
 - ⦿ Check if your knowledge of **Chemistry** is sufficient and provide proof
 - ⦿ Check if your [English proficiency](#) is sufficient and otherwise provide proof
-

Disclaimer

- ⦿ Maastricht University will keep your personal information confidential.
- ⦿ The information provided is stored in a secure environment and treated according to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- ⦿ Maastricht University will not share your information with third parties without your prior explicit permission.

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 in this section.

Selection

The bachelor Brain Science is a fixus programme with selection by the educational institution. This means that you go through a selection procedure after applying. Not everybody who qualifies for admission will be offered a place in the study programme. Maastricht University (UM) performs a pre-selection, afterwards Studielink takes care of the allocation procedure.

Only a limited number of students can be admitted each year; 200 for the academic year 2025-2026. All available places will be allocated by means of selection.

➤ [See the Selection bachelor Brain Science Regulations for 2025-2026](#)

Fixus programme

The bachelor Brain Science is a so-called fixus programme. This means that there is a limited number of places available. Below you will find more information on the selection procedure.

Selection procedure

The selection procedure, which consists of an online questionnaire and online test, will be accessible in the MyApplication portal around **1 February 2025**.

The selection procedure covers the following subjects:

- ⦿ study attitude
- ⦿ motivation
- ⦿ secondary education grades
- ⦿ video lectures
- ⦿ digital literature
- ⦿ an online test

You can complete the selection procedure in parts and even go back to change your answers.

You can do all of the parts online at a time that suits you. You must complete the selection procedure before **1 March 2025, 16:59 CET**. Make sure you start on time.

Please note: once you have submitted the selection test, it cannot be changed and you cannot retake it.

Assessment and ranking score

The criteria examined during your assessment are: your motivation, your secondary education grades, your study attitude and orientation and your score for the test that is part of our selection procedure.

Based on the results the UM ranks the candidates. On **15 April 2025** you will be informed about your ranking number via Studielink.

The allocation starts at the top of the ranking. Students who are offered a place, based on their ranking number, must **confirm/accept** their place in Studielink **within 14 days** after they have been offered a place. This is an absolute deadline!

Selection attempts

Over the years you're allowed to participate in the selection procedure for this programme up to three times (selection attempts). Each year, one selection procedure takes place.

➤ Read more: [Information on the selection procedure and selection criteria for 2025-2026](#)

More information

- 🕒 For questions about the selection procedure please email fpn-bacheloradmissions@maastrichtuniversity.nl
- 🕒 For general questions about application, enrolment and admission tasks/documents please email study@maastrichtuniversity.nl

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