



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.

Events

Media Studies:
Digital Cultures

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Your future

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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 Media Studies: Digital Cultures for *academic year 2025-2026*.

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

This master's programme 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
1 May 2025, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process for non-EU/EEA applicants (these applicants require a visa or residence permit)
1 June 2025, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process for applicants from the EU/EEA or Switzerland

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 2025** in the dropdown-menu, so that you will apply for the start of the next academic year.

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 2025/26 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 2025.

You will be asked to upload a valid passport/ID (if the one we have on file will not be valid on 1 September 2025) 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

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.

[!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) 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 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. 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 2025.

🕒 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 the above-mentioned documents in the MyApplication portal. However, if your passport will not be valid on 1 September 2025, then you still 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.

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 [here](#).

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.



UM visiting address

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Contact

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