



English
Language



Full Time
Format



September
Start date



Maastricht
Location

Research master

Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience | Drug Development and Neurohealth

Obtain a theoretical background & practical experience in pharmaceutical drug research & development, biomarkers and personalised healthcare. Discover the pipeline of drug research & development from molecule design to application in healthcare settings.

Admission requirements

Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience | Drug Development and Neurohealth

Why this programme

Courses & curriculum

Your future

> Admission requirements

Admission & enrolment

Tuition fees

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Will it suit you?

- ✔ Which neurological medication does our society need most?
- ✔ Can we predict drug effects in the brain?
- ✔ How do we translate new R&D knowledge into a start-up company?

Your future

- ✔ Optimal preparation for a PhD degree in Drug Development & Neurohealth
- ✔ Work in the pharmaceutical drug research & development
- ✔ Work as an advisor on medicinal nutrition and personalised healthcare

Good to know

- ✔ You'll obtain a Master of Science (MSc) degree.
- ✔ This is a 2-year, full-time programme.
- ✔ To start in September, apply before 1 February (non-EU/EEA applicant that want to apply for a scholarship) or 1 March (all applicants).

On this page, you will find important details regarding the application process (such as deadlines, admission requirements, required documents and application assessment) for the research master Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience - specialisation Drug Development and Neurohealth for the *academic year 2026-2027*. Questions about admission requirements?

Contact us via fpn-researchmaster@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Application deadlines

The research master's in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience starts in September. The deadlines below apply to applicants who want to start their studies in September 2026.

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

Date: As soon as possible after 1 October 2025

What you need to know about this date: Apply via Studielink* (open for applications for the academic year 2026-2027 from 1 October)

Date: 1 February 2026, 23:59 CET

What you need to know about this date: Application deadline for applicants with a **non-EU/EEA nationality** who want to be considered for the UM NL-High Potential Scholarship or the UM Brightlands Talent Scholarship

Date: 1 March 2026, 23:59 CET**What you need to know about this date:**

Deadline for completing the entire application process for all applicants (both applicants who have an EU/EEA or Swiss nationality, and applicants who have a non-EU/EEA nationality)

Note: In most cases, applicants with a non-EU/EEA nationality will need to apply for a [visa or residence permit](#).

Date: 1 August 2026

What you need to know about this date: Strongly recommended deadline for [paying the tuition fee](#).

Date: 31 August 2026, 23:59 CET**What you need to know about this date:**

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.

Visa/residence permit for study

Are you a non-EU/EEA national requiring a visa/residence permit for study? Click here for more information 

General requirements: previous education

The admission requirements for academic year 2026-2027 for the research master Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience depend on your previous education. You can only apply if your degree is equivalent to a Dutch research university degree (WO).

Bachelor's degree: Dutch and non-Dutch university (WO) bachelor

Admissibility: Assessed by the Board of Admissions. See below for additional requirements.

Bachelor's degree: University of applied sciences (HBO) bachelor's

Admissibility: You do not qualify for admission

Bachelor's degree: University of applied sciences (HBO) bachelor's + pre-master Psychology

Admissibility: You do not qualify for admission

Bachelor's degree: University of applied sciences (HBO) bachelor's + master's degree (WO)

Admissibility: Assessed by the Board of Admissions. See below for additional requirements.

Holistic assessment

The Board of Admissions evaluates whether you qualify for admission holistically based on a broad range of criteria. We recognise that excellent candidates can come from many academic backgrounds, and we aim to create an interdisciplinary student cohort.

We *do not* require applicants to have completed a specific undergraduate major. Successful applicants have held degrees in fields such as: political sciences, philosophy, liberal arts, psychology, physiotherapy, neuroscience, biology, health sciences, biomedical engineering, and economics.

However, some degrees may better prepare you for specific specialisations. For example, a molecular biology degree may be well suited for Fundamental Neuroscience or Drug Development and Neurohealth, and a cognitive science degree for Cognitive Neuroscience. These examples reflect suitability, not strict rules. We have admitted applicants with diverse academic backgrounds if they could demonstrate relevant research experience, strong programming and/or statistical skills, or compelling motivation supported by evidence of research ability.

Equivalent bachelor's or master's degree

Applicants need to have a bachelor's or master's degree that is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's or master's degree. In order to determine if a bachelor's or master's degree is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's or master's degree, the Board of Admissions follows NUFFIC diploma recognition. NUFFIC issues recommendations on the

value of higher or secondary education diplomas obtained outside the Netherlands. Where possible, the foreign diploma is compared to a Dutch diploma. As well as evaluating the diploma, NUFFIC is also able to determine whether a study programme or an educational institution is officially recognised. Bachelor's or master's degrees that NUFFIC judges as non-equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's or master's degree will not be admitted. If you are uncertain whether your degree is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's or master's degree you are strongly advised to submit a request via the [NUFFIC](#) website to have this checked prior to submitting your application.

Important note: The Board of Admissions cannot give any advice about your admission chances on the basis of email information. If you want to know if you qualify for admission, you must apply in Studielink/MyApplication portal.

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 sufficient 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 have to upload several documents in the MyApplication portal. The list below gives you an insight into what documents you need to prepare.

Required documents for all applicants to this study programme +

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

Uploading your documents

- 🕒 The documents must be uploaded in the MyApplication portal until the application deadline.
- 🕒 The documents must be in PDF or Word format. We do not accept ZIP files.
- 🕒 All documents must be in English.
- 🕒 Important: Only complete applications will be taken into consideration. Applications that are incomplete at the time of the deadline, will not be considered.

⚠️ We recommend that you start your application on time, as you will not be able to revise your application after the deadline.

How do we assess your application?

When you want to apply or are applying for this study programme, it is useful for you to know how we assess your application. You can find more information about this in this section.

The research master Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience is a selective programme with a maximum enrolment of 24 new students per specialisation each year.

Selection procedure

The selection procedure involves an assessment of your application that may result in an invitation for an interview. Upon completion of the selection procedure, a message will be sent to you about your application status (details below).

Assessment of your application



Interview



Message about your application status



UM visiting address

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6211 LK Maastricht

+31 43 388 2222

UM postal address

P.O. Box 616

6200 MD Maastricht

Bluesky

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

TikTok

YouTube

Contact

Transparency & Accountability

Privacy & security

Support

Feedback

