



Maastricht University

Faculty of Law

Colloquium Doctum

2024

General Information

Definition

The entrance exam, hereinafter "Colloquium Doctum", is an examination as referred to in article 7.29 of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en het Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)), whereby the general level of education and knowledge of candidates and their suitability for legal studies are assessed. Successful completion of the Colloquium Doctum examination results in admission to one of the bachelor programmes offered by the Faculty of Law at Maastricht University.

The examination is administered by members of the Colloquium Doctum Committee and, as the case may be, other faculty staff. Candidates who have successfully completed the Colloquium Doctum are admitted to a legal study programme offered by the Faculty of Law based on a certificate issued by Maastricht University.

For whom?

The Colloquium Doctum is intended for persons who are 21 years or older at the time of enrollment and who do not possess a Secondary School Diploma giving access to university education in the Netherlands.

Click [here](#) for an alternative option to meet the admission requirements for admission to the programmes of the Faculty of Law by obtaining a pre-university diploma. You can contact the [SSC](#) for more information

Colloquium Doctum exam dates

The Colloquium Doctum examination takes place once a year.

The written part of the examination (language tests and essay) will take place on Thursday, 16 May 2024. If the candidate fails to pass one of the written examination components, one can have the opportunity to resit that component on Monday, 3 June 2024.

The oral examination (history and analytical thinking) will take place on Thursday, 13 June 2024 and the opportunity to resit the oral examination on Thursday, 27 June 2024.

In case of unforeseen circumstances, the examination may be rescheduled to an earlier or later date. In this event, candidates are informed at the earliest possible moment.

Application Deadline

Applications for the Colloquium Doctum examination to be taken in 2024 must have been received by the Colloquium Doctum Committee by **15 April at the latest** prior to the academic year for which the candidate wishes to enroll.

Applications received after this deadline will **not** be considered.

In addition, you should apply for the bachelor's programme through [Studielink.nl](#) before 1 May 2024.

Registration Fee

The registration fee is € 100,-.

For participation in any written and/or oral resit, the registration fee of € 100,- needs to be paid again.

Application

Applications for the Colloquium Doctum are to be submitted before the deadline to:

Maastricht University Faculty of Law
Colloquium Doctum Committee
Attn. Michelle Simonis
PO Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht

See for the registration form, Colloquium Doctum regulations and the evaluation protocol the website: www.maastrichtuniversity.nl (Education> Pre-bachelor's> Colloquium Doctum> Law: Dutch Law, Tax Law and European Law School).

The application must include:

- a completed application form;
- your resume;
- copies of relevant diplomas and list of marks. The Commission may require these copies to be authenticated;
- a copy of a valid identity card.

Applications will not be considered if:

- the documents submitted are incomplete;
- the candidate has not yet reached the required age;
- the application has been submitted after the expiration of deadline for registration.

Exceptional cases will be considered at the discretion of the Colloquium Doctum Committee.

Content of the Colloquium Doctum of the European Law School

The Colloquium Doctum comprises the following components:

1. Completing language tests in two modern languages (Dutch, French, German and Spanish) under supervision. This may involve answering questions on and/or summarizing the content of one or multiple texts in the relevant languages;
2. Writing an essay in the English language based on one or several articles from The Times, International Herald Tribune or any other appropriate daily or weekly publication, or writing an analysis of such an article. Selection is at the discretion of the Committee; The use of a dictionary is not allowed.
3. Examination of knowledge of European history from 1789 until the present, with special attention to the candidate's analytical thinking skills. The history test is an oral test examined by at least two Committee members, which may be taken after the candidate has successfully completed the written Colloquium Doctum components, or if one has obtained an exemption for the written components.

Model question: "How has the Congress of Vienna shaped the development of the European continent in the long run"?

Recommended Literature for the History Test

- Norman Davies, "Europe. A History", chapters VII-XII, ISBN: 0712666338.
- McKay e.a. (eds.), A History of Western Society since 1300, 12th edition, Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017, ISBN: 9-781319-040406.
- L.S. Kramer e.a. (eds.), A history of Europe in the modern world (chapters 10-26), 12th edition, New York: McGrawhill, 2020, ISBN: 9-781260-569032.
- Holslag, J. (2021). *World politics since 1989*. Polity Press, ISBN: 9-781509-546732.

Exemptions

Given the exceptional nature of the Colloquium Doctum procedure, exemptions shall in principle not be granted.

The granting of an exemption from one or more components of the Colloquium Doctum examination in cases of particular hardship or exceptional circumstances, as well as the decision, in exceptional circumstances, to grant a language exam in another foreign language than those mentioned above, is at the discretion of the Colloquium Doctum Committee.

Resits

A candidate is allowed to resit only one of the components of the first, written stage of the Colloquium Doctum. This means that if the candidate fails two or more components of the written stage, they cannot take any resits, nor continue with the Colloquium Doctum.

Subsequent Procedure

Final Assessment Colloquium Doctum

The final assessment will be expressed as 'eligible' or 'not eligible'.

Within four weeks of taking the last part of the Colloquium Doctum, the candidate will be informed of the results achieved by the candidate.

The candidate may raise an objection within four weeks of receiving the e-mail message sent with confirmation of sending.

Validity of the Colloquium Doctum certificate

The Colloquium Doctum certificate issued upon successful completion of the examination remains valid for two years. This means that the successful candidate must commence its bachelor studies at the Faculty of Law either in the calendar year in which the candidate completed the Colloquium Doctum examination or in the year following that. For admission at a later moment, the candidate will have to undergo the Colloquium Doctum examination again.

No admission at another Dutch Faculty of Law

A Colloquium Doctum certificate issued by the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University does not give access to a bachelor programme at any other Faculty of Law. A successfully completed Colloquium Doctum at another Dutch Faculty of

Law does not give access to a study programme at the Faculty of Law at Maastricht University.

Training and/or Coaching Programmes

The Faculty of Law of Maastricht University does not offer any training and coaching programmes preparing for the Colloquium Doctum.

Further details

For further details, please contact the Colloquium Doctum Committee by e-mail: colloquiumdoctum@maastrichtuniversity.nl