

Information Sheet
International Triangle Programme



Partner schools: *Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (UM), Stellenbosch Business School (Stellenbosch) and Aston Business School (Aston)*

Applicable UM study programme: *MSc International Business, specialisation Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy*

Programme duration: *1,5 years – three semesters*

Programme structure: *semester 1 at UM, semester 2 at Stellenbosch and semester 3 at Aston*

Application deadline: *1 June 2026*

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

International Triangle Programme UM / Stellenbosch / Aston <i>MSc International Business – Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy</i>					
Stage	Month(s)	Course(s)	ECTS		
Semester 1 in Maastricht			At UM	At SB	At Aston
UM	Sep – Oct	EBC4047 Organisational Change & Consultancy	6,5		
		EBC4280 Research in International Business	6,5		
	Nov – Dec	EBC4209 UMIO-Innovate Project	6.5		

		EBC4048 Organisational Learning	6,5		
	Sep – Jan	EBS4013 Writing a Master’s Thesis Proposal: IB-Organisation	4		
Semester 2 in Stellenbosch			At UM	At SB	At Aston
Stellenbosch	Jan – Jun	Small Business Academy		12	
		Two courses to choose from courses below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consumer Psychology (10 ECTS) ▪ Creativity and Innovation Management (12 ECTS) ▪ Advanced Strategic Management (9 ECTS) ▪ Financial Management (9 ECTS) ▪ International Marketing (9 ECTS) 		18-22	
Semester 3 in Birmingham			At UM	At SB	At Aston
UM (online)	Jan – Oct	EMTH0001 Master’s Thesis	17		
Aston	Oct – Dec	Effective Management Consultancy			7,5
		Three courses to choose from courses below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enterprise Experience (7,5 ECTS) ▪ Consultants Toolbox (7,5 ECTS) ▪ Leadership for Transformational Change (7,5 ECTS) ▪ Developing Enterprise Skills (7,5 ECTS) ▪ Principles of International Business (7,5 ECTS) ▪ Working Effectively in Organisations (7,5 ECTS) 			22,5
Total ECTS credits per school			47	30-34	30
Overall total ECTS credits (depending on which courses chosen at Stellenbosch)			107-111		



Please be aware that the current course offer is subject to change without prior notice.

Participants in the International Triangle programme are responsible for getting acquainted with, and for abiding by, the rules and regulations of their host universities in a timely manner, especially with regard to examination types, schedules and forms of resits, if any.

The Education and Examination Regulations (SBE MSc-EER) for the Master’s study programmes at the School of Business and Economics of Maastricht University (UM) apply to all Dual Degree and Network Programmes. You can find the SBE MSc-EER on the Student Portal (My SBE Intranet), under

“Regulations, rights and duties”. For courses taken at Stellenbosch and Aston the EER from Stellenbosch and Aston will apply.

Fixed curriculum

Please note that all SBE Network programmes (including the International Triangle Programme) have a fixed curriculum. It is not possible to switch/waive /cancel any of the courses offered in these fixed programmes.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Eligibility requirements

- Who can apply: Prospective students who have registered for the MSc International Business, specialisation Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy for the academic year 2026-2027 with start date September.
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Students need to show proof of completion of a university-level bachelor’s degree in business with an average grade of 7.0 or higher on the Dutch grading scale¹.
 - Students who at the time of application are in the last semester of their university-level bachelor’s programme in business, need to show proof of an average grade of a 7.0 or higher on the Dutch grading scale in that programme at the time of application.
These students can only be conditionally accepted to the International Triangle Programme, however in case these students will not be able to finish their university-level bachelor’s programme in business before the start of the International Triangle Programme, their acceptance to the International Triangle Programme will be cancelled.
- Departure criteria: Students need to meet the following criteria to be allowed to continue the International Triangle Programme after the first semester:
 - Have obtained all 26 ECTS credits from the first semester of the study programme;
 - Have obtained the 4 ECTS credits for the “Writing a Master's Thesis Proposal: IB Organisation” skills training.

Selection procedure

Students can start their application for the International Triangle Programme with Stellenbosch and Aston as soon as they have a valid registration as shown in the eligibility requirements mentioned above.

- Before application:
 - Interested students have to request an application form via e-mail to dualdegree-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.
- Application:

¹ Inquire with the Dual Degree team on the grade conversion in case of non-Dutch degree.

- Applicants have to submit the filled-out and signed **application form**, together with a **motivation letter, CV, copy of passport and bachelor's transcript** via e-mail to dualdegree-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl. *

→ **Application deadline: 1 June 2026**

**Note that incomplete applications will not be considered!*

- Selection:
 - **Assessment**
After the application deadline, the Dual Degree team and the academic advisor will assess all submissions. This process typically takes approximately two weeks.
 - **Interviews**
Selected applicants may be invited to participate in online interviews. This process typically takes approximately one week.
 - **Results**
Applicants will be informed of the outcome via e-mail shortly after the interview.
 - **Confirmation**
Accepted students must confirm their participation via e-mail and pay the required administrative fee within a timeframe of one week.
 - **Nomination**
Once confirmation and payment are completed, students will be officially nominated to the partner institutions in due time.
- Cancellation: If selected students do not meet the departure criteria as shown in the eligibility requirements mentioned above, the International Triangle Programme participation will be cancelled and the administration fee will not be refunded.

Available places

A maximum of 2 slots are being offered for the academic year 2026-2027.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Contact

Questions or remarks regarding the International Triangle Programme, can be directed to the Dual Degree Team of SBE Maastricht via e-mail to dualdegree-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Tuition fee and additional costs

Students have to be registered at UM for the entire duration of the study programme, so even while abroad at the host university. This implies that students selected in the International Triangle Programme pay tuition fee at UM for the entire duration of the programme. Selected students are exempted of tuition fee payment at the partner schools.

Besides the tuition fees at SBE Maastricht, students selected for the International Triangle Programme will be charged an **administrative fee of € 1.000,00**. The Dual Degree Team will provide students with an invoice including detailed payment information and a due date for the receipt of the administrative fee.

Cancellation: The administration fee of € 1.000,00 will not be refunded if a student cancels their allocation after confirmation. Only in case of severe personal circumstances, confirmed by a study advisor of SBE Maastricht, the administration fee can be refunded.

A fee (EAF) of 8,325 ZAR needs to be paid prior to registration at Stellenbosch University. The EAF consists of the International Registration Fee (IRF) and a Service Fee. Service fees may be utilized for services such as internet, photocopying, printing, washing quota, gym membership, IT services, society memberships, etc. Only two services are compulsory to be deducted from the student's service fee, which is the student card (± R 90), and the Network Availability Fee (± ZAR 600). If you spend more than the service fee allocated amount, you need to pay the outstanding amount prior to your departure. Failure to settle the outstanding amount, will result in your Stellenbosch University transcript being withheld.

All other costs that come with participation (such as health insurance and visa application, travel and accommodation, study materials and potential fees at the partner school) and other personal costs have to be covered by the students.

Please note that you are not eligible for an Erasmus grant if you participate in a programme for which you have to pay a fee beyond the regular tuition fee, which is the case for our International Triangle Programmes as it comes with an administrative fee.

It is your own responsibility to check with DUO whether you are entitled to retain your Dutch study grant, or "studiefinanciering", while abroad for the Dual Degree programme.

Grading and results

The grades obtained at Stellenbosch and Aston will not count towards students' GPA at SBE and the students' GPA will only be calculated based on the programme components completed at SBE.

Students in the International Triangle Programme should be aware that any resits at SBE Maastricht will automatically disable students from obtaining a cum laude distinction for their SBE Maastricht degree.

Important note: The resit period at Stellenbosch is scheduled at the end of the semester, shortly after the first-sit exam period. The resit period at Aston is scheduled at the end of the academic year. Meaning that students who fail a course at Aston in the final stage of the programme, will only be able to complete the International Triangle Programme after successfully completing the resit of such course in August. This implies that impacted students will have to continue to be enrolled and pay tuition at SBE Maastricht until graduation is possible.

Thesis

Students in the International Triangle Programme take part in the Writing a MSc Thesis Proposal skills training at SBE Maastricht during the first semester of the programme. After approval of their topic and assignment of a thesis supervisor, students complete the thesis writing during the semester at Stellenbosch and Aston. The deadline for the thesis submission is in October 2027 followed by a defense deadline on 31 October 2027.

In case students fail to adhere to the thesis deadlines, they have a final resit opportunity scheduled within three months after the first sit deadline. When students fail the resit opportunity, students have to find a (possibly new) supervisor and depending on the supervisor and the quality of the thesis, might have to start a new thesis, implying a study delay for which the student has to stay enrolled at SBE.

Diploma and graduation

After successful completion of all the requirements of the International Triangle Programme, students will be awarded the degree of Master of Science in International Business – specialization Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy (60 ECTS credits) from SBE Maastricht and an International Triangle Programme certificate.

In case of no study delay, the applicable graduation ceremony at SBE will be the Spring Graduation Ceremony in April 2028.

Additional internships/MSc exchange

Please note that SBE Maastricht does not approve students enrolled in an International Triangle Programme to apply for or participate in a Master's exchange or an extracurricular internship. Since the International Triangle Programme already takes 1,5 years, another extension of the programme is not allowed.

Disclaimer

Should Dutch government deem a country unsafe for travel (because of sanitary crises, riots or other reasons), UM students will not be allowed to physically go to their exchange destination in that country. This also applies to students in the Dual Degree and Network Programmes of SBE Maastricht. If that would happen, SBE Maastricht reserves the right to cancel the International Triangle Programme for its students and will enable them to continue and graduate in the regular master programme.