

# Welcome to Maastricht University

## Research master (MSc) Cultures of Arts, Science, and Technology (CAST)

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# What's special about CAST?

- Research master
- 2-year programme
- MSc degree
- Selective & excellent job prospective
- Clear and unique profile
- Dedicated and recognised staff
- No 1 in *Keuzegids Masters*
  - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

# CAST as Top Rated Programme

## Keuzegids Masters 2018



Instelling	Opleiding	STUDENTENOOORDELEN							EXPERT			SCORE	
		Programma	Toetsing	Docenten	Wetenschappelijke vormin	Praktijkgerichtheid	Studeerbaarheid	Begeleiding	Faciliteiten	Ambitie	Toetsing en eindniveau	TOTAALSCORE	EINDOORDEEL
Amsterdam UvA	System and Network Engineering	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	+++	+	+	90	+++
Maastricht UM	Kunst- & cultuurwetenschappen (research)	++	+	+	+++	++	++	+	0	0	+	86	+++
Rotterdam EUR	Filosofie ( research )	+	++	+++	++	+	++	+++	-	0	0	86	+++
Utrecht UU	Neerlandistiek (research)	++	++	++	+++	+	-	+	0	0	0	80	++
Groningen RUG	Criminal Law and Criminology	+	--	++	0	0	++	+++	++	0	0	76	++
Groningen RUG	Kunst- & cultuurwetenschappen (research)	0	0	++	++	-	0	+	+	0	0	70	+
Amsterdam VU	Theologie & Religiewetenschappen (research)	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	68	+
Groningen RUG	International Economic and Business Law	-	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	66	+
Amsterdam UvA	Filosofie ( research )	0	0	++	+	-	0	+	0	0	0	66	+
Tias Business School	Executive Master of Management and Organization	+	0	0	+	+	+	--	0	0	0	64	0
Maastricht UM	Biobased Materials	0	0	0	0	+	-	+	+	0	0	64	0
Groningen RUG	Letterkunde (research)	0	0	0	+	-	+	+	0	0	0	64	0
Tilburg TiU	Communicatie- & Informatiewetenschappen (research)	-	-	0	++	0	--	++	+	0	0+	63	0
Tias Business School	Executive Master of Public and Non-profit Management	+	-	0	0	0	0	-	++	0	0	62	0
Leiden UL	Theologie & Religiewetenschappen	-	0	+	0	--	0	+	0	0	0	58	0
Amsterdam VU	Oudheidstudies	-	0	+	0	--	-	0	-	0	+	54	-
Amsterdam UvA	Neerlandistiek	-	+	+	0	---	-	0	0	0	0	54	-
Groningen RUG	International and Comparative Private Law	-	--	--	--	--	0	-	+	0	0	42	--

# The focus of CAST

- In CAST we study how arts, science and technology critically **reflect** society and its challenges, as well as how arts, science and technology are **shaped** by society

# The ambition of CAST

- We study the interrelation of society with science, technology and art ...
- ... and thus how science, technology and art reflect, constitute and address societal issues and values ...
- ... such as
  - the authority of scientific knowledge (experts, expertise);
  - what technologies should do (responsibility, worldview);
  - how arts provides novel paths of thinking and doing ...
- ... to increase the capacity to address societal problems.

# What is a research master?

- Training of all the competences of a **scientific researcher** in a specific field
- Field in this (CAST) case:
  - Study of and intervention in relations between society and Science, Technology and Arts
    - academic
    - political
  - Using philosophical, historical, sociological, anthropological, literary & arts perspectives



# Why study CAST?

You should study CAST ...

1. When you are curious and have an inquisitive mind; when you are adventurous enough to leave trodden paths; when you are creative in asking questions about what science, technology and arts do in modern societies.
  
2. Because then you may:
  - want to be a researcher
  - in the interdisciplinary field of philosophical-historical-sociological-literary studies
  - investigating a very broad spectrum of issues in modern societies
  - with a focus on arts, science, and technology
  - and contribute to solving pressing social issues.

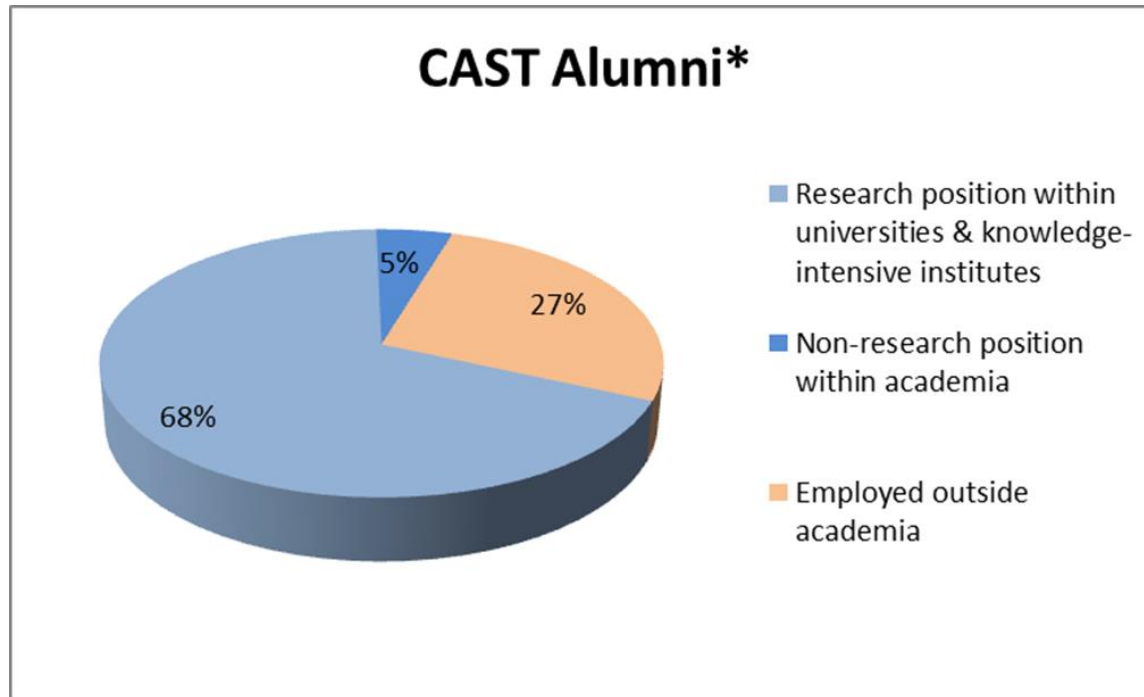


# What jobs lay then ahead?

- A job as ***researcher*** in organisations such as GR, Rathenau, WRR, AWT, TNO, ministries, museums...
- University jobs and other senior research jobs after you complete additional ***PhD training***



# Job prospect



\* Based on 66 employed alumni (out of 68 graduates: one unaccounted for, one currently unemployed, June 2015)

# Relation with graduate research schools

- Graduate research schools:
  - are for doing a doctorate (PhD) by writing a dissertation (*proefschrift*)
  - typically have a 3-year programme
- CAST is related to:
  - **WTMC** (science, technology, and modern culture)
  - **Huizinga** (cultural history)
  - **OSL** (literature)

# What will you learn?

- Hands-on research
  - Variety of qualitative methodologies (historical, philosophical, literary, anthropological, sociological)
  - Explicit reflection and (self-)critique
- Different kinds of writing
  - Review article
  - Conference paper
  - Research Proposal
  - Exhibition Catalogue
  - Scholarly research thesis
- Different kinds of research (scholarly, contract)
- Critical, scholarly review
- Manage your own projects
- Acquire funding



# What is the curriculum?

(modules and ECTS-points)

## First year

- Entering the field **(12)**
  - review
- Rules of the Game **(12)**
  - method
- The Research System **(6)**
  - research proposal
- Researching Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology **(12)**
  - discourse analysis
- Joint project **(12)**
  - connecting to stakeholders
- Preparation internship **(3)**

## Second year

- Research internships **(24)**
- Thesis seminar **(3)**
- Thesis research and writing **(30)**

Participation in departmental  
research seminars (3+3)



# What will you do?

- Read
- Write
- Discuss
- Archival research
- Interviewing
- Ethnographic observation
- Contract research
- Developing innovative presentations
- Peep into the researcher's kitchen

## DURING:

- *Lectures*
- *Working groups*
- *Projects*
- *Individual and group research*
- *Master classes with international experts*
- *Thesis research*
- *Research seminars*

# Where have internships been?

## Knowledge institutes NL:

- Gezondheidsraad
- STT
- Rathenau Institute
- ICN
- Montevideo/Nederlands Instituut voor Mediakunst
- VKS-KNAW
- Van Abbe Museum

## Universities:

- Cornell (US)
- New York University (US)
- Edinburgh (UK)
- Oxford (UK)
- Stockholm (SW)
- Hamburg (GR)
- Berlin (GR)
- Lisboa (POR)
- Bhubaneswar (IN)
- Tate Gallery London (UK)
- Berlin (G)

# Some of the topics for internships:

- The promotion of edible insects as solution for global food problems
- An affordance model of creativity
- Xenotransplantation
- The return to modernism in architecture
- Extra-terrestrial Intelligence
- Online digital music technologies
- New Orleans and Dutch coastal engineering
- New rice technology in India
- Direct broadcasting satellites and Europe
- European food safety
- Mobile phone health scares in Germany
- Pharmacogenomics



# Some of the topics for theses:

- The role of expectations in the study of life in space
- The ethics of self-tracking technologies
- Technostalgia in Steampunk fiction
- Of churches and museums — When does a religious object turn into an art object?
- Governance of nanotechnologies
- ICT and health education in Uganda
- Hearing protection in symphonic orchestras
- Sensing *Senseo*
- Paramedics between uncertainty and control
- Bt-Brinjal controversy in India
- Sounds in the wild
- 'Local' organic EU-standardization
- Domotica in health care for elderly
- Cleansing the Rat
- IVF on-line
- Creole Spirituality and Health Care
- Gender Symbolism in Chemistry
- Invisible Technology
- Mindfulness
- Genetics, Race and the X-Men
- Nutrition supplements for athletes
- Sonic Statutes
- Climate change discourse





# How do you apply?

- Application dossier must contain:
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Certified copies of diploma and grades' list of bachelor degree
  - Description of bachelor curriculum, providing brief course summaries
  - Two specimens of writing, done in the undergraduate programme
  - A personal letter (800 – 1200 words) describing the motivation to join the CAST programme
- Procedure involves:
  - dossier (including a personal motivation letter), language test (6.5 or higher on IELTS), possibly an interview
- Use the application form from the UM-FASoS website



# What is IELTS?

- IELTS is the language test that you need to perform
  - You need a score of 6.5 or higher
  - For Dutch students: you can take the test every second week in Utrecht or Amsterdam
  - For all nationalities: don't wait too long!
- Information: [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)



# What are the deadlines?

- EU/EEA students: June 1, 2017
- Non-EU/EEA students who need a visa or residence permit: May 1, 2017

***(but do apply as soon as you have made your decision – you will receive an answer within 4 weeks)***

# More information

See website

Contact the Director of Studies:

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