

Research Master (MSc) CAST

Cultures of Arts, Science, and Technology

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FASoS

What's special about CAST?

- Research master
- 2-year programme
- MSc degree
- Selective & excellent job prospective
- Clear and unique profile
- Dedicated and recognized staff
- No 1 in *Keuzegids Masters*
 - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- No 1 in *Elsevier Beste Studies* 2019



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 focus of CAST

- We cannot properly understand modern culture without studying the practices of science, technology and the arts
- Studying these practices is crucial for understanding the powerful impact science, technology and the arts have on modern culture.
- We study the interrelation of society with science, technology and art

Examples at the ‘cross roads’ of arts, science and technology

- How concepts and methods from Arts studies can be used to understand science (e.g. metaphors and narratology)
- How concepts from Science and Technology studies can be used to understand the arts (e.g. ANT)
- Studying parallels between science, technology and the arts (e.g. creativity, experimentation, novelty)
- How the arts incorporate new technologies in their practices (e.g. video art and AI)
- How both the sciences and the arts “imagine” our culture’s future (e.g. scientific promises and expectations and Science Fiction)

What is a research master?

- Training of all the competences of a scientific researcher
 - Interdisciplinary research
 - Research methods
 - Writing skills

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
 - Research paper
 - Research Proposal
 - Exhibition Catalogue
 - Scholarly research thesis
- Different kinds of research (scholarly, contract)
- Manage your own projects
- Acquire funding

The curriculum (modules and ECTS-points)

• First year

- Entering the field (12)
 - review article
- Rules of the Game (12)
 - research paper
- 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 internship (24)
- Thesis seminar (3)
- Thesis research and writing (30)

Participation in departmental
research seminars

What will you do?

- Read
- Write
- Discuss
- Archival research
- Interviewing
- Ethnographic observation
- Discourse analysis
- Contract research
- Giving presentations
- Peep into the researcher's kitchen

DURING:

Lectures

Research meetings

Workshops

Projects

Individual and group research

Master classes with international experts


Thesis research

Research seminars

Student experiences year 1

- Freedom to choose research topics
- Staff is very helpful, dedicated and experienced
- Part of the CAST community (colloquium)
- Control of your own education

“This research master’s programme lets you tailor it to your own interests. In that way, you are shaping your own future.”



Year 2: Internships

Knowledge institutes:

- Gezondheidsraad
- STT
- Rathenau Institute
- ICN
- Montevideo/Nederlands Instituut voor Mediakunst
- VKS-KNAW
- Van Abbe Museum
- Tate Gallery London (UK)

Universities:

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

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

Internship experiences

- Internship at the Institute of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) in Karlsruhe, Germany
- Was able to develop my own research project that was part of a much larger, international project: 'FUTUREBODY: The Future of the Body in the Light of Neurotechnology'
- My research project focused on how people who have performed their own surgical implanting of a technology (neodymium magnet, RFID or NFC chip) perceive(d) the risks involved in the surgical process and having this technology sub dermally embedded into their body
- Methodology: Risk Perception Analysis
- Key Concepts: Human Enhancement, Biohacking, Transhumanism
- Intend to publish this research in the journal NanoEthics

Year 2: MSc Thesis (some examples)

- 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

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 societal issues

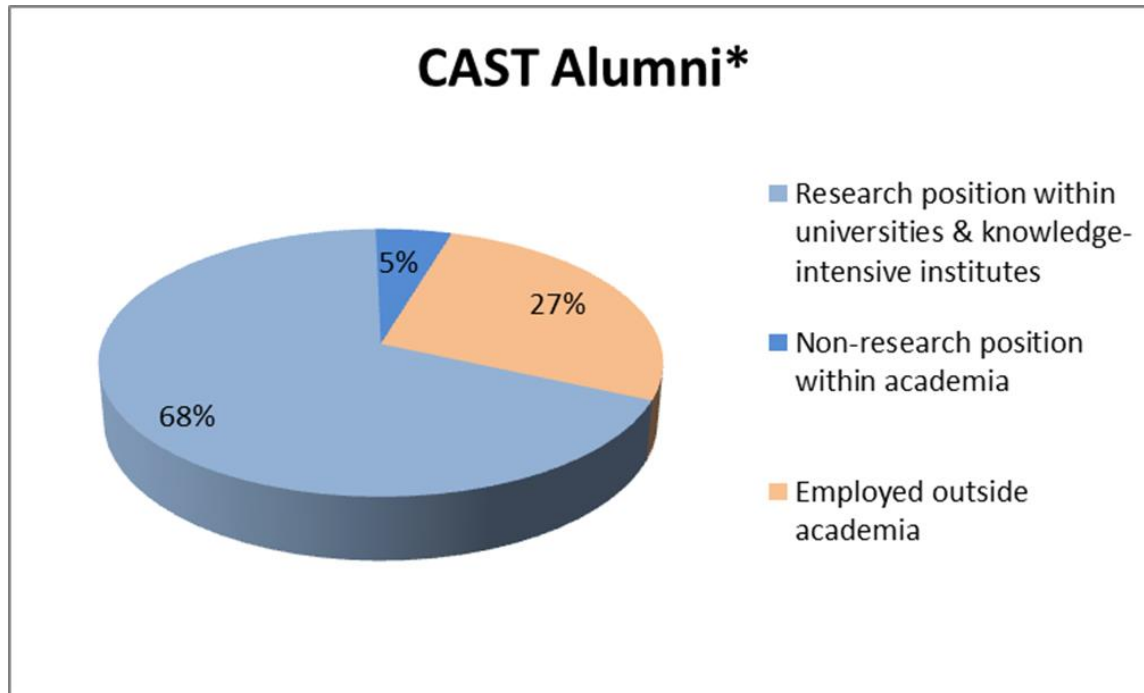
Why we chose CAST

- Interdisciplinary program
- Freedom to choose our own research topics
- Problem-Based Learning
- Small scale and personal tutorials
- Acquisition of different qualitative research skills

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)

How do you apply?

- Application portfolio 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 your motivation for joining the CAST programme
- Procedure involves:
 - Portfolio (including a personal motivation letter), language test (6.5 or higher on IELTS), possibly an interview
- One-year version of CAST

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: <http://www.ielts.org>

What are the deadlines?

- EU/EEA students: June 1, 2020
- Non-EU/EEA students who need a visa or residence permit: May 1, 2020

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

More information

See website:

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/education/master/research-master-cultures-arts-science-and-technology>

Contact the Director of Studies:

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