



**Maastricht University** *Leading in Learning!*

# Welcome

to Maastricht University





**Maastricht University** *Leading in Learning!*

# **Research Master (MSc) CAST**

## **Cultures of Arts, Science, and Technology**

prof dr ir Harro van Lente



# 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





# CAST as Top Rated Programme

## Keuzegids Masters 2018

|                      |  | STUDENTENOOORDELEN |          |          |                          |                     |                 |             | EXPERT       |         |                        | SCORE       |             |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Instelling           | Opleiding  | 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 ...

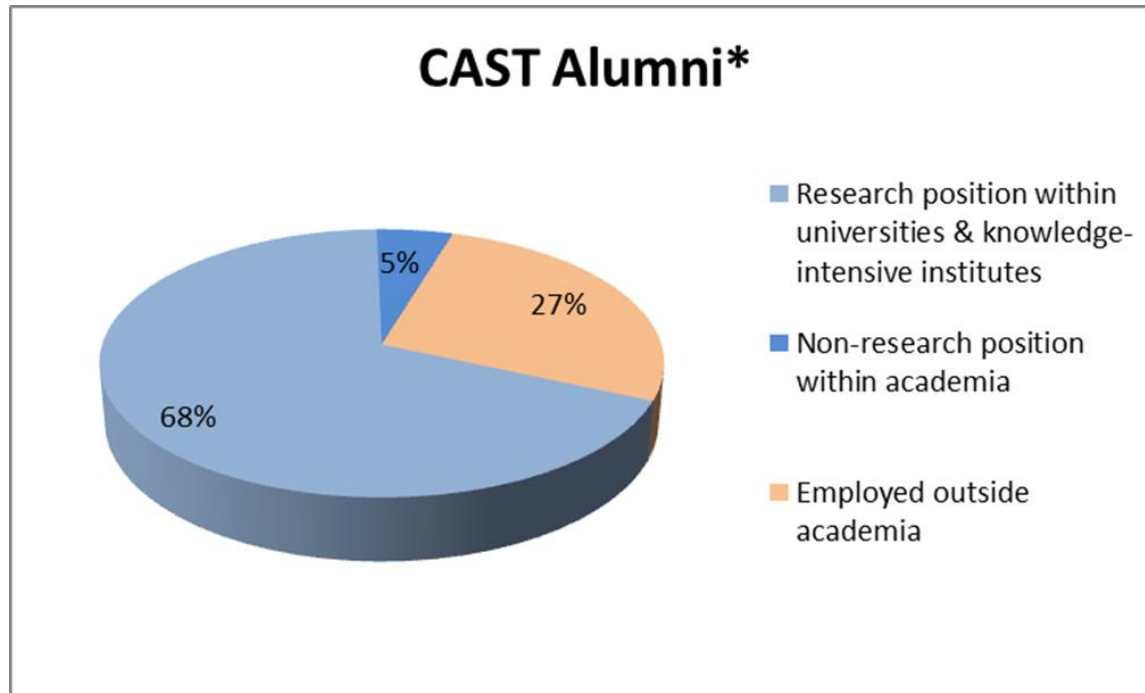
1. When you are curious and have an inquisitive mind; when you are adventurous enough to leave trodden paths; when you are creative in asking questions about what science, technology and arts do in modern societies.
2. Because then you may:
  - want to be a researcher
  - in the interdisciplinary field 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: <http://www.ielts.org>

# What are the deadlines?

- EU/EEA students: June 1, 2019
- Non-EU/EEA students who need a visa or residence permit: May 1, 2019

*(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:

Harro van Lente

[h.vanlente@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:h.vanlente@maastrichtuniversity.nl)