

Information Sheet
Dual Degree Programme UM/Católica



Partner schools: *Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (UM) and Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics (Católica)*

Applicable UM study programme: *MSc Financial Economics*

Programme duration: *4 semesters*

Programme structure: *semester 1 and 2 at UM, semester 3 and 4 at Católica*

Application deadline: *1 November 2025*

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Dual Degree Programme				
UM / Católica				
<i>MSc Financial Economics</i>				
<i>MSc in Finance</i>				
School	Month(s)	Course(s)	ECTS	
<u>Year 1 in Maastricht</u>			At UM	At Católica
UM	Sep – Oct	EBC4023 ECB and Monetary Policy	6,5	
		EBC4097 Quantitative Techniques for Financial Economics	6,5	
	Nov – Dec	EBC4060 Global Banking	6,5	

		Elective → Students choose one of the following electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBC4103 Accounting for Financial markets • EBC4151 Empirical methods in Financial Research • EBC4054 Institutional Investors • EBC4029 Open Macroeconomics in a Global Society • EBC4273 Systemic Risk and Sustainability • EBC4008 Time Series Econometrics 	6,5	
	Feb – Apr	EBC4058 Fixed Income Management	6,5	
		EBC4006 Panel Data Econometrics	6,5	
	Apr – Jun	EBC4010 Empirical Analysis of Financial Markets	6,5	
		Elective → Students choose one of the following electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBC4056 Risk Management • EBC4055 Sustainable Real Estate Finance 	6,5	
	Feb – Jul	EBS4029 Writing a Master’s Thesis Proposal: Financial Economics	4	
Year 2 in Lisbon			At UM	At Católica
Católica	Sep – Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Corporate Finance • Financial Investments • Data Science for Finance • Firm Valuation • Financial Analysis & Forecasting • Financial Derivatives • Advanced Excel 		7 7 3,5 3,5 3,5 3,5 0
	Jan – Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics for Finance • Elective course 1 • Elective course 2 • Elective course 3 (OR Language course) 		3,5 3,5 3,5 3,5 (OR 4,5)
	Sep – Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LERNE sessions • Career Accelerator Workshops 		0 4
UM (online)	Sep – Jul	EMTH0001 Master's Thesis	17	30
Total ECTS credits per school			73	76 (OR 77)
Overall total ECTS credits			149 (OR 150)	



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

Participants in the Dual Degree Programme are responsible for getting acquainted with, and for abiding by, the rules and regulations of their host university 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 programmes. You can find the SBE MSc-EER on the Student Portal (My SBE Intranet), under "Regulations, rights and duties". For courses taken at Católica the EER from Católica will apply.

Fixed curriculum

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

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Eligibility and admission requirements

- Who can apply: (prospective) students in the MSc Financial Economics
- Selection requirements:
 - obtained all 13 ECTS from the first period of the study programme during the first sit;
 - have an average grade of minimum 7.0.
- Departure requirements:
 - Before nomination to Católica:
 - obtained all 26 ECTS from the first semester of the study programme.
 - Before departure to Católica:
 - obtained all 56 ECTS from the first year of the study programme before departure;
 - successfully completed the course "Writing a Master's Thesis Proposal: Financial Economics".
- Additional requirements: students need to be aware of and meet the following requirements from Católica to be eligible for graduation at the end of their Dual Degree programme:
 - **Language requirements**
 - 2nd language requirement: *students must show evidence of proficiency (minimum A1 level CEFR) of one foreign language (this can be English provided this is not the applicant's native language) in addition to their native language at time of their application.*
 - 3rd language requirement: *students must show evidence of proficiency (minimum A1 level CEFR) of a second foreign language (this can be English provided this is not the applicant's native language) in addition to their native language at time of their application or, if students do not meet this requirement at the time of their application, have to replace one of the elective courses at Católica by a language course to ensure they meet the 3rd language requirement by the time of graduation.*

To present proof of previously acquired proficiency in a second and third language, students may:

- *Provide the original certificate of a language course with a minimum of 30 hours with a final passing grade from a language school such as Alliance Française, Goethe Institut, Instituto Cervantes, etc.;*
 - *Provide a transcript of records from a University that includes a language course with a final passing grade and a minimum of 3 ECTS (or equivalent);*
 - *Provide a language certificate stating that you have reached (at least) A1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages;*
 - *Provide evidence that at least two years of your secondary education (high school) or higher education (undergraduate level) was taught in an instruction language other than English or your native language (please note that high-school-level language classes cannot be validated towards language requirement).*
- **Internship requirement:**
- *Students must show evidence of completion of a non-credit company internship with a minimum duration of 6 weeks (240 hours). Prior professional experience can be used to fulfil this requirement if completed after 1 June and before 1 September directly before the start of the MSc programme at UM.*
 - *After acceptance to the Dual Degree programme, students have to validate their internship or prior professional experience with Católica's Careers & Talent Office before the time of the thesis defense.*

Selection procedure

Students can start their application for the Dual Degree Programme with Católica as soon as they have a valid registration for the MSc Financial Economics.

- Before application:
 - Interested students have to request an application form via e-mail to dualdegree-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.
- Application:
 - 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 November 2025**

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

- Applicants' motivation letter, CV and bachelor's transcript will be considered by the Dual Degree Team and the applicable Programme Advisor at SBE Maastricht.
- The applications considered strongest might be invited for an interview.

- Results:

- Applicants will be informed about the results via e-mail.
- The accepted students will have to confirm their participation via e-mail and pay the required administrative fee (see *Practical Information* below) within a set time window that will be communicated in the e-mail with the results of the application.

Available places

A maximum of **5 slots** are being offered for the academic year 2025-2026.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Contact

Questions or remarks regarding the Dual Degree Programme with Católica, 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 Dual Degree Programme pay tuition fee at UM for the entire duration of the programme. Selected students are exempted of tuition fee payment at the partner school.

Besides the tuition fees at SBE Maastricht, students selected for the Dual Degree Programme with Católica 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.

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 Dual Degree Programmes as they come 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

As students in the Dual Degree Programme are pursuing two separate degrees, the grades counting towards their GPA are varying from one degree to another. The GPA for the degree from SBE Maastricht will only be calculated based on the programme components completed at SBE. The GPA at Católica will be calculated based on the results of all the programme components, including those

conducted at SBE Maastricht which' results will be converted according to Católica's official grade and credit system.

Students in the Dual Degree 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.

Thesis

Students in the Dual Degree Programme with Católica take part in the Writing a MSc Thesis Proposal skills training at SBE Maastricht during the second semester of the programme. After approval of their topic and assignment of a thesis supervisor, students complete the thesis writing remotely during the final year at Católica. The MSc Thesis will be written according to the SBE thesis rules and regulations and supervision will be done by an academic staff member of SBE Maastricht solely. However, students will have to defend their thesis at both institutions and each institution will grade the final master's thesis according to its own procedure and standards, meaning the thesis grade from SBE Maastricht might differ from the Católica grade. The MSc thesis is worth a total of 17 ECTS credits at SBE Maastricht and 30 ECTS credits at Católica.

The deadline for the thesis submission at SBE Maastricht is at the end of period 5 of academic year 2026-2027 followed by a defense deadline at the end of period 6 of academic year 2026-2027. The thesis submission at Católica is due by mid-September 2027 and the defense at Católica will be scheduled after the SBE Maastricht supervisor has signed a statement confirming the thesis has been submitted and successfully defended at SBE Maastricht. The exact deadline will be communicated to the students by the office at Católica during the course of the final year of the programme.

In case students fail to adhere to the thesis deadlines at SBE Maastricht, they have a final resit opportunity scheduled within three months after the first sit deadline. If students submit the thesis at Católica only after the established September's deadline, a late submission fee applies, along with an enrolment fee for the next academic year. Students in these circumstances will be able to submit and defend at Católica in January/February 2028.

When students fail the resit opportunity at SBE Maastricht, students have to find a (possible 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 and Católica and be subjected to enrolment fee at the latter institution as well.

In the unlikely event that a student does not meet Católica's thesis standards, they will be required to submit a new thesis in accordance with Católica's Academic Regulations, implying a study delay for which the student has to stay enrolled at Católica and be subjected to enrolment fee.

Diploma and graduation

After successful completion of all the requirements of the Dual Degree Programme, students will be awarded the degree of Master of Science in Financial Economics (60 ECTS credits) from SBE Maastricht and the Master of Science in Finance (90 ECTS credits) from Católica.

Students are eligible for graduation at both schools after completion of all the programme components at both schools. The schools will exchange the needed documents with regards to the graduation process.

In case of no study delay, the actual graduation ceremonies at both schools take place as follows:

- At SBE Maastricht: Fall Graduation Ceremony in November 2027
- At Católica: during the fall semester following the thesis defense

Additional internships/MSc exchange

Please note that SBE Maastricht does not approve an additional (extra-curricular) MSc exchange to students enrolled in a Dual Degree programme after they have completed the full programme. Since the regular DD programme already takes 1,5 years, another extension of the programme is not allowed.

An additional internship is only possible with 100% study progress. For more information on internships, please check the requirements of the Internship Office in the Student Portal.

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 Programmes of SBE Maastricht. If that would happen, SBE Maastricht reserves the right to cancel the Dual Degree programme for its students and will enable them to continue and graduate in the regular master programme.