

Information Sheet

Dual Degree Programme UM/UCLouvain



Partner schools: *Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (UM) and Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain)*

Applicable UM study programme: *MSc Economics*

Programme duration: *4 semesters*

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

Application deadline: *1 September 2025*

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Dual Degree Programme				
UM / UCLouvain				
<i>MSc Economics</i> <i>MSc in Economics</i>				
School	Month(s)	Course(s)	ECTS	
<u>Year 1 in Maastricht</u>			At UM	At UCL
UM	Sep – Oct	EBC4274 Economics and Data	13	
	Nov – Dec	First specialisation course 1	6,5	
		Second specialisation course 1	6,5	
	Feb – Apr	First specialisation course 2	6,5	

		Second specialisation course 2	6,5	
	Apr – Jun	EBC4225 Data Visualization	5	
		EBP4006 Project	6,5	
	Feb – Jul	EBS4048 Writing a Master's Thesis Proposal: Economics	4,5	
Year 2 in Louvain-la-Neuve			At UM	At UCL
UCLouvain	Sep – Jun	1 Econometrics course: LECON2031 Applied Econometrics: Time Series (Sem 1)		5
		1 Reflective course to be selected from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECONM907 Institutional Foundations of Markets (Sem 2) LECON2065 History of Economic Thought (Sem 1) LECON2061 Philosophy and epistemology of economics (Sem 1) 		5
		2 Activities to be selected from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Analysis Seminars (LECON2476, LECON 2416, LECON 2486, LECON2824/ECONM824) Contemporary Economic Issue Seminars (LECON2446, LECON 2373, LECON 2382, LECON2820/ECONM820) Empirical Analysis Courses (LECON2352, ECONM833) 		10
		3 Electives to be selected within all the courses of the programme		15
		1 Option to be selected from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS7 : Finance: Markets OS3: Development: Poverty and Institutions OS9: Economic of Public Intervention OS4: Firm's strategy OS11: International Economics OS8: Labour and Human Resource Economics 		15
	Sep – Jun	LECON2910 Thesis	15	15
UM (remotely)	Jul - Jul	EMTH0001 Master's Thesis		
Total ECTS credits per school			70	65
Overall total ECTS credits			120	

Specialisations at SBE Maastricht

Students choose two out of the three offered specializations during the first year of the programme.

The three available specializations and the associated courses are:

Specialization 1: Inequality and Social Inclusion

- Course 1: [EBC4276](#) Inequality, fairness, and policy goals
- Course 2: [EBC4277](#) Managing inequality

Specialization 2: Sustainable and resilient economies

- Course 1: [EBC4273](#) Systemic Risk and Sustainability
- Course 2: [EBC4272](#) Case studies of sustainability problems

Specialization 3: Technology, markets and societal change

- Course 1: [EBC4278](#) Opportunities and threats from new technologies
- Course 2: [EBC4279](#) Responsible (governmental) reaction to new technologies



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 UCLouvain the EER from UCLouvain 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 Economics

Selection procedure

Students can start their application for the Dual Degree Programme with UCLouvain as soon as they have a valid registration for the MSc 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 September 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.
- 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 UCLouvain, 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 only at UM during the first year of the programme and pay tuition fee only at UCLouvain during the second year of the programme. Interested students should be aware that the tuition fees between the two institutions vary, so this has to be taken into account before applying to the programme.

Besides the tuition fees, students selected for the Dual Degree Programme with UCLouvain will be charged an **administrative fee of € 250,00**. 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 € 250,00 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. UCLouvain will converse the grades of the SBE courses into the UCLouvain degree based on their national grading system and will include the grades in the GPA for students' final degree.

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.

Important note: The resit period at UCLouvain is scheduled at the end of the academic year. Meaning that students who fail a course at UCLouvain in the final stage of the programme, will only be able to complete the Dual Degree Programme after successfully completing the resit of such course in September of the next academic year. 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 Dual Degree Programme with UCLouvain will 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 UCLouvain under supervision of a supervisor from both schools. The deadline for the thesis submission 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.

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 both the Dual Degree Programme, students will be awarded the degree of Master of Science in Economics (60 ECTS) from SBE Maastricht and a Master in Economics, General, Professional focus (120 ECTS) from UCLouvain.

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 UCLouvain: December 2027

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 2 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.