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Admission requirements

On this page you will find important details of the application process (such as deadlines, admission requirements, required documents and application assessment) for the Research Master in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, Specialisation Cognitive Neuroscience for *academic year 2022-2023*.

Important deadlines for application for this study programme

When you want to apply or are applying for this study programme, it is important that you inform yourself of the deadlines that you need to meet. The important deadlines when applying for this study programme are provided in the table below.

Note: if you are viewing this webpage on your phone, we recommend that you use landscape mode.

Date	What you need to know about this date
1 October 2021	Studielink is open for applications for the academic year 2022-2023
Up to and including 15 January 2022, 23:59 CET	Deadline first* selection round for completing the entire application process for all applicants Non-EU/EEA applicants need to require a visa or residence permit .
Up to and including 15 January 2022, 23:59 CET	Application deadline for non-EU/EEA applicants who want to be considered for the UM High Potential/Holland Scholarship
Up to and including 1 April 2022, 23:59 CET**	Deadline second* selection round for completing the entire application process for all applicants Non-EU/EEA applicants need to require a visa or residence permit .

* You can apply in the first or second selection round. Both selection rounds have equal admission chances

More information

If you have questions regarding the requirements, or the admission procedure, please send an email to:

fjn-researchmaster@maastrichtuniversity.nl

International students: also check the study progress requirements

General requirements: prior qualifications

The admission requirements for academic year 2022-2023 for the Research Master in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, Specialisation Cognitive Neuroscience depend on your prior qualifications. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

The Board of Admissions of this programme assess applications holistically on a broad range of criteria. Because we aim to create an interdisciplinary mix of students, we cannot state which university bachelor's degree is suitable for the research master and which one is not. Students with university bachelor's degrees as diverse as political sciences, philosophy, liberal arts, psychology, psychobiology, physiotherapy, neuroscience, biology, biotechnology, health sciences, biomedical engineering and economics have successfully applied in the past.

Clearly, some bachelor's degrees are intrinsically more suitable for specific specialisations. For example, a molecular biology bachelor's degree fits better with the Fundamental Neuroscience or Drug Development and Neurohealth specialisations than with the Psychopathology or Neuropsychology specialisations.

The reverse is true for a bachelor's degree with a focus on clinical psychology. At the same time, there are no strict exclusives. To give an example: a candidate with a bachelor's degree in political sciences or history may have taken a one year break to work in a neuroscience lab, where he/she might have shown great talent for experimental work, statistics and programming, as evidenced by excellent motivation and recommendation letters, and perhaps even a co-authorship on a conference abstract or paper. An application of this candidate to for example the Cognitive Neuroscience specialisation may well be competitive. Such applications are exceptional, but some have been successful in the past. Therefore, you should highlight in your application all aspects and strengths of your background that make you a fitting candidate for your chosen specialisation.

Students need to have a bachelor's degree that is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's degree. In order to determine if a bachelor's degree is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's degree, the Board of Admissions makes use of NUFFIC diploma recognition. NUFFIC issues recommendations on the value of higher or secondary education diplomas obtained outside the Netherlands. Where possible, the foreign diploma is compared to a Dutch diploma. As well as evaluating the diploma, NUFFIC is also able to determine whether a study programme or an educational institution is officially recognised. Bachelor's degrees that NUFFIC judges as non-equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's degree will not be admitted. If you are uncertain whether your bachelor's degree is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor's degree you are strongly advised to submit a request via the [NUFFIC website](#) to have this checked prior to submitting your application.

Additional requirements

Language requirements for English-language master programmes

As English is the language of instruction in this study programme, it is essential that your English language skills are good enough for you to undertake intensive and challenging academic courses that are taught and examined in English.

Answer the questions below to find out if you meet the language requirements.

Do you hold a bachelor's or master's degree in which English was the sole language of instruction?

YesNoUndo

Prospective students who received their prior education in anon-EU/EEA country (handling fee)

Prospective students applying for this study programme who received their prior education in anon-EU/EEA country will have to pay a handling fee. More information on this handling fee and how to

arrange this payment can be found on the [Handling fee page](#).

Documents required for application process

During the application process for this study programme you will need to complete a number of tasks for which you will often have to upload documents. The list below gives you an insight into what documents you will (and might) need to prepare.

Required documents for all applicants to this study programme

- **A recent passport picture***
The passport picture must satisfy certain requirements.
- **A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card***
Make a copy of the page with your personal details. Save this copy as 'passport copy' and not as 'passport picture'.
- **A certified copy of your most recent transcript of records**
- **A certified copy of your bachelor's diploma**
If you have not graduated yet, you can upload the official transcript of records of your bachelor's programme.
- **A Curriculum Vitae**
List your education, relevant extracurricular activities and internship/professional experience.
- **A motivation letter** (max. 500 words)
Indicate your chosen specialisation at the beginning of the letter. Provide good arguments about why you want to do this master's programme at UM and why you believe that you can successfully complete the programme.
- **An [Academic Background Form](#)**
Download the form, save it on your device and re-open it in order to complete it. Save the form and upload it in the MyUM portal using the category 'Academic background'.
- **Two [academic references](#)**
Ask for two (academic) referees to fill in the reference form. Make sure that you give the referees your Maastricht University student ID number and specialisation. Completed reference forms submitted before the application deadlines will be taken into account. No more than two reference forms can be submitted with your application and other references will not be considered.
Please note: *your application will be assessed, even without references; however, submitted references can make an important contribution to a positive evaluation of your application.*

*As a UM student it is not necessary to upload these documents in the MyUM portal. Unless your passport is not valid on 1 September 2022; in that case you do have to upload a copy of your passport.

Documents that might be required depending on your (academic) background

- **A copy of your English language test with sufficient results** (if applicable)

Please note:

Make sure to upload the documents in the MyUM portal in **PDF** or **Word-format**. Do not upload **Zip files**, we cannot open these files.

Only **complete** registrations will be taken into consideration.

All documents must be in **English**.

Avoid last-minute application stress! Last-minute applications may delay the scheduling of a possible interview and the communication of your application outcome as well.

How do we assess your application?

When you want to apply or are applying for this study programme, it is useful to know how we assess your application. You can find more information about this here.

The Research Master in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience is a selective programme with a maximum enrolment of 24 new students each year.

There are two selection rounds: one in January/February and one in April/May. Both selection rounds have equal admission chances. Every round consists of two phases.

Admissions procedure

The main steps in the admission procedure involve an (1) assessment of your application, which may result in (2) an invitation for an interview and writing assignment when evaluated positively. Upon completion of the admissions procedure a message will be sent to you about your admission status (details below). Note that in specific conditions (in a very small number of cases) a secondary assessment round will be held when your application is judged suitable for a specialisation other than the one you selected ([more information](#)).

Assessment of your application

After receipt of all required documents, the Board of Admissions will carefully assess your application. Using all your submitted documents, the Board will assess your application on a number of criteria, which include:

- Knowledge, skills and experience in the area of your chosen specialisation that you acquired in the past.
- Your motivation for choosing a specialisation and ability to acquire new knowledge and skills in the area of that specialisation.
- General motivation and ability for conducting research.
- Attitude and communication skills necessary for functioning in a Problem-Based Learning teaching environment, and for the development of a research career in academic, industrial, clinical, governmental and other settings.
- Openness to learning within an international academic environment.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Note: only complete applications will be assessed. We therefore recommend that you adhere to the deadlines provided in the table under 'Important deadlines for application to this study programme' on this page.

Interview and writing assignment

An (online) interview and a writing assignment are part of the further selection procedure. The interview consists of a further assessment of the above-listed criteria. Interviews will take place in January/February (first selection round) or April/May (second selection round).

Message about admission

Based on the documents you have submitted and the admission procedure for your chosen programme, the UM decides on whether to admit you. Once the UM has made a decision on your admissibility, you will be informed about this by email. We strive to let you know if you are admitted or not within 4-5 weeks from the application deadline. If there are too many candidates for admission, eligible candidates may be placed on a waiting list. This means that the final acceptance decision is delayed and that admission depends on the availability of places. Candidates that have been placed on the waiting list will receive regular updates on the status of their application.

Enrolment before completing prior education (zachte knip regulation)

To help students who have experienced delays in their studies due to COVID-19, we have put the 'zachte knip' regulation in place. This regulation means that you can enrol in your next education programme before you have completed your prior education.

Were you, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unable to earn enough credits in the academic year 2021-22 to complete your prior education on time? In that case, you will be given the opportunity to conditionally start your next education programme at UM under certain terms in academic year 2022-23 (study start in September or February)

When are you eligible for the 'zachte knip'?

Would you like to go from:

- a bachelor's programme to a UM pre-master's or master's programme,
- a pre-master's or 'schakel' programme to a UM master's programme, or
- an HBO propedeuse (first-year diploma at a university of applied sciences) to a UM bachelor's programme?

[Read here](#) about the conditions for qualifying for the 'zachte knip'.

Are you already an FPN student?

Please check [AskPsy](#) for specific FPN regulations.

How and when do you file an application for the 'zachte knip'?

Beginning of July, we will let you know [here](#) how and when to apply for the 'zachte knip' regulation.