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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 bachelor's programme in Digital Society for the *academic year 2022-2023*.

Important deadlines for application for this study programme

Applicable when starting on 1 September 2022

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 1 April 2022, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process for non-EU/EEA applicants (these applicants require a visa or residence permit)
Up to and including 1 May 2022, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process for EU/EEA applicants

Please note: in Studielink you need to **choose** the starting moment. Please make sure to select **September 2022** in the pulldown-menu, so that you will apply for the start of the next academic year.

General requirements: prior qualifications

The admission requirements for academic year 2022/23 for the bachelor's programme in Digital Society depend on your prior qualifications. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

Prospective students with a Dutch diploma

If you have one of the diplomas stated below then, in principle, you are directly admissible:

- Dutch VWO diploma
- HBO or OU propaedeutic diploma
- HBO diploma

Prospective students with a non-Dutch diploma

If you have a non-Dutch diploma that is equivalent to the Dutch VWO diploma you are, in principle, admissible to this programme. Check if this applies for your diploma.

[List of diplomas equivalent to the Dutch VWO diploma 2022/23](#)

If your diploma is not included in this list, it must be evaluated by UM first.

Prospective students who do not meet the requirements

Entrance exam, Colloquium Doctum

If you do not have the required diploma, or do not meet the additional requirements, you can still qualify by passing an entrance exam (the so called Colloquium Doctum).

If you pass the Colloquium Doctum and submit the requested proof of language proficiency, you will qualify for enrolment in the bachelor's programme.

[Read more about the Colloquium Doctum](#)

Foundation Programme

International prospective students who do not meet the admission requirements: Foundation Programme

If you are an international prospective student, and you do not meet the admission requirements, then you may be eligible for the Foundation Programme. The Foundation Programme will provide you with intensive training in academic skills, courses relevant to your chosen bachelor's programme, and English language skills (depending on your level).

After successfully completing the Foundation Programme, you will be eligible for admission to this bachelor's programme. Additionally, the Foundation Programme offers support outside of the classroom and organises events that will help you make new friends and adjust to life in the Netherlands and at Maastricht University.

[Learn more about the Foundation Programme](#)

Additional requirements

Language requirements for English-language 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 Dutch pre-university education (VWO) diploma?

YesNoUndo

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

Prospective students applying for this study programme who received their prior education in a non-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](#).

Credit transfer

If you have followed university or higher vocational education before, you may qualify for exemptions. This means you can use the results you obtained elsewhere for your programme at Maastricht University.

In practice, requests for exemptions from regular courses and skills training courses are rarely approved. Only exemption from the 30 ECTS credits in the free fifth semester is possible.

A request for exemptions will only be taken into consideration after you have enrolled in the programme as a student.

For more information on credit transfer please contact the Board of Examiners of this programme: BoE-fasos@maastrichtuniversity.nl

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 portrait picture

This 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 copy of your most recent grades transcript and a copy of your diploma if you have obtained it

How do we assess your application?

Matching Procedure

Maastricht University offers you the opportunity to make use of a Matching Procedure. The purpose of Matching is for you to gain a better understanding of the study programme you have chosen, and for you and us to see if it fits well with your needs and expectations.

This Matching Procedure is a **voluntary** part of the admissions procedure.

For the bachelor's programme **Digital Society** the Matching procedure is as follows:

You will receive an assignment including instructions from "matching-bds-fasos@maastrichtuniversity.nl" to the email address you have specified in Studielink.

The Board of Admissions will assess your assignment and provide you with feedback. If the Board believes that your expectations and skills match those required to start the programme, this advice will be positive. If the Board has any doubts about whether this programme is right for you, then you will receive constructive feedback. In both cases, you are welcome to our programme!

[Read more about the admissions procedures in general](#)

Privacy statement matching procedure

[Read more about the privacy statement for the matching procedure](#)

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'.

Exceptions to the rule

As an exception to the standard, some programmes of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences apply an adjusted standard to admit students on the basis of the 'zachte knip':

FASoS students may miss a maximum of 12 ECTS from the last two years of their bachelor's programme. In addition, students of the UM bachelor Arts and Culture may miss a maximum of 16 ECTS as the thesis of this programme consists of 16 ECTS. Students of the UM bachelor Digital Society may miss a maximum of 17 ECTS as the thesis of this programme consists of 17 ECTS.

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.