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[European Studies: International Relations](#)

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 master's programme in European Studies: International Relations for *academic year 2022-2023*.

For the master's programme in European Studies enrolment takes place on the basis of your quality and suitability. For this your motivation, prior qualifications and your (professional) experience are important. You are expected to have prior knowledge of contemporary European history, the integration process, and institutions of the European Union. Some previous insight into theories and methods of social and political science is essential.

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 May 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 June 2022, 23:59 CET	Deadline for completing the entire application process for EU/EEA applicants
Up to and including 1 June 2022, 23:59 CET	Deadline for uploading the required documents via the MyUM Portal

Please note:

Find out if you can apply for a [scholarship](#) or [financial aid](#). Deadlines for scholarships are often earlier than the dates mentioned above.

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 master's programme in European Studies: International Relations depend on your prior qualifications. Please check below which requirements apply to you.

Graduates from the UM bachelor's European Studies applying for a continuing Master

You can apply via Studielink before 1 August 2022 for the continuing master's programme only with a BA European Studies diploma obtained at Maastricht University, and are guaranteed a place.

Please upload a valid ID and a recent passport picture. Please note: you have to graduate before 1 September 2022. You don't need to write a letter of motivation.

Graduates from a relevant university bachelor's programme

You are eligible for admission if you have a bachelor's degree from a European Studies programme, or from a relevant academic field, and/or have followed some modules on European Union. Relevant fields are for example: political science, international relations, law, economics, contemporary history. You should have obtained good marks in your prior qualifications and have relevant work experience. This will be pointed out in your cv.

Graduates from another bachelor's programme

Excellent students with a relevant university of applied sciences degree (e.g. HBO/Hochschule), or an academic BA or BSc Bachelor in a field that does not grant direct admission into this programme (such as languages or cultural studies), can follow a pre-master year. Once successfully completed, this will then guarantee you access to the master's programme European Studies.

[Read more about the pre-master year](#)

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 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](#).

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 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'. Your passport must be valid on 1 September 2022.
- **A copy of your most recent certified grades transcript and a copy of your certified bachelor's or master's diploma if you have obtained it**
If you have not graduated yet, you can upload your official grades transcript from your bachelor's or master's programme.
- **Your Curriculum Vitae**
Please list your education, relevant extracurricular activities and internship/professional experience.
- **A motivation letter**
All candidates must write a letter of motivation. Please provide good arguments about why you want to do this master's programme at Maastricht University and why you believe that you can successfully complete the programme. Also, the motivation letter should discuss which of the three specialisations you are applying for and why. You are encouraged to discuss the courses covered. More generally, it is advised to discuss why this specialisation is in line with your interests, and mention possible related topics that you might wish to explore in your master thesis. Please note that motivation letters that do not explicitly discuss the specialisation being applied for, will see the application rejected. The motivation letter should be between 800 – 1,200 words.
- **A writing sample**
All candidates should provide proof of sufficient academic writing/research skills. The Admission Board asks the candidate to submit an academic paper of at least 2,000 words (excluding the footnotes and reference list) preferably (but not mandatorily) on a relevant topic. As an academic sample of writing, the paper should contain in-text references and a reference list/bibliography at the end, to demonstrate your ability to write papers according to academic standards. You can use a paper from earlier studies or another occasion. The submitted work should be written in English.

**As a UM student it is not necessary to upload the above mentioned documents in the MyUM portal. However, if your passport will not be valid on 1 September 2022, then you still have to upload a copy of your passport.*

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

- **Proof of English language proficiency**
Answer the questions concerning language requirements under 'Language requirements for English-language master programmes' on this webpage to find out what are the requirements. The outcome of your answers will indicate which documents you should send to prove your proficiency.

Upload the requested documents via the [MyUM portal](#)

Only complete applications will be reviewed. All documents should be in English.

How do we assess your application?

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

All complete application files (including English language tests) will be assessed by the Board of Admissions. They will try to respond within four weeks.

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 UM has made a decision on your admissibility, you will be informed about this by email.

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.