

## Sustainability Science, Policy and Society

# 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 Sustainability Science, Policy and Society for *academic year 2024-2025*.

The information on this page is for students who would like to start in academic year 2024-2025.

Please [click here](#) to look into the admission requirements for academic year 2023-2024.

Commented [PL(1)]: Updaten

## Application deadlines

Tip: if you are viewing this webpage on your phone, we recommend using portrait mode.

Dates for a start in	What you need to know about these dates
September 2024	
1 October 2023	<a href="#">Studielink</a> is open for applications for the academic year 2024-2025
1 May 2024*	Deadline for completing the entire application process for non-EU/EEA applicants (these applicants require a <a href="#">visa or residence permit</a> )
1 June 2024*	Deadline for completing the entire application process for applicants from the EU/EEA or Switzerland

\* All deadlines are up to and including 23:59 Central European Time.

### Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the equivalence of your bachelor's degree, please contact us at:

[admissions-ssps@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:admissions-ssps@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

# Required documents based on your educational background

## Dutch university level

### Dutch University degree

If you have a Dutch University degree with a written thesis of at least 8 ECTS, you need to submit the following:

- **Grades transcript of your bachelor's programme**  
Upload an official grades transcript from each university you have attended, plus a translation if the original is not in English.
- **A certified copy of your bachelor's degree (if already obtained)**  
Only if you already have completed your bachelor degree
- **Curriculum vitae**  
List your education, relevant extracurricular activities, internships and (professional) experience.
- **Motivation letter**  
Write a convincing letter of motivation in which you discuss the following.
  - Why specifically this master's programme? Please elaborate how it builds upon your previously gained knowledge and/or experience concerning sustainable development. (max. 300 words)
  - What do you expect to gain from completing this master's programme (max. 300 words)
- **Proof of English proficiency**  
Check if you meet the [language requirement](#)
- **A recent passport picture**  
A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card

## International university level

### International degree

In order to be admitted to the master's programme, you need to have a bachelor/master degree that is equivalent to a Dutch university bachelor and a written thesis of at least 8 ECTS. The Board of Admissions will determine the equivalence of your degree\*. Applicants with a degree that is not equivalent to a Dutch University degree or who do not have a written 8 ECTS thesis will receive instructions from the Board of Admissions on how to compensate for this deficiency.

\* To assess if your Bachelor or Master degree is equivalent to a Dutch University Bachelor or Master degree, the Nuffic comparison tool for education systems on [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl) will be used. If there is no clear comparison possible, Nuffic will assess your degree separately. The verdict of Nuffic is final.

- **Grades transcript of your bachelor's programme**  
Upload an official grades transcript from each university you have attended, plus a translation if the original is not in English.
- **Certified copy of your bachelor's degree (if already obtained)**  
Only if you already have completed your bachelor degree
- **Curriculum vitae**  
List your education, relevant extracurricular activities, internships and (professional) experience.
- **Motivation letter**  
Write a convincing letter of motivation in which you discuss the following.
  - Why specifically this master's programme? Please elaborate how it builds upon your previously gained knowledge and/or experience concerning sustainable development. (max. 300 words)
  - What do you expect to gain from completing this master's programme (max. 300 words)
- **Proof of English proficiency**  
Check if you meet the [language requirement](#)
- **A recent passport picture**
- **A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card**

In addition:

- If you have received their prior education in a non-EU/EEA country, you will need to **pay the €100 [handling fee](#)**

**Dutch hbo level**

# Zuyd or Breda Universities of Applied Sciences

If you have successfully finished the Academic Minor or ICT preparatory programme (Zuyd Hogeschool) or SBM-programme (Breda University of Applied Sciences), you are directly admissible. After your application via Studielink, you will be asked to upload the following documents in the MyApplication portal:

- **Grades transcript of your bachelor's programme including GPA**  
Upload an official grades transcript including a GPA from each university you have attended, plus a translation if the original is not in English.
- **Copy of your degree (if obtained)**
- **A positive recommendation from Zuyd Hogeschool**
- **A statement from your school indicating that you have completed the required programme successfully**
- **A recent passport picture**
- **A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card**

## Other Dutch HBO diploma

**If you have a Dutch HBO degree with a written thesis of at least 8 ECTS you need to submit the following:**

- **Grades transcript of your bachelor's programme**  
Upload an official grades transcript from each university you have attended, plus a translation if the original is not in English.
- **A certified copy of your bachelor's degree (if already obtained)**  
Only if you already have completed your bachelor degree
- **Curriculum vitae**  
List your education, relevant extracurricular activities, internships and (professional) experience.
- **Motivation letter**  
Write a convincing letter of motivation in which you discuss the following:

- Why specifically this master's programme? Please elaborate how it builds upon your previously gained knowledge and/or experience concerning sustainable development. (max. 300 words)
- What do you expect to gain from completing this master's programme (max. 300 words)
- **Proof of academic capabilities (choose one of the options listed below):**
  - **Option 1**  
Upload your [GMAT test](#) results with a minimum score of 550, including a minimal Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) score of 4.0.
  - **Option 2**  
Upload your [GMAT Focus Edition](#) test scores with a minimum score of 515.
  - **Option 3**  
Upload your [GRE test](#) score that is equivalent to the minimum GMAT scores
  - **Option 4**  
Upload the official certificate(s) proving that you've completed the required courses of the [bridging programme](#). These courses are offered by Coursera.

Please register for and complete the following courses of the Understanding Arguments programme:

- Course 1: Think Again I: How to Understand Arguments,
- Course 2: Think Again II: How to Reason Deductively,
- Course 3: Think Again III: How to Reason Inductively and
- Course 4: Think Again IV: How to Avoid Fallacies

- **Proof of English proficiency**  
Check if you meet the [language requirement](#)
- **A recent passport picture**
- **A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card**

For more information on the content, arrangement, duration, and costs of the courses we refer you to the Coursera website.

## If you have a Dutch HBO degree without a written thesis of at least 8 ECTS you need to submit the following:

- **Grades transcript of your bachelor's programme**  
Upload an official grades transcript from each university you have attended, plus a translation if the original is not in English.
- **A certified copy of your bachelor's degree (if already obtained)**  
Only if you already have completed your bachelor degree
- **Curriculum vitae**  
List your education, relevant extracurricular activities, internships and (professional) experience.
- **Motivation letter**  
Write a convincing letter of motivation in which you discuss the following.
  - Why specifically this master's programme? Please elaborate how it builds upon your previously gained knowledge and/or experience concerning sustainable development. (max. 300 words)
  - What do you expect to gain from completing this master's programme (max. 300 words)
- **Proof of academic capabilities (choose one of the options listed below):**
  - **Option 1**  
Upload your [GMAT test](#) results with a minimum score of 550, including a minimal Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) score of 4.0
  - **Option 2**  
Upload your [GMAT Focus Edition](#) test scores with a minimum score of 515.
  - **Option 3**  
Upload your [GRE test](#) score that is equivalent to the minimum GMAT scores
  - **Option 4**  
Upload the official certificate(s) proving that you've completed the required courses of the [bridging programme](#). These courses are offered by Coursera.

Please register for and complete the following courses of the Understanding Arguments programme:

Course 1: Think Again I: How to Understand Arguments,

Course 2: Think Again II: How to Reason Deductively,

Course 3: Think Again III: How to Reason Inductively and

Course 4: Think Again IV: How to Avoid Fallacies

**AND**

The following courses of the Academic English programme:

Course 3: Advanced Writing and

Course 4: Introduction to Research for Essay Writing

For more information on the content, arrangement, duration, and costs of the courses we refer you to the Coursera website.

○ **Option 3**

Upload a research paper equivalent to a bachelor thesis AND upload the official certificate(s) proving that you've completed the Coursera

courses of the 'Understanding Arguments programme':

Course 1: Think Again I: How to Understand Arguments,

Course 2: Think Again II: How to Reason Deductively,

Course 3: Think Again III: How to Reason Inductively and

Course 4: Think Again IV: How to Avoid Fallacies.

You can register for these courses by clicking on the links. For more information on the content, arrangement, duration, and costs of the courses we refer you to the Coursera website.

• **Proof of English proficiency**

Check if you meet the [language requirement](#)

• **A recent passport picture**

• **A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card**

## Good to know

Over the years, we have learned that there are a few factors that are important in determining whether a student is able to successfully complete the master's programme:

- English language skills

- Basic proficiency in research skills (from your previous education)
- High motivation and full-time dedication to the programme

## How do we assess your application?

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

The admissions decision is based on the documents provided by you. Selection will take place on the basis of your quality and suitability. In this respect your motivation, prior qualifications as well as your professional experience are important. The English language requirements and the requirement that you need to have obtained a bachelor's degree at the start of the programme in September (regardless of relevance) are strictly applied.

No one will be admitted to this programme directly. In some cases, the Board of Admission may request additional documents or an interview. The decision will always be made on a case-by-case basis to determine whether there are sufficient grounds for admission.

You will receive the decision on your admissibility within 4 weeks after your application has been submitted to the Board of Admissions.

**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.