

Maastricht University



Advanced Master in Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Management

Start September 2025

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1. Teaching Team

QUESTION: Who are the teachers?

ECPC is proud to work together with a team of University teachers, visiting fellows and distinguished members of our Advisory Board. The centre has a strong European and international outlook, and conducts executive education and training closely intertwined with the centre's research. The advice and forward-looking vision of our visiting fellows and advisory board members are essential to develop quality programs which are not only relevant today but also meet tomorrow's needs in the fast-changing area of privacy and cybersecurity.

Your Maastricht University course coordinators are:

- **Paolo Balboni**, Professor of Privacy, Cybersecurity, and ICT Contract Law, Maastricht University
- **Herke Kranenburg**, Professor in European Data Protection and Privacy Law, Maastricht University. He is also a member of the Legal Service of the European Commission working in the area of privacy and data protection.
- **Karolina Podstawa**, Assistant Professor, International and European Law, Maastricht University
- **Thomas Fabry**, Privacy and Cybersecurity at Maastricht University's European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC)
- **Maria Magierska**, Senior lecturer
- **Christopher Mondschein**, Senior lecturer

In addition to our permanent staff, a broad range of external experts are involved in the advanced master programme.

QUESTION: Who is managing the programme?

The programme is being managed by the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC), Faculty of Law, Maastricht University

Contact persons:

Cosimo Monda, Director (Cosimo.monda@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Joyce Groneschild, Deputy Director (joyce.groneschild@maastrichtuniversity.nl)



2. Teaching

QUESTION: How is the programme divided between online and in-person presence?

The Master's programme consists of approx. **70% online** teaching, **30% live sessions** and/or on-campus weeks in Maastricht or Brussels; there will be **3 in-person experience weeks** per academic year. Those on-campus experience weeks are divided over the academic year (for the year 2025/26 those are planned for September 2025, January 2026 and April 2026). See more information below.

QUESTION: How are the teaching activities divided in terms of synchronous and asynchronous activities?

Teaching consists of synchronous teaching (live online sessions, where students need to be online at a given moment) and a-synchronous teaching (for example recorded sessions, reading materials, assignments, etc.) which a student can do at his/her own pace.

QUESTION: When / how does the teaching take place?

- There is a maximum of 4 hours of live sessions per week, held online. The exact number can differ per block.
- Live sessions will in principle always be planned on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** between 16.00 and 20.00 hrs CET
- Students are expected to take part in the live sessions, in line with the PBL system (Problem-Based Learning) used at UM, which requires students to participate actively in the tutorial, thus allowing a better retention of knowledge, enhancing your motivation and encouraging you to develop essential skills.

QUESTION: How does PBL work?

In its essence, PBL (Problem-Based Learning) involves seven steps that you follow in groups of 12 to 18 students. The seven steps are:

1. **discuss the case** and make sure everyone understands the problem
2. **identify the questions** that need to be answered to shed light on the case
3. **brainstorm** what the group already knows and identify potential solutions
4. **analyse and structure** the results of the brainstorming session
5. **formulate learning objectives** for the knowledge that is still lacking

6. **do independent study**, individually or in smaller groups: read articles or books, follow practicals or attend lectures to gain the required knowledge

7. **discuss** the findings

The initial five steps are covered in the first tutorial. You then work individually or in small groups on 'your' part of the problem, and come together in the second tutorial to discuss the results as a group.

QUESTION: When and how are the exams taking place?

The exams usually take place at the end of a teaching period. The Maastricht University academic calendar is divided into 5 main periods, meaning that exams will take place around the end of October, December, January, March and at the beginning of June. The format of the exam, the timing as well as the evaluation method differs per course and is always explained in detail in the coursebook.



3.Planning

QUESTION: What is the schedule of the whole academic year?

The current Master planning for Academic Year 2025-2026:

July 2025	Welcome to students and introduction to the programme
July 2025 onwards	Orientation courses online available to students
August 2025	Orientation courses: live online sessions (max. 6 hrs/week)
September 2025	Start of the academic year
1-5 September 2025*	On-campus week 1 for students' cohort 2025 – the Maastricht Experience week on Privacy. <i>Location: Maastricht</i>
12 -16 January 2026*	On-campus week 2: Thesis Writing Bootcamp. <i>Location: Maastricht</i>
April 2026 (tbc)*	On-campus week 3: Cybersecurity experience week. <i>Location: tbd</i>

NOTE: specific dates to be determined.

QUESTION: Is the Academic Calendar for 2025-2026 available?

The Maastricht University academic calendar is divided into 5 periods, with some certain activities still taking place in additional period 6. The calendar is divided as following:

- 1st period: September – October
- 2nd period: November – December
- 3rd period: January
- 4th period: February – March
- 5th period: April – beginning of June
- Additional 6th period: mid-June till beginning of July

The final Academic Calendar will be shared with the students by 1 May 2025.

QUESTION: How do the in-person weeks look like?

The on-campus weeks consist of an intensive period of teaching in either Maastricht or Brussels. The weeks include the teaching of that specific period, but in addition we offer guest lectures (from professionals in the field coming from international business, European Commission, EDPS, national DPA's and more...), site visits (for example Europol, European Parliament..) and intensive workshops (for example on blockchain, thesis writing techniques and more...). During the first on-campus week students will visit the Maastricht University library.

In addition, those on-campus weeks are essential for meeting your peers, enjoying joint dinners with students, teaching staff and external experts, and experience the Maastricht University student life in person.

QUESTION: What happens if someone cannot join in the on-campus weeks?

Participation in the on-campus weeks is in principle obligatory for all students. Only in case of *force majeure* or compelling reasons (illness, pandemic travel restrictions...) a student can be exempted from taking part in person. However, the (recorded) sessions do need to be followed then by the student and take-home tutorial assignments need to be completed. If a student misses information because of the fact that he or she is not present in the on-campus week, it is the student's own responsibility to catch-up or receive the necessary information from other students.

QUESTION: Is there any agreement/special conditions (from University or ECPC) for hospitality / accommodation arrangements?

Unfortunately, no.



4. Workload

QUESTION: How are the experiences of people who are both in a full-time job and joining the Master?

Although challenging, this advanced master is part-time and thus allows professionals to divide their time and adapt their personal and professional lives accordingly. Several students have agreements in place with their employers, who (in light of the link between their studies and their professional areas of expertise) support them by either giving them enough time off or by accepting study-related hours as work.

QUESTION: What is the expected workload per week?

The workload heavily depends on the given course, week and the background of a given student. On average, students have to take into account a study burden of **20 hrs/week**. It is important to realise, before starting your studies, that an extensive workload will come your way and has to be embedded in your daily life.

QUESTION: Is there any cooperation/help between students?

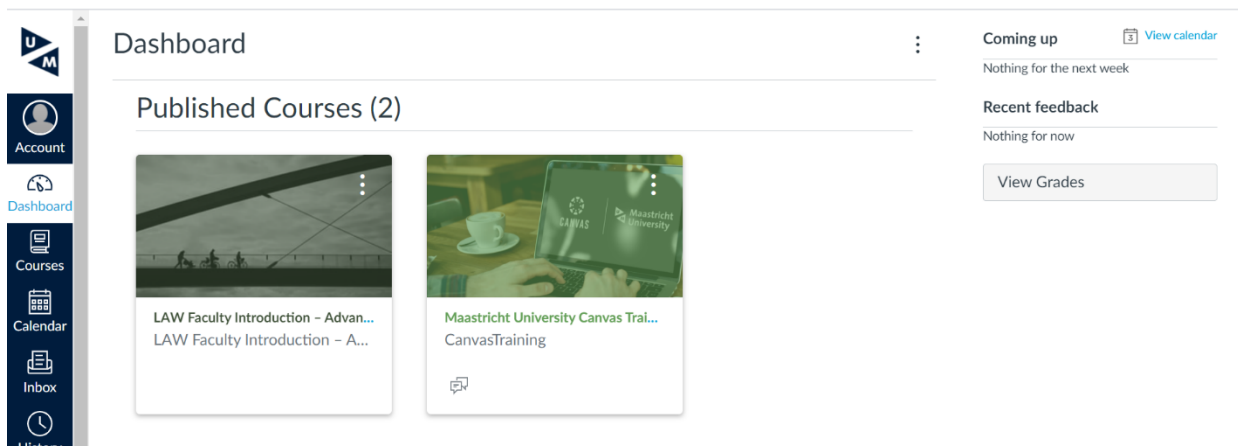
Students are encouraged to study together and cooperate in numerous courses. While the majority of the final assessments is individual, various courses include interim group assignments.



5.Platform

QUESTION: What platform will the Master's programme use?

We are using the platform CANVAS for all online teaching and, based on the overall Maastricht University policy, classes take place via ZOOM.



UM will allow you to download the Microsoft bundle and official communication will take place via email on Microsoft outlook.

QUESTION: Will the students have access to UM resources? How well 'equipped' is the UM Library?

As a student you have full access to all UM student resources. The University Library supports students and researchers in achieving their academic goals. We offer a modern study and research environment that is available online, 24/7, either on campus or worldwide accessible with your UM account and password.

Our state-of-the-art locations offer endless possibilities for individual or group study. We also have a considerable collection of academic resources available both online and in print. Our library staff of information experts can assist you with any questions you may have about the collection. Our customised training programmes and smart services can help you with your research or studies. We also offer advice on copyrights and publications and strive for sustainable archiving and open access for all research publications.

Maastricht University Library offers a digital learning environment, with information and tools for students and staff, as well as tailored support for your study programme or research project.



6. Fees and Finances

QUESTION: What is the tuition fee for this programme?

The institutional part time fee for this programme is: EUR 21,450

Reduced fee applicable to ECPC certified alumni* is: EUR 19,800

* the reduced fee is applicable to persons who have completed the ECPC-B DPO Certification course or the full Diploma Track on Privacy Management.

QUESTION: Is the tuition fee to be paid upfront or can it be spread over two years?

Spread payment over two years is possible, in maximum four instalments. The following payment deadlines need to be respected in order to take part in the programme:

1 st instalment, 25% of the total tuition fee	paid before 1 August 2025
2 nd instalment, 25% of the total tuition fee	paid before 1 February 2025
3 rd instalment, 25% of the total tuition fee	paid before 1 September 2026
4 th instalment, 25% of the total tuition fee	paid before 1 February 2027

You will receive an invoice.

QUESTION: Are there any scholarships available for the program?

Unfortunately, not at the moment.



7. Admission-related aspects

QUESTION: When do we start if we get accepted and before what time we need to apply?

Deadline for application: 1 May 2025, 23:59 CET.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

In case you are accepted into the Master's programme, the academic year starts usually in the first week of September. However, the Orientation Courses (that need to be attended before the start of the academic year) will be available to students already as early July 2025.

QUESTION: Do I need a VISA?

A visa is usually not needed, since the on-campus sessions are limited to a maximum of 3 full weeks per year. For those students who do need a visa for short-term stays, Maastricht University can send an invitation letter for those dates.

QUESTION: What is the current background of students?

Is it mostly law or IT?

The background of the students is very mixed, and that is also exactly what taking part in this master makes it interesting. While the majority has expertise in the legal field, several students have a cybersecurity/IT background, and there is also a number of students with different backgrounds, like business, HR, marketing...

QUESTION: Is there any specific requirement in terms of educational/professional background?

You can only apply if you have completed one of the study programmes below:

- Master's or bachelor's degree in law or related fields such as economics, political science or international relations
- Master's or bachelor's degree in business or related studies
- Master's or bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field

Additionally, you are expected to present professional experience that demonstrates prior knowledge in law and computer science, or at least in one of the two areas. Alternatively, in case of lack of

professional experience, you must demonstrate excellent grades in the previous academic programmes and a strong motivation to follow the programme.

QUESTION: is it possible to be admitted to the Masters without previous professional experience?

This programme is in principle designed for highly educated professionals (computer scientists, lawyers, policy makers) with several years of professional experience in and/or affinity with issues in the field of privacy, data protection and cybersecurity. However, in case of lack of professional experience, you might still be eligible for admission. In such case you must demonstrate excellent grades in the previous academic programmes and a strong motivation to follow the programme.

QUESTION: Which language requirements do apply?

You need to submit with your application a language test result. While an excellent command of English (IELTS overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.5 for writing or an overall score of 7) is required, following Maastricht University's language policy, all accredited English tests, including TOEFL, IELTS and Cambridge are accepted.

If you can proof that you have followed already formal education (bachelor or master) in English, or if you can proof that you have worked in an international, English speaking environment for at least two years, you may be exempted from the language test requirement. This needs to be clearly stated in your application and the Board of Admissions decides whether you can be admitted without language test.

QUESTION: Does the Master's programme offer exemptions to professionals who have already obtained the Maastricht University Professional Diploma on Privacy Management?

Graduates of the ECPC full Diploma Track on Privacy Management (with diploma obtained) may choose to be exempted from one of the following courses:

- 'Data Protection Compliance Management, Leadership and Communication' and 'Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Data Protection Impact Assessment',
- 'ICT and Data Related Contracts',
- 'Data Protection and Security Assessment/Audit: Case Study of Cloud Computing'.



8. The programme

QUESTION: Does the programme cover any country specific legislation?

While the programme is euro-centric in its nature, several courses adopt a global perspective on the subject (e.g. EU and Global Cybersecurity Fundamentals or Advanced International Privacy and Data Protection) and elaborate upon the legal frameworks of various jurisdictions, such as Brazil, US etc., following a comparative approach. Considering the pluralistic and international environment in the Advanced Master programme, the teaching team is always enthusiastic to discuss the legal landscape of the students' countries of origin.

QUESTION: What skills are taught/is one expected to acquire through this Master?

Graduates of the Advanced Master's in Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Management will possess deep knowledge of the legal aspects of EU and global data protection and cybersecurity issues. Due attention throughout the Programme will be given to the implications of new technologies at stake. The graduates will develop a sound ethical and business understanding of data usage practices, combined with a broader skillset composed of management and leadership, communication and related soft skills. Knowledge and skills in these areas are needed in order to become tomorrow's leaders in privacy, cybersecurity and responsible data management.

QUESTION: How are courses evaluated? By written exams, by writing papers. Mixed?

The assessment methods vary and depend on the individual course and the choices of the course coordinators. Evaluation will be based on written assignments, either individually or group assignments, take-home exams, DPIAs and other projects, as well as multiple choice exams. Examinations will include oral exams and (group) presentations. The courses can include various evaluation methods, which will make up varying percentages of the final grade.

QUESTION: Will all the evaluation take place online or are some exams in person?

In principle all the exams and assignments will take place online. There may occasionally also be exams in-person during the on-campus weeks. This is however clearly communicated in the coursebook.

QUESTION: Is the certificate accredited and acknowledged globally as a master's degree?

Yes, the advanced master as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Dutch *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (WHW, Higher Education and Scientific Research Act) is an LL.M. degree of 60 ECTS which is approved and adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University, accredited and acknowledged by the Dutch ministry of education, being recognized at European and global level.