



Maastricht University

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences

Regenerative Medicine and Technology

STUDENTS



Alba Villagrassa Martín

Spanish
Expects to graduate in 2026



What is your minor?

I minor in AI and Data-driven Care at the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences at Maastricht University.

Where are you doing your internship?

My internship involves the development of a forming and bonding protocol to fabricate Cyclic Olefin Polymer-based chips at MERLN, Maastricht University.

Why did you choose RMT?

Science always fascinated me, yet for a long time I perceived it as something distant and unattainable. For many years, I planned to become a dentist, as it felt like a clear and realistic path within healthcare. This changed during my final two years of high school, when a teacher introduced us to regenerative medicine and red biotechnology. For the first time, I was exposed to a field that combined biology, engineering, and innovation in a way that felt both concrete and transformative.

I became deeply inspired by the idea that science could go beyond treating symptoms and instead focus on repairing and regenerating damaged tissues and organs. The possibilities within regenerative medicine felt almost limitless, and my fascination grew so strong that I signed up for the bachelor's programme even while the website page of the programme was

still being built. This early commitment reflected how strongly I felt that this field was the right fit for me. Regenerative Medicine and Technology offered exactly the interdisciplinary approach I was looking for, allowing me to engage with complex biological systems while also applying technological and creative problem-solving skills. Realising that this field aligned perfectly with my curiosity, ambition, and desire to create meaningful impact led me to choose RMT.

What do you like most about the programme?

What I appreciate most is its breadth and inter-disciplinarity. The curriculum exposes us to a wide range of subjects, from programming and data analysis to extensive wet-lab work in cell culture and experimental design. This combination allows us to develop both theoretical understanding and hands-on technical skills.

Unlike more restrictive programmes that focus on a single discipline, RMT intentionally integrates engineering, biology, and technology. Through lectures, tutorials, and practicals, we learn how these fields interact to solve complex biomedical challenges. While the programme includes some medically relevant context, its core strength lies in tissue engineering and technological innovation rather than clinical medicine. This broad yet coherent approach not only keeps

the programme intellectually stimulating, but also prepares us to think critically across disciplines and adapt to rapidly evolving challenges in regenerative medicine and biomedical technology.

Which specialisation are you interested in?

I am particularly interested in technology-driven specialisations, with a focus on neural regeneration and spinal cord repair. I am fascinated by the challenge of interfacing technology with the nervous system, such as the development of brain-computer interfaces and implantable neural devices.

The possibility of restoring lost neural function through engineered materials, bioelectronics, and advanced tissue-engineering strategies strongly motivates me. Neural and spinal cord regeneration represent some of the most complex problems in regenerative medicine, requiring an interdisciplinary approach that combines engineering, materials science, and biology. This complexity, together with the potential for profound patient impact, is what draws me to this specialisation.

What are your future ambitions?

My goal is to pursue a master's degree abroad, ideally in Switzerland, where I hope to further specialise in neurotechnology and regenerative engineering. Following my master's, I would like to gain international research or industry experience, potentially in the United States, to deepen my technical expertise and broaden my scientific perspective.

During this period, I aim to prepare for a PhD by strengthening my research profile, engaging in advanced projects, and refining my long-term research interests. This step-by-step path allows me to build a solid foundation before committing to doctoral training, with the ultimate ambition of contributing to cutting-edge research at the interface of technology and neural regeneration.

Any advice for future students?

My main tip for future students is to understand clearly what RMT is and what it is not. RMT is not medicine; you will not work with patients or receive clinical training. Instead, the programme focuses on tissue engineering, technology, and the scientific and engineering principles behind regenerative medicine.

Having a solid background in physics, chemistry, and biology is definitely helpful, but you do not need to be perfect in all of them from the start. The courses are well structured and guide you step by step, allowing you to build the necessary knowledge along the way.

RMT is a highly interdisciplinary and demanding programme that requires you to constantly switch between ways of thinking, from biology to engineering to programming and entrepreneurship. While this can feel challenging at first, it becomes one of the programme's greatest strengths

"For the first time, I was exposed to a field that combined biology, engineering, and innovation in a way that felt both concrete and transformative."

Alisa Ovsiannikova

Russian

Expects to graduate in 2026



What is your minor?

I minor in AI and Data-driven Care at the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences at Maastricht University.

Where are you doing your internship?

My internship involves the development of an AI-Assisted pipeline for real-time analysis and visualisation of (live cell) microscopy data on Morphogenetic Dynamics in Stem Cell-derived 3D in vitro models at MERLN, Maastricht University.

Why did you choose RMT?

At high school, I was considering either a quantitatively oriented programme in economics or a biochemistry track within the medical field. I initially did not know about Regenerative Medicine and Technology, but when I came across it, I immediately looked it up and realised how much potential the field has. RMT stood out as a focused and applied discipline, while still being broad enough to explore biology, chemistry, engineering, and data-driven approaches.

What ultimately convinced me was that regenerative medicine is an emerging field that is actively revolutionising medicine, making RMT the perfect fit for my interests and ambitions.

What do you like most about the programme?

What I appreciate most about it is its solution-focused and forward-looking approach. Instead of mainly studying the theory of how the human body develops, functions, and regenerates, the emphasis is on developing technologies and strategies to actively repair it. This is supported by extensive hands-on (laboratory) experience and a strong interdisciplinarity, where biology, chemistry, engineering, and medicine are closely integrated. As a result, the programme feels highly relevant and directly connected to real medical problems.

Which specialisation are you interested in?

I am particularly interested in bioinformatics approaches within RMT, such as data-driven analysis and artificial intelligence (AI). Machine learning methods make it possible to uncover complex biological patterns and make predictions that were previously impossible. Its rapid development revolutionises the field and is especially powerful in regenerative medicine. Combining biological knowledge with AI allows for more precise, scalable, and personalised solutions, which I see as a powerful direction for the future of healthcare.

What are your future ambitions?

In the coming years, I plan to pursue a research-focused master's programme in regenerative

medicine, bioinformatics, or a closely related field, with an emphasis on data-driven approaches. During my master's, I aim to deepen my research experience and decide whether continuing with a PhD is the right step for me.

In parallel, I am already developing a biomedical startup that I started during my bachelor's, which helps me understand how scientific research can be translated into real-world and commercially viable solutions. I also lead the Biomed Unleashed podcast on regenerative medicine, which I aim to expand further as a platform for science communication and connecting research, innovation, and society. Combining academic research, entrepreneurship, and science communication is something I see as a powerful way to maximise impact in healthcare.

Any advice for future students?

Don't be afraid of the steep learning curve at the beginning - it becomes easier and more rewarding over time. Also, reach out to professors and scientists, they are an invaluable source of insight and support.



Jop Ackermans

Dutch

Expects to graduate in 2026



What is your minor?

Pharmacological Interventions, Infection & Immunity and Critical Review of a Biomedical Intervention at Maastricht University.

Where are you doing your internship?

My internship involves the evaluation of the performance of antimicrobial polyurethane coatings for orthopaedic implant materials like titanium and Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at MUMC+.

Why did you choose RMT?

I chose RMT because I enjoyed physics, chemistry and mathematics in high school and wanted to apply these subjects in a medical context. While I initially considered the Biomedical Science and RMT programme, I ultimately chose RMT due to its stronger technological focus. The programme appealed to me because it provides in-depth insight into how (bio) medical technologies are developed and applied in clinical practice and why they are valuable for patient care.

Additionally, I appreciated that RMT not only covers the human body and disease, as in Biomedical Science, but also integrates engineering principles, organic chemistry, material science, microfabrication techniques and data analysis using programming and machine learning methods. I also felt that this programme better prepares you for further studies in engineering and technology related fields.

What do you like most about the programme?

I particularly enjoy lectures given by professors or clinicians who are actively working in the clinic or the field, especially when they share their professional experiences and discuss the challenges and tasks they encounter in their daily work.

Which specialisation are you interested in?

I would like to specialise more in the engineering aspects of the field while remaining closely connected to clinical practice. I am particularly interested in biomaterials, but I also have a strong interest in diagnostic imaging and its optimisation.

What are your future ambitions?

I have applied to the pre-master's programme in Biomedical Engineering at TU Eindhoven, however my admission is not yet certain. Ultimately, I hope to work in a hospital, contributing to the development and application of medical technologies and devices that improve patient treatment and quality of life.

Any advice for future students?

Choose a study you enjoy the most and even though not everything will always be enjoyable, if you work hard, you will make it.

Naomi de Jong

Dutch

Expects to graduate in 2026



Where are you doing your minor?

Maastricht University.

Where are you doing your internship?

My internship involves combining tendon-mimetic biomaterials with specific miRNAs to improve the regenerative potential of tendon cells in patients that suffered tendon injuries at MERLN, Maastricht University.

Why did you choose RMT?

I chose RMT because it combines chemistry, engineering, data science and medicine. I am very interested in how technology can be applied to (bio)medical challenges.

What do you like most about the programme?

The interdisciplinary field: the combination of chemistry, engineering, data science and medicine. Besides, the high amount of time that we spend in the lab is very valuable.

Which specialisation are you interested in?

Chemistry and Material Science: I really liked the chemistry courses that we have in our programme, that is why I took extracurricular chemistry courses.

What are your future ambitions?

To specialise more in chemistry. I plan to complete a teaching qualification in the next year, so that I can become a chemistry teacher.

Any advice for future students?

The combination of chemistry, engineering, and data-analysis may be challenging, but it will offer you a lot of great skills for the future.

"I am very interested in how technology can be applied to (bio)medical challenges."

Lucas Kofman

Dutch

Expects to graduate in 2026



What is your minor?

I minored in law courses at Flinders University, Australia.

Where are you doing your internship?

My internship involves developing a PVDF/PVP-based cell encapsulation device with a controlled local drug delivery capability at MERLN, Maastricht University.

Why did you choose RMT?

I chose Regenerative Medicine and Technology because it combines technical knowledge with hands-on, real-world applications in a field that is both new and strongly future-oriented. What especially attracted me was the programme's focus on innovation and its close connection to emerging technologies that will shape the future.

RMT addresses important challenges and developments that can make a real difference in the world, which made the programme feel meaningful and relevant. Additionally, the flexibility of the curriculum allows students to tailor their studies to their interests through minors and internships, making it a strong preparation for a wide range of career paths.

What do you like most about the programme?

What I like most about the RMT programme is the strong focus on laboratory work, which really helps bridge the gap between theory and technical, practical applications.

Working hands-on in labs made the concepts we learned in class much more tangible and easier to understand. It allowed me to directly apply theoretical knowledge to real systems and technologies, which not only strengthened my learning but also built practical skills that are essential for my future career.

Which specialisation are you interested in?

I am interested in several specialisation areas, as the programme offers many appealing directions. I am particularly drawn to the intellectual property side of bioscience, which led me to complete a minor in law courses in Australia alongside my RMT studies. Combining legal knowledge with a technical RMT background opens up interesting opportunities at the intersection of innovation and regulation.

In addition, I am interested in the business side of RMT, such as working closely with companies, as well as cancer-oriented RMT, which I find especially meaningful due to its potential impact on healthcare.

What are your future ambitions?

I aim to continue my academic development by completing one or two master's programmes. I am also interested in gaining additional practical experience through internships or industry placements, allowing me to further develop my skills and explore different career paths within the RMT field.

Any advice for future students?

Stay curious and be open to exploring different directions within RMT. The programme offers many opportunities, and you don't have to have everything figured out from the start.

Make full use of the laboratory work, minors, and internships, as they really help you connect theory to practice and discover what you enjoy most.

Regenerative Medicine and Technology is a challenging but rewarding programme in a field that is rapidly evolving and highly impactful. If you are motivated to contribute to future innovations, this programme offers a strong foundation.

"RMT addresses important challenges and developments that can make a real difference in the world, which made the programme feel meaningful and relevant."

Oliver Castro Konings

Dutch/Spanish
Expects to graduate in 2026



Where did you do your minor?

I did my minor at the Arctic University of Norway.

Where are you doing your internship?

My internship involves co-doped mesoporous silica nanoparticles to stimulate bone regeneration and angiogenesis at MERLN, Maastricht University.

Why did you choose RMT?

I chose RMT because of its multidisciplinary nature, combining engineering, science, and medicine. It allows me to further pursue my interests in physics, chemistry, and biology, as RMT integrates all three fields.

What do you like most about the programme?

One of the aspects I appreciate most is the strong emphasis on practical and laboratory work. The extensive lab hours make it possible to apply theoretical concepts from class to real-world situations, which greatly enhances learning.

Which specialisation are you interested in?

I am particularly interested in the biological and medical aspects of RMT. This interest aligns well with my ambition to work in global health, as medical technologies and biological innovation play a crucial role

in improving healthcare access and outcomes world-wide. I would like to specialise in this area and apply my knowledge to contribute to global health initiatives on an international scale.

What are your future ambitions?

I aim to complete a master's degree, possibly even two, and then enter the workforce. Ideally, I would like to work in the global health sector, either at an NGO or within governmental health institutions.

Any advice for future students?

Keep up with the material throughout each block. The workload can become overwhelming if you fall behind, so staying consistent is important.

Make the most of your time in the labs. They are not only the most enjoyable part of the programme but also where you learn the most.

Go on exchange if you can. Completing your minor abroad is a great opportunity and a valuable advantage, both academically and personally.



**Inspired by these stories?
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