

***Appendices to the
Course and Examination Regulations
Master's Programmes
Faculty of Science***

valid from 1 September 2024

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MSc Astronomy

CROHO-number 60200

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The aim of the Leiden Observatory MSc programme Astronomy is to provide students with the proficiency, experience and skills to pursue a successful career in science, or in companies, industry or society in general with a strong background in scientific thinking and understanding.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The programme offers seven specialisations, each comprising two years (120 EC): four research-oriented specialisations, and three combined specialisations.

The four research-oriented specialisations focus on major research themes including the evolution of the universe, the formation and evolution of galaxies, the birth and death of stars, the formation, occurrence, and characterisation of planets around other stars, astronomical instrumentation, and the analysis of very large and complex data sets. They allow the student to choose from either a broad research profile (“Astronomy Research” specialisation), or a profile that is more focused in a particular direction. The research-oriented specialisations offered (and described in detail below) are:

- “Astronomy Research”;
- “Astronomy and Cosmology”;
- “Astronomy and Data Science”;
- “Astronomy and Instrumentation”.

In addition to the research-oriented specialisations, three other specialisations are offered, which combine the main elements of the research curriculum with topics in Business Studies (BS), Science Communication and Society (SCS), and Education (EDU), and which are described separately.

Upon successful completion of the programme, students receive the degree Master of Science in Astronomy, with specification of the chosen specialisation.

All specialisations have the same Director, the same Programme Committee, the same Board of Examiners, and the same Board of Admissions. Exceptions to this are formed by the specialisations Business Studies, SCS, and EDU, which for the specialisation-specific part each have their own specialisation coordinator and a central Board of Examiners appointed by the Faculty of Science. Students with a MSc in any of the seven specialisations can be admitted to a PhD programme in Astronomy.

1.3 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

The international standards for astronomy MSc programs are defined in the Domain Specific Reference Frame (DSRF). The DSRF is based on the “Tuning Physics” document, developed at the European level following the Bologna Agreements, which specifies how the general qualifications are translated into the program itself. The DSRF explicitly links to the five Dublin Descriptors and

translates these into a number of specific competences, with corresponding achievement levels. The comparison between the learning outcomes of the program and the DSRF (and hence the Dublin Descriptors) is presented below, which shows a detailed match between the learning outcomes of the program and the DSRF and Dublin Descriptors.

(A) KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- A1 have a good understanding of the important physical theories (logical and mathematical structure, experimental support, physical phenomena described).
- A2 be familiar with the most important areas of physics and with the common approaches, which span many areas in physics.
- A3 have a good knowledge of the state of the art in (at least) one of the presently active topics in physics research.

(B) APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- B1 be able to frame, analyse and break down a problem in phases defining a suitable algorithmic procedure; be able to evaluate clearly the orders of magnitude in situations which are physically different, but show analogies, thus allowing the use of known solutions in new problems.
- B2 be able to identify the essentials of a process/situation and to set up a working model of the same; be able to perform the required approximations; i.e. critically think about how to construct physical models.
- B3 be able to understand and master the use of the most commonly used mathematical and numerical methods.
- B4 have become familiar with most important experimental methods and be able to perform experiments independently, as well as to describe, analyse and critically evaluate experimental data; and to be able to scientifically report the findings.
- B5 be able to use appropriate software, programming language, computational tools and methods in physical and mathematical investigations.
- B6 acquire an understanding of the nature and ways of physics research and of how physics research is applicable to many fields other than physics, e.g. engineering; be able to design experimental and/or theoretical procedures for: (i) solving current problems in academic or industrial research; (ii) improving the existing results.

(C) JUDGEMENT

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- C1 be able to develop a personal sense of responsibility; be able to gain professional flexibility through the wide spectrum of scientific techniques offered in the curriculum; be able to organize the personal learning process, evaluate personal work, consult experts for information (e.g. about career opportunities) and support when appropriate; have had the opportunity to take courses that prepare for teaching physics at secondary school, as well as the opportunity to gain in-depth interdisciplinary skills.

- C2 have become familiar with highly regarded research in the field, thus developing an awareness of the highest standards.
- C3 be able to understand the socially related problems related to the profession, and to comprehend the ethical characteristics of research and of the professional activity in physics and its responsibility to society; be able to conduct processes of decision making and inspect the consequences of actions taking into account principles, norms, values and standards both from a personal and a professional standpoint.
- C4 be able to work with a high degree of autonomy, even accepting responsibility in (project) planning, and in the managing of structures.

(D) COMMUNICATION

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- D1 be able to listen carefully and to present difficult ideas and complex information in a clear and concise manner to a professional as well as to lay audiences; be able to work in a multidisciplinary or in an interdisciplinary team.
- D2 be able to read, speak, and write in technical English.

(E) LEARNING SKILLS

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- E1 be able to search for and use physical and other technical literature, as well as any other sources of information relevant to research work and technical project development.
- E2 be able to enter new fields through independent study; have developed those learning skills that are necessary for them to continue to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy (lifelong learning).
- E2 enjoy the facility to remain informed of new developments and methods, and be able to provide professional advice on their possible impact or range of applications.

The aforementioned qualifications, which are derived from the international domain-specific reference framework for Physics, apply to all specialisations of the MSc Astronomy. For the 4 research-oriented specialisations they are complete. The three society-oriented specialisations have the following additional qualifications:

Business Studies
BS1- Insight in managerial issues related to knowledge-intensive businesses and basic theoretical skills in business disciplines most relevant to working in these businesses; BS2- The ability to make a plan for a new business or an innovation project; BS3- Experience with performing business activities in an existing company or organization or directed towards technology-based business creation.
Science Communication and Society
SCS1 - Knowledge of the relationship between science & society through science communication frameworks and transdisciplinary perspectives. SCS2 - Experience with these frameworks and skills to apply them in practice, e.g. in science journalism, visual communication, or in informal science education. SCS3 - Basic skills in performing science communication research independently.

Education
EDU1- all qualifications necessary for teaching all years of secondary education and technical and vocational training (students from 12 to 18 years old).

The general qualifications of Faculty of Science are linked to the final learning outcomes of the programme as depicted below:

Final qualifications of Faculty of Science	Final learning outcomes MSc Astronomy
A. Knowledge and understanding	
A graduate has: * the ability to interrelate and integrate various areas of the discipline;	A1, A2, and A3
B. Applying knowledge and understanding	
* theoretical and/or practical skills in more than one specialist area of the discipline such that they can carry out research under overall supervision; * the ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, formulate verifiable hypotheses, and set up and carry out research and critical reflection on one's own research and that of others;	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6
C. Judgement	
* sufficient understanding of the social role of the natural sciences to be able to reflect upon them and in part consequently to come to an ethically sound attitude and corresponding execution of one's professional duties;	C1, C2, C3, and C4
D. Communication	
* the ability to present clearly, verbally as well as in writing, one's own research results, and the ability to communicate with colleagues and to present their research results as a contribution to a congress or as (part of) a scientific publication;	D1 and D2
E. Learning (Skills)	
* the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.	E1, E2, and E3

1.4 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February.

2. Curriculum (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The duration of the programme is two years (120 EC). For all specialisations, the selection of course work and research projects requires prior approval by the MSc Study Advisor. In individual cases a course from a different programme or field of study may be elected, but only after prior written approval from the Board of Examiners. In this case, the student should first discuss the course of choice with the MSc Study Advisor and obtain agreement to proceed. Subsequently the chair of the Board of Examiners should be contacted to seek the required official approval. At the start of the Master's Programme, the student and the MSc Study Advisor together draw up a complete list of planned courses and projects (the Master Study Plan). Changes in the Master Study Plan during the programme are possible at any time, but always require prior approval by the Study Advisor.

2.1 Types of courses

A variety of courses is taught each year. Specifics for all courses can be found in the Prospectus. Courses are given at different intervals: once per year, once per 18 months, once per two years, or at irregular intervals. Students must therefore always consult the long-term teaching schedule (which is published in the Prospectus and specifies the course schedule for the current and next year) when making their Master Study Plan. Courses are classified as follows:

Astronomy Core Courses: these are offered at regular intervals.

	Code	Level	EC
1. Origin and Evolution of the Universe	4303OEUNIY	500	6
2. Large Scale Structure and Galaxy Formation	4303LSSG6Y	500	6
3. Stellar Structure and Evolution	4303STEVOY	500	6
4. Interstellar Medium	4303INTSTY	500	6
5. Star and Planet Formation	4303STPLFY	500	6

General Astronomy Courses: these vary with time and are offered at regular or sometimes irregular intervals. Examples include:

	Code	Level	EC
1. Galaxies: Structure, Dynamics and Evolution	4303GSDE5Y	500	6
2. Simulation and Modeling in Astrophysics (AMUSE)	4303SIMOAY	500	6
3. Active Galactic Nuclei (AGNs)	4303AGNS3Y	400	3

Instrumentation-related Astronomy Courses: these vary with time, and are offered at regular or sometimes irregular intervals. Examples include:

	Code	Level	EC
1. Astronomical Telescopes and Instruments	4303AIAT6Y	500	6
2. Detection of Light a (3 EC) or a+b (6 EC)	4303DETLAY+	500	3
	4303DTLBCY		6
3. Radio Astronomy	4303RADASY	400	6
4. High Contrast Imaging	4303HCI03Y	500	3
5. Planetary Physics: Science and Instrumentation	4303PPSINY	400	3
6. Project Management for Scientists	4303PRMS3Y	400	3
7. Design of Optical Systems	4303DOPTSY	400	3

Specialist Astronomy Courses (6 or 3 EC each): these vary with time and are offered at regular or irregular intervals; these courses provide in-depth introductions to specialised topics. Examples include:

	Code	Level	EC
1. Observational Cosmology	4303OBCOSY	400	3
2. Astrochemistry	4303ASCHEY	500	3
3. High-energy Astrophysics	4303HIENAY	400	3
4. Gravitational Lensing	4303GRLENY	400	3
5. Modern Astrostatistics	4303MOASSY	500	3

6.	Astronomical Spectroscopy	4303ASTSPY	500	3
7.	Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics a (6EC) or a + b (9EC)*	4303NRASAY + 4303NRASBY	500	6 9
8.	Exo-planets A: Interiors and Atmospheres	4303EXPIAY	500	3
9.	Exo-planets B: Space Physics	4303EXPLBY	500	3
10.	Observational Molecular Astronomy in Galaxies	4303OMAIGY	500	3

* Students who completed the course '**Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics**' (4303NRAPHY) in the academic year 2023-2024 or earlier are not allowed take the course '**Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics a**' (4303NRASAY) and/or '**Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics b**' (4303NRASBY), as these courses are considered equivalent.

Non-Astronomy Courses; these must be selected from the courses offered by the Leiden MSc programmes in Physics, Mathematics, or Computer Science.

Astronomy Research Projects. Students in the specialisations "Astronomy Research", "Astronomy and Cosmology", "Astronomy and Data Science", and "Astronomy and Instrumentation" carry out two astronomy research projects: the First Research Project and the Master's Research Project. Students in the Business Studies, SCS or EDU specialisations carry out only the Master's Research Project. All research projects have a total credit of 30 EC. For the First and Master's Research Project, the total credit includes 25 EC Research and 5 EC Thesis**.

** Students who started their **First or Master's Research Project** in the academic year 2023-2024 or earlier received 27 EC for their Research component and 3 EC for their Thesis component. This 27EC + 3EC combination is considered equivalent to the current 25 EC Research and 5 EC Thesis requirement for the **First or Master's Research Project**.

All research projects are carried out under the supervision of a member of the scientific staff. The First and Master's Research Projects must be on different topics. Only in exceptional cases, and with prior approval from the Board of Examiners following a motivated request from the student and supervisor(s), the First and Master's Research Project can be conducted under the same supervision. In such cases, both First and Master's Research Project must have resulted in a separate thesis.

The Master's Research Project can be started only after completion of the First Research Project (if that forms part of the programme). The maximum duration in calendar time of any Research Project is 9 months. However, if the First Research Project is started before November 1 of the first year, the deadline is extended to July 31 for students who started the programme in September. For students who started the programme in February this deadline is extended to December 31 if the First Research Project is started before April 1 of the first year.

In the specialisations Astronomy Research, Astronomy and Cosmology, Astronomy and Data Science, and Astronomy and Instrumentation, it can be possible to carry out (part of) the Master's Research project at a university abroad. This requires explicit permission from both the Study Advisor and Board of Examiners, and a Master Study Plan that allows for an extended stay abroad without causing delays to the study programme. Furthermore, it requires 2 supervisors: 1 in Leiden and 1 at the institute abroad. This option is only open to students who have no delays in their programme.

Every student should deliver a Student Colloquium at Leiden Observatory, as listed in the programmes specified below. For the specialisations Astronomy Research, Astronomy and Data Science, Astronomy and Cosmology, Astronomy and Instrumentation, and Astronomy and Education, this colloquium should describe the Master's Research Project. For the other specialisations, the

colloquium can describe either the Master's Research Project, or another research project or internship carried out in the context of the specialisation.

3. Specialisation Astronomy Research

3.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

This 2-year programme consists of advanced Astronomy courses, two research projects in Astronomy, and courses on science topics related to the field of Astronomy. It allows the broadest programme, including a significant component from adjacent fields (Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science). As such it prepares the student as much for a career in research as for a career outside academia.

3.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The requirements for the programme (120 EC) are as follows:

	Code	Level	EC
<i>Choice of</i> Astronomy core courses, at least:		500	18
<i>Choice of</i> Instrument-related courses, at least:		400-500	6
<i>Choice of</i> Astronomy courses of any type		400-500	12
<i>Choice of</i> Non-Astronomy courses		400-500	24
First Astronomy Research Project	4303FRP25R	500	25
First Astronomy Research Project – thesis	4303FTRP5H	500	5
Master's Astronomy Research Project	4303MRP25R	600	25
Master's Astronomy Research Project -thesis	4303MTRP5R	600	5
Student Colloquium	4303COLLQY	600	-

The following remarks apply:

- The First Research Project has to be done in the 1st year of the programme, while the Master's Research Project has to be done in the 2nd year.
- One of the two courses "Science and the Public: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives" and "Science Methodology" may also be chosen as a non-Astronomy course.
- The programme may be adapted for Master's students who have not followed the Leiden Astronomy Bachelor programme. Upon recommendation by the MSc Study Advisor and written approval by the Board of Examiners, the First Research Project can be reduced to a weight not smaller than 21 EC with a simultaneous increase in the number of courses in Astronomy. These additional courses can be selected from the normal courses in the Master's curriculum, and the BSc course Radiative Processes. These students may also add Astronomy courses at the cost of the non-Astronomy courses, in consultation with the MSc Study Advisor and approval by the Board of Examiners.
- Students who have not followed the Leiden Bachelor programme and therefore not the BSc course "Radiative Processes" or an equivalent course, may take this course in the MSc programme, as a general or specialised astronomy course.

4. Specialisation Astronomy and Data Science

4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The 2-year programme Astronomy and Data Science offers the student the option to follow a Research Master in Astronomy with a particular focus on the big data and computation aspects of both astronomy (as a data-rich science) and computer science. It prepares as much for a career in astronomy as in computational science, and for careers in research as well as outside research, in academia or elsewhere in society. It consists of advanced Astronomy courses, two research projects in Astronomy, and selected courses from the Computer Science MSc programme. This specialisation is offered by Leiden Observatory in collaboration with the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS) of Leiden University.

4.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The requirements for the programme (120 EC) consist of 60 EC of courses, and 60 EC of research projects, as follows:

	uSiscode	Level	EC
<i>Mandatory courses</i>			
Modern Astrostatistics	4303MOASSY	500	3
<i>Choice of</i> Astronomy core courses		500	18
<i>Choice of</i> Instrument-related courses		400-500	3-6
<i>Choice of</i> Astronomy courses of any type		400-500	9-12
<i>Choice of</i> four of the following six courses (24 EC total)			
Simulation and Modeling in Astrophysics (AMUSE)	4303SIMOAY	500	6
Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics a	4303NRASAY	500	6
Advances in Data Mining (Computer Science)	4343ADVDMY	500	6
Introduction to Deep Learning (Computer Science)	4343INTDLY	500	6
Seminar Advances in Deep Learning (Computer Science)	4343SADL6Y	500	6
Reinforcement Learning (Computer Science)	4343REINLY	500	6
First Astronomy Research Project	4303FRP25R	500	25
First Astronomy Research Project - thesis	4303FTRP5H	500	5
Master's Astronomy Research Project	4303MRP25R	600	25
Master's Astronomy Research Project - thesis	4303MTRP5R	600	5
Student Colloquium	4303COLLQY	600	-

The following remarks apply:

- In the programme listed above, the courses labelled “Computer Science” are offered by the Leiden Institute for Advanced Computer Science.
- For students who successfully completed the 6EC course “Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics” (4303NRAPHY) in 2023-2024 or earlier, this is considered to be equivalent to the combination of the 6EC course “Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics a” (4303NRASAY) and the 3EC course Numerical Recipes in Astrophysics b” (4303NRASBY).

- The First Research Project has to be done in the 1st year of the programme, while the Master's Research Project has to be done in the 2nd year. The Master's Research Project must involve data manipulation (which may be simulated data) and/or data-related computational or statistical aspects.
- One of the two courses "Science and the Public: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives", "Science Methodology" may also be chosen as a general/specialist/instrumentation Astronomy course.
- The programme may be adapted for Master's students who have not followed the Leiden Astronomy Bachelor programme. Upon recommendation by the MSc Study Advisor and written approval by the Board of Examiners, the First Research Project can be reduced to a weight not smaller than 21 EC with a simultaneous increase in the number of courses in Astronomy. These additional courses can be selected from the normal courses in the Master's curriculum, and the BSc course Radiative Processes.
- Students who have not followed the Leiden Bachelor programme and therefore not the BSc course "Radiative Processes" or an equivalent course, may take this course in the MSc programme, as a general or specialised astronomy course.

5. Specialisation Astronomy and Instrumentation

5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation "Astronomy and Instrumentation" offers the student the option to conduct a Research Master in Astronomy with a particular focus on advanced astronomical instrumentation, techniques, and instrument development. It prepares the student as much for a career in research as for a career outside academia.

5.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The requirements for the programme (120 EC) are as follows:

	uSiscode	Level	EC
<i>Mandatory Courses:</i>			
Astronomical Telescopes and Instruments	4303AIAT6Y	500	6
Detection of Light a+b	4303DETLAY + 4303DTLBCY	500	6
<i>Choice of Astronomy core courses, at least:</i>		500	6
<i>Choice of core/general/specialist Astronomy courses</i>		400-500	24-30
<i>Choice of instrumentation-related Astronomy courses</i>		400-500	12-18
First Research Project in Instrumental or General Astronomy	4303FRP25R	500	25
First Research Project - thesis	4303FTRP5H	500	5
Master's Astronomy Research Project in Instrumental Astronomy	4303MRP25R	600	25
Master's Astronomy Research Project - thesis	4303MTRP5R	600	5
Student Colloquium	4303COLLQY	600	-

The following remarks apply:

- Students who have not followed the Leiden Bachelor programme and therefore not the BSc course “Radiative Processes” or an equivalent course, may take this course in the MSc programme, as a general or specialised astronomy course.
- The following courses offered by Delft University of Technology may be included as instrumentation-related courses in the above programme:
 - Space Instrumentation (AE4896, 4 EC)
 - Space Systems Engineering (AE4S12; 4 EC)
 - Geometrical Optics (AP3391; 6 EC)
 - Advanced photonics (AP3382; 6 EC)
 - Advanced Optical Imaging (AP3122; 6 EC)
- Up to 12 EC of the general/specialist Astronomy courses may be replaced by non-astronomy courses, to be taken from the MSc programmes in Mathematics, Physics, or Computer Science; among these 12 EC the student may choose one of the two courses “Science and the Public: contemporary and historical perspectives”, “Science Methodology”.
- The Physics course “Advanced Optics” (4403ADVOPY) may be chosen as an Instrumentation-related course.
- The Master’s Research Project must be an Astronomy Instrumentation project and may involve designing, building or testing an instrument or instrument system, or any combination of these activities. It may be carried out in any of the Leiden Astronomy or Delft Technical Physics labs, or at external organisations directly involved in astronomical instrumentation.

6. Specialisation Astronomy and Cosmology

6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation “Astronomy and Cosmology” offers the student the possibility to conduct a Research Master in Astronomy with a particular focus on modern observational and theoretical cosmology. This specialisation is offered by Leiden Observatory in collaboration with the Institute Lorentz for Theoretical Physics in the Department of Physics at Leiden University (LION).

6.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The requirements for the programme (120 EC) are as follows:

	uSiscode	Level	EC
<i>Mandatory Astronomy Courses:</i>			
Origin and Evolution of the Universe	4303OEUNIY	500	6
Large Scale Structure and Galaxy Formation	4303LSSG6Y	500	6
<i>Choice of:</i>			
Astronomy core courses		500	6
Astronomy courses of any type		400-500	18
<i>Mandatory Physics Courses:</i>			
Particle Physics and Early Universe	4403PPEU3Y	500	3
Origin and Structure of the Standard Model	4403OSSM3Y	400	3
Theory of General Relativity	4403TGR64Y	400	6
<i>Choice of:</i>			

Related Physics courses		400-500	12
First Research Project in Cosmology <i>or</i> General Astronomy	4303FRP25R	500	25
First Research Project - thesis	4303FTRP5H	500	5
Master's Astronomy Research Project in Cosmology	4303MRP25R	600	25
Master's Astronomy Research Project - thesis	4303MTRP5R	600	5
Student Colloquium	4303COLLQY	600	-

The following remarks apply:

- Students who have not followed the Leiden Bachelor programme and therefore not the BSc course “Radiative Processes” or an equivalent course, may take this course in the MSc programme, as a general or specialised astronomy course.
- For students who successfully completed the 6 EC version of the course Particle Physics and the Early Universe (which was offered in previous years), this is considered to be equivalent to the 3 EC version plus the course Origin and Structure of the Standard Model.
- Related Physics courses are Computational Physics, Effective Field Theory, Quantum Field Theory, Statistical Physics, Topics in Theoretical Physics, Black Holes and Gravitational Waves, and Theoretical Cosmology.

7. Specialisation Business Studies

7.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Astronomy and Business Studies (BS) offers students the possibility to combine astronomy with knowledge, insights and skills in the area of Management, Business, New Technology Ventures, and Entrepreneurship. Students are encouraged to broaden their horizons, to form an opinion on and prepare for a career in industry and to enhance competences for pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities created in science and research.

Students who complete the specialisation Astronomy and Business Studies are admissible to a PhD programme in Astronomy.

7.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Astronomy and Business Studies (BS) programme consists of:

- a Master's Research Project (25EC and 5EC thesis) supervised by a member of the Leiden Observatory scientific staff;
- 30 EC of courses to be selected in correspondence with the research topic; these should at least include:
 - two Astronomy core courses; and
 - 6-12 EC of Astronomy courses related to the research topic; and
 - 6-12 EC of non-Astronomy courses, to be taken from the programmes of Physics, Mathematics or Computer Science.
- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Astronomy or the BS component;
- a Student Colloquium at Leiden Observatory, on either the Master's Research Project or the BS internship or research project.

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

8. Specialisation Science Communication and Society

8.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Astronomy and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine astronomy and science communication. Students are prepared for a career in the area of science communication or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set.

Students who complete the specialisation Astronomy and Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in astronomy or in science communication.

8.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Astronomy and Science Communication and Society (SCS) programme consists of:

- a Master's Research Project (25EC and 5EC thesis) supervised by a member of the Leiden Observatory scientific staff.
- 30 EC of courses to be selected in correspondence with the research topic; these should at least include:
 - two Astronomy core courses; and
 - 6-12EC of Astronomy courses related to the research topic; and
 - 6-12 EC of non-Astronomy courses, to be taken from the programmes of Physics, Mathematics or Computer Science.
- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Astronomy or the SCS component.
- a minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC of SCS specialisation courses is required to complete the SCS specialisation. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).
- a Student Colloquium at Leiden Observatory, on either the Master's Research Project or on the internship or research project carried out for the SCS component of the programme.

The Science Communication and Society programme consists of the parts specified as follows:

SCS Components	uSis code	Level	EC
Informal Science Education*	4603SCISEY	500	4
Policy & Development in Science and Society*	4603SCPDSY	500	4
Research in Science Communication*	4603SCRSCY	500	4
Science Journalism (ENG)* **	4603SCSJ4Y	500	4
Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)* **	4603SCSWJY	500	4
Science Communication Product Development***	4603SCPRDY	500	4
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society* ****	4603SCIM3Y	500	3
Internship			
SCS Project Proposal	4603SCSPPY	600	3
SCS Internship(s)	4603SCSS1Y	600	14-34
Additional elective(s)			
SCS Elective	4603SCSELY	400-500	0-10

* **SCS courses** are available as elective courses for students who don't follow the SCS specialisation.

** Students need to take either "**Science Journalism**" (ENG) or "**Wetenschapsjournalistiek**" (NL) and cannot do both.

*** the course **Science Communication Product Development** is only admissible for students who have completed all other SCS courses.

**** Students who have successfully completed the course "**Scientific Narration and Visualization**" (4603SCNV3Y) during the academic year 2023-2024 or earlier, can use that course as a substitute for the requirement of "**Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society**" (4603SCIM3Y).

9. Specialisation Education

9.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Astronomy and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as physics (natuurkunde) teacher qualified to teach in Dutch secondary education.

Students who complete the specialisation Astronomy and Education are admissible to a PhD programme in Astronomy.

9.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Astronomy and Education (EDU) programme consists of:

- a Master's Research Project (25EC and 5EC thesis) supervised by a member of the Leiden Observatory scientific staff;
- 30 EC of courses to be selected in correspondence with the research topic; these should at least include:
 - two Astronomy core courses; and
 - 6-12 EC of Astronomy courses related to the research topic; and
 - 6-12 EC of non-Astronomy courses, to be taken from the programmes of Physics, Mathematics or Computer Science.
- the Education component as described on [here](#).
- a Student Colloquium at Leiden Observatory on the Master's Research Project.

The Astronomy component of the programme will be followed during the first year of study, the Education component will be followed during the second year.

When the student has passed the minor Education (30 EC) during the BSc programme, the compulsory Education component is reduced by 30 EC. The remaining 30 EC can be used for either the Astronomy or the Education component of the MSc programme.

A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

10. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

10.1 Confirmation of admission

10.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 10.2 and 10.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

10.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.¹

10.2 Admission to the programme

10.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in Astronomy (Sterrenkunde) from a research university in the Netherlands, or
- b. holders of a bachelor's degree in an astronomy-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign university of similar level, under the following provisions: Admission to this master's programme is under the provision that the bachelor's programme has provided the candidate with in-depth knowledge of undergraduate courses of the Astronomy curriculum (referred to under a.) with a theoretical and mathematical emphasis, including quantum physics, electrodynamics, statistical physics, and complex analysis. And with proficiency in programming, preferably in the Python language,
or,
- c. holders of a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to Article 10.4.1

10.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 10.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 10.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 10.2.4.

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 10.2.1.b and Article 10.2.2. are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- a. copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- b. a letter in which the applicant explains that he/she possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 10.2.1.a.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 10.2.1.a.

¹[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

10.2.3 Dutch and English languages²

10.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

10.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 10.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;³
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

10.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose mother tongue is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or *TUL-gevorderd*. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The TUL exam is organized by Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II.

10.2.3.4 The language level in 10.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 10.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 10.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 10.2.4, all students must meet it.

² Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

³ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

10.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

10.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 10.2.1 or 10.2.2 or in derogation of the language requirement in 10.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

For the specialisation “Astronomy and Cosmology” the following qualitative admission requirements apply:

- knowledge of “Astro-Particle Physics” or an equivalent course at undergraduate level is required.

For the specialisation “Astronomy and Data Science” the following qualitative admission requirements apply:

Proven fluency in a 3rd generation programming language (e.g. Python, C++, ..) is required.

The Board of Admissions will verify the candidate’s proficiency in programming by evaluating the candidate’s transcript, placement letter and research experience. Additionally, knowledge of “Statistics” at undergraduate level is required.

10.3 Deficiencies

10.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 10.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with at most 15 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

10.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 10.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

10.3.3 For the admission referred to in 10.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

10.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 10.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master’s programme.

10.4 Premaster’s and educational module

10.4.1 The department has developed the following premaster’s programme (for the following target groups) in order to remove deficiencies:

- For students with a BSc degree in Aerospace Engineering from Delft University of Technology, the Pre-Master’s programme will consist of the following elements from the BSc programme Astronomy:

	uSiscode	Level	EC
Stars	4072STAR5Y	300	5
Galaxies and Cosmology	4072GALC5Y	300	5
Astronomy Lab and Observing Project	4072STRPRY	200	5
Astronomical Observing Techniques	4072ASOT5Y	300	5
Quantum Mechanics 1	4062QUM16Y	200	6
Radiative Processes	4072RAP63Y	300	6

The course Quantum Mechanics 1 may be replaced by the two courses Kwantummechanica 1 (TN 2304; 3 EC) and Kwantummechanica 2 (TN 2314; 3 EC) offered at Delft University of Technology.

- For students with other bachelor's degrees the Board of Admissions may impose a Pre-Master's programme, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, before admission into the MSc programme.

10.4.2 Information on the bridging programmes can be found on [Pre-Master's information page](#).

10.4.3 A student who has been awarded the degree of Bachelor or Master in Science Education and who meets the established requirements concerning sufficient cognation may be enrolled with the sole purpose of taking and completing the educational module in order to obtain a limited second-degree qualification.

10.4.4 The educational module is the responsibility of ICLON's examination board.

MSc Biology

CROHO-number 66860

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc Biology programme builds on the unique combination of biological institutes in Leiden joining forces: the Institute of Biology Leiden (IBL), the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML), and the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Naturalis). The choice of courses and research projects is further increased by the embedding in the Faculty of Science and the connections with the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO) and with bioscience-based companies that are located at the Leiden Bioscience Park.

The duration of the programme is two years (120 EC). Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Biology (MSc in Biology) with specification of the specialisation, if applicable. The degree provides graduates with the academic training and research skills required to pursue a scientific or science-related career. All specialisations have the same Director of Education, Education Committee and Board of Examiners. A Board of Admissions advises on admissions.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

Students can follow one of the research specialisations: *Biodiversity and Sustainability (BS)*, *Evolutionary Biology (EB)*, *Molecular, Cellular and Organismal Biology*, or *Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology (MGB)*. In addition, a programme can be taken that combines biology with training in either *Business Studies (BS)*, *Education (EDU)* or *Science Communication and Society (SCS)*. Below you can find a description of the Biology research specialisations and of the “Biology part” of the vocational specialisations (BS, EDU, SCS). A description of the non-Biology part of these specialisations can be found in a separate appendix of the OER.

1.3 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February. However, they are strongly advised to start in September when a general introduction to the master programme and most of the compulsory theoretical courses are scheduled.

1.4 The objective of the master's programme in Biology

To impart sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills as to enable the graduate to contribute independently, at an academic level and in an original manner to recognizing, coming up with and solving issues in an area of the natural sciences, to discuss this contribution with colleagues, to inform non-specialists in a clear and unambiguous manner on conclusions and considerations that form the foundation of the study. The programme prepares students to successfully follow a PhD programme within the discipline and its marginal areas and to start a career in research positions at universities or research institutes or to start a career in (bio-based) industry, governmental organisations, consultancy agencies or as a biology teacher or to start a career in popularisation of science or as a scientist with a communicating mind-set. The programme prepares students to successfully follow a PhD programme within the discipline and its marginal areas and provides graduates with insight into their employment opportunities. They will work in research positions at universities or research institutes in the sectors Life Sciences and Health, Agri, Food and Horticulture,

Ecology or start a career in (bio-based) industry, governmental organisations or consultancy agencies. Or they will start a as a biology teacher, in popularisation of science or as a scientist with a communicating mind-set. They will be able to make a major contribution to finding solutions to problems within four major societal themes: our health, food supply, living environment and the transition to a 'bio-based' economy.

1.5 Final qualifications of the master's programme

Each variant within the Master's programme has the same final level when it comes to general academic qualifications. All variants also give access to the promotion. However, they differ from each other due to a number of specific final objectives and competences.

Dublin descriptor Knowledge and Insight
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<i>Student has in-depth/specialised knowledge and understanding that exceeds the bachelor level and which forms a basis for making an original contribution to the development and/or application of ideas often in a research context.</i>

The Master of Science in Biology - research specialisation:

1. Has in-depth knowledge of and insight into the fundamental principles of biology and extensive/in-depth knowledge of concepts and working methods in a chosen specialization or research field of biology.
2. Is aware of important international scientific developments in the research field of their specialization.
3. Has insight into the relationship between the field of specialization and adjacent scientific fields.

Dublin descriptor Applying Knowledge and Insight

<i>The student is able to apply knowledge and insight and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar circumstances within a broader (or multidisciplinary) context related to the field of study; is able to integrate knowledge and deal with complex material.</i>
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The Master of Science in Biology - research specialisation:

4. Has insight of how concepts and working methods in an important sub-area of biology and insight can be applied to increase knowledge.
5. Is able to make use of the conceptual framework of the discipline in which he/she has specialized in order to explain the state of the art of developing theories and to identify the most important research issues and can develop, apply and optimize research techniques in biological research under supervision.
6. Can independently formulate, initiate and execute a biological research project and analyse and interpret the results that could lead to the solution of such problems.

7. Is able to contribute to knowledge increase in the field by means of original (fundamental or application-oriented) research based on knowledge and insight in the field and problem-solving ability.
8. Is able to function in a (mono- or multidisciplinary composed) scientific team and can contribute from her/his own specialization to the realization of the objectives of the team.

Dublin descriptor Judgement

<i>Student is able to formulate judgements on the basis of incomplete or limited information, taking into account societal and ethical responsibilities.</i>
--

The Master of Science in Biology - research specialisation:

9. Demonstrated skill in summarizing and critical reflection on scientific literature.
10. Has insight into the social and ethical discussions surrounding his/her field, is able to critically evaluate own and other people's research results and can involve social and ethical aspects and responsibilities in the assessment of research and professional practice.
11. Is aware of the societal needs regarding biology and capable of contributing to discussions.

Dublin descriptor Communication
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<i>Student is able to communicate conclusions, as well as the knowledge, motivation and considerations underlying them, clearly and unambiguously to an audience of specialists and non-specialists.</i>
--

The Master of Science in Biology - research specialisation:

12. Can present her/his own research results clearly in writing and orally on the field of study for a specialist and a general audience, is able to write a scientific article for an international journal and contribute to a scientific meeting by means of a lecture or poster and is able to transfer oral and written knowledge in his/her own field to specialists and non-specialists and to contribute to scientific and social discussions in the field.
13. Can communicate effectively within the chosen field of specialization.
14. Can collaborate in multidisciplinary teams and can manage projects.

Dublin descriptor Learning Skills
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<i>Student possesses the learning skills that will enable him/her to follow a PhD track or to enter the labour market in the field of his or her specialisation.</i>
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The Master of Science in Biology - research specialisation:

15. Has the necessary skills to embark upon a PhD track and has a good idea of the professional opportunities and practice in the field of the specialisation
16. Is able to embark on a follow-up study with a largely self-directed or autonomous character/ to follow a "Lifelong Learning" trajectory.

With due observance of a shorter research program (at least 60 EC), these final objectives and competences also apply to the master variants "Biology and Business Studies", "Biology and Science Communication and Society" and "Biology and Education". Additional qualifications or competences that only apply to these specialisations are formulated in the relevant specialisation appendices 4-9.

2. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

2.1 Confirmation of admission

2.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 2.2 and 2.3.

If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

2.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.⁴

2.2 Admission to the programme

2.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in Biology from a research university in the Netherlands, or
- b. holders of a bachelor's degree in a Biology-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or a Biology or Biology-related programme from a foreign research university of similar level, provided the student has accumulated at least 120 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Biology, including at least 4EC of coursework in each of the following four domains: (i) genes, molecules, and cells; (ii) plant sciences; (iii) animal sciences; and (iv) ecology, evolution, and biodiversity.

Biology-related programmes include e.g. natural sciences, life science, biomedical sciences, bio-pharmaceutical sciences, biotechnology and bioinformatics, environmental sciences, agricultural sciences, etc., all at the discretion of the Board of Admissions.

2.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 2.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

⁴[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 2.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 2.2.4.

Article 2.2.2 may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a research university or to a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hbo/HLO) in biology-related programmes.

For applicants with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (hbo/HLO), in addition to the requirements as indicated with 2.2.1b, the degree must have been obtained within five years with a grade point average (GPA) above 7.5. In addition, the research project that was included in the (hbo/HLO) programme must have been assessed with a grade above 8.0 (grades according to the Dutch grading scale).

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 2.2.1. b and Article 2.2.2. are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- a letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 2.2.1 a.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified 2.2.1 a.

2.2.3 Dutch and English languages⁵

2.2.3.1. As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

⁵ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

2.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 2.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90 with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;⁶
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

2.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose mother tongue is not native Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II.

2.2.3.4 The language level in 2.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 2.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 2.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 2.2.4, all students must meet it.

2.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

2.3 Deficiencies

2.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 2.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 EC of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a year of the start of the master programme.

2.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 2.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

2.3.3 For the admission referred to in 2.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

2.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 2.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

⁶ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteit.leiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteit.leiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

2.4 Premasters and educational module

2.4.1 A student who has been awarded the degree of Bachelor or Master in Science Education and who meets the established requirements concerning sufficient cognation may be enrolled with the sole purpose of taking and completing the educational module in order to obtain a limited second-degree qualification.

2.4.2 The educational module is the responsibility of ICLON's examination board.

3. Entry requirements for courses, examinations and practicals

3.1 Students are expected to purchase the required reading for a given course, as set out in the course description in the e-Prospectus and/or on Brightspace. A student who is not in possession of the required literature may be excluded from participating in the course in question.

3.2 The entry requirements or additional conditions for participating in specific elective courses can be found in the appendix to the OER (the degree programme) and/or the e-Prospectus.

3.3 For all components of the Master programme, the lecturer may decide to make lecture attendance compulsory.

3.4 The costs of following elective courses are borne fully by the student.

3.5 The scope for electives in the Master's programme may not comprise more than 15 EC of courses that do not contain any biological component.

4. Specialisation Biodiversity and Sustainability

4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

This research-oriented master specialisation offers students in-depth knowledge on relationships between biodiversity and society. The critical importance of biodiversity and the services provided by nature for our society is increasingly endorsed by national and international conventions. However, to implement the right policy measures for creating a sustainable society, a much better understanding of the biological processes involved is essential. This master specialisation aims to discuss and answer societal relevant biological questions for instance on the amount of biodiversity we need to ensure that nature functions well and how we can optimize ecosystem functioning and biodiversity for a sustainable society. By using 'sustainability' as a guiding principle, the programme provides students with an academic attitude by stimulating reflective, independent, and creative thinking to support, conserve and manage biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem services. This master specialisation prepares students for a PhD programme and/or for research positions at universities or research institutes and for positions at governmental organisations and consultancy agencies.

4.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme of Biodiversity and Sustainability (120 EC) consists of:

- a theoretical part (30-60 EC); and
- one or more research projects (60-90 EC).

The programme includes some compulsory components and can be expanded with a wide choice of elective elements. The mandatory components in the 1st semester aim to provide students with the

theoretical and practical background needed for an efficient start of the Research Project at the end of this semester. The Research Projects are the actual core of the MSc programme. Students will be member of a research group of their choice and work full time on a specific project. Each project will be finished with an MSc thesis written in the form of a manuscript for an international scientific journal. At least one Research Project is part of the study programme.

The Specialisation Research Project has to be done within the theme of the specialisation. Prior to the start of the Research Project, the study advisor has to approve the individual study plan of the student and the internship coordinator has to approve the Research Project agreement.

Compulsory components:

Each MSc-programme consists for at least 30 EC of theoretical components and the Research project(s) contribute at least 60 EC. The specialisation Research Project should be at least 36 EC, and a second Research Project should be at least 30 EC. A single research project cannot exceed 60 EC. The course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project that involves handling or experimental use of fish species or birds species.

<i>Compulsory:</i>	Level	EC	Catalog number
Orientation on Biodiversity and Sustainability	400	2	4313OBS17Y
Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y
Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
Human Impacts on Biodiversity	500	6	4313HIB16Y
Systematics and Biodiversity	500	6	4313SYB20Y
<i>At least one of the following courses:</i>			
• Ecosystem Services	500	6	4313ECS16Y
• Ecotoxicology	500	6	4313ETX19Y
Research Project(s)	600	min. 60	
Electives		0- 30	
Total Programme		120	

Electives/Optional elements

The optional part of the programme can consist of either additional courses, or an extension of the duration of a research project. A list of approved elective courses is available in the e-Prospectus. For courses outside the Leiden University Biology programme, prior approval of the Board of Examiners is required.

4.3 Approval of programme

The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and one or two research projects must have prior approval of the Board of Examiners.

4.4 Short description of the programme

Courses cover a broad range of relevant subjects and provide in-depth theoretical knowledge as well as training in practical skills and advanced research tools. The course Orientation on Biodiversity and Sustainability provides a state-of-the-art overview of the scientific research and research methods used in the departments participating in this MSc specialisation.

The course *Genomic Architecture* aims at training students to become “genome-enabled” biologists by giving an overview of the structure, function, and evolution of genomes as tools for biomonitoring, and an introduction into bioinformatics. The interface between biodiversity and sustainability is taught in *Ecosystem Services* and *Human Impacts on Biodiversity*, while *Ecotoxicology* provides students with an introduction to the field of environmental toxicology.

In addition, students are trained in *Advanced Statistics* and *Systematics and Biodiversity*, providing the methodological tools for their training in scientific research during the Research Project(s).

A variety of additional courses from other MSc specialisations in Biology and from other MSc programmes at the Faculty of Science and LUMC can be chosen as electives. For details (description, literature, exam dates and further calendar events) about the different courses see the e-Prospectus and Brightspace.

5. Specialisation Evolutionary Biology

5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

This research-oriented master specialisation provides students with in-depth knowledge about Evolutionary Sciences. Students learn about evolutionary changes over time and study the origin and maintenance of biological variation all over the tree of life. The mechanisms that drive the adaptation of organisms and their features are investigated at all biological levels. Thus, the specialisation includes genomics, functional developmental genetics, paleobiology, behavioural biology and evolutionary ecology. With this master specialisation completed, the students are well equipped to start a career in evolutionary research or to take responsibility for projects in an industrial or institutional research environment.

5.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme of Evolutionary Biology (120 EC) consists of:

- a theoretical part (30-60 EC); and
- one or more research projects (60-90 EC).

The programme includes some compulsory components and can be expanded with a wide choice of elective elements. The mandatory components in the 1st semester aim to provide students with the theoretical and practical background needed for an efficient start of the Research Project at the end of this semester. The Research Projects are the actual core of the MSc programme. Students will be member of a research group of their choice and work full time on a specific project. Each project will be finished with an MSc thesis written in the form of a manuscript for an international scientific journal. At least one Research Project is part of the study programme.

The Specialisation Research Project has to be done within the theme of the specialisation. Prior to the start of the Research Project, the study advisor has to approve the individual study plan of the student and the internship coordinator has to approve the Research Project agreement.

Compulsory components:

Each MSc-programme consists for at least 30 EC of theoretical components and the Research project(s) contribute at least 60 EC. The specialisation Research Project should be minimally 36 EC, and a second Research Project should be at least 30 EC. A single research project cannot exceed 60 EC. The course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project that involves handling or experimental use of fish species or bird species.

<i>Compulsory:</i>	Level	EC	Catalog number
Orientation on Evolutionary Biology	400	2	4313OEV2VY
Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y
Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
Development & Evolution	500	6	4313DEV13Y
Systematics and Biodiversity	500	6	4313SYB20Y
Research Project(s)	600	min. 60	
Electives		6- 36	
Total Programme		120	

Electives/Optional elements:

The optional part of the programme can consist of either additional courses or lectures, or an extension of the duration of a research project. A list of approved elective courses is available on the e-Prospectus. For courses outside the Leiden University Biology programme and for all research projects, prior approval of the Board of Examiners is required.

5.3 Approval of programme

The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and one or two research projects must have prior approval of the Board of Examiners.

5.4 Short description of the programme

The Evolutionary Biology study programme comprises several compulsory courses. The course *Orientation on Evolutionary Biology* provides a state-of-the-art overview of the scientific research and research methods used in the departments participating in this MSc specialisation. The course *Genomic Architecture* aims at training students to become “genome-enabled” biologists by giving an overview of the structure, function and evolution of genomes, and an introduction into the bioinformatics required to study these genomes.

In addition, students are trained in *Advanced Statistics*, *Development and Evolution* and *Systematics and Biodiversity*, providing the methodological tools for their training in scientific research during the Research Project(s).

A variety of additional courses from other MSc specialisations in Biology and from other MSc programmes at the Faculty of Science and LUMC can be chosen as electives. For details (description, literature, exam dates and further calendar events) about the different courses see the e-Prospectus and Brightspace.

6. Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology

6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

This research-oriented master specialisation offers students the unique possibility to integrate molecular, cellular, and organismal levels of research, but also provides the possibility to specialize in one of these levels. It equips students with advanced knowledge ranging from the functioning of individual cells to the communication between cells, and the development, physiology, and behaviour of multicellular organisms. An important aspect of this specialisation is to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying health and disease and how cells and organisms adapt to environmental factors ranging from light, stress, and pathogens to ecological and social conditions. Model organisms include bacteria, fungi, plants, and animals (invertebrates and vertebrates). The subject areas covered encompass functional genomics, signal transduction, cellular differentiation, development, host-microbe interactions, and animal behaviour.

This master specialisation is suited as a basis for starting a research career at a university or research institute and for a position in a bioscience-based company.

6.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme of the specialisation **Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology** (120 EC) consists of:

- a theoretical part (30-60 EC); and
- one or more research projects (60-90 EC).

The programme includes some compulsory components and can be expanded with a wide choice of elective elements. The mandatory components in the 1st semester aim to provide students with the theoretical and practical background needed for an efficient start of the Research Project at the end of this semester. The Research Projects are the actual core of the MSc programme. Students will be member of a research group of their choice and work full time on a specific project. Each project will be finished with an MSc thesis written in the form of a manuscript for an international scientific journal. At least one Research Project is part of the study programme.

The Specialisation Research Project has to be done within the theme of the specialisation. Prior to the start of the Research Project, the study advisor has to approve the individual study plan of the student and the internship coordinator has to approve the Research Project agreement.

Compulsory components:

Each MSc-programme consists for at least 30 EC of theoretical components and the Research project(s) contribute at least 60 EC. The specialisation Research Project should be minimally 36 EC, and a second Research Project should be at least 30 EC. A single research project cannot exceed 60 EC. The course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project that involves handling or experimental use of fish species or birds species.

<i>Compulsory:</i>	Level	EC	Catalog number
Orientation on Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology	400	2	4313OMC22Y
Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y

Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
<i>At least two of the following courses:</i>			
• Advanced Cell Biology	500	4	4313ACB17Y
• Animal Cognition	500	6	4313ANC15Y
• Development and Evolution	500	6	4313DEV13Y
• Innate Immune Systems	500	6	4313IIS18Y
• Mechanisms of Disease	500	6	4313MOD13Y
• Systems Microbiology	500	6	4313SYSMBY
Research Project(s) (at least 36 EC within the specialisation)	600	min. 60	
Electives		8-38	
Total Programme		120	

Electives/Optional elements

The optional part of the programme can consist of either additional courses or lectures, or an extension of the duration of a research project. A list of approved elective courses is available on the e-Prospectus. For courses outside the Leiden University Biology programme and for all research projects, prior approval of the Board of Examiners is required.

6.3 Approval of programme

The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and one or two research projects must have prior approval of the Board of Examiners.

6.4 Short description of the programme

The Molecular, Cellular and Organismal Biology study programme comprises several compulsory courses. The course *Orientation on Molecular, Cellular and Organismal Biology* provides a state-of-the-art overview of the scientific research and research methods used in the departments participating in this MSc specialisation.

The course *Genomic Architecture* aims at training students to become “genome-enabled” biologists by giving an overview of the structure, function and evolution of genomes, and an introduction into the bioinformatics required to study these genomes.

In addition, students are trained in *Advanced Statistics* and at least one other specialisation course, providing the methodological tools for their training in scientific research during the Research Project(s).

A variety of additional courses from other MSc specialisations in Biology and from other MSc programmes at the Faculty of Science and LUMC can be chosen as electives. For details (description, literature, exam dates and further calendar events) about the different courses see the e-Prospectus and Brightspace.

7. Specialisation Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology

7.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The master specialisation *Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology* focusses on genetics, molecular biology, genomics and biotechnology of animal, plant, and microbial systems. Through courses and research projects, students are trained by experts in the areas of molecular biology, microbiology, plant genetics, cellular imaging, animal disease models, and various –omics technologies and the corresponding bioinformatics. Attention is paid to the application of these techniques to biotechnology, i.e., how studies on model organisms can be translated to improve crops or human health. Students graduating in this master specialisation are well trained to start a research career in biological and medical sciences or lead projects in industrial or institutional research environments.

This master specialisation is suited as a basis for starting a research career at a university or research institute and for a position in a bioscience-based company.

7.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme of *Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology* (120 EC) consists of:

- a theoretical part (30-60 EC); and
- one or more research projects (60-90 EC).

The programme includes some compulsory components and can be expanded with a wide choice of elective elements. The mandatory components in the 1st semester aim to provide students with the theoretical and practical background needed for an efficient start of the Research Project at the end of this semester. The Research Projects are the actual core of the MSc programme. Students will be member of a research group of their choice and work full time on a specific project. Each project will be finished with an MSc thesis written in the form of a manuscript for an international scientific journal. At least one but preferably two Research Projects are part of the study programme.

The Specialisation Research Project has to be done within the theme of the specialisation. Prior to the start of the Research Project, the study advisor has to approve the individual study plan of the student and the internship coordinator has to approve the Research Project agreement.

Compulsory components:

Each MSc-programme consists for at least 30 EC of theoretical components and the Research project(s) contribute at least 60 EC. The specialisation Research Project should be minimally 36 EC, and a second Research Project should be at least 30 EC. A single research project cannot exceed 60 EC. The course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project that involves handling or experimental use of fish species or birds species.

<i>Compulsory:</i>	Level	EC	Catalog number
Orientation on Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	400	2	4313OMG17Y
Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y
Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
Advanced Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	500	3	4313AMG17Y
<i>At least one of the following courses:</i>			
• Advanced Cell Biology	500	4	4313ACB17Y

• Innate Immune Systems	500	6	4313IIS18Y
• Mechanisms of Disease	500	6	4313MOD13Y
• Systems Microbiology	500	6	4313SYSMBY
Research project (at least 36 EC within the specialisation)		Min. 60	
Electives		11- 41	
Total Programme		120	

Electives

Electives can consist of either additional courses or lectures, or an extension of the duration of a research project. A list of approved elective courses is available on the e-Prospectus. For courses outside the Leiden University Biology programme and for all research projects, prior approval of the Board of Examiners is required.

7.3 Approval of programme

The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and one or two research projects must have prior approval of the Board of Examiners.

7.4 Short description of the programme

The Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology study programme comprises several compulsory courses. The course *Orientation on Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology* provides an overview of the scientific research and research methods used in the departments participating in this MSc specialisation.

The course *Genomic Architecture* aims at training students to become “genome-enabled” biologists by giving an overview of the structure, function and evolution of genomes, and an introduction into the bioinformatics required to study these genomes.

In addition, students are trained in *Advanced Statistics* and at least one other specialisation course, providing the methodological tools for their training in scientific research during the Research Project(s).

A variety of additional courses from other MSc specialisations in Biology and from other MSc programmes at the Faculty of Science and LUMC can be chosen as electives. For details (description, literature, exam dates and further calendar events) about the different courses see the e-Prospectus and Brightspace.

8. Specialisation Business Studies

8.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Biology and Business Studies offers students the possibility to combine biology with knowledge, insights and skills in the area of Management, Business and Entrepreneurship.

Students are encouraged to broaden their horizon, to form an opinion on and prepare for a career in industry and to enhance competences for pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities created in science and research.

Students who complete the specialisation Biology and Business Studies are admissible to a PhD programme.

8.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Biology and Business Studies programme consists of:

- 24 EC of advanced theory;
- a research project of 36 EC; the course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project that involves handling or experimental use of fish species or bird species;
- 40-60 EC Business studies component, as described [here](#).
- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Biology or the Business Studies component; and

The theoretical part of the Biology research component comprises:

	Level	EC	Catalog number
<i>One of the courses:</i>			
• Orientation on Biodiversity and Sustainability	400	2	4313OBS17Y
• Orientation on Evolutionary Biology	400	2	4313OEV2VY
• Orientation on Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology	400	2	4313OMC22Y
• Orientation on Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	400	2	4313OMG17Y
<i>One of the courses</i>			
• Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y
• Basic Statistics for Master Students	400	4	4313BSM22Y
Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
<i>At least 12 EC of the courses:</i>			
• Advanced Cell Biology	500	4	4313ACB17Y
• Advanced Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	500	3	4313AMG17Y
• Animal Cognition	500	6	4313ANC15Y
• Development and Evolution	500	6	4313DEV13Y
• Ecosystem Services	500	6	4313ECS16Y
• Ecotoxicology	500	6	4313ETX19Y
• Human impacts on Biodiversity	500	6	4313HIB16Y
• Innate Immune Systems	500	6	4313IIS18Y
• Mechanisms of Disease	500	6	4313MOD13Y
• Paleobiology	500	6	4313PAB22Y
• Systems Microbiology	500	6	4313SYSMBY
• <i>Or courses from the list of approved</i>			
Total Programme		120	

The Biology component can be extended with an additional 20 EC (courses or extension of the research project)).

Theoretical components should be minimally at level 400. The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and the research project must have prior approval by the Board of Examiners through approval of the individual study plan of a student and approval of the research agreement.

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

9. Specialisation Education

9.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Biology and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as biology (biologie) teacher qualified to teach in Dutch secondary education.

Students who complete the specialisation Biology and Education are admissible to a PhD programme.

9.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Biology and Education (EDU) programme consists of:

- 24 EC of advanced theory;
- a research project of 36 EC; the course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project in which experiments with fish or birds are involved;
- 60 EC Education component as described [here](#).

The theoretical part of the Biology research component comprises:

	Level	EC	Catalog number
<i>One of the courses:</i>			
• Orientation on Biodiversity and Sustainability	400	2	4313OBS17Y
• Orientation on Evolutionary Biology	400	2	4313OEV2VY
• Orientation on Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology	400	2	4313OMC22Y
• Orientation on Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	400	2	4313OMG17Y
<i>One of the courses</i>			
• Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y
• Basic Statistics for Master Students	400	4	4313BSM22Y
Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
<i>At least 12 EC of the courses:</i>			
• Advanced Cell Biology	500	4	4313ACB17Y
• Advanced Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	500	3	4313AMG17Y
• Animal Cognition	500	6	4313ANC15Y
• Development and Evolution	500	6	4313DEV13Y
• Ecosystem Services	500	6	4313ECS16Y
• Ecotoxicology	500	6	4313ETX19Y

• Human impacts on biodiversity	500	6	4313HIB16Y
• Innate Immune Systems	500	6	4313IIS18Y
• Mechanisms of Disease	500	6	4313MOD13Y
• Paleobiology	500	6	4313PAB22Y
• Systematics and Biodiversity	500	6	4313SYB20Y
• Systems Microbiology	500	6	4313SYSMBY
• Urban Ecology and Evolution	500	6	4313UECEVY
• <i>Or courses from the list of approved electives</i>			

Total Programme

120

The research project has to take place in one of the research groups of the IBL, CML or Naturalis, other Institutes of the Faculty of Sciences or LUMC.

Theoretical components should be minimally at level 400. The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and the research project must have prior approval by the Board of Examiners through approval of the individual study plan of a student and approval of the research agreement.

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

10. Specialisation Science Communication and Society

10.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Biology and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine Biology and science communication.

“The specialisation Science Communication and Society concerns science communication in a broad sense. The program focuses on the link between science and society and covers knowledge and skills in the field of science communication. The programme prepares students for a career in the area of science communication, for example, as a science communicator, a science policymaker or a public relations or health communication officer, or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set. Students with an MSc specialisation Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in their MSc research field or in Science Communication.”

10.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Biology Science Communication and Society (SCS) programme consists of:

- 24 EC of advanced Biology theory;
- a Biology research project of 36 EC; the course *Fish species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) or *Bird species in animal experimentation* (3 EC) is obligatory in case of a research project in which experiments with fish or birds are involved;
- 40-60 EC Science Communication & Society component.
- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Biology or the SCS component

The theoretical part of the Biology research component comprises:

	Level	EC	Catalog number
<i>One of the courses:</i>			
• Orientation on Biodiversity and Sustainability	400	2	4313OBS17Y
• Orientation on Evolutionary Biology	400	2	4313OEV2VY
• Orientation on Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology	400	2	4313OMC22Y
• Orientation on Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	400	2	4313OMG17Y
<i>One of the courses:</i>			
• Advanced Statistics	500	4	4313AST17Y
• Basic Statistics for Master Students	400	4	4313BSM22Y
Genomic Architecture	400	6	4313GEA13Y
<i>At least 12 EC of the courses:</i>			
• Advanced Cell Biology	500	4	4313ACB17Y
• Advanced Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology	500	3	4313AMG17Y
• Animal Cognition	500	6	4313ANC15Y
• Development and Evolution	500	6	4313DEV13Y
• Ecosystem Services	500	6	4313ECS16Y
• Ecotoxicology	500	6	4313ETX19Y
• Human impacts on Biodiversity	500	6	4313HIB16Y
• Innate Immune Systems	500	6	4313IIS18Y
• Mechanisms of Disease	500	6	4313MOD13Y
• Paleobiology	500	6	4313PAB22Y
• Systematics and Biodiversity	500	6	4313SYB20Y
• Systems Microbiology	500	6	4313SYSMBY
• Urban Ecology and Evolution	500	6	4313UECEVY

The Biology component can be extended with an additional 20 EC (courses or extension of the research project).

The Science Communication and Society component consists of the parts specified as follows:

	Level	EC	Catalog number
Informal Science Education*	500	4	4603SCISEY
Policy & Development in Science and Society*	500	4	4603SCPDSY
Research in Science Communication*	500	4	4603SCRSCY
Science Journalism (ENG)*	500	4	4603SCSJ4Y
Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)*	500	4	4603SCSWJY
Science Communication Product Development**	500	4	4603SCPRDY
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society*	500	3	4603SCIM3Y
Internship			
SCS Project Proposal	600	3	4603SCSPPY
SCS Internship(s)	600	14-34	4603SCSS1Y or 4603SCSS2Y
Additional elective			
SCS Elective	400-500	1-10	4603SCSELY

* **SCS courses** are available as elective course for students who don't follow the SCS specialisation.

** the course **Science Communication product development** is only admissible for students who have completed all other SCS courses.

- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Biology or the SCS component

Total Programme

120

Theoretical components should be minimally at level 400. The individual study programme consisting of choices of courses and the research project must have prior approval by the Board of Examiners through approval of the individual study plan of a student and approval of the research agreement.

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

MSc Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences

CROHO-number 60207

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations (OER), chapter 2)

The MSc programme Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS) is taught in Leiden by the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR).

The duration of the programme is two years (120 EC), independent of the specialisation.

Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, with specification of the specialisation. Details are provided below.

All specialisations have the same Programme Director, the same Board of Examiners, and the same Programme Committee. A Board of Admissions will advise on admissions.

The specialisation-specific parts of Business Studies (BS), Science Communication and Society (SCS), and Education (EDU) have their own Programme Coordinator and Board of Examiners which is mandated by the Board of Examiners of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Board of Examiners of BS and SCS is appointed by the Faculty of Science. The Board of Examiners of EDU (ICLON) is appointed by a composed board of multiple faculties.

Students who complete any of the specialisations in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences are admissible to a PhD programme in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences or other science disciplines.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The aim of the MSc programme BPS, organised by the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR) of Leiden University, is to train students for a research career in drug research and development, not for a career as a (public) pharmacist. The general objective of the MSc programme BPS is to teach the master's student sufficient knowledge, insight, and skills to work independently at an academic level as a drug researcher, to contribute in an original manner to recognizing, introducing and solving questions in a specific knowledge area related to drug research, to discuss this contribution with experts in the field, to inform non-specialists about their ideas, goals and the public impact of their research.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The MSc programme BPS offers seven specialisations. Three of these are research specialisations corresponding to major research themes at the LACDR: Drug Discovery and Safety, Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology, and BioTherapeutics. The remaining four specialisations combine Bio-Pharmaceutical research with training in Business Studies (BS), Science Communication and Society (SCS), Education (EDU), or Industrial Pharmacy (IP).

As of 2025-2026 the research specialisations Drug Discovery and Safety, Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology, and BioTherapeutics will be renamed to 'Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences' and the specialisation 'Industrial Pharmacy' will be changed to 'Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy'.

1.3 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Graduates of the MSc programme BPS have reached the following general achievement levels:

1. Theoretical and practical skills in a specialist area of drug research such that the graduate can carry out research under overall supervision. Specifically, the graduate has knowledge and understanding of
 - the core concepts and principles and recent developments in a specialist area of drug research
 - and is skilled in commonly used and state-of-the-art practical and/or computational research methods in a specialised area of drug research
 - the principles of responsible scientific conduct and the regulations in relation to the graduate's specialist drug research area.

2. The ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, formulate verifiable hypotheses, and set up and carry out research and critical reflection on one's own research and that of others. Specifically, the graduate is able to
 - apply knowledge, insights and skills to work independently as a drug researcher at an academic level
 - contribute, in an original manner, to define and solve questions in a specific drug research knowledge area
 - draw up a research plan in which the research questions, the hypothesis and the experimental design are related to relevant literature and relevant previous research and is able to present and defend the plan against the opinion of professional colleagues
 - process, critically analyse, and interpret experimental and/or computational data.

3. The ability to interrelate and integrate various areas of drug research. Specifically, the graduate is able to
 - interrelate and integrate various areas of drug research and reflect on one's own research and that of others.

4. The ability to present clearly, verbally as well as in writing, one's own research results, and the ability to communicate with colleagues and to present research results as a contribution to a congress or as (part of) a scientific publication. Specifically, the graduate is able to
 - co-operate in a multi-disciplinary team on (bio)pharmaceutical-oriented research questions
 - participate in scientific discussions on drug research-related topics with scientific peers
 - provide a clear, structured oral presentation on the background, hypothesis, purpose of the research, experimental design, and on the obtained results, interpretation and conclusions, that is adjusted to the level of the target audience
 - communicate in writing on the background, hypothesis, purpose of the research, experimental design, and on the obtained results, interpretation and conclusions in the form of a scientific article according to the standards of an international peer-reviewed journal in the field.

5. Sufficient understanding of the social roles of drug research to be able to reflect upon them and in part consequently to come to an ethically sound attitude and corresponding execution of one's professional duties. Specifically, the graduate is able to
 - critically assess the significance for society and the applicability of one's own research results and that of scientific literature
 - judge any conflicts of interest and other factors that may influence the trustworthiness of one's research and/or the presentation of the research
 - judge and critically reflect on the scientific, ethical, societal and economic consequences of drug research.

6. Learning skills to allow the graduate to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous. Specifically, the graduate
 - is able to study in a manner that is largely self-directed or autonomous and is able to make conscious choices for one's own professional development
 - has the academic competences for employment as a drug researcher at an academic institution or in (bio)pharmaceutical/life science industry
 - is aware of the necessity to keep up-to-date on recent developments for one's own research.

1.4 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start with the MSc programme BPS in September or February. However, it is encouraged to start in September when the full introduction course is scheduled.

2. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

2.1 Confirmation of admission

2.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 2.2 and 2.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

2.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.⁷

2.2 Admission to the programme

2.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (Bio-Farmaceutische Wetenschappen) from a research university in the Netherlands, or

⁷[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

- b. holders of a bachelor's degree in a programme related to Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of similar level, provided the student has accumulated at least 150 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and has had basic research training in innovative drug research including a 16 EC, level 400 (or equivalent) final research project, covering all aspects of the research cycle and being concluded with an individual research thesis written in academic English, and an oral presentation.

The research specialisations are considered to be default specialisations. Therefore, students will initially only be admitted to the MSc programme BPS for a research specialisation. Students opting for a non-research specialisation will be admitted to this specialisation after the successful completion of their first year of the MSc programme BPS. Students opting for a research specialisation continue their research training in the second year.

2.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements referred to in 2.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding, and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 2.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Admissions Committee assesses, if applicable, if the applicant meets the qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements), as mentioned in 2.2.5.

Article 2.2.2 may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) in a field equivalent to bio-pharmaceutical sciences.

As a guideline for applicants with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (hbo/HLO), in addition to the requirements as indicated with 2.2.1b, the degree must have been obtained within four years with a grade point average (GPA) above 7.5. In addition, the final research project that was included in the (hbo/HLO) programme must have been conducted at a research university or a research group at a university medical centre and must have been assessed with a grade above 8.0 (grades according to the Dutch grading scale).

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 2.2.1.b and Article 2.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- curriculum vitae (resume)
- bachelor's thesis/report of the final research project in English
- a placement letter in which the applicant explains that one possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified 2.2.1.a.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 2.2.1.a.

2.2.3 Dutch and English languages

2.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education programme taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma;
- The admissions committee determines the units of study that demonstrate a particular language level obtained in a bachelor's programme⁸:
 - bachelor's thesis/report of the final research project.

2.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 2.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:⁹

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

2.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who is not a native Dutch speaker and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL (Toelatingsexamen Universiteit Leiden)* at the level *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. A 'Dutch as a Second Language Certificate' (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The *TUL-gevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II, level B2. The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch.

2.2.3.4 The language requirements in 2.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 2.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 2.2.5. If a higher requirement is included in Article 2.2.5, all students must meet it.

⁸ This section applies only to students without a vwo degree. For students with an international, non-Dutch diploma, the Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher ([de gedragscode internationale student hoger onderwijs](#)) applies.

⁹ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](#)

2.2.4 Maximum capacity

2.2.4.1 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in sub-article 2.2.5.

2.2.4.2 Not applicable.

2.2.5 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

2.3 Deficiencies

2.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 2.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 1EC of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

2.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 2.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

2.3.3 For the admission referred to in 2.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

2.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 2.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

2.4 Premasters and educational module

Not applicable.

3. Examinations, Final Examination (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 4)

3.1 Obligatory sequence (Course and Examination Regulations art. 4.2)

3.1.1 Students may only take the following courses and sit their attendant examinations once they have passed the examinations for one or more other components:

Programme component	Follow course and sit its attendant examination after having passed
Research project 1	Written research project proposal as part of the Introduction course, laboratory safety exam
Specialisation components of year 2	Research project 1

Internship Quality Control/Quality Assurance	GMP for Middle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry Module 2 – Quality Management in Drug Development Module 3 – Quality Management in Sterile Manufacturing Module 4 – Quality Management in Manufacturing of Biopharmaceuticals Essay Quality Control/Quality Assurance
Module 1 – The Role of the Qualified Person	GMP for Middle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Module 2 – Quality Management in Drug Development	GMP for Middle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Module 3 – Quality Management in Sterile Manufacturing	GMP for Middle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Module 4 – Quality Management in Manufacturing of Biopharmaceuticals	GMP for Middle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry

3.1.2 For the components and their attendant examinations which must be completed in a given sequence, the Board of Examiners may in special cases, and following a substantiated written request by the student, agree to an alternative sequence.

4. Programmes of the specialisations

Below the programmes of the individual specialisations are described.

The study programme components of each individual student are recorded in the Studyplan of the student and must be approved by the study advisor before starting with the individual components.

Students of all specialisations follow the General BPS research components, consisting of the courses Introduction BPS, Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation, and 1 Caput Lecture series in a specific area of drug research related to Research Project 1.

Substitution rule for the Introduction Course:

Students who started before September 2022 are committed to another study programme (see the OER of the specific year for the study programme). Due to changes in the Introduction course, the substitution rules below are in place.

Code study programme 2023-2024	Name component	Codes study programme 2023-2024 replace these codes study programme 2021-2022	Name component	Codes study programme 2021-2022 replacethese codes study programmes 2018-2021	Name component
4323ICBPSO	Proposal	4323ICORVO	Proposal	4323INBPSO	Proposal
4323ICBPST	Lab Safety exam	4323ICORVT	Lab Safety exam	-	-
4323ICBPSR	Division assignment	4323ICORVR	Division assignment	4323INBPST	Division exam

For elective components in the second year approval by the Board of Examiners must be demonstrated prior to the start of the component. The Board of Examiners may mandate the approval for specific components to examiners, the programme director, or the study advisor. In case of a mandate this will be communicated via the online module “Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences” in the learning management system.

The format requirements and guidelines for supervision and assessment of individual programme components are published in the online module “Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences” in the learning management system. Every student, daily supervisor, and responsible examiner is expected to have studied these guidelines before the start of the programme component.

4.1. Specialisation Drug Discovery and Safety

The MSc specialisation Drug Discovery and Safety offers research-orientated education into the discovery of new drug targets and new lead molecules, particularly in the field of cancer. For identification of novel drug targets and development of novel, effective and safe drug leads students are trained in advanced imaging techniques (‘systems microscopy’), in vitro and in vivo model systems, organic synthesis, molecular biology, pharmacology, and computational approaches (chem- and bioinformatics and computational biology). The Division Drug Discovery and Safety of the LACDR, and the Division of Bio-organic Synthesis and Molecular Physiology of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry (LIC), are involved in the MSc specialisation Drug Discovery and Safety. Admission to this specialisation may be restricted by available places.

Students who complete the specialisation Drug Discovery and Safety are admissible to a PhD programme in bio-pharmaceutical sciences or related science disciplines.

As of 2025-2026 this research specialisation will be renamed to 'Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences'.

4.1.1 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements (see 1.3), graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Drug Discovery and Safety

1. have obtained in-depth knowledge of a specific subject related to the discovery of novel drug targets or new lead molecules.
2. have obtained theoretical and practical skills in a second specialist area of drug research.
3. have deepened and extended learning outcomes art. 1.3, achievements 1-4 by performing a second research project.
4. are able to independently acquire in-depth expert understanding in an unfamiliar drug research subject area by critical review of scientific literature.

4.1.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Drug Discovery and Safety (DDS) programme consists of General BPS research components, specialising in Drug Discovery and Safety (60 EC), deepening research specialisation components (42 EC), and optional (18 EC) programme components as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components, specialising in Drug Discovery and Safety			
Introduction Course BPS: Drug Discovery and Safety	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	
Research Project 1, in research area of DDS			
• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	40	4323RP140Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP1THY
• Oral presentation	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY
Research specialisation components			
Research Project 2, in a second area of drug research			
• Literature research, practical implementation and	600	30	4323RP230Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP2THY
Literature Study, including literature research and Literature study paper	500	7	4323LISTTY
Electives			
Optional courses or BPS traineeship	≥400	18	

Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within the Division Drug Discovery and Safety of the LACDR, or at the LIC under supervision of a LIC staff member appointed by the Board of Examiners. Research Project 1 can also take place in the research area of Drug Discovery and Safety at external research groups to which LACDR (extraordinary) University Professors are affiliated or, after approval by the Board of Examiners, under the supervision of a staff member of the Division Drug Discovery and Safety within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Center or health research institute.

For research projects involving animal experimentation the “Introduction to animal experimentation” is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

Research Project 2

Research Project 2 may be conducted within the Faculty of Science in another discipline of BPS or, at the Centre for Human Drug Research, the Leiden University Medical Centre, other University Science Faculties, University Medical Centres or health research institutes, or at an R&D Department of a (Bio-)Pharmaceutical company. Students are encouraged to go abroad for Research Project 2. All projects outside the LACDR require permission from the Board of Examiners and the Programme Director *before the start* of the project. The procedure to be followed to acquire approval is communicated via the online module “Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences” in the learning management system.

Literature Study

The Literature Study must be conducted under supervision of a staff member of LACDR who is from a different Principal Investigator group and has not been affiliated with Research Project 1 or 2. The aim of the Literature Study is to independently acquire in-depth expert understanding in an unfamiliar

drug research subject area by critical review of scientific literature. Therefore, the subject of the Literature Study must be different from that of Research Project 1 and 2. Otherwise, permission from the Board of Examiners is required. The Literature Study must be carried out within a period of seven consecutive weeks, equivalent to 5 weeks full time, and can therefore not be combined with other programme components. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant a student permission to combine the Literature Study with other programme components. The Literature Study is completed with a written literature study paper.

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series from a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialisation. In the second year, students can select Lecture series from the broad range of topics offered as part of their elective space. BPS Lecture series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

Electives

The optional part of the programme can consist of additional BPS Lecture series, master's courses of level 400 or higher offered at a Science or Medical Faculty of any Dutch or foreign university, or a traineeship. For courses outside the Faculty of Science of Leiden University approval by the Board of Examiners is required. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant an exemption for courses <400 level or for courses of which the level is not explicitly provided. A list of approved elective courses is available in the online module "Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences" in the learning management system. A student may be awarded credits for acting as an assistant in courses of the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences bachelor programme, in proportion to the course load and pending permission from the Board of Examiners, obtaining an ICLON certificate for a didactic skills training, and the completion of a report with a reflection on the provide education. A maximum of 5 EC of the elective space may be used as an elective course aimed at supervising students of the bachelor Bio-Pharmaceutical Science bachelor programme. Costs for following elective courses or traineeships are borne fully by the student.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

4.2. Specialisation Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology

The MSc specialisation Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology offers research-orientated education into understanding and predicting drug-induced modulation of disease networks at the systems level. Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology offers a unique combination of cutting-edge experimental training in the field of metabolomics and translational systems biology as well as quantitative pharmacology education in the area of computational modelling of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) relationships. The Division Systems Pharmacology and Pharmacy, and the Metabolomics Center of the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research, and the Center for Human Drug Research (CHDR), are involved in the MSc specialisation Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology. Admission to this specialisation may be restricted by available places.

Students who complete the specialisation Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology are admissible to a PhD programme in bio-pharmaceutical sciences or related science disciplines.

As of 2025-2026 this research specialisation will be renamed to 'Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences'.

4.2.1 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements (see 1.3), graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology

1. have obtained in-depth knowledge of a specific subject related to the understanding or the predicting of drug-induced modulation of disease networks at the systems level.
2. have obtained theoretical and practical skills in a second specialist area of drug research.
3. have deepened and extended learning outcomes art. 1.3 achievements 1-4 by performing a second research project.
4. are able to independently acquire in-depth expert understanding in an unfamiliar drug research subject area by critical review of scientific literature.

4.2.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology (SBP) programme consists of General BPS research components, specialising in Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology (60 EC), deepening research specialisation components (42 EC), and optional (18 EC) programme components as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components, specialising in Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology			
Introduction Course BPS: Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	
Research Project 1, in research area of DDS			
• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	40	4323RP140Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP1THY
• Oral presentation	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY
Research specialisation components			
Research Project 2, in a second area of drug research			
• Literature research, practical implementation and	600	30	4323RP230Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP2THY
Literature Study, including literature research and Literature study paper	500	7	4323LISTTY
Electives			
Optional courses or BPS traineeship	≥400	18	

Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within the Division Systems Pharmacology and Pharmacy or the Metabolomics Centre of the LACDR, or the CHDR. Research Project 1 can also take place in the research area of Systems Biomedicine and Pharmacology at external research groups to which LACDR (extraordinary) University Professors are affiliated or, after approval by the Board of Examiners, under the supervision of a staff member of the Division Systems Pharmacology and Pharmacy or the

Metabolomics Centre within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Centre, or health research institute.

For research projects involving animal experimentation the “Introduction to animal experimentation” is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

Research Project 2

Research Project 2 may be conducted within the Faculty of Science in another discipline of BPS or in another MSc programme, or at the Centre for Human Drug Research, the Leiden University Medical Centre, other University Science Faculties, University Medical Centres or health research institutes, or at an R&D Department of a (Bio-)Pharmaceutical company. Students are encouraged to go abroad for Research Project 2. All projects outside the LACDR require permission from the Board of Examiners and the Programme Director *before the start* of the project. The procedure to be followed to acquire approval is communicated via the online module “Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences” in the learning management system.

Literature Study

The Literature Study must be conducted under supervision of a staff member of LACDR who is from a different Principal Investigator group and has not been affiliated with Research Project 1 or 2. The aim of the Literature Study is to independently acquire in-depth expert understanding in an unfamiliar drug research subject area by critical review of scientific literature. Therefore, the subject of the Literature Study must be different from that of Research Project 1 and 2. Otherwise, permission from the Board of Examiners is required. The Literature Study must be carried out within a period of seven consecutive weeks, effective 5 weeks full-time, and can therefore not be combined with other programme components. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant a student permission to combine the Literature Study with other programme components. The Literature Study is completed with a written literature study paper.

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series from a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialisation. In the second year, students can select Lecture Series from the broad range of topics offered as part of their elective space. BPS Lecture series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

Electives

The optional part of the programme can consist of additional BPS Lecture series, master’s courses of level 400 or higher offered at a Science or Medical Faculty of any Dutch or foreign university, or a traineeship. For courses outside the Faculty of Science of Leiden University approval by the Board of Examiners is required. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant an exemption for courses <400 level or for courses of which the level is not explicitly provided. A list of approved elective courses is available in the online module “Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences” in the learning management system. A student may be awarded credits for acting as an assistant in courses of the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences bachelor programme, in proportion to the course load and pending permission from the Board of Examiners, obtaining an ICLON certificate for a didactic skills

training, and the completion of a report with a reflection on the provided education. A maximum of 5 EC of the elective space may be used as an elective course aimed at supervising students of the Bio-Pharmaceutical Science bachelor programme. Costs for following elective courses or traineeships are borne fully by the student.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

4.3. Specialisation BioTherapeutics

4.3.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc specialisation BioTherapeutics offers research-orientated education into the development of new therapeutic approaches to treat immune-based disorders, such as atherosclerosis, metabolic disorders, and inflammatory skin diseases. Focus is on state-of-the-art therapies using novel biologicals, such as tolerogenic vaccines, therapeutic proteins and peptides, and gene therapy. The Division BioTherapeutics of the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research is involved in the MSc specialisation BioTherapeutics. Admission to this specialisation may be restricted by available places.

Students who complete the specialisation BioTherapeutics are admissible to a PhD programme in biopharmaceutical sciences and related science disciplines.

As of 2025-2026 this research specialisation will be renamed to 'Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences'.

4.3.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Biotherapeutics

1. have obtained in-depth knowledge of a specific subject related to the development of new therapeutic approaches to treat immune-based disorders, such as atherosclerosis, metabolic disorders and inflammatory skin diseases.
2. have obtained theoretical and practical skills in a second specialist area of drug research
3. have deepened and extended learning outcomes art. 1.3, achievements 1-4 by performing a second research project
4. are able to independently acquire in-depth expert understanding in an unfamiliar drug research subject area by critical review of scientific literature

4.3.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The BioTherapeutics (BT) specialisation programme consists of General BPS research components, specialising in BioTherapeutics (60 EC), deepening research specialisation components (42 EC), and optional (18 EC) programme components as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components, specialising in BioTherapeutics			
Introduction Course BPS: BioTherapeutics	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	

Research Project 1, in research area of BT

• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	40	4323RP140Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP1THY
• Oral presentation	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY

Research specialisation components

Research Project 2, in a second area of drug research

• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	30	4323RP230Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP2THY
Literature Study, including literature research and literature study paper	500	7	4323LISTTY

Electives

Optional courses or BPS traineeship	≥400	18	
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Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within the Division BioTherapeutics of the LACDR or the CHDR. Research Project 1 can also take place in the research area of BioTherapeutics at external research groups to which LACDR (extraordinary) University Professors are affiliated or, after approval by the Board of Examiners, under the supervision of a staff member of the Division BioTherapeutics within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Centre, or health research institute. For research projects involving animal experimentation the “Introduction to animal experimentation” is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

Research Project 2

Research Project 2 may be conducted within the Faculty of Science in another discipline of BPS or in another MSc programme, or at the Centre for Human Drug Research, the Leiden University Medical Centre, other University Science Faculties, University Medical Centres or health research institutes, or at an R&D Department of a (Bio-)Pharmaceutical company. Students are encouraged to go abroad for Research Project 2. All projects outside the LACDR require permission from the Board of Examiners and the Programme Director *before the start* of the project. The procedure to be followed to acquire approval is communicated via the online module “Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences” in the learning management system.

Literature Study

The Literature Study must be conducted under supervision of a staff member of LACDR who is from a different Principal Investigator group and has not been affiliated with Research Project 1 or 2. The aim of the Literature Study is to independently acquire in-depth expert understanding in an unfamiliar drug research subject area by critical review of scientific literature. Therefore, the subject of the Literature Study must be different from that of Research Project 1 and 2. Otherwise, permission from the Board of Examiners is required. The Literature Study must be carried out within a period of seven consecutive weeks, effective 5 weeks full time, and can therefore not be combined with other programme components. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant a student

permission to combine the Literature Study with other programme components. The Literature Study is completed with a written literature study paper.

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series from a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialisation. In the second year, students can select Lecture series from the broad range of topics offered as part of their elective space. BPS Lectures series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

Electives

The optional part of the programme can consist of additional BPS Lecture series, master's courses of level 400 or higher offered at a Science or Medical Faculty of any Dutch or foreign university, or a traineeship. For courses outside the Faculty of Science of Leiden University approval by the Board of Examiners is required. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant an exemption for courses <400 level or for courses of which the level is not explicitly provided. A list of approved elective courses is available in the online module "Master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences" in the learning management system. A student may be awarded credits for acting as an assistant in courses of the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences bachelor programme, in proportion to the course load and pending permission from the Board of Examiners, obtaining an ICLON certificate for a didactic skills training, and the completion of a report with a reflection on the provide education. A maximum of 5 EC of the elective space may be used as an elective course aimed at supervising students of the bachelor Bio-Pharmaceutical Science bachelor programme. Costs for following elective courses or traineeships are borne fully by the student.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

4.4. Specialisation Industrial Pharmacy

4.4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc specialisation Industrial Pharmacy trains students in safety and quality control in the production of medicinal products, and prepares students for a career in Quality Assurance and Quality Control in the biotechnological and pharmaceutical industry.

Students who complete the specialisation Industrial Pharmacy are admissible to a PhD programme in bio-pharmaceutical sciences or in related life science disciplines.

As of 2025-2026 this research specialisation will be renamed to 'Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy'.

4.4.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Industrial Pharmacy have reached the following specific achievement levels:

1. Industrial pharmaceutical knowledge and understanding of prerequisites for production, quality and safety management, and batch release;

2. Experience with industrial pharmaceutical quality documentation systems;
3. Knowledge of industrial pharmaceutical regulatory affairs and ethical issues.

4.4.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Industrial Pharmacy (IP) programme consists of general BPS research components (60 EC) and Industrial Pharmacy specialisation components (60 EC) as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components			
Introduction Course BPS in subject of Research Project 1	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	
Research Project 1, at one of the Divisions of the LACDR			
• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	40	4323RP140Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP1THY
• Oral presentation	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY
Industrial Pharmacy specialisation components			
Internship Quality Control /Quality Assurance, including Practical Work, Thesis and Oral Presentation	600	38	
Essay Quality Control/Quality Assurance	600	7	4323IPEQAY
GMP for Middle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry	NA	2	4323GMPM2Y
Course Ethics in Quality Control Practices	500	1	4323IPEQCY
Course Legislation of Production of Medicinal Products	600	1	4323IPLP1Y
Course Microbial Control in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	600	2	
Course Quality Management in Pharma and Biotech ¹⁰			
• Quality Management - The Role of the Qualified Person	500	3	4323QMPM1Y
• Quality Management in Drug Development	600	2	4323QPQM2Y
• Quality Management in Sterile Manufacturing	600	2	4323QPQM3Y
• Quality Management in Manufacturing of Biopharmaceuticals	600	2	4323QPQM4Y

Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within any of the divisions or the Metabolomics Centre of the LACDR or at the CHDR. Projects can also be conducted within external research groups led by (extraordinary) University Professors affiliated with a Division or the Metabolomics Centre of the LACDR, or after permission from the Board of Examiners, supervision of an LACDR staff member within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Centre, or health research institute.

For research projects involving animal experimentation “Introduction to animal experimentation” is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

¹⁰ Pharmaceutical Consultancy Services (PCS) Training BV

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series about a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialisation. BPS Lecture series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

Internship Quality Control / Quality Assurance

The internship Quality Control / Quality Assurance must be performed in a biotechnological or pharmaceutical company under supervision of a Qualified Person (QP) and an examiner of the LACDR. The Essay Quality Control / Quality Assurance must have been successfully completed at the same company before the start of the internship.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

4.5. Specialisation BPS and Business Studies

4.5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Business Studies (BS) offers students the possibility to combine bio-pharmaceutical sciences research training with knowledge, insights, and skills in the area of Management, Business, and Entrepreneurship.

Students are encouraged to broaden their horizon, to form an opinion on and prepare for a career in industry and to enhance competences for pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities created in science and research.

Students who complete the specialisation Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Business Studies are admissible to a PhD programme in bio-pharmaceutical sciences or related science disciplines.

4.5.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Business Studies have reached the following specific achievement levels:

1. insight in managerial issues related to knowledge-intensive businesses and basic theoretical skills in business disciplines most relevant to working in these businesses;
2. the ability to make a plan for a new business or an innovation project;
3. experience with performing business activities in an existing company or organisation or directed towards technology-based business creation.

4.5.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The BPS and Business Studies (BS) programme consists of general BPS research components (60 EC), Business Studies specialisation components (40-60 EC), and possible electives (0-20 EC) as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components			
Introduction Course BPS in subject of Research Project 1	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	
Research Project 1, at one of the Divisions of the LACDR			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature research, practical implementation and performance 	600	40	4323RP140Y
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis 	600	5	4323RP1THY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral presentation 	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY
BS specialisation components			
BS core courses	400-500	20	
BS internship	600	20 or 30	
Electives			
Elective courses in BPS or BS	≥400	10 or 20	

Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within any of the divisions or the Metabolomics Centre of the LACDR or at the CHDR. Projects can also be conducted within external research groups led by (extraordinary) University Professors affiliated with a Division of the LACDR, or after permission from the Board of Examiners, under supervision of an LACDR staff within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Center, or health research institute. For research projects involving animal experimentation the “Introduction to animal experimentation” is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series from a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialisation. In the second year, students can select Lecture series from the broad range of topics offered as part of their elective space. BPS Lecture series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

BS specialisation components

A minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC of BS specialisation components is required to complete the BS specialisation. Starting with the Academic year 2024-2025, BS internships have a study load of 20 or 30 EC. The BS internship programme is offered in five cohorts: September, November, January, May, and July. Students need to sign up for their preferred cohort at least six months prior to the start of the internship. Details can be found in the internship manual available in the online Business study module in the learning management system. A specification of the BS specialisation components can be found in the [prospectus](#).

Electives

The optional part of the programme can consist of additional theoretical courses in the area of bio-pharmaceutical sciences at any Dutch or foreign university, additional BS courses, or a BPS traineeship. The conditions and restrictions specified above for electives apply.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

4.6. Specialisation BPS and Science Communication and Society

4.6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine bio-pharmaceutical sciences research training with knowledge, insights, and skills in the area of science communication.

Students are prepared for a career in the area of science communication or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set.

Students who complete the specialisation Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in bio-pharmaceutical sciences or in science communication.

4.6.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Science Communication and Society have reached the following specific achievement levels:

1. Knowledge of the relationship between science & society through science communication frameworks and transdisciplinary perspectives.
2. Experience with these frameworks and skills to apply them in practice, e.g. in science journalism, visual communication, or in informal science education.
3. Basic skills in performing science communication research independently.

4.6.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The BPS and Science Communication and Society (SCS) programme consists of general BPS research components (60 EC), SCS specialisation components (40-60 EC), and electives (0-20 EC) as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components			
Introduction Course BPS in subject of Research Project 1	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	
Research Project 1, at one of the Divisions of the LACDR			
• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	40	4323RP140Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP1THY
• Oral presentation	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY
SCS specialisation components			
SCS Courses	500	23	
SCS Project Proposal	600	3	4603SCSPPY

SCS Internship(s)	600	14-34	4603SCSS1Y 4603SCSS2Y
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Electives

Elective courses in BPS or SCS or BPS traineeship	≥400	0-20
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Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within any of the divisions or the Metabolomics Center of the LACDR or at the CHDR. Projects can also be conducted within external research groups led by (extraordinary) University Professors affiliated with a Division or Metabolomics Center of the LACDR, or after permission from the Board of Examiners, under supervision of an LACDR staff member within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Center, or health research institute.

For research projects involving animal experimentation the Introduction to animal experimentation is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series from a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialisation. In the second year, students can select Lecture series from the broad range of topics offered as part of their elective space. BPS Lecture series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

SCS specialisation components

A specification of the SCS specialisation components can be found in the [prospectus](#).

Electives

The optional part of the programme can consist of additional theoretical courses in the area of bio-pharmaceutical sciences at any Dutch or foreign university, additional SCS courses, or a BPS traineeship. The conditions and restrictions specified above for electives apply.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

4.7. Specialisation BPS and Education

4.7.1 Description (Course and Examinations Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as biology (biologie)¹¹ or chemistry (scheikunde)¹² teacher qualified to teach in Dutch secondary education (the so-called “eerstegraads-lesbevoegdheid”).

Students who complete the specialisation Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Education are admissible to a PhD programme in bio-pharmaceutical sciences or related science disciplines.

4.7.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme BPS with the specialisation Education have reached the following specific achievement levels:

1. All qualifications necessary for teaching all years of secondary education and technical and vocational training (for 12–18 year-olds).

4.7.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The BPS and Education (EDU) programme consists of general BPS research components (60 EC) and EDU specialisation components (30-60 EC), and electives (0-30) as specified below.

	Level	EC	Course code
General BPS research components			
Introduction Course BPS in subject of Research Project 1	500	6	4323ICBPSY
BPS Lecture series	500	4	
Research Project 1, at one of the Divisions of the LACDR			
• Literature research, practical implementation and performance	600	40	4323RP140Y
• Thesis	600	5	4323RP1THY
• Oral presentation	500	2	4323RP1ORY
Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation	500	3	4323AASCOY
EDU specialisation components			
EDU courses	400-500	0-30	
EDU internship(s)		30	
Electives			
	≥400		
Elective courses or BPS traineeship	(max. 15	0-30	
	EC		
	≤400)*		

* See for details: ***EDU specialisation components***

¹¹ BPS Master’s Students wishing to qualify for the school subject “Biology”, need to remedy their deficiencies in concert with the teacher educator Biology of the ICLON.

¹² BPS Master’s students wishing to qualify for the school subject “Chemistry”, need to remedy the deficiencies in concert with the teacher educator Chemistry of the ICLON.

Research Project 1

Research Project 1 must be conducted within any of the Divisions or the Metabolomics Centre of the LACDR or at the CHDR. Projects can also be conducted within external research groups led by Professors affiliated with a Division of the LACDR, or after permission from the Board of Examiners, under supervision of an LACDR staff member within the respective field at a research group at a University Faculty of Science, a University Medical Centre, or health research institute.

For research projects involving animal experimentation the “Introduction to animal experimentation” is obligatory. The course “Fish species in animal experimentation” (2 EC, level 400) is required for research projects that involve experimental use of fish species. Lab safety is mandatory for all students.

BPS Lecture series

In the first year, students choose one BPS Lecture series from a topic that provides an up-to-date overview of recent developments in a specific area of drug research related to the specialization. In the second year, students can select Lecture Series from the broad range of topics offered as part of their elective space. BPS Lecture series and the entry requirements or additional conditions for admission are published online in the prospectus. In case the number of participants of the Lecture series is limited, the maximum number of participants and the placement procedure will also be announced in the prospectus.

EDU specialisation components

In general 60 EC of EDU specialisation components are required to complete the EDU specialisation. If the minor EDU was successfully completed as part of the BSc programme the EDU specialisation component is limited to 30 EC. In that case, the other 30 EC must be obtained through electives. The elective space can also be used to address any deficiencies for the qualification in the school subject “Biology” or “Chemistry”, with a maximum of 15 EC. A specification of the EDU specialisation components can be found in the prospectus ([chemistry or biology](#)).

Electives

The optional part of the programme can consist of additional theoretical courses in the area of bio-pharmaceutical sciences at any Dutch or foreign university or a BPS traineeship. The conditions and restrictions specified above for electives apply.

A more comprehensive description of the programme can be found in the [prospectus](#).

MSc Chemistry

CROHO-number 66857

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The Leiden Institute of Chemistry (LIC) forms the basis for research and collaborations of the Leiden chemistry and life sciences groups. The LIC offers two MSc programmes, namely the MSc Chemistry and the MSc Life Science and Technology. Chemistry research in the LIC is centred on the two research areas *Chemical Biology* and *Energy & Sustainability*, which are leading for the courses and research training projects offered in the MSc programme Chemistry.

Chemical Biology research at the Leiden Institute of Chemistry is aimed at understanding biological processes at the molecular level to strengthen the knowledge base of human health and disease. The approach to achieve this goal is a fundamental chemical one; biological systems are interrogated with the aid of chemical probes. Our chemical biology research is conducted in the context of health and disease, and aims to acquire knowledge, tools and techniques for the design and development of human medicine. The ultimate goal is to contribute to human health through conceptually new chemical methods for diagnosis, drug development and new therapies for diseases.

The **Energy & Sustainability** research is focused on a fundamental level on chemical reactions that are of importance to the sustainable and efficient production and storage of energy, as well as the subsequent usage of stored energy. The researchers apply advanced spectroscopic techniques, nano-imaging, inorganic synthesis, homogeneous, heterogeneous, photochemical or electrochemical catalysis and theoretical methods to elucidate the molecular processes that are at the basis of the conversion of solar energy to chemical energy.

Detailed information concerning the research topics that are investigated at the LIC can be found on the websites of the research groups, via <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/science/chemistry/>.

1.1 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The MSc programme Chemistry offers four specialisations, each with a focus on one of these two major research areas. The four specialisations are: Research in Chemistry (CHEM), Chemistry and Business Studies (BS), Chemistry and Science Communication and Society (SCS) and Chemistry and Education (EDU). The duration of each specialisation is two years (120 EC); a general overview of the content of the four specialisations is given in Table 1. Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Chemistry, with specification of the specialisation.

Table 1: Overview of the programmes of the four MSc Chemistry specialisations (weights in EC)

Specialisation	CHEM	EDU [#]	SCS	BS
Research training*	60	30 / 40	30	30
Academic development	6	6	6	6
Core courses in research area	24	24 ^{##}	24	24
Essay & Colloquium	6	-	-	-
Free electives**	24	0 / 20	20	20
EDU/SCS/BS components	-	60 / 30	40	40
Total EC	120	120	120	120

* The research training is the final assignment of the programme, as mentioned in article 4.12 of the Course and Examination Regulation Master's Programmes.

** The choice in the free electives is restricted to the boundaries specified in this document. A maximum of 20 EC can be used for extension of the Chemistry research-training project. In case of a single SCS/BS specialisation, a maximum of 20 EC may be used as an extension of the SCS/BS component. In case of a double specialisation, the free electives cannot be used for compulsory courses or extension of the internship of the second specialisation.

If the student has taken a minor in Education ("tweedegraadsbevoegdheid") of 30 EC in the BSc programme, only 30 EC are necessary in the MSc programme to obtain the "eerstegraadsbevoegdheid"; then 30 EC electives are added to the programme of the MSc Chemistry, of which at least 10 EC should be used for research training within the boundaries specified in sections 4.3 and 7.3.

Students in the EDU specialisation are allowed and advised to choose from both research areas to obtain a broader knowledge of chemistry.

1.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

After completion of the MSc Chemistry programme students will have developed:

- Knowledge and understanding of theoretical concepts of Chemistry from textbooks and primary literature pertaining to the research area "Chemical Biology" or "Energy & Sustainability"
- The ability to plan chemical research, perform experiments within an appropriate time frame, collect and store data in a logical way, such that colleagues can easily find and access the data (data management)
- The ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, and formulate verifiable hypotheses
- An appropriate critical scientific attitude, i.e. the ability to analyse results and critically evaluate their validity and accuracy
- The skill to communicate chemical research progress and results to colleagues, supervisors and experts
- The ability to write independently a structured and accurate report on performed chemical research
- The ability to perform with an academic attitude and the skills for autonomous self-development, taking into account the ethical and social aspects of the natural sciences.

1.3 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February; international students are strongly advised to start in September.

1.4 Programme organisation

All specialisations have the same Programme Director and the same Board of Admissions. The Programme Committee for the MSc programme Chemistry is combined with the one for the MSc programme Life Science and Technology and is responsible for the Research specialisation and the programme-specific components of the other specialisations. The specialisation-specific components of the BS, EDU and SCS specialisations have their own Programme Committees. The Board of Examiners of the MSc programme Chemistry is also combined with the one of the MSc programme Life Science and Technology. In addition, the specialisations BS, SCS and EDU each have their own

faculty-wide Board of Examiners appointed by the Faculty of Science for the specialisation-specific part of the MSc Chemistry programme.

All MSc students are guided by a personal mentor. The mentor generally is the supervisor of the major research training project in the research area chosen by the student. The mentor will coach the student from the admission throughout the MSc programme to the final examination. The study adviser can advise the student concerning scheduling and planning of the programme. A web-based master planner is used for planning and registration of the study programme, and is to be filled in by the student in consult with the mentor. The mentor and student discuss the progress of the student at least every six months using the results documented in the master planner. The master planner is updated by the student on a regular basis. It is accessible to the student, the mentor, the study coordinator and the study adviser. The study adviser will mediate when a student encounters problems in the interaction with the mentor.

2. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

Students compose their own study programme (choice in core courses, electives and research training project) in consent with their mentor, who is a scientific staff member of the LIC. The choice in elective courses in the MSc programme may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the present knowledge of the candidate. The programme may be adjusted during the course of the MSc study.

Specialisation-specific components of the specialisations Chemistry and Business Studies, Chemistry and Science Communication and Society, and Chemistry and Education are described separately in this Appendix. A double specialisation comprises a full programme of one specialisation (i.e. the main specialisation) plus the specialisation-specific components of a second specialisation. The main specialisation should be chosen in the following order: Research above Education above Business/Communication. The number of credits for double specialisations thus must be at least 150 EC (Research + EDU-30), 160 EC (Research + BS; Research + SCS; EDU + BS, EDU + SCS, BS + SCS) or 180 EC (Research + EDU-60).

3. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

3.1 Confirmation of admission

3.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 3.2 and 3.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

3.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.¹³

¹³ [Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

3.2 Admission to the programme

3.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a) holders of a bachelor's degree in Molecular Science and Technology (MST) or Chemistry from any research university in the Netherlands, or
- b) holders of a bachelor's degree in an MST- or chemistry-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of equal level, provided the student has at least 150 EC of subject-specific content distributed over the domain of Chemistry .

3.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 3.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 3.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 3.2.4.

Article 3.2.2 may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a research university that does not meet the requirements specified in Article 3.2.1 subsection b or to a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) in an MST- or chemistry-related programme provided that the applicant demonstrates the academic ability to mitigate a potential deficiency. In order to assess this, the following matters will be reviewed:

- the average final grade of the obtained degree (at least 7.5 in the Dutch grading system) and
- the research project/internship grade (at least 8.0 in the Dutch grading system)
- letter(s) of recommendation (see below).

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.1.b are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with the following:

- Copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s) of grades,
- A placement letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in Article 3.2.1 subsection a,
- A curriculum vitae.

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with the following:

- Copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s) of grades,
- A placement letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in Article 3.2.1 subsection a,
- A curriculum vitae,

- Letter of recommendation by the internship supervisor (group or team leader),
- Hbo students as referred to in Article 3.2.2 should also submit a letter of recommendation of the mentor ('studieloopbaanbegeleider') of the BAS programme.

3.2.3 Dutch and English languages¹⁴

3.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

3.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 3.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection.¹⁵
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

3.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose native language is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or Staatsexamen Nt2 Programma II. The TUL examinations is organised by the Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch.

3.2.3.4 The language level in 3.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 3.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 3.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 3.2.4, all students must meet it.

¹⁴ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

¹⁵ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

3.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

3.3 Deficiencies

3.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in Article 3.2.1 subsection b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 EC of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in Article 3.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

3.3.3 For the admission referred to in Article 3.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

3.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of Article 3.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

3.4 Pre-masters and educational module

Not applicable.

4. Specialisation Research in Chemistry (CHEM)

4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The research specialisation offers the student the opportunity to spend two full years on training and specialisation not only to become an independent and creative researcher, but also someone who can use their analytical skills to resolve challenges in their career in science or in society. The majority of the students with an MSc in Research in Chemistry will continue their career in a PhD position.

4.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Research in Chemistry programme (CHEM) consists of the parts specified in Table 2.

Table 2: Overview of the programme of the MSc Chemistry Research specialisation

Component	Study load	Level
Research training:	60-80 EC*	600
Major research project	40-60 EC	600
Minor research project (optional)	20-40 EC	600
Academic development	6 EC	400-500
Essay & Colloquium	6 EC	500
Core courses (in research area)	24 EC	400-500
Electives	4-24 EC	400-600

* The total weight of research projects may not exceed 80 EC; if the research training projects exceed 60 credits, the additional credits are subtracted from the electives.

4.3 Research Training ('Final assignment')

4.3.1 Scope and study load: The research training is carried out in a LIC research group in the chosen research area (*Chemical Biology* or *Energy & Sustainability*). The research training may be split into a major and one or more minor projects. The major research project is limited to a minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC; an optional minor research project must comprise at least 20 EC. A minor training project may be carried out with another LIC staff member, in another institute (within the Netherlands or abroad), or in a company. A minor research training project cannot be carried out with the supervisor of the major research project. All external research projects need prior approval from the Board of Examiners.

4.3.2 Supervision and evaluation: Each research training project must be supervised by a scientific staff member (main supervisor). The major research-training project is evaluated and graded by the main supervisor, with input from the daily supervisor. The second reviewer is a staff member in the same research field as the main supervisor; the Thesis Talk juror is a staff member who was not directly involved in the research project. The second reviewer and Thesis Talk juror judge the quality of the research report, the quality of the presentation and the scientific level of the student and decide the final grade together with the main supervisor.

Minor research projects carried out within the LIC are evaluated and graded by two LIC scientific staff members who were not the main supervisor for the major research training project. External research training projects are supported, evaluated and graded by a scientific staff member of the LIC who was not the main supervisor for any other research training project (the internal supervisor) and a staff member from the host institute (the external supervisor).

For all research-training projects the internal supervisor has the final responsibility for creating the research project agreement, grading the research project report and creating, signing and submitting the project evaluation form.

4.3.3 Written report: All research training projects are concluded with a written report; for the major research training this is the MSc thesis. The requirements for the written report can be found via the Prospectus. The final version of the report should be handed in within 3 months after the last day of practical work.

4.3.4 Thesis Talk: The major research project is concluded with an oral presentation for the main supervisor, the second reviewer, the Thesis Talk juror, and an audience of interested students and staff members of the LIC (i.e. Thesis Talk). Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks as part of their major research project before they present their own Thesis Talk.

4.3.5 Obligatory sequence (Course and Examination Regulations art. 4.2): Students can only start with an optional minor research training project (within or outside the LIC) when the major project has been successfully concluded with a grade (including a Thesis Talk). Exceptions can only be granted by the Board of Examiners following article 4.2.2 of the Faculty OER.

4.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises a selection of four core courses, courses on academic development and a literature essay with a colloquium.

4.4.1 Core courses: The core courses (in total 24 EC) are selected within the chosen research area: Chemical Biology (CB) or Energy & Sustainability (ES). A list of the core courses offered by the two research areas is given in Table 3.

Table 3: Core course options for the research areas *Chemical Biology (CB)* and *Energy & Sustainability (ES)*. All courses encompass 6 EC.*

Course title	Catalogue number	Level	Research area
Chemical Biology	4423CHEMB	500	CB
Computational Techniques for Chemical Biology	4423CTFCB	400	CB
Enzyme Dynamics: NMR Spectroscopy and Kinetics	4423EDNMR	500	CB
Medicinal Chemistry & Drug Discovery	4423MCHDD	500	CB
Modern Organic Chemistry	4423MODOC	500	CB
Molecular Cell Biology**	4423MOLCB	400	CB
Reactivity in Organic Chemistry	4423RIOCH	500	CB
Supramolecular Chemistry	4423SUPC6	500	CB
Computational Chemistry and Molecular Simulations	4423CCAMS	400	ES
Density Functional Theory in Practice	4423DFTP6	500	ES
Electrochemistry	4423ELECH	500	ES
Surface Science for Heterogeneous Catalysis	4423SUSHC	500	ES
Organometallic Chemistry & Homogeneous Catalysis	4423ORGHO	500	ES
Photochemistry	4423PHCH6	500	ES
Photosynthesis & Bioenergy	4423PBE06	500	ES
Spectroscopy on Chemical Reactions and Environments	4423SCRE6	500	ES

* Courses that were taken in the BSc programme cannot be taken again in the MSc programme.

** This course cannot be chosen by students with a BSc degree in Life Science and Technology or equivalent.

4.4.2 Academic development: The Academic development component consists of the course Academic Writing and one or more elective courses for a combined value of at least 6 EC. If the Academic development component exceeds 6 EC, the surplus is subtracted from the elective space. Students can select an academic development elective from the approved list in Table 4 or request permission from the Board of Examiners for an alternative course. Elective courses may set additional entry requirements and/or may have a selection procedure. Courses for the Academic development component should be in the broad subject area of academic skills and personal development as a scientist and are bound to the same requirements as stipulated for elective courses in section 4.6.

Table 4: Mandatory and elective courses for the Academic development component (total minimum 6 EC).

Course title	Catalogue number	Level	EC
<i>Mandatory</i>			
Academic Writing	4423ACWR2	400	2
<i>Electives</i>			
Leading and Managing People	4603BSLM5	500	5
Oriëntatie op Onderwijs*	4082OROND	300	6
Playful and Creative Science	4383PLCRS	500	6

Science and the Public: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives	4603SPCH6	400	6
Science Journalism	4603SCSJ4	500	4
Science Methodology	4603SCMT4	400	4
Sciences and Humanities	4383SCHX4	400	4
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society	4603SCIM3	500	3
Wetenschapsjournalistiek*	4603SCSWJ	500	4
Introduction to Machine Learning	4343INTML	500	6

* This course is given in Dutch

4.4.3 Essay and colloquium: The specialisation-specific component of the research specialisation is the essay and colloquium (catalogue number 4423ESCOL). The final grade for the colloquium is determined by the colloquium supervisor and the colloquium juror. The colloquium supervisor and juror are LIC staff members and cannot be the main supervisor of the student's major research project. Students should attend at least 7 colloquia as part of their colloquium and essay component before they present their own colloquium.

4.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component "WORK" (catalogue number 4423WORKV: "Career Orientation & Competence Reflection"). Students have to *Write* an application letter and CV, attend seminars and workshops for job market *Orientation*, and have to *Reflect* on their skills, strengths and weaknesses. After finalisation of this component they will have acquired improved *Knowledge* of what they are good at and what kind of career they would like to pursue! This component comprises a number of activities and workshops to create awareness of the job market and give students insight into their skills, abilities and weaknesses. During the two years of the MSc programme, a number of different activities are offered. The activities include alumni events (e.g. lectures, speed-dating), workshops offered by the Career Service, self-assessment and self-reflection tasks, participation in excursions to companies and visits to career fairs such as the Science Career Event. All students have to do a self-evaluation test at the start of their programme, take part in the workshop 'CV and cover letter' near the end of their studies, and write a self-reflection after their major research project. In addition, students take at least six of the workshops or other activities that are offered by the programme, Career Service or other partners during their studies, within the boundaries specified by the programme.

4.6 Electives

The electives can comprise either theoretical or practical courses or an extension of the duration of a research project with a maximum of 20 EC and within the limitations described in section 4.3. Elective courses can be chosen from the core courses within or outside the chosen research area, approved elective MSc courses of the Leiden University Faculty of Science published in the Prospectus, MSc courses offered in a Science Faculty of any Dutch or foreign university of level 400 or higher, level 400 courses from the BSc MST or LST programmes, or other relevant courses approved by the Board of Examiners on an individual basis. Elective courses are restricted to courses that were not part of the student's earlier studies and do not overlap in content with other courses already taken as part of the MSc curriculum.

Students can verify the suitability of their programme with the Board of Examiners when they have doubts about a combination of courses. Students must gain approval from the Board of Examiners

prior to taking any components offered by universities outside the Netherlands, as well as starting any external research project (i.e. outside the LIC).

5. Specialisation Chemistry and Business Studies

5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Chemistry and Business Studies (BS) offers students the possibility to combine chemistry with knowledge, insights and skills in the area of Management, Business and Entrepreneurship.

Students are encouraged to broaden their horizon, to form an opinion on and prepare for a career in industry and to enhance competences for pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities created in science and research.

5.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Chemistry and Business Studies (BS) programme consists of the parts specified in Table 5. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [in the section “Specialisation Business Studies”](#).

Table 5. Overview of the programme of the specialisation Chemistry and Business Studies

	Component	Study load	Level
Chemistry	Research training	30 EC	600
	Academic skills	6 EC	400-500
	Core courses (in research area)	24 EC	400-500
	Electives	0-20 EC	400-600
Business Studies	BS courses	20 EC	500
	BS internship	20 or 30 EC	600
	BS electives	0-20 EC	400-500

5.3 Research Training

The research training project in Chemistry should be carried out in one of the research groups of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry. It includes a written report (MSc thesis) and is finalised with a Thesis Talk. Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks. The requirements for the research training are as specified in section 4.3 with the exception that the minimum length of the major research training project is 30 EC instead of 40 EC.

5.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises four core courses as described in section 4.4.1 and courses on academic development as described in section 4.4.2. Courses listed as academic development electives that are taken by the student as part of the BS component cannot be chosen for the Academic development component.

5.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component “WORK”. See the description and specifications in section 4.5.

5.6 Electives

Elective components may consist of additional courses within or outside the chosen research area, an extension of the research project, additional BS courses or an extension of the Business Internship. Furthermore, the restrictions and conditions specified for electives in section 4.6 apply.

5.7 BS components

A minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC within the BS component is required to complete the BS specialisation. A specification of the BS specialisation is described [in the section “Specialisation Business Studies”](#).

6. Specialisation Chemistry and Science Communication and Society

6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Chemistry and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine chemistry and science communication. Students are prepared for a career in the area of science communication or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set.

Students who complete the specialisation Chemistry and Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in Chemistry or in Science Communication.

6.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Chemistry and Science Communication and Society (SCS) programme consists of the parts specified in Table 6. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found in the section “Science Communication and Society”.

Table 6: Overview of the programme of the specialisation Chemistry and Science Communication and Society

Catalogue number	Component	Study load	Level
Chemistry			
	Research training	30 EC	600
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Electives	0-20 EC	400-600
SCS components			
4603SCISEY	Informal Science Education	4 EC	500
4603SCPDSY	Policy & Development in Science and Society	4 EC	500
4603SCRSCY	Research in Science Communication	4 EC	500
4603SCSJ4Y	Science Journalism (ENG)	4 EC	500
4603SCSWJY	Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)	4 EC	500

4603SCPRDY	Science Communication Product Development*	4 EC	500
4603SCIM3Y	Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society <i>Internship</i>	3 EC	500
4603SCSPPY	SCS Project Proposal	3 EC	600
4603SCSS1Y	SCS Internship(s) <i>Additional elective</i>	14-34 EC	600
4603SCSELY	SCS Elective	1-10 EC	400-500

* The course **Science Communication Product Development** is only admissible for students who have completed all other SCS courses.

6.3 Research Training

The research training project in Chemistry should be carried out in one of the research groups of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry. It includes a written report (MSc thesis) and is finalised with a Thesis Talk. Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks. The requirements for the research training are as specified in section 4.3 with the exception that the minimum length of the major research training project is 30 EC instead of 40 EC.

6.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises four core courses as described in section 4.4.1 and courses on academic development as described in section 4.4.2. Courses listed as academic development electives that are taken by the student as part of the SCS component cannot be chosen for the Academic development component.

6.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component "WORK". See the description and specifications in section 4.5.

6.6 Elective components

Elective components may consist of additional theoretical courses within or outside the chosen research area, an extension of the research project, additional SCS courses or an extension of or additional SCS internships. Furthermore, the restrictions and conditions specified for electives in section 4.6 apply.

6.7 SCS components

A minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC within the SCS component is required to complete the SCS specialisation. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found in the section "Science Communication and Society".

7. Specialisation Chemistry and Education (NL)

7.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Chemistry and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as chemistry (scheikunde) teacher qualified to teach in Dutch secondary education.

7.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Chemistry and Education (EDU) programme consists of the parts specified in Table 7. All programme-specific components must be finished before the specialisation-specific Education components can be started. Exceptions to this obligatory sequence can only be granted by the Board of Examiners of the MSc programme Chemistry.

A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found in the section "Specialisation Education".

Table 7: Overview of the programme of the specialisation Chemistry and Education

Catalogue number	Component	Study load	Level
60 EC EDU programme			
Chemistry			
	Research training	30 EC	600
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Electives	0 EC	
EDU components			
	EDU theoretical courses	28 EC	300-600
	EDU teaching practice	32 EC	
30 EC EDU programme			
Chemistry			
	Research training	40 EC	600
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Electives	20 EC	400-600
EDU components ('eerstegraads' only, see 7.6)			
	EDU theoretical courses	15 EC	400-600
	EDU teaching practice	15 EC	

7.3 Research Training

The research training project in Chemistry should be carried out in one of the research groups of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry. It includes a written report (MSc thesis) and is finalised with a Thesis Talk. Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks. The requirements for the research training are as specified in section 4.3 with the exception that the minimum length of the major research training project for students in the 60 EC EDU programme is 30 EC instead of 40 EC.

7.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises four core courses as described in section 4.4.1 and courses on academic development as described in section 4.4.2. Courses listed as academic development electives that are taken by the student as part of the EDU component cannot be chosen for the Academic development component.

7.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component "WORK". See the description and specifications in section 4.5.

7.6 Elective components

When the student has passed the minor Education (30 EC) during their BSc programme, the compulsory Education component is reduced with 30 EC. The remaining 30 EC are added to the Chemistry programme as electives, of which a minimum of 10 EC should be used for research training. Further elective components may consist of additional theoretical courses or further extension of the research project. Furthermore, the restrictions and conditions specified for electives in section 4.6 apply.

7.7 EDU components

To complete the EDU specialisation, 60 EC within the EDU programme is required. If a minor EDU was successfully taken in the BSc programme, the EDU programme is limited to 30 EC. A specification of the EDU specialisation is described in the section "[Specialisation Education](#)".

8. Additional and transitional arrangements

8.1 The programme component Academic development is compulsory for students who started with the MSc Chemistry per September 2017 or later. Students who do not have this obligation add 6 EC to their free electives and are allowed to take the courses associated with the Academic development component as electives.

8.2 If a student has demonstrable prior knowledge of the course Academic Writing (the compulsory course in the programme component Academic development), they can request permission from the Board of Examiners for an alternative set of courses to fill the Academic development component. The total Academic development component should encompass at least 6 EC, should be in the broad subject area of academic development and is bound to the same requirements as stipulated for elective courses in section 4.6.

8.3 The compulsory co-curricular component "WORK" is not required for students who started before September 2019.

8.4 Students who started before September 2019 must attend at least 10 Thesis Talks, unless they voluntarily take the co-curricular component 'WORK', in which case they must attend at least 7 Thesis Talks.

8.5 Students who started before September 2019 and choose the research specialisation must attend at least 10 colloquia, unless they voluntarily take the co-curricular component 'WORK', in which case they must attend at least 7 colloquia.

8.6 Students who started before September 2020 in the EDU-30 programme are not required to use at least 10 EC of their electives to extend the research training component of the programme.

8.7 Students are allowed to compose their set of core courses for the final examination based on the set described in either the current OER or the applicable OER at the time they started their MSc programme, provided they did not interrupt their registration.

8.8 Molecular Cell Biology (MCB), catalogue number 4423MOLCB, can be used to replace either Molecular Biology (MB, 4423MOLBI) or Cell Biology (CEB, 4423CELBI) as a core course for any student who started before September 2020. Molecular Cell Biology cannot be included in the final examination together with Molecular Biology, Cell Biology or both.

8.9 Advanced Medicinal Chemistry (4423ADMC6) cannot be included in the final examination together with Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery (4423MCHDD).

8.10 Protein Folding, Misfolding and Design (4423PFMAD) cannot be included in the final examination together with Protein Folding, Misfolding and Disease (4423PFMFD).

8.11 Cross-domain Chromatin Organisation (4423CDC4R) cannot be included in the final examination together with Chromatin Organisation and Function (4423CHORF).

8.12 Surface Science for Heterogeneous Catalysis (4423SUSHC) can be used to replace either Surface Science (4423SURFS) or Heterogeneous Catalysis (4423HETCA) as a core course for any student who started before September 2024. Surface Science for Heterogeneous Catalysis (4423SUSHC) cannot be included in the final examination together with Surface Science (4423SURFS), Heterogeneous Catalysis (4423HETCA), or both.

8.13 Quantitative Imaging in Life Sciences (4423QILS4) cannot be included in the final examination together with Quantitative MRI in Disease Diagnosis (4423QMIDD). Both of these courses cannot be combined with Quantitative MRI in Disease Diagnosis (4423QMDD5).

8.14 After discontinuation of a component or major changes to a component, the student is provided with one more option to finish the component in the following academic year, where applicable via partial exams and/or compensatory assignments.

8.15 When a student does not use the opportunity mentioned in 8.14 or does not acquire a pass grade, the student is required to replace the missing ECs with another component following the requirements for their specialisation.

8.16 If a student for any reason, including the situation stipulated in 8.14 and 8.15 is not able to compose a programme conform the requirements, the Board of Examiners can grant an exception and approve an alternative programme. The Board of Examiners judges whether the alternative programme guarantees the student meets the learning outcomes of the programme.

8.17 In addition to the stipulations in the Course and Examination Regulations section 4.9, the following restrictions apply to exemptions in the degree programme of a student:

- the major research project cannot be an exemption
- the core courses cannot include any exemptions
- a maximum of 18 EC of exemptions can be included in the programme

MSc Computer Science

CROHO-number 60300

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2)

The MSc programme Computer Science is taught in Leiden by the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS).

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The general objective of the MSc programme Computer Science is to teach master's students sufficient knowledge, insight, and skills to work independently at an academic level as computer scientists, and to contribute in an original manner to recognizing, defining, and solving problems in specific knowledge areas of computer science, to discuss this contribution with experts in the field, and to inform non-specialists in a clear and unambiguous manner on their own ideas, goals and the public impact of their research, and to follow a PhD programme within the field of Computer Science and its adjacent areas.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The MSc programme Computer Science offers seven specialisations corresponding to major research themes at the LIACS: '*Advanced Computing and Systems (ACS)*', '*Artificial Intelligence (AI)*', '*Bioinformatics (BI)*', '*Data Science: Computer Science (DS)*', and '*Foundations of Computing (FoC)*'. The remaining two specialisations combine research in computer science with *Science Communication and Society (SCS)*, and *Education (EDU)*.

All specialisations have the same Programme Director, the same Board of Examiners, and the same Programme Committee. Exceptions to this are formed by the specialisations SCS and EDU, which for the specialisation-specific part each have their own specialisation coordinator and a Board of Examiners appointed by the Faculty of Science. A Board of Admissions will advise on admissions.

1.3 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science have attained the following general learning outcomes:

- a. theoretical and practical skills in more than one specialist area of computer science such that they can carry out research under overall supervision;
- b. the ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, formulate verifiable hypotheses, and set up and carry out research and critical reflection on one's own research and that of others;
- c. the ability to interrelate and integrate various areas of computer science;
- d. the ability to present clearly, verbally as well as in writing, one's own research results, and the ability to communicate with colleagues and to present their research results as a contribution to a congress or as (part of) a scientific publication;
- e. sufficient understanding of the social and societal role of computer science to be able to reflect upon it and in part consequently to come to an ethically sound attitude and corresponding execution of one's professional duties;

- f. have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

1.4 Programme duration and completion (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.5)

The duration of the *MSc programme Computer Science* is two years (120 EC). Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Computer Science, with a description of the specialisation. Students who complete any of the specialisations in Computer Science are admissible to a PhD programme in Computer Science or related fields.

1.5 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February.

1.6 Language of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.8)

The programme is taught in English with the exception of a few courses in the Education specialisation.

2. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

2.1 Confirmation of admission

2.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 2.2 and 2.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

2.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.¹⁶

2.2 Admission to the programme

2.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in Computer Science (Informatica) or Artificial Intelligence from a research university in the Netherlands, or
- b. holders of a bachelor's degree in a computer science-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of similar level, provided that the candidate has accumulated at least 90 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Computer Science, or
- c. holders of a bachelor's degree related to Computer Science or Artificial Intelligence and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to Article 2.4.1

¹⁶The Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes can be found on the website: [Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

2.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 2.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 2.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 2.2.4.

Article 2.2.2 may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) in computer science or bioinformatics related programmes. As a guideline for applicants with a Dutch hbo diploma, the hbo diploma should be obtained in the last five years and with an average final grade of at least 7.5. Deficiencies up to 30 EC can be compensated by means of a prescribed pre-master's programme (see Article 2.4).

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 2.2.1.b and Article 2.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- a letter in which the applicant explains that he/she possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in Article 2.2.1.a.

2.2.3 **Dutch and English languages**¹⁷

2.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

2.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 2.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

¹⁷ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection.¹⁸
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

2.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose native language is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or Staatsexamen Nt2 Programma II. The TUL examinations is organised by the Leiden University.

A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch.

2.2.3.4 The language requirements in 2.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 2.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 2.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 2.2.4, all students must meet it.

2.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

2.3 Deficiencies

2.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 2.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

2.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 2.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

2.3.3 For the admission referred to in 2.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

2.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 2.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

2.4 Pre-masters and educational module

2.4.1 The department has developed the following pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remove deficiencies:

- For students with a bachelor's degree related to Computer Science or Artificial Intelligence, the Board of Admissions may impose a pre-master's programme up to 30 EC, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, to be completed before admission to the MSc programme.

¹⁸ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteit.leiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteit.leiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

2.4.2 Information on the pre-master's programmes can be requested from the LIACS Education Office.

2.4.3 A student who has been awarded the degree of Bachelor or Master in Science Education and who meets the established requirements concerning sufficient cognation may be enrolled with the sole purpose of taking and completing the educational module in order to obtain a limited second-degree qualification.

2.4.4 The educational module is the responsibility of ICLON's examination board.

3. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and, depending on the specialisation, consists of a combination of compulsory core courses, elective courses and seminars, a master's thesis research project in computer science, and in two cases another component. The exact compositions of the programme's seven specialisations are detailed in Articles 4-11.

Most specialisations allow students to choose courses from the following master list of elective courses, henceforth referred to as *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science*. The elective courses and seminars on this list have level 400 – 500, and are 6 EC each. Note that part of the courses in the list below are mandatory for some of the specialisations; in that case they cannot be chosen as elective for that specialisation (i.e., each course can be part of a programme at most once, either as mandatory core course or as elective).

Elective courses and seminars Computer Science	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Advanced Data Management for Data Analysis	500	6	4343ADM DX
Advances in Data Mining	500	6	4343ADVDM
Applied Quantum Algorithms	500	6	4343APQAL
Audio Processing and Indexing	500	6	4343AUDIO
Automated Machine Learning	500	6	4343AUTMX
Bayesian Optimisation	500	6	4343BAYOP
Biological and Biomedical Informatics	500	6	4343BIBII
Bio-Modeling ¹⁹	500	6	4343BIOMD
Causal Inference for Computer Scientists	500	6	4343CAICS
Cloud Computing ¹⁹	500	6	4343CLCMP
Complex networks (BM)	400	6	4609COMNW
Computational Creativity	500	6	4383COMCR
Computational Imaging and Tomography ¹⁹	500	6	4343CIMTO
Computational Models and Semantics	500	6	4343CMS6X
Cryptographic Engineering	500	6	4343CRYPE
Distributed Systems	500	6	4343DISYS
Educational Technologies	500	6	4343EDTUC
Embedded Systems and Software ¹⁹	500	6	4343EMBSS
Evolutionary Algorithms	500	6	4343EVAL6
Foundations of Software Testing	500	6	4343FSWT6

¹⁹ This course has a limited capacity. Details on the admission procedure can be found in the prospectus.

High Performance Computing	500	6	4343HIPC6
Image Analysis with Applications in Microscopy	500	6	4343MMAV6
Information Retrieval	500	6	4343INFRE
Information Theoretic Data Mining ¹⁹	500	6	4343ITDM6
Introduction to Deep Learning	500	6	4343INTDL
Modern Game AI Algorithms	500	6	4343MGAIX
Multicriteria Optimization and Decision Analysis	500	6	4343MOADA
Multimedia Systems	500	6	4343MMSY6
Proof Formalisation	500	6	4343PROFO
Quantum Algorithms	500	6	4343QUALG
Recommender Systems	500	6	4343RECSY
Reinforcement Learning	500	6	4343REINL
Robotics	500	6	4343ROBO6
Seminar Advanced Deep Reinforcement Learning ¹⁹	500	6	4343SADRL
Seminar Advances in Deep Learning ¹⁹	500	6	4343SADL6
Seminar Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence ¹⁹	500	6	4343SMTAI
Social Network Analysis for Computer Scientists	500	6	4343SNACS
Software Development & Product Management	500	6	4353SWDPM
Software Verification	500	6	4343SWVER
Sports Data Science ¹⁹	500	6	4343SPDSC
System and Software Security	500	6	4343SYSSS
Text Mining	500	6	4343TXTMN
Urban Computing	500	6	4343URBC6
Video Games for Research	500	6	4383VGFR6

4. Specialisation Advanced Computing and Systems

4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2)

The master's specialisation *Advanced Computing and Systems* offers future-oriented topics in computer science with a focus on high performance computing, embedded systems, and cloud and distributed computing. This specialisation focuses on the computer systems of tomorrow. These include the driver of the internet of things, such as high-performance computers capable of simultaneously processing huge volumes of data, large database systems satisfying today's demands on data analysis, and embedded systems in which sensors and processors are integrated, making them 'smart' and sensitive to the change of the environment.

The main focus is on computing systems, which represents the unique expertise of one of the research groups of Leiden University. The strength of the programme is the individual possibility for each student to study other future-oriented topics in Foundations of Computing, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Science. This specialisation of the MSc programme Computer Science provides students with a thorough computer science background that will allow them to pursue careers in research or industrial environments.

4.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science with the specialisation *Advanced Computing and Systems* have obtained in-depth knowledge in programming high performance computers and embedded systems, and building multimedia systems.

4.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and consists of 1) six compulsory *Core courses Advanced Computing and Systems* (36 EC in total); 2) elective courses and seminars (42 EC in total), to be chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science*; and 3) a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science (second year; 42 EC). The choice of the elective courses may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the prior knowledge of the candidate.

Core courses Advanced Computing and Systems	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Cloud Computing	500	6	4343CLCMP
Cryptographic Engineering	500	6	4343CRYPE
Embedded Systems and Software	500	6	4343EMBSS
High Performance Computing	500	6	4343HIPC6
Multimedia Systems	500	6	4343MMSY6
System and Software Security	500	6	4343SYSSS

Master's thesis research project	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	500	42	4343MRP42

5. Specialisation Artificial Intelligence

5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2)

The master's specialisation *Artificial Intelligence* offers future-oriented topics in computer science with a focus on machine learning, optimization algorithms, and decision support techniques. Artificial intelligence techniques are capable of making incredibly accurate predictions on the basis of data they themselves have gathered. In other words, computers can learn without intervention once they have been pre-programmed by humans. In this specialisation we explore the borders of what a revolutionary new generation of artificial intelligent algorithms can achieve. The specialisation also deals with optimisation, which offers theory and methods for efficiently searching for the best configuration of a hard problem, e.g., to optimise some production process.

The main focus is on Machine Learning and Optimisation, which represent the unique expertise of several research groups of Leiden University. The strength of the programme is the individual possibility for each student to study other future-oriented topics in Advanced Computing and Systems, Foundations of Computing, and Data Science. This specialisation of the MSc programme Computer Science provides students with a thorough computer science background that will allow them to pursue careers in research or industrial environments.

5.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science with the specialisation *Artificial Intelligence* have obtained in-depth knowledge on deep and reinforcement learning methods, understanding the principles of evolutionary computation and its application for optimisation algorithms.

5.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and consists of 1) four compulsory *Core courses Artificial Intelligence* (24 EC in total); 2) one choice of two compulsory courses, either *Core Courses Algorithmic Artificial Intelligence* or *Core Courses Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence* (12 EC in total); 3) elective courses and seminars (42 EC in total), to be chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science* and/or *Elective courses and seminars Artificial Intelligence*; and 4) a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science (second year; 42 EC). The choice of the elective courses may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the prior knowledge of the candidate.

Core courses Artificial Intelligence	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Evolutionary Algorithms	500	6	4343EVAL6
Introduction to Deep Learning	500	6	4343INTDL
Modern Game AI Algorithms	500	6	4343MGAIX
Reinforcement Learning	500	6	4343REINL

Core courses Algorithmic Artificial Intelligence	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Automated Machine Learning	500	6	4343AUTMX
Multicriteria Optimization and Decision Analysis	500	6	4343MOADA

Core courses Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
AI in Society	500	6	4343AISOC
Computational Creativity	500	6	4383COMCR

Elective courses and seminars Artificial Intelligence	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Artificial Creatures ²⁰	500	4	4383ARTCR

Master's thesis research project	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	500	42	4343MRP42

6. Specialisation Bioinformatics

6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The focus of this programme is on data analysis and modelling of biological processes, which represents the unique expertise of the Bioinformatics research group at LIACS. This expertise is used to address issues like data acquisition, data warehousing, data analysis, data mining, and data

²⁰ This course has a limited capacity. Details on the admission procedure can be found in the prospectus.

modelling, which all have become major challenges in the field of bioinformatics due to the tremendous complexity and abundance of quantitative data in biology and medicine. On the other hand, bioinformatics heavily contributes to the identification of new fundamental computer science principles and the development of new informatics tools. Bioinformatics offers a unique new synthetic approach for formulating hypotheses and solving problems in (molecular-) biology versus the classical reductionist approach.

6.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science with the specialisation Bioinformatics have obtained in-depth knowledge of the core concepts of bioinformatics, including methods in computational biology, the design and mining of bio databases, the process and analysis of images, and the construction of mathematical models of biological systems.

6.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and consists of 1) six compulsory *Core courses Bioinformatics* (36 EC in total); 2) elective courses and seminars (42 EC in total), to be chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Bioinformatics*; and 3) a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science (second year; 42 EC). The choice of the elective courses may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the prior knowledge of the candidate, and the selection of the elective courses and seminars takes place in coordination with the Bioinformatics study adviser.

Core courses Bioinformatics	Level	EC	Catalogue nr
Advances in Data Mining	500	6	4343ADVDM
Bio-Modeling	500	6	4343BIOMD
Biological and Biomedical Informatics	500	6	4343BIBII
Evolutionary Algorithms	500	6	4343EVAL6
Image Analysis with Applications in Microscopy	500	6	4343MMAV6
Introduction to Deep Learning	500	6	4343INTDL
Elective courses and seminars Bioinformatics	Level	EC	Catalogue nr
Advanced Data Management for Data Analysis	500	6	4343ADMD
Automated Machine Learning	500	6	4343AUTM
Cloud Computing	500	6	4343CLCMP
Complex Networks (BM)	400	6	4609COMNW
Computational Imaging and Tomography	500	6	4343CIMTO
Educational Technologies	500	6	4343EDTUC
High-dimensional data analysis	500	6	4433HDDAN
Introductory Research Project ²¹	500	12/15/18	4343IRPRJ
Metabolic Network Analysis (BM)	400	6	4373CSMNA
Multicriteria Optimization and Decision Analysis	500	6	4343MOADA
Multiscale Mathematical Biology (BM)	400	6	4373MUBI6
Quantum Algorithms	500	6	4343QUALG
Reinforcement Learning	500	6	4343REINL
Seminar Advanced Deep Reinforcement Learning	500	6	4343SADRL

²¹ The topic of the project and the number of credits (12, 15 or 18 EC) have to be discussed and agreed upon with the Study Advisor.

Course and Examination Regulations Valid from 1 September 2024	Master degree programmes Appendix 1		
Seminar Advances in Deep Learning	500	6	4343SADL6
Seminar Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence ²²	500	6	4343SMTAI
Social Network Analysis for Computer Scientists	500	6	4343SNACS
Statistical Genetics	500	6	4433STAGE
Text Mining	500	6	4343TXTMN
Master's thesis research project	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	600	42	4343MRP42

7. Specialisation Data Science: Computer Science

7.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The focus of the *Data Science* master's specialisation is on state-of-the-art knowledge on the foundations and algorithmic aspects of data mining, machine learning, and statistical data analysis. Data science is an interdisciplinary discipline at the intersection of statistical science and computer science aiming at discovering knowledge from typically large sets of structured or unstructured data. To achieve this goal, data scientists combine statistical methods and machine learning with exploration and optimization algorithms from computer science.

The specialisation *Data Science: Computer Science* equips students interested in data analysis with state-of-the-art knowledge in advanced statistical techniques, machine learning, and algorithmic aspects of data analysis. The strength of the programme is the individual possibility for each student to study other future-oriented topics in Advanced Computing and Systems, Foundations of Computing, and Artificial Intelligence.

7.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science with the specialisation Data Science: Computer Science have obtained in-depth knowledge of data management, have a thorough understanding of algorithmic analysis of data and are able to develop new data models and techniques and execute data analysis.

7.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and consists of 1) six compulsory *Core courses Data Science* (36 EC in total); 2) elective courses and seminars (42 EC in total), to be chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science* and/or *Elective courses and seminars Data Science*; and 3) a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science (second year; 42 EC). The choice of the elective courses may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the prior knowledge of the candidate.

Core courses Data Science	Level	EC	Catalogue nr
Advances in Data Mining	500	6	4343ADVDM
Information Retrieval	500	6	4343INFRE
Introduction to Deep Learning	500	6	4343INTDL
Reinforcement Learning	500	6	4343REINL

²² This course has a limited capacity. Details on the admission procedure can be found in the prospectus.

Course and Examination Regulations
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Master degree programmes
Appendix 1

Social Network Analysis for Computer Scientists	500	6	4343SNACS
Text Mining	500	6	4343TXTMN

Elective courses and seminars Data Science

	Level	EC	Catalogue nr
Causal Inference I	500	3	4433CASINY
Computational Statistics	500	3	4433COMSTY
Data Science in Practice	500	6	4343DASPR
Data Visualisation	500	6	4433DAVIS
Linear & Generalized Linear Models	400	6	4433LGLM6
Exploratory Data Analysis	500	6	4433EXDAN
Statistical Learning	500	6	4433STLT6

Master's thesis research project

Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	Level 500	EC 42	Catalogue nr. 4343MRP42
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8. Specialisation Foundations of Computing

8.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2)

The master's specialisation *Foundations of Computing* focuses on the core concepts of computing, their applications in AI, quantum computing, parallel computing, and in verification and testing to ensure correctness of digital systems. By focusing on core concepts that transcend the boundaries of various Computer Science fields, the Foundations specialisation prepares you for an inter-disciplinary future. In particular, students will learn to model complex software systems and apply automated proof techniques to verify their correctness, thereby increasing trust in digital systems. Using the power of symbolic computation, the specialisation tackles hard computational problems and lays the basis to realise reasoning for artificial intelligence. It also equips students with knowledge of concurrency required to analyse parallel systems, but also with knowledge about non-deterministic, probabilistic and quantum computational models, all with the goal of solving problems more efficiently than with classical techniques.

The Foundations of Computing specialisation offers a unique blend of state-of-the-art topics in Computer Science reflecting the unique expertise of one of the research groups of Leiden University. The strength of the programme is the individual possibility for each student to study other future-oriented topics in Advanced Computing and Systems, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Science. The programme provides students with a thorough computer science background that will allow them to pursue careers in research or industrial environments, and will give them the ability to handle future technologies and to work across disciplines.

8.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science with the specialisation *Foundations of Computing* have obtained in-depth knowledge of verification methods and modelling techniques, and understanding of advanced data structures and algorithms.

8.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and consists of 1) six compulsory *Core courses Foundations of Computing* (36 EC in total); 2) elective courses and seminars (42 EC in total), to be chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science*; and 3) a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science (second year; 42 EC). The choice of the elective courses may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the prior knowledge of the candidate.

Core courses Foundations of Computing	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Computational Models and Semantics	500	6	4343CMS6
Foundations of Software Testing	500	6	4343FSWT6
Modern Game AI Algorithms	500	6	4343MGAI
Proof Formalisation	500	6	4343PROFO
Quantum Algorithms	500	6	4343QUALG
Software Verification	500	6	4343SWVER

Master's thesis research project	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	500	42	4343MRP42

9. Specialisation Computer Science and Science Communication and Society

9.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation *Computer Science and Science Communication and Society* (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine computer science and science communication. Students are prepared for a career in the area of science communication or for a career as a scientist with a communication mind-set.

Students who complete the specialisation *Computer Science and Science Communication and Society* are admissible to a PhD programme in computer science or in science communication.

9.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to the general achievements, graduates of the *MSc programme Computer Science* with the specialisation *Science Communication and Society* have reached the following specific achievement levels:

1. Knowledge of the relationship between science & society through science communication frameworks and transdisciplinary perspectives.
2. Experience with these frameworks and skills to apply them in practice, e.g. in science journalism, visual communication, or in informal science education.
3. Basic skills in performing science communication research independently.

9.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The *Computer Science and Science Communication and Society* (SCS) programme consists of:

- a minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC of courses chosen from the *SCS component*;
- at least 30 EC of elective courses and seminars chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science*, to be selected in correspondence with the Master's thesis research topic;
- a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science of 30 EC.

SCS component	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Informal Science Education*	500	4	4603SCISE
Policy & Development in science and Society*	500	4	4603SCPDS
Research in Science Communication*	500	4	4603SCRSC
Science Journalism (ENG)*	500	4	4603SCSJ4
Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)*	500	4	4603SCSWJ
Science Communication product development**	500	4	4603SCPRD
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society*	500	3	4603SCIM3
<i>Internship</i>			
SCS Project Proposal	600	3	4603SCSPP
SCS Internship(s)	600	14-34	4603SCSS1 4603SCSS2
<i>Additional elective</i>			
SCS Elective ²³	400-500	1-10	4603SCSEL

* **SCS courses** are available as elective course for students who don't follow the SCS specialisation.

** the course **Science Communication product development** is only admissible for students who have completed all other SCS courses.

Master's thesis research project	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	500	30	4343MRP30

A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

10. Specialisation Computer Science and Education

10.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation *Computer Science and Education* (EDU) is offered as a joint programme with the Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching (ICLON). It prepares students for a career as computer science (in Dutch: 'informatica') teacher. This programme leads up to the so-called "eerstegraads onderwijsbevoegdheid", qualifying the student to teach in Dutch upper secondary education.

10.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

In addition to general achievements, graduates of the MSc programme Computer Science with the specialisation Education have all qualifications necessary for teaching all years of secondary education and technical and vocational training (for 12–18 year-olds).

10.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The *Computer Science and Education* programme consists of:

- 30 EC of elective courses and seminars chosen from *Elective courses and seminars Computer Science*, to be selected in correspondence with the Master's thesis research topic;
- a *Master's Thesis Research Project* in computer science of 30 EC; and
- the *Education component* as described [here](#).

²³ Needs a project proposal and approval from an SCS supervisor before the start. See the prospectus for details.

Master's thesis research project	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Master's Thesis Research Project (including Master Class, written thesis and oral presentation)	500	30	4343MRP30

The *Computer Science component* of the programme will be followed during the first year of study, the *Education component* will be followed during the second year.

When the student has passed the *minor Education* (30 EC) during the BSc programme, the compulsory Education component is reduced by 30 EC. The remaining 30 EC can be used for both the Computer Science and/or Education component of the Master's programme.

A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

11. Transitional Agreements

11.1 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

From 1 September 2020, the specialisation *Computer Science and Advanced Data Analytics* is no longer available to new students in the MSc Computer Science programme. Students who started this specialisation on 1 September 2019 or 1 February 2020 change specialisation based on the core component they chose: *Advanced Computing and Systems*, *Artificial Intelligence*, and *Foundations of Computing* change to the specialisation with the same name, while *Advanced Data Analytics* changes to *Data Science: Computer Science*. For students who started before 1 September 2019, the programme consists of elective courses and seminars Computer Science (78 EC in total, from the list in Article 3), and a *Master's Thesis Research Project* (second year; 42 EC).

11.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

General changes

Students who started before 1 September 2020 may choose to replace the *Introductory Research Project* (18 EC) with 18 EC of elective courses and seminars.

Core course changes

Students *Advanced Computing and Systems* who started before 1 September 2023 may choose to replace *Distributed Data Processing Systems* with *System and Software Security*.

Students *Advanced Computing and Systems* who started before 1 September 2022 may choose to replace *High Performance Computing II* with *Cryptographic Engineering*.

Students *Data Science: Computer Science* who started before 1 September 2021 are allowed to replace the *Core courses Data Science* with any six courses worth 36 EC from (1) the current core courses (as listed in Article 7.3), and (2) *Computational Statistics*, *Information Theoretic Data Mining*, *Information Retrieval*, *Introduction to Deep Learning*, *Linear & Generalized Linear Models* and *Linear Algebra*, and *Statistical Learning*.

Students *Foundations of Computing* who started before 1 September 2024 may choose to replace *Seminar Combinatorial Algorithms* with *Proof Formalisation*.

Students *Foundations of Computing* who started before 1 September 2021 may choose to replace *Concurrency and Causality* with *Modern Game AI Algorithms*.

Course name changes

Below is a list of course list name changes, per academic year. In all cases, the course with the new name is considered equivalent to the old one.

As of 1 September 2024, the following course name change came into effect:

- *High Performance Computing I* was renamed to *High Performance Computing*.

As of 1 September 2023, the following course name changes came into effect:

- *Advanced Statistical Computing* was renamed to *Computational Statistics*;
- *Missing Data and Causal Inference* was renamed to *Causal Inference*; and
- *Multivariate and Multidimensional Data Analysis* was renamed to *Nonlinear (Mixed) Data Analysis*.

As of 1 September 2022, the following course name changes came into effect:

- *Advances in Deep Learning* was renamed to *Seminar Advances in Deep Learning*; and
- *Computational Molecular Biology* was renamed to *Biological and Biomedical Informatics*.

As of 1 September 2021, the following course name changes came into effect:

- *Information Retrieval and Text Analytics* was renamed to *Information Retrieval*.

As of 1 September 2020, the following course name changes came into effect:

- *Advances in Model Checking* was renamed to *Software Verification*;
- *Deep Learning and Neural Networks* was renamed to *Introduction to Deep Learning*;
- *Introduction to Data Science [for Computer Scientists]* was renamed to *Data Science in Practice*.

MSc Governance of Sustainability

CROHO-number 60965

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc programme is instituted in the Faculty of Science of Leiden University, herein referred to as the Faculty, and taught in The Hague by the Institute of Public Administration, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, and by the Institute of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science.

The duration of the programme is two years (120 ECTS). Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Governance of Sustainability.

The goal of the master programme Governance of Sustainability is to provide students with a thorough basis in natural sciences and in governance needed to handle the grand challenges regarding sustainability. Students learn how to analyse these complex issues from both perspectives and how to integrate these perspectives in order to develop and improve the quality of governance solutions needed to converge to a sustainable society. In addition, you will acquire a variety of skills required to cope with sustainability problems and to develop oneself into a future 'change agent'.

1.1 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Knowledge and understanding

The student has a thorough knowledge of:

1. The technical and scientific aspects of the key sustainability issues. These issues include among others materials and circular economy, biodiversity and ecosystems, climate and energy and toxicity and water.
2. The key concepts and theories that are relevant to understanding governance processes. These concepts and theories include among others institutions and policy cycles, decision making and governance networks, global governance and multi-level analysis and policy framing.

The student is able to:

3. Recognize normative and culture positions of all actors involved in the governance of sustainability – both academics and practitioners.
4. Select and apply a variety of social science and natural science methods to evaluate sustainability issues, such as Environmental Input-Output Analyses, Spatial analyses, Network, Stakeholder and Multi-level analyses.
5. Explain why sustainability issues are complex problems, starting from an integrated analysis of both the natural and the social sciences.
6. Understand how sustainability issues are constrained and enabled by multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance settings and policy processes.
7. Explain which theories, concepts, and data from the natural sciences is -or could be- applied in transnational, national and local governance processes.
8. Analyse a complex sustainability issue and combine knowledge and methods from various disciplines to come to an integrated proposal for governance solution for the issue at hand.
9. Formulate integrated and innovative solutions and implementation pathways regarding sustainability issues.

Skills

The student is able to:

10. Operate within a transdisciplinary and diverse international context.
11. Design and carry out in-depth research on sustainability issues, starting from a set of concepts, theories and research methods based on either the natural or the social sciences, or from a combined approach.
12. Execute integrative scientific research projects (design, organize, execute, analyse and report).
13. Convincingly communicate results from scientific research about sustainability issues to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
14. Argue a well-considered stance on the governance of sustainability issues, making use of the relevant disciplines.
15. Recognise, respect and use individual and cultural differences within a team.

Judgement

A student is able to:

16. Make an integral and critical assessment of available scientific knowledge and knowledge about governance processes to make judgements about sustainability issues.
17. Compare different transnational, national and local governance settings, policy approaches and institutions to address sustainability issues and apply the most suitable approach.
18. Critically reflect on ethical and normative dimensions regarding the governance of sustainability issues and the associated questions of complexity and uncertainty.
19. Act according to the different normative and culture positions of all actors involved in the governance of sustainability.

Learning skills

A student:

20. Has a positive attitude and openness towards self-directed and life-long learning.
21. Is able to design and plan their own learning processes by virtue of continuous reflection on personal knowledge, skills, attitudes and performance.
22. Is able to study independently and explore new areas of interest regarding the governance of sustainability issues.

2. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

The programme starts in September and has a second intake in February. Admission in September is however preferred. The two faculty boards will jointly appoint the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions consists of at least two members: at least one staff member from each faculty. The Board of Admissions will judge the qualifications of the applicants on the basis of their previous training.

2.1 Confirmation of admission

2.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 2.2 and 2.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum

number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

2.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.²⁴

2.2 Admission to the programme

2.2.1

Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university in the Netherlands, or from a foreign research university of similar level, provided the student has at least 8 ECTS credits distributed over the domains mathematics, programming or statistics, and additionally demonstrable knowledge of environmental sustainability issues on an academic level and experience with inter- or transdisciplinary education and research as further described in article 2.2.3.1.

2.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 2.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 2.2.1, The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 2.2.4.

This may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) in the Netherlands, or from a foreign University of Applied Sciences of similar level and length of studies. The hbo diploma has to be obtained with a grade point average of at least 7.5.

2.2.3 Dutch and English languages²⁵

2.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;

²⁴[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

²⁵ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

2.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the abovementioned language requirements, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum overall score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;²⁶
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

2.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose mother tongue is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd*- or *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II.

2.2.3.4 The language level in 2.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 2.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 2.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 2.2.4, all students must meet it.

2.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

2.2.4.1 In addition to the aforementioned requirements in articles 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- a. Demonstrable knowledge of environmental sustainability issues on an academic level. This knowledge can be demonstrated through, for instance, successfully completed (elective) courses, a minor, major, a (thesis) research project, internship or work experience where concrete knowledge has been gained about environmental sustainability.
- b. Demonstrable experience with inter- or trans-disciplinary education and research. This experience can be demonstrated through, for instance, successfully completed (elective) courses, a minor, major, a (thesis) research project, internship, or work experience in an area relevant to environmental sustainability challenges together with professionals or students from various disciplinary backgrounds.
- c. Passed one or multiple courses that included a minimum of 8 ECTS of mathematics, programming and/or statistics aiming at learning the necessary calculations. Applications within a research project (such as a thesis, internship, integrated project or challenge) without formal training do not fulfil this requirement.

²⁶ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteit.leiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteit.leiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

2.2.4.2 These qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) will be measured or assessed according to the following method:

- The Board of admissions of the programme will assess the knowledge of environmental sustainability issues by means of a transcript of records of the applicant's previous education and/or a description of the knowledge acquired evident from the motivation letter.
- The Board of admissions of the programme will assess the experience with inter- or trans-disciplinary education and research by means of a transcript of records of the applicants' previous education and/or a description of the knowledge acquired evident from the motivation letter.
- The Board of admissions of the programme will assess the courses including a minimum of 8 EC on mathematics, programming and/or statistics by means of a transcript of records of the applicants' previous education.

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 2.2.1 and 2.2.2. are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- a motivation letter which elaborates on the qualitative admission requirements specified above.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant meets the aforementioned qualitative requirements.

The deadline for the fulfilment of the qualitative admission requirements mentioned above is before the start of the academic year in which the student starts the programme. The deadline for fulfilment of the qualitative admission requirements for students who need a visa or residence permit for their stay in the Netherlands is the deadline for submitting the visa and/or residence permit application to Leiden University (i.e. 1 June for a programme starting in September). In both cases, applicants need to elaborate on the qualitative admission requirements in their letter when applying for the programme.

2.3 Deficiencies

2.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a Dutch or foreign research university with a maximum of 15 ECTS of deficiencies may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

2.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 2.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

2.3.3 For the admission referred to in 2.3.1, the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

2.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 2.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

2.4 Pre-masters and educational module

Not applicable.

3. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme consists of compulsory courses (78 ECTS), electives (12 ECTS) and a thesis research project (30 ECTS). The programme is outlined below.

	Course code	Level	EC
First year			
Thematic course 1: Materials and Circular Economy	4443THC01	500	12
Transdisciplinary Skills	4443TRADS	500	6
Thematic course 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems	4443THC02	500	12
Thematic course 3: Climate Change and Energy Transition	4443THC03	500	12
Qualitative Research Skills	4443QUALR	500	6
Thematic course 4: Water and Toxicity	4443THC04	500	12
Second year			
Quantitative Research Skills	4443QRSK8	500	8
Sustainability Challenge	4443GSUCH	600	10
Thesis Research Project	4443THRPR	600	30
Electives			12
Nitrogen and Sustainability	4443NISUS	500	3
Sustainability, Power and Place	4443SUPAP	500	6
Public Health and the Ecology of Disease	4443PHEC6	500	6
Capita Selecta	4443CS02XY	500	2
Capita Selecta	4443CS03XY	500	3
Capita Selecta	4443CS04XY	500	4
Capita Selecta	4443CS05XY	500	5
Capita Selecta	4443CS06XY	500	6

Transitional arrangements

Course credits changes

3.0.1 As of September 2024, the number of EC for Quantitative Research Skills (QUAN) and Sustainability Challenge (SUSCH) has changed, see below:

Second year	Course code	Level	EC		Second year	Course code	Level	EC
Quantitative Research Skills	4443QUANR	500	6	→	Quantitative Research Skills	4443QRSK8	500	8
Sustainability Challenge	4443SUSCH	600	12	→	Sustainability Challenge	4443GSUCH	600	10

3.0.2 Students who have completed QUAN before September 2024 (6 EC), but follow SUSCH in or after 2024-2025 (10 EC) will miss 2 EC. These can be obtained via a compensatory assignment for SUSCH in consultation with the course coordinator, or by extending the elective space (14 EC instead of 12 EC).

3.1 Requirements second year

- To participate in the Sustainability Challenge and Quantitative Research Skills course, students need to have completed at least 48 ECTS of the first year courses of the Governance of Sustainability programme.
- To participate in the Thesis Research Project, students need to meet all of the following requirements:
 - completed at least 48 ECTS of the first year courses of the Governance of Sustainability programme
 - participated in the Qualitative Research Skills course
 - sufficiently completed at least one of the assignments within the Quantitative Research Skills course

3.2 Electives

Students have to complete at least 12 ECTS of electives. The electives have to be approved by the Board of Examiners before the start of the study components and must meet the following criteria:

1. The elective course should be on Master level (similar to a Master level at a Dutch research university);
2. The elective course should not show a (considerable) overlap with or replace compulsory courses or other chosen electives;
3. The elective course should:
 - a. Deepen the understanding in governance, or;
 - b. Deepen the understanding in natural science aspects of sustainability, or;
 - c. Improve non-transferable or transferable skills needed to become a knowledge broker or change agent, or;
 - d. Gather topical knowledge on the masters' thesis research.
4. An elective course cannot be more than 12 ECTS. The total EC of electives may however exceed 12 ECTS. If this is the case, exceeding credits will be noted as extra-curricular.

3.3 Compulsory and optional components

- If a large difference exists between the expected and actual enrolment of students in a mandatory component, the programme management can decide to change the format of teaching methods and assessment.
- If a large difference exists between the expected and actual enrolment of students in a non-mandatory, elective component, the institute's board that offers this elective component may decide not to offer this component or to offer it in a different form; in this case, students will be informed before the start of the component and will be offered an alternative.

3.4 Exemptions from examinations and/or practicals

Article 4.9 of the Faculty of Science Course and Examinations Regulations for Master's Programmes describes the possibility to grant a student an exemption from an examination of practical. An exemption will not be granted for the four first year thematic courses and the second year course Thesis Research Project.

3.5 Capita Selecta

A Capita Selecta introduces a new topic that is not treated elsewhere within the MSc Governance of Sustainability curriculum. It is an additional piece of work which is not covered by any other (elective) courses or part of the programme, and may allow students to broaden or deepen their knowledge and skills. A capita selecta can be proposed by a student, or by a scientific staff member, and can be conducted individually (by one student), or by a group of students. Within Governance of Sustainability a capita selecta can have the value of 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 ECTS. All capita selecta's need to be approved by the Board of Examiners and supervised and assessed by a Governance of Sustainability core examiner. If approved by the Board of Examiners, a capita selecta can be used as part of the 12 ECTS elective space.

The Capita Selecta is bound to a number of criteria:

1. It should contain specific and realistic learning objectives (to be approved by the Board of Examiners). Within these, it should be clear through the learning objectives why the capita is worth 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 ECTS (workload). Furthermore, the final product(s) should be specified.
2. Specific and realistic assessment methods and assessment criteria should be defined (to be approved by the BoE), coupled to the learning objectives and allowing evaluation by the BoE.
3. Similar to elective courses, a Capita Selecta should allow a student of Governance of Sustainability to broaden or deepen the knowledge and skills taught in the curriculum. This will be evaluated through the formulation of learning objectives, contents (teaching method/final product) and assessment methods and criteria.

3.6 Validity of interim examinations

The validity period of a partial grade is limited until the end of the academic year in which the interim examination was obtained. If the learning outcomes and assessment method of the course component have not changed, students can request additional exemption with the Board of Examiners.

MSc ICT in Business and the Public Sector

CROHO-number 60205

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc *ICT in Business and the Public Sector* is offered by the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS) as a two-year research master on the management and application of ICT in an organizational context.

Over the last years, rapid changes in information and communication technology (ICT) have created major challenges and opportunities for all kinds of organisations, industries, and individuals. To thrive in our modern information society, businesses and governmental organisations alike must combine a solid grasp of the evolving technological possibilities with a deep understanding of how to apply effectively and responsibly these in an organisational context.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art 2.1)

The MSc *ICT in Business and the Public Sector* aims at providing a deeper understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities in this area, with a specific focus on the management and alignment of ICT in a business and/or governmental context. The programme builds on a technical foundation of Computer Science that students bring from their bachelor's education.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The MSc *ICT in Business and the Public Sector* offers the following two specialisations:

- ICT in Business
- ICT in the Public Sector

The specialisations *Business Studies*, *Science Communication and Society*, and *Education* are not available to students of the MSc *ICT in Business and the Public Sector*.

1.3 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Graduates of the master programme *ICT in Business and the Public Sector* have attained the following general learning outcomes:

- a. theoretical knowledge and practical skills in more than one specialist area of business, management and information and communication technology such that they can carry out research under overall supervision;
- b. the ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, formulate verifiable hypotheses, and set up and carry out research and critical reflection on one's own research and that of others;
- c. the ability to interrelate and integrate various areas of management and information and communication technology;
- d. the ability to present clearly, verbally as well as in writing, one's own research results, and the ability to communicate with colleagues and to present their research results as a contribution to a conference or as (part of) a scientific publication;
- e. sufficient understanding of the social and societal role of ICT in an organizational context to be able to reflect upon it and in part consequently to come to an ethically sound attitude and corresponding execution of one's professional duties;

- f. have the learning skills to allow one to continue to study in a manner that is largely self-directed or autonomous.

Graduates with the specialisation *ICT in Business* have obtained in-depth knowledge on how ICT enables innovations in all business areas including marketing, operations, finance, strategy and IT itself, and have developed practical skills and experience in applying these concepts in the context of private organisations. Graduates with the specialisation *ICT in the Public Sector* have obtained in-depth knowledge on areas relevant in the public domain such as politico-administrative relations, European procurement, and data-driven policy development, and have developed practical skills and experience in applying these concepts on an administrative and managerial level.

1.4 Programme duration and completion (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.5)

The duration of the programme, is two years (120 EC). Most courses are organised on campus in Leiden, some courses are organised in The Hague. Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in ICT in Business and the Public Sector, with a description of the specialisation.

1.5 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February. However, they are strongly encouraged to start in September when most of the compulsory courses are scheduled.

1.6 Language of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.8)

The programme is taught entirely in English.

2. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme is 120 EC in extent and consists of several course-work modules for a total of 82 EC, and a master's thesis research project of 38 EC. The research project should be supervised by at least one LIACS scientific staff member (or by a supervisor approved by the Board of Examiners) and can be an in-company project. The course-work modules cover methodological issues, foundational and advanced business-related topics, and foundational and advanced ICT related topics. Elective courses on ICT, business and governmental topics allow students to individualise their programme and accommodate their specific interests. In addition, there are possibilities to customise the programme through international exchange programmes.

Curriculum outline ICT in Business and the Public Sector

The curriculum depends on the student's background. Students with a business background follow the *foundation courses on ICT* (12 EC total). Students with an ICT background follow the *foundation courses on Business* (12 EC total). Students with a bachelor degree '*Informatica & Economie*' from Leiden University are exempted from the courses in the foundation modules. These students follow additional electives instead for 15 EC. Students who choose for the specialisation *ICT in Business* need to take all courses from the *Module specialisation ICT in Business* (15 EC in total), whereas students who choose for the specialisation *ICT in the Public Sector* take all courses from the *Module specialisation ICT in the Public Sector* (15 EC in total). Students who choose both specialisations have to take all specialisation courses from both specialisations resulting in a total of 144 ECTS.

Main courses	Catalogue nr.	EC	LEVEL
Applied Research Methodology	4353APRM4	4	500
Capstone Cases ²⁷	4353CSC4V	4	500
Cyber Security Management	4353CYBSM	3	500
Enterprise Architecture	4353ENTAR	6	500
Global Business game	4353GBGR1	1	400
ICT Enabled Process Innovation	4353ICTP3	3	500
Leading and Managing People	4603BSLM5	5	500
Machine Learning for Business Analytics	4353MLBA3	3	500
Research Methods	4603BSRM5	5	500
Software Development and Product Management	4353SWDPM	6	500
Model-Driven Systems Engineering	4353MDSE6	6	500
Workshop Cross Cultural Management	n.a.	0	n.a.
<i>Module Foundation Business or Module Foundation ICT (see below)</i> ²⁸		12	500
<i>Module specialisation ICT in Business or ICT in the Public Sector (see below)</i>		15	500
Electives		9	500
Master Thesis Research Project	4353MRI38	38	600
Total		120	

Module Foundation Business	Catalogue nr.	EC	LEVEL
Marketing Science	4603BSMK3	3	500
Operations Management	4603BSOM4	4	500
Strategy and Technology	4603BSSAT	5	500
Total		12	

Module Foundation ICT	Catalogue nr.	EC	LEVEL
Foundations of Software Testing	4343FSWT6	6	500
Introduction to Machine Learning	4343INTML	6	500
Total		12	

Module specialisation ICT in Business	Catalogue nr.	EC	LEVEL
AI for Strategy	4603BSAS3	3	500
Entrepreneurship	4603BSEN3	3	500
Managing Software Evolution	4353MNSE3	3	500
Strategic Financial Management ²⁹	4603BSSF3	3	500
Systems Optimisation	4603BSSO3	3	500
Total		15	

²⁷ As of September 2020 the course *Capstone Cases* is 4 EC worth (it was 3 EC). Students who have followed a previous version of this course before September 2020 but have not yet passed it, can still get 4 EC (instead of 3 EC) under the condition that they take the extra two *Consultancy classes* that will be organized in the new *Capstone Case* course. Arrangements for this need to be made via the programme coordinator.

²⁸ Students that would like to make a combination of the two foundation modules due to their prior education have to contact the programme coordinator in advance.

²⁹ Students with a bachelor degree '*Informatica & Economie*' from Leiden University are exempted from the course *Strategic Financial Management* and follow within this module 3 extra EC as elective courses instead of 9 EC.

Module specialisation ICT in the Public Sector	Catalogue nr.	EC	LEVEL
Data-Driven Policy Making	4353DDPM6	6	500
Digital Government Citizen Interaction	4353DGCI3	3	500
Role of IT in Public Administration	4353RITPA	6	500
Total		15	

Electives	Catalogue nr.	EC	LEVEL
Advances in Datamining	4343ADVDM	6	500
Data Science in Practice	4343DASPR	6	500
Digital Transformations	4603BSDT5	5	500
Financing Technology Ventures	4603BSFT3	3	500
Information Retrieval	4343INFRE	6	500
Lean Six Sigma	4603BSLS3	3	500
Management Science	4603BSMS3	3	500
Managing Software Evolution	4353MNSE3	3	500
Marketing Analytics	4603BSMAA	3	500
Regulatory Governance and Data Science	4353RGDS6	6	500
Reinforcement Learning	4343REINL	6	500
Social Network Analysis for Computer Scientists	4343SNACS	6	500
System and Software Security	4343SYSSS	6	500

Students that wish to take other electives than those listed above need to submit their course selection to the Board of Examiners.

2.1 Transitional arrangements

As of September 1st, 2024, the course *Process Modelling* has been removed from the module Foundation ICT and *Accounting* has been removed from the module Foundation Business, and in the core module, the 3 EC course *Systems Development* has been replaced by the 6 EC course *Model-Driven Systems Engineering*. Students that previously completed *Process Modelling* or *Accounting* but not *Systems Development* must now complete *Model-Driven Systems Engineering* and can reduce their elective space with 3EC.

Students who completed *Advances in Datamining* before September 2023 do not need to follow *Cyber Security Management* and *Machine Learning for Business Analytics*.

Students who started before 1 September 2021 and have already successfully completed the previously mandatory courses *Managing Innovation* or *Managing the Digital Business* do not need to follow *Managing Software Evolution* or *AI for Strategy*.

Post Experience

As of 2019-2020, the *Post Experience* programme (for candidates with working experience) is no longer offered. Current *Post Experience* students (starting September 2017 and earlier) will be enabled to finish their studies.

Course renaming

As of September 1st, 2024, the following course has been renamed: *Enterprise Architecture* (was *ICT Architectures*). The previously completed course is considered to be equivalent.

As of September 1st, 2023, the following course has been renamed: *Cyber Security Management* (was *Cyber Security*). The previously completed course is considered to be equivalent.

As of September 1st, 2022, the following course has been renamed: *Machine Learning for Business Analytics* (was *Business Intelligence*), *Financing Technology Ventures* (was *Entrepreneurial Finance*). Previously completed courses are considered equivalent to those renamed in September 2022.

As of September 1st, 2021, the following courses have been renamed: *Strategy and Technology* (was *Strategy*), *Marketing Science* (was *Marketing*), *Strategic Financial Management* (was *Financial Management*), and *Operations Management* (was *Technology Operations Management*). Previously completed courses are considered equivalent to those renamed in September 2021.

Course credit changes

From September 2022 *Data-Driven Policy Making* changed to 6 EC instead of 3 in the previous years. Students following Public Sector specialisation who successfully completed the 3 EC version of *Data-Driven Policy Making* before September 2022 will be allowed to follow an elective of 3 EC in order to obtain the 15 EC specialisation credits after consulting the program coordinator.

3. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

3.1 Confirmation of admission

3.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 3.2 and 3.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

3.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.³⁰

3.2 Admission to the programme

3.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in Computer Science (Informatica) from a research university in the Netherlands, or
- b. holders of a bachelor's degree in a computer science-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of similar level provided that the candidate has accumulated at least 90 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Computer Science (including knowledge of mathematics, statistics, programming and software engineering skills).
- c. Holders of a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to Article 3.4.1

³⁰[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

3.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 3.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 3.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 3.2.4.

Article 3.2.2 may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) in computer science or business information science-related programmes. As a guideline for applicants with a Dutch hbo diploma, the hbo diploma has to be obtained within a maximum of five years and with an average final grade of at least 7.5.

Admission procedure

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.1.b and Article 3.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- a letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge and skills as holders of a degree specified in 3.2.1.a.

3.2.3 Dutch and English languages³¹

3.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

3.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 3.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;

³¹ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for individual subsection.³²
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

3.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose native language is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or *Staatsexamen Nt2 Programma II*. The TUL examinations is organised by the Leiden University.

A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement.

The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch.

3.2.3.4 The language requirements in 3.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 3.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 3.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 3.2.4, all students must meet it.

3.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

3.3 Deficiencies

3.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 3.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 3.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

3.3.3 For the admission referred to in 3.3.1, the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

3.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 3.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

3.4 Pre-masters and educational module

3.4.1 The department has developed the following premaster's programme in order to remove deficiencies:

³² See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteit.leiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteit.leiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

- For students with bachelor's degrees related to Computer Science the Board of Admissions may impose a Pre-Master's programme, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, before admission into the MSc programme.
- A lack of (Python) programming and/or Software Engineering skills will need to be addressed in the bridging programme.

3.4.2 Information on the premaster's programme can be requested from the LIACS Education Office.

3.4.3 A student who has been awarded the degree of Bachelor or Master in Science Education and who meets the established requirements concerning sufficient cognation may be enrolled with the sole purpose of taking and completing the educational module in order to obtain a limited second-degree qualification.

3.4.4 The educational module is the responsibility of ICLON's examination board.

MSc Life Science and Technology

CROHO-number 66286

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The Leiden Institute of Chemistry (LIC) forms the basis for research and collaborations of the Leiden chemistry and life sciences groups. The LIC offers two MSc programmes, namely the MSc Life Science and Technology and the MSc Chemistry. The programme Life Science and Technology concerns the study and manipulation of processes occurring in the living cell. The cell is the building block of life; it is the smallest unit with the characteristics of living systems. Increased knowledge of the mechanisms of processes in the cell can lead to better medicines or new methods for combating diseases. The MSc programme LST fits within the Leiden University research area “BioScience: Science base of Health”.

Research topics in *Life Science and Technology* within the LIC comprise chemical and biomolecular synthesis and design combined with cell and chemical biology research. Thereby an unprecedented foundation is created for understanding the fundamental cellular processes and mechanisms underlying diseases, as well as knowledge of and skills in the technology to manipulate these systems for therapeutic purposes. At the core of our modern understanding of health and disease are studies on protein-protein interactions, synthesis and manipulation of protein structures, the use of novel chemical probes and inhibitors, the study of the effects of these potential drugs in cells and application of bio(medical) informatics. Our MSc students specifically learn to understand the molecular and structural chemical and biological aspects of disease-related processes and will be able to apply chemical and biotechnological tools to the treatment of diseases. The molecular insight of MSc LST students is highly appreciated by research groups in institutes such as LUMC and ErasmusMC and in research institutes abroad.

A variety of molecularly based, disease-related research training projects can be carried out at the LIC or alternatively at LACDR, IBL, LUMC, the Dutch Cancer Institute (NKI) or ErasmusMC. Detailed information concerning the LST-related research topics that are investigated at the LIC can be found on the websites of the research groups, via <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/science/chemistry/>.

1.1. Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The MSc LST programme offers four specialisations: Life Science Research and Development (RESEARCH), Life Science and Business Studies (BS), Life Science and Science Communication and Society (SCS) and Life Science and Education (EDU). The duration of each specialisation is two years (120 EC); a general programme overview of the four specialisations is given in Table 1. Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in LST, with specification of the specialisation.

Table 8: Overview of the programmes of the four MSc LST specialisations (weights in EC)

Specialisation	RESEARCH	EDU***	SCS	BS
Research training*	60	30 / 40	30	30
Academic development	6	6	6	6
Core courses in research area	24	24	24	24
Essay & Colloquium	6	-	-	-
Free electives**	24	0 / 20	20	20

EDU/SCS/BS components	-	60 / 30	40	40
Total EC	120	120	120	120

* The research training is the final assignment of the programme, as mentioned in article 4.12 of the Course and Examination Regulation Master's Programmes.

** The choice in the free electives is restricted to the boundaries specified in this document. A maximum of 20 EC can be used for extension of the LST research-training project. In case of a single SCS/BS specialisation, a maximum of 20 EC may be used as an extension of the SCS/BS component. In case of a double specialisation, the free electives cannot be used for compulsory courses or extension of the internship of the second specialisation.

*** If the student has taken a minor in Education ("tweedegraadsbevoegdheid") of 30 EC in the BSc programme, only 30 EC are necessary in the MSc programme to obtain the "eerstegraadsbevoegdheid"; then 30 EC electives are added to the programme of the MSc LST, of which at least 10 EC should be used for research training within the boundaries specified in sections 4.3 and 7.3.

1.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

After completion of the MSc LST programme students will have developed:

- Knowledge and understanding of theoretical concepts of Life Sciences from textbooks and primary literature pertaining to the research area
- The ability to plan chemical research, perform experiments within an appropriate time frame, collect and store data in a logical way, such that colleagues can easily find and access the data (data management)
- The ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, and formulate verifiable hypotheses
- An appropriate critical scientific attitude, i.e. the ability to analyse results and critically evaluate their validity and accuracy
- The skill to communicate Life Sciences research progress and results to colleagues, supervisors and experts
- The ability to write independently a structured and accurate report on performed research in Life Sciences
- The ability to perform with an academic attitude and the skills for autonomous self-development, taking into account the ethical and social aspects of the natural sciences.

1.3 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February; international students are strongly advised to start in September.

1.4 Programme organisation

All specialisations have the same Programme Director and the same Board of Admissions. The Programme Committee for the MSc programme LST is combined with the one for the MSc programme Chemistry and is responsible for the Research specialisation and the programme-specific components of the other specialisations. The specialisation-specific components of the BS, EDU and SCS specialisations have their own Programme Committees. The Board of Examiners of the MSc programme LST is also combined with the one of the MSc programme Chemistry. In addition, the specialisations BS, SCS and EDU each have their own faculty-wide Board of Examiners appointed by the Faculty of Science for the specialisation-specific part of the MSc programme.

All MSc students are guided by a personal mentor. The mentor generally is the supervisor of the major research training project. The mentor will coach the student from the admission throughout

the MSc programme to the final examination. The study adviser can advise the student concerning scheduling and planning of the programme. A web-based master planner is used for planning and registration of the study programme, and is to be filled in by the student in consult with the mentor. The mentor and student discuss the progress of the student at least every six months using the results documented in the master planner. The master planner is updated by the student on a regular basis. It is accessible to the student, the mentor, the study coordinator and the study adviser. The study adviser will mediate when a student encounters problems in the interaction with the mentor.

2. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

Students compose their own study programme (choice in core courses, electives and research training project) in consent with their mentor, who is a scientific staff member of the LIC. The choice in elective courses in the MSc programme may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the present knowledge of the candidate. The programme may be adjusted during the course of the MSc study.

Specialisation-specific components of the specialisations Life Science and Business Studies, Life Science and Science Communication and Society, and Life Science and Education are described separately in this Appendix. A double specialisation should comprise a full programme of one specialisation (i.e. the main specialisation) plus the specialisation-specific components of a second specialisation. The main specialisation should be chosen in the following order: Research above Education above Business/Communication. The number of credits for double specialisations thus must be at least 150 EC (Research + EDU-30), 160 EC (Research + BS; Research + SCS; EDU + BS, EDU + SCS, BS + SCS) or 180 EC (Research + EDU-60).

3. Admission to the Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

3.1 Confirmation of admission

3.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 3.2 and 3.3.

If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

3.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.³³

3.2 Admission to the programme

3.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a) holders of a bachelor's degree in Life Science and Technology (LST) from any research university in the Netherlands, or

³³ [Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

- b) holders of a bachelor's degree in an LST-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of equal level, provided the student has at least 150 EC of subject-specific content distributed over the domains of Life Sciences and Chemistry.

3.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 3.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 3.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 3.2.4.

Article 3.2.2 may, amongst others, apply to holders of a degree from a research university that does not meet the requirements specified in Article 3.2.1 subsection b or to a degree from a University of Applied Sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) in an LST-related programme provided that the applicant demonstrates the academic ability to mitigate such a deficiency. In order to assess this, the following matters will be reviewed:

- the average final grade of the obtained degree (at least 7.5 in the Dutch grading system) and
- the research project/internship grade (at least 8.0 in the Dutch grading system)
- Letter(s) of recommendation (see below)

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.1.b are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with the following:

- Copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s) of grades,
- A placement letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in Article 3.2.1 subsection a,
- A curriculum vitae.

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with the following:

- Copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s) of grades,
- A placement letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in Article 3.2.1 subsection a,
- A curriculum vitae,
- Letter of recommendation by the internship supervisor (group or team leader),
- Hbo students as referred to in Article 3.2.2 should also submit a letter of recommendation of the mentor ('studieloopbaanbegeleider') of the BAS programme.

3.2.3 Dutch and English languages³⁴

3.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in the Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

3.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 3.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;³⁵
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

3.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose native language is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or Staatsexamen Nt2 Programma II. The TUL examinations is organised by the Leiden University.

A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement.

The above does not apply for students whose native language is not Dutch but who have completed a study programme in pre-university or higher education in Dutch.

3.2.3.4 The language level in 3.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 3.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 3.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 3.2.4, all students must meet it.

3.2.4. Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

³⁴ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

³⁵ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteit.leiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

3.3 Deficiencies

3.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in Article 3.2.1 subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 EC of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in Article 3.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

3.3.3 For the admission referred to in Article 3.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

3.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of Article 3.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

3.4 Pre-master and educational module

Not applicable.

4. Specialisation Life Science Research and Development (RESEARCH)

4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The research specialisation offers the student the opportunity to spend two full years on training and specialisation not only to become an independent and creative researcher, but also someone who can use their analytical skills to resolve challenges in their career in science or in society. The majority of the students with an MSc in Research in LST will continue their career in a PhD position.

4.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Life Science research and development programme (RESEARCH) consists of the parts specified in Table 2.

Table 9: Overview of the programme Life Science research and development

Component	Study load	Level
Research training:	60-80 EC*	600
Major research project	40-60 EC	600
Minor research project (optional)	20-40 EC	600
Academic development	6 EC	400-500
Essay & Colloquium	6 EC	500
Core courses	24 EC	400-500
Electives	24 EC	400-600

* The total weight of research projects may not exceed 80 EC; if the research training projects exceed 60 credits, the additional credits are subtracted from the electives.

4.3 Research Training ('Final assignment')

4.3.1 Scope and study load: The research training is carried out within a LIC research group, at the LACDR, or at the IBL. Our MSc students also have the opportunity to carry out pre-clinical master research training projects in biomedical research institutes, including the LUMC, NKI or ErasmusMC. The research training may be split into a major and one or more minor projects. The major research project is limited to a minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC; an optional minor research project must comprise at least 20 EC. A minor research training project may be carried out with another staff member, in another institute (within the Netherlands or abroad) or in a company. A minor research training project cannot be carried out with the supervisor of the major research project. Prior approval of the Board of Examiners is required for a research project outside the LIC, IBL, LACDR, LUMC, NKI, or ErasmusMC.

4.3.2 Supervision and evaluation: Each research training project must be supervised by a scientific staff member (main or internal supervisor). For research projects carried out in the LIC, the major research-training project is evaluated and graded by the main supervisor, with input from the daily supervisor. The second reviewer is a staff member in the same research field as the main supervisor; the Thesis Talk juror is a staff member who was not directly involved in the research project. The second reviewer and Thesis Talk juror judge the quality of the research report, the quality of the presentation and the scientific level of the student and decide the final grade together with the main supervisor. For research-training projects carried out outside the LIC, the major research training project is evaluated by the external supervisor, with input from the daily supervisor. Final grading is the responsibility of the internal supervisor and the Thesis Talk juror, who is a staff member not directly involved in the research project. The internal supervisor and Thesis Talk juror judge the quality of the research report, the quality of the presentation and the scientific level of the student and decide the final grade together with the external supervisor.

Minor research projects carried out within the LIC are evaluated and graded by two LIC scientific staff members who were not the main supervisor for the major research training project. External research training projects are supported, evaluated and graded by a scientific staff member of the LIC who was not the main supervisor for any other research training project (the internal supervisor) and a staff member from the host institute (the external supervisor).

For all research-training projects the internal supervisor has the final responsibility for creating the research project agreement, grading the research project report and creating, signing and submitting the project evaluation form.

4.3.3 Written report: All research training projects are concluded with a written report; for the major research training this is the MSc thesis. The requirements for the written report can be found via the Prospectus. The final version of the report should be handed in within 3 months after the last day of practical work.

4.3.4 Thesis Talk: The major research project is concluded with an oral presentation for the main supervisor, the second reviewer, the Thesis Talk juror, and an audience of interested students and staff members of the LIC (i.e. Thesis Talk). Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks as part of their major research project before they present their own Thesis Talk.

4.3.5 Obligatory sequence (Course and Examination Regulations art. 4.2): Students can only start with an optional minor research training project (within or outside the LIC) when the major project has been successfully concluded with a grade (including a Thesis Talk). Exceptions can only be granted by the Board of Examiners following article 4.2.2 of the Faculty OER.

4.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises a selection of four core courses, courses on academic development and a literature essay with a colloquium.

4.4.1 Core courses: The four core courses are chosen from the list described in Table 3. The LST master students have to choose one course from each of the series (Biomedical, Molecular and Biophysical Sciences), plus one additional course from one of the three series.

Table 10: Core course options for the MSc Life Science and Technology. All courses encompass 6 EC.*

Course title	Level	Catalogue number
Biomedical Sciences		
Biological and Biomedical Informatics	500	4343BIBII
In-vivo Biomolecular Interactions Underlying Diseases	500	4423IVBIR
Chemical Immunology	500	4423CHEIM
Molecular Sciences		
Biosynthetic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry	400	4423BBPHC
Chemical Biology	500	4423CHEMB
Metals and Life	500	4423METL6
Biophysical Sciences		
Bionanotechnology	500	4423BIONT
Enzyme Dynamics: NMR Spectroscopy and Kinetics	500	4423EDNMR
Biomaterials	500	4423BIOMA

* Courses that were taken in the BSc programme cannot be taken again in the MSc programme.

4.4.2 Academic development: The Academic development component consists of the course Academic Writing and one or more elective courses for a combined value of at least 6 EC. If the Academic development component exceeds 6 EC, the surplus is subtracted from the elective space. Students can select an academic development elective from the approved list in Table 4 or request permission from the Board of Examiners for an alternative course. Elective courses may set additional entry requirements and/or may have a selection procedure. Courses for the Academic development component should be in the broad subject area of academic skills and personal development as a scientist and are bound to the same requirements as stipulated for elective courses in section 4.6.

Table 11: Mandatory and elective courses for the Academic development component (total minimum 6 EC).

Course title	Catalogue number	Level	EC
<i>Mandatory</i>			
Academic Writing	4423ACWR2	400	2
<i>Electives</i>			
Leading and Managing People	4603BSLM5	500	5
Oriëntatie op Onderwijs*	4082OROND	300	6

Playful and Creative Science	4383PLCRS	500	6
Science and the Public: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives	4603SPCH6	400	6
Science Journalism	4603SCSJ4	500	4
Science Methodology	4603SCMT4	400	4
Sciences and Humanities	4383SCHX4	400	4
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society	4603SCIM3	500	3
Wetenschapsjournalistiek*	4603SCSWJ	500	4
Introduction to Machine Learning	4343INTML	500	6

* This course is given in Dutch

4.4.3 Essay and colloquium: The specialisation-specific component of the research specialisation is the essay and colloquium (catalogue number 4423ESCOL). The final grade for the colloquium is determined by the colloquium supervisor and the colloquium juror. The colloquium supervisor and juror are LIC staff members and cannot be the main supervisor of the student's major research project. Students should attend at least 7 colloquia as part of their colloquium and essay component before they present their own colloquium.

4.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component "WORK" (catalogue number 4423WORKV: "Career Orientation & Competence Reflection"). Students have to *Write* an application letter and CV, attend seminars and workshops for job market *Orientation*, and have to *Reflect* on their skills, strengths and weaknesses. After finalisation of this component they will have acquired improved *Knowledge* of what they are good at and what kind of career they would like to pursue! This component comprises a number of activities and workshops to create awareness of the job market and give students insight into their skills, abilities and weaknesses. During the two years of the MSc programme, a number of different activities are offered. The activities include alumni events (e.g. lectures, speed-dating), workshops offered by the Career Service, self-assessment and self-reflection tasks, participation in excursions to companies and visits to career fairs such as the Science Career Event. All students have to do a self-evaluation test at the start of their programme, take part in the workshop 'CV and cover letter' near the end of their studies, and write a self-reflection after their major research project. In addition, students take at least six of the workshops or other activities that are offered by the programme, Career Service or other partners during their studies, within the boundaries specified by the programme.

4.6 Electives

The electives can comprise either theoretical or practical courses or an extension of the duration of a research project with a maximum of 20 EC and within the limitations described in section 4.3. Elective courses can be chosen from the core courses within or outside the chosen research area, approved elective MSc courses of the Leiden University Faculty of Science published in the Prospectus, MSc courses offered in a Science Faculty of any Dutch or foreign university of level 400 or higher, level 400 courses from the BSc MST or LST programmes, or other relevant courses approved by the Board of Examiners on an individual basis. Elective courses are restricted to courses that were not part of the student's earlier studies and do not overlap in content with other courses already taken as part of the MSc curriculum.

Students can verify the suitability of their programme with the Board of Examiners when they have doubts about a combination of courses.

Students must gain approval from the Board of Examiners prior to taking any components offered by universities outside the Netherlands, as well as starting any research project outside the LIC, IBL, LACDR, LUMC, NKI or ErasmusMC.

5. Specialisation Life Science and Business Studies

5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Life Science and Business Studies (BS) offers students the possibility to combine Life Science with knowledge, insights and skills in the area of Management, Business and Entrepreneurship.

Students are encouraged to broaden their horizon, to form an opinion on and prepare for a career in industry and to enhance competences for pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities created in science and research.

5.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Life Science and Business Studies (BS) programme consists of the parts specified in Table 4. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [in the section "Specialisation Business Studies"](#).

Table 11: Overview of the programme of the specialisation Life Science and Business Studies

	Component	Study load	Level
LST	Research training	30 EC	600
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Electives	0-20 EC	400-600
Business Studies	BS courses	20 EC	500
	BS internship	20 or 30 EC	600
	BS electives	0-20 EC	400-500

5.3 Research Training

The research training project in LST should be carried out in one of the research groups of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry or other institutes as specified in section 4.3. It includes a written report (MSc thesis) and is finalised with a Thesis Talk. Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks. The requirements for the research training are as specified in section 4.3 with the exception that the minimum length of the major research training project is 30 EC instead of 40 EC.

5.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises four core courses as described in section 4.4.1 and courses on academic development as described in section 4.4.2. Courses listed as academic

development electives that are taken by the student as part of the BS component cannot be chosen for the Academic development component.

5.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component “WORK”. See the description and specifications in section 4.5.

5.6 Elective components

Elective components may consist of additional courses within or outside the chosen research area, an extension of the research project, additional BS courses or an extension of the Business Internship. Furthermore, the restrictions and conditions specified for electives in section 4.6 apply.

5.7 BS components

A minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC within the BS component is required to complete the BS specialisation. A specification of the BS specialisation is described [in the section “Specialisation Business Studies”](#).

6. Specialisation Life Science and Science Communication and Society

6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Life Science and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine life sciences and science communication. Students are prepared for a career in the area of science communication or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set.

6.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The SCS programme consists of the parts specified in Table 5. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found in section “Science Communication and Society”.

Students who complete the specialisation Life Science and Technology and Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in Life Science and Technology or in Science Communication.

Table 12: Overview of the programme of specialisation Life Science and Science Communication and Society

Catalogue number	Component	Study load	Level
LST	Research training	30 EC	600
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Electives	0-20 EC	400-600
SCS components			
4603SCISEY	Informal Science Education	4 EC	500

4603SCPDSY	Policy & Development in Science and Society	4 EC	500
4603SCRSCY	Research in Science Communication	4 EC	500
4603SCSJ4Y	Science Journalism (ENG)	4 EC	500
4603SCSWJY	Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)	4 EC	500
4603SCPRDY	Science Communication Product Development*	4 EC	500
4603SCIM3Y	Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society Internship	3 EC	500
4603SCSPPY	SCS Project Proposal	3 EC	600
4603SCSS1Y	SCS Internship(s) Additional elective	14-34 EC	600
4603SCSELY	SCS Elective	1-10 EC	400-500

* the course **Science Communication Product Development** is only admissible for students who have completed all other SCS courses.

6.3 Research Training Project

The research training project in LST should be carried out in one of the research groups of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry or other institutes as specified in section 4.3. It includes a written report (MSc thesis) and is finalised with a Thesis Talk. Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks. The requirements for the research training are as specified in section 4.3 with the exception that the minimum length of the major research training project is 30 EC instead of 40 EC.

6.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises four core courses as described in section 4.4.1 and courses on academic development as described in section 4.4.2. Courses listed as academic development electives that are taken by the student as part of the SCS component cannot be chosen for the Academic development component.

6.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component "WORK". See the description and specifications in section 4.5.

6.6 Elective components

Elective components may consist of additional theoretical courses within or outside the chosen research area, an extension of the research project, additional SCS courses or an extension of or additional SCS internships. Furthermore, the restrictions and conditions specified for electives in section 4.6 apply.

6.7 SCS components

A minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC within the SCS component is required to complete the SCS specialisation. A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found in the section "Science Communication and Society".

7. Specialisation Life Science and Education (NL)

7.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Life Science and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as chemistry (scheikunde) or biology (biologie) teacher qualified to teach in Dutch secondary education.

7.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Life Science and Education (EDU) programme consists of the parts specified in Table 6. All programme-specific components must be finished before the specialisation-specific Education components can be started. Exceptions to this obligatory sequence can only be granted by the Board of Examiners of the MSc programme LST. A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found in the section "Specialisation Education".

Table 13: Overview of the programme of the specialisation Life Science and Education

Catalogue number	Component	Study load	Level
60 EC EDU programme			
LST			
	Research training	30 EC	600
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Electives	0 EC	
EDU components			
	EDU theoretical courses	28 EC	300-600
	EDU teaching practice	32 EC	
30 EC EDU programme			
LST			
	Research training	40 EC	600
	Core courses	24 EC	400-500
	Academic development	6 EC	400-500
	Electives	20 EC	400-600
EDU components ('eerstegraads' only, see 7.6)			
	EDU theoretical courses	15 EC	400-600
	EDU teaching practice	15 EC	

7.3 Research Training Project

The research training project in LST should be carried out in one of the research groups of the Leiden Institute of Chemistry or other institutes as specified in section 4.3. It includes a written report (MSc thesis) and is finalised with a Thesis Talk. Students should attend at least 7 Thesis Talks. The requirements for the research training are as specified in section 4.3 with the exception that the minimum length of the major research training project for students in the 60 EC EDU programme is 30 EC instead of 40 EC.

7.4 Theoretical compulsory components

The compulsory theoretical component comprises four core courses as described in section 4.4.1 and courses on academic development as described in section 4.4.2. Courses listed as academic

development electives that are taken by the student as part of the EDU component cannot be chosen for the Academic development component.

7.5 Compulsory co-curricular component

Students have to take the compulsory co-curricular component “WORK”. See the description and specifications in section 4.5.

7.6 Elective components

When the student has passed the minor Education (30 EC) during their BSc programme, the compulsory Education component is reduced with 30 EC. The remaining 30 EC are added to the LST programme as electives, of which a minimum of 10 EC should be used for research training. Further elective components may consist of additional theoretical courses or further extension of the research project. Furthermore, the restrictions and conditions specified for electives in section 4.6 apply.

7.7 EDU components

To complete the EDU specialisation, 60 EC within the EDU programme is required. If a minor EDU was successfully taken in the BSc programme, the EDU programme is limited to 30 EC. A specification of the EDU specialisation is described in the section “Specialisation Education”.

8. Additional and transitional arrangements

8.1 The programme component Academic development is compulsory for students who started with the MSc Life Science and Technology per September 2017 or later. Students who do not have this obligation add 6 EC to their free electives and are allowed to take the courses associated with the Academic development component as electives.

8.2 If a student has demonstrable prior knowledge of one or both subjects of the course Academic Writing (the compulsory course in the programme component Academic development), they can request permission from the Board of Examiners for an alternative set of courses to fill the Academic development component. The total Academic development component should encompass at least 6 EC, should be in the broad subject area of academic development and is bound to the same requirements as stipulated for elective courses in section 4.6.

8.3 The compulsory co-curricular component “WORK” is not required for students who started before September 2019.

8.4 Students who started before September 2019 must attend at least 10 Thesis Talks, unless they voluntarily take the co-curricular component ‘WORK’, in which case they must attend at least 7 Thesis Talks.

8.5 Students who started before September 2019 and choose the research specialisation must attend at least 10 colloquia, unless they voluntarily take the co-curricular component ‘WORK’, in which case they must attend at least 7 colloquia.

8.6 Students who started before September 2020 in the EDU-30 programme are not required to use at least 10 EC of their electives to extend the research training component of the programme.

8.7 Students are allowed to compose their set of core courses for the final examination based on the set described in either the current OER or the applicable OER at the time they started their MSc programme, provided they did not interrupt their registration.

8.8 In addition to article 8.6, students who started per February 2019 and base their core courses on the set described in the OER 2018-19 are allowed to take Metals and Life (4423METL6) as a core course in the set 'Molecular Sciences'.

8.9 Advanced Medicinal Chemistry (4423ADMC6) cannot be included in the final examination together with Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery (4423MCHDD).

8.10 Protein Folding, Misfolding and Design (4423PFMAD) cannot be included in the final examination together with Protein Folding, Misfolding and Disease (4423PFMFD).

8.11 Cross-domain Chromatin Organisation (4423CDC4R) cannot be included in the final examination together with Chromatin Organisation and Function (4423CHORF).

8.12 Surface Science for Heterogeneous Catalysis (4423SUSHC) cannot be included in the final examination together with Surface Science (4423SURFS), Heterogeneous Catalysis (4423HETCA), or both.

8.13 Quantitative Imaging in Life Sciences (4423QILS4) cannot be included in the final examination together with Quantitative MRI in Disease Diagnosis (4423QMIDD). Both of these courses cannot be combined with Quantitative MRI in Disease Diagnosis (4423QMDD5).

8.14 After discontinuation of a component or major changes to a component, the student is provided with one more option to finish the component in the following academic year, where applicable via partial exams and/or compensatory assignments.

8.15 When a student does not use the opportunity mentioned in 8.14 or does not acquire a pass grade, the student is required to replace the missing ECs with another component following the requirements for their specialisation.

8.16 If a student for any reason, including the situation stipulated in 8.14 and 8.15, is not able to compose a programme conform the requirements, the Board of Examiners can grant an exception and approve an alternative programme. The Board of Examiners judges whether the alternative programme guarantees the student meets the learning outcomes of the programme.

8.17 In addition to the stipulations in the Course and Examination Regulations section 4.9, the following restrictions apply to exemptions in the degree programme of a student:

- the major research project cannot be an exemption
- the core courses cannot include any exemptions
- a maximum of 18 EC of exemptions can be included in the programme

MSc Mathematics

CROHO-number 66980

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The programme is taught in Leiden by the Mathematisch Instituut (MI).

The duration of each programme is two years (120 EC). Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Mathematics, with specification of the specialisation, if applicable. Details are provided below. All specialisations have the same Director, the same Board of Examiners, and the same Department Teaching Committee. A Board of Admissions will advise on admissions. Exceptions to this are formed by the specialisations Business Studies (BS), Science Communication and Society (SCS), and Education (EDU) which for the specialisation-specific part each have their own specialisation coordinator and a Board of Examiners appointed by the Faculty of Science.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The goal of each programme is to train the student as an independent researcher, and to develop the necessary skills and proficiency to advance their career.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The Universiteit Leiden offers five specialisations of an MSc programme in mathematics. Two of these correspond to research specialisations in the Leiden Mathematisch Instituut. The remaining three specialisations combine research in mathematics with Business Studies, Science Communication and Society, and Education.

1.3 Final qualifications/ final learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Generic, for all specialisations

A *Knowledge and Understanding, and their Application*

Master graduates have:

- A1 knowledge and understanding of the core concepts and principles of the broad mathematics domain, and have thorough knowledge and understanding of at least one subdomain of mathematics which is related to one of the following topics:
 - for the specialisation Algebra, Geometry and Number Theory: algebra, algebraic and analytic number theory, algebraic and differential geometry, topology, cryptology, or combinatorics;
 - for the specialization Applied Mathematics: differential equations, dynamical systems, analysis of problems from industry and the life sciences, measure and integration theory, probability theory, statistics, functional analysis, numerical analysis, or operations research;
- A2 proficient skills in applying mathematical theory to concrete mathematical problems;
- A3 the ability to recognize the specific mathematical areas relevant to a problem;

- A4 the ability, under supervision, to either formulate a research question in a mathematically rigorous way, and to set up and carry out the subsequent analysis of the problem; or, to study a topic of recent research and to provide an original exposition exhibiting deep understanding of the material.

B Making Judgements

Master graduates are able to:

- B1 independently interpret and reflect on mathematical results;
- B2 form judgements about mathematical, scientific or societal questions by formulating mathematical problems and gathering appropriate mathematical techniques or data;
- B3 act as professional academics with a sound ethical attitude, and they are aware of the societal role of a professional mathematician with a corresponding level of integrity and the according behaviour.

C Communication

- C1 Master graduates are able to write a clear and unambiguous scientific report, and to communicate orally with mathematicians and non-specialists.

D Learning Skills

Master graduates have:

- D1 the ability to acquire and integrate new [/additional] knowledge relevant to a mathematical problem;
- D2 sufficient mathematical knowledge and academic and general professional skills to become productive in industry, government, as a high school teacher, or as a PhD student in mathematics.

1.4 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Starting the programme is possible throughout the year, but international students are strongly advised to start in September or February.

2. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

2.1 Confirmation of admission

2.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 2.2 and 2.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

2.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.³⁶

³⁶[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

2.2 Admission to the programme

2.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in Mathematics (Wiskunde) from a research university in the Netherlands, or
- b. holders of a bachelor's degree in a mathematics-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of similar level

2.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 2.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 2.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 2.2.4.

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 2.2.1. b and Article 2.2.2. are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- a letter in which the applicant explains that he/she possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 2.2.1 a.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 2.2.1.a.

2.2.3 **Dutch and English languages**³⁷

2.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

³⁷ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

2.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 2.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: : internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;³⁸
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

2.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose mother tongue is not native Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II.

2.2.3.4 The language level in 2.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 2.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 2.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 2.2.4, all students must meet it.

2.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

Not applicable.

2.3 Deficiencies

2.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 2.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

2.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 2.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

2.3.3 For the admission referred to in 2.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

2.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 2.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

2.4 Pre-master and educational module

Not applicable.

³⁸ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteit.leiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteit.leiden.nl/english-test-equivalencies.pdf)

3. Specialisation Algebra, Geometry and Number Theory

3.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc programme Algebra, Geometry and Number Theory leads students to a high level of knowledge in this area. It consists of advanced courses from the field and a final research project including a master thesis and an oral presentation of it. Students with this MSc in Mathematics are admissible to a PhD programme. The programme is suited as preparation for an academic career, in particular via a subsequent PhD study, but also for a career as mathematical researcher outside the universities.

3.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

For each student a programme will be tailored individually. It consists of

- a choice of at least 60 EC of advanced courses (at least 30 EC of these must be obtained via courses of Mastermath, the Dutch Master Programme in Mathematics) from algebra, algebraic and analytic number theory, algebraic and differential geometry, topology, cryptology, combinatorics, or related subjects, if agreed in advance with the study advisor of this specialisation;
- a research project in Mathematics of 40 EC (incl. a thesis and an oral presentation) in one of the research groups of the Leiden Mathematical Institute;
- a free choice of courses from any field, of maximally 20 EC, with the prior permission of the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners will base its decision on the level, relevance and coherence of the proposed courses.

Required is a total of at least 120 EC.

4. Specialisation Applied Mathematics

4.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc programme Applied Mathematics leads students to a high level of knowledge in this area. It consists of advanced courses from the field and a final research project including a master thesis and an oral presentation of it. Students with this MSc in Mathematics are admissible to a PhD programme. The programme is particularly suited as preparation for a career as mathematical researcher in industry, government and other institutions, but also for an academic career, in particular via a subsequent PhD-study.

4.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

For each student a programme will be tailored individually. It consists of

- a choice of at least 60 EC of advanced courses (at least 30 EC of these must be obtained via courses of Mastermath, the Dutch Master Programme in Mathematics) from differential equations, dynamical systems, analysis of industrial problems, measure- and integration theory, probability theory, statistics, functional analysis, numerical analysis, operations research or related subjects, if agreed in advance with the study advisor of this specialisation;
- a research project in Mathematics of 40 EC (incl. a thesis and an oral presentation) in one of the research groups of the Leiden Mathematical Institute;

- a free choice of courses from any field of maximally 20 EC, with the prior permission of the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners will base its decision on the level, relevance and coherence of the proposed courses.

Required is a total of at least 120 EC.

5. Specialisation Business Studies

5.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Mathematics and Business Studies (BS) offers students the possibility to combine mathematics with knowledge, insights and skills in the area of Management, Business and Entrepreneurship.

Students are encouraged to broaden their horizon, to form an opinion on and prepare for a career in industry and to enhance competences for pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities created in science and research.

Students who complete the specialisation Mathematics and Business Studies are admissible to a PhD programme.

5.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Mathematics and Business Studies programme consists of:

- a research project in Mathematics³⁹ of 20 EC (incl. a thesis and an oral presentation) in one of the research groups of the Leiden Mathematical Institute;
- 40 EC of courses to be selected in correspondence with the research topic;
- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Mathematics or the Business Studies component.

Completion of the specialisation Business Studies requires a minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC within the Business Studies component. Required is a total of at least 120 EC.

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

Students who started the master programme before 2018-2019 have the choice to follow the old programme consisting of a research project in Mathematics of 40 EC, with 20 EC of courses in correspondence with the research topic, or to opt for the new variant, as agreed with the study advisor.

Students who started the master programme in 2019-2020 have the choice to follow the old programme consisting of a research project in Mathematics of 30 EC, with 30 EC of courses in correspondence with the research topic, or to opt for the new variant, as agreed with the study advisor.

³⁹ For the programme Mathematics and Business Studies the BS internship should be connected to the research project in Mathematics.

6. Specialisation Science Communication and Society

6.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Mathematics and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine mathematics and science communication.

Students are prepared for a career in popularisation of science or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set.

Students who complete the specialisation Mathematics and Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in mathematics or in science communication.

6.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Mathematics and Science Communication and Society (SCS) programme consists of:

- a research project in Mathematics of minimally 20 EC (including a master's thesis and an oral presentation) in one of the research groups of the Leiden Mathematical Institute;
- minimally 30 EC of courses within Mathematics to be selected in correspondence with the research topic, summing up to a total of at least 60 EC for these courses and the research project; and
- a maximum of 20 EC of electives within either Mathematics or the SCS component; and
- The Science Communication and Society programme consists of the parts specified as follows:

	Level	EC	Catalog nr
• Informal Science Education*	400	4	4603SCISEY
• Policy & Development in Science and Society*	400	4	4603SCPDSY
• Research in Science Communication*	400	4	4603SCRSCY
• Science Journalism (ENG)*	400	4	4603SCSJ4Y
• Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)*	400	4	4603SCSWJY
• Science Communication product development**	400	4	4603SCPRDY
• Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society*	500	3	4603SCNV3Y
• Internship			
• SCS Project Proposal	600	3	4603SCSPPY
• SCS Internship(s)	600	14–34	4603SCSS1Y
• Additional elective			
• SCS elective	400-500	1–10	4603SCSELY

Required is a total of at least 120 EC.

Students who started the master programme before 2018-2019 have the choice to follow the old programme consisting of a research project in Mathematics of 40 EC, with 20 EC of courses in correspondence with the research topic, or to opt for the new variant, as agreed with the study advisor.

7. Specialisation Education

7.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Mathematics and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as mathematics (wiskunde) teacher qualified to teach in Dutch secondary education.

Students who complete the specialisation Mathematics and Education are admissible to a PhD programme.

7.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The Mathematics and Education (EDU) programme consists of:

- a research project in Mathematics of minimally 20 EC (incl. a thesis and an oral presentation) in one of the research groups of the Leiden Mathematical Institute;
- minimally 30 EC of courses within Mathematics to be selected in correspondence with the research topic, summing up to a total of at least 60 EC for these courses and the research project; and
- the Education component as described [here](#).

Required is a total of at least 120 EC. When the student has passed the minor Education (30 EC) during the BSc programme, the compulsory Education component is reduced with 30 EC. The remaining 30 EC can be used for both the Mathematics and the Education component of the MSc programme.

A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

Students who started the master programme before 2018-2019 have the choice to follow the old programme consisting of a research project in Mathematics of 40 EC, with 20 EC of courses in correspondence with the research topic, or to opt for the new variant, as agreed with the study advisor.

8. Specialisation Statistical Science for the Life and Behavioural Sciences

The programme of the specialisation Statistical Science for the Life and Behavioural Sciences of the MSc programme Mathematics is identical to the MSc programme Statistics and Data Science. For the description and programme of the (former) specialisation within Mathematics, see the MSc Statistics and Data Science.

As of September 1, 2016 no new students are admitted to the specialisation Statistical Science for the Life and Behavioural Sciences of the MSc programme Mathematics.

MSc Media Technology

CROHO-number 60206

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The Media Technology MSc Programme is part of the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS). In addition, it is affiliated with the Academy for Creative and Performing Arts.

Media Technology recognises creativity and playfulness as important factors in scientific innovation. It provides an environment where students and researchers are allowed to formulate their own scientific questions and are encouraged to translate their personal inspirations and curiosities into manageable and compact research projects. The programme encourages unusual questions, unconventional research methods and alternative forms of scientific output besides academic articles. This includes interactive installations, games, robots, books, and more, as results from research.

To achieve this, the curriculum focuses on creative exploration and on the understanding of (the fundamentals of) science and technology. In its elective space the programme encourages its students to draw from the knowledge available throughout Leiden University's various faculties and the ArtScience programme of the Royal Conservatoire and the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague, or from courses offered at other universities in the Netherlands or abroad.

Besides completing the curricular and elective courses (see "Programme" below), each student must successfully complete an individual Graduation Project guided by two supervisors. It aims to answer a student's personally developed scientific question, possibly complemented by creating a product or experience. A paper is written, presented and publicly defended as part of the Graduation Project. The paper generally takes the form of a scientific article, possibly augmented with alternative output such as a computer programme, installation, public performance, book, etcetera.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The programme's goal is to stimulate innovation and creativity in scientific research by the innovative application of technology. Media Technology students are trained as autonomous scientists, preparing students for a future career involving creative and critical thinking, for a future in scientific research.

1.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Graduates of the MSc in Media Technology have attained the following general learning outcomes:

- a. theoretical and practical skills in more than one specialist area (including computer science/artificial intelligence, creative and performative arts, and relevant aspects of philosophy, cognitive science, and linguistics), such that they can carry out research under overall supervision;
- b. the ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, formulate verifiable hypotheses, and set up and carry out research and critical reflection on one's own research and that of others;
- c. the ability to interrelate and integrate various areas of computer science, artificial intelligence, creative and performative arts with relevant aspects of philosophy, cognitive science, and linguistics;

- d. the ability to present clearly, verbally as well as in writing, one's own research results. This includes the presentation of their research results as a contribution to a congress or as (part of) a scientific publication and the ability to communicate with colleagues;
- e. sufficient understanding of the social and societal role of academia, especially computer science/artificial intelligence and the creative and performative arts, to be able to critically reflect upon it and in part consequently to come to an ethically sound attitude and corresponding execution of one's professional duties;
- f. have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

In addition to the above general achievements, graduates of the MSc in Media Technology have formed an understanding of the fundamental principles and organisation of academia, and of the importance of creativity and playfulness in academic research. They have knowledge and skills in computer programming and in the use of various media and technologies within virtual and physical environments. They have the ability to communicate with colleagues/peers in science (via e.g. a conference contribution or scientific publication) as well as with a wider audience (via e.g. an exhibition, performance, public event, or in popular-scientific writing). They have the ability to act as independent researchers and thinkers with a critical attitude.

1.3 Programme duration and completion Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.5)

The duration of the programme is two years (120 EC). Students who complete the programme receive the degree 'Master of Science in Media Technology'.

1.4 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February.

1.5 Language of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.8)

The programme is taught entirely in English.

2. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The programme comprises 120 EC and consists of the following courses and components:

Core courses	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Media Technology Field Trip ⁴⁰	400	1	4383MTFT4
Creative Programming ⁴¹	400	6	4383CRPR6
Human Computer Interaction & Information Visualization	400	6	4383HCIIV
Research Fundamentals	400	3	4383RSF3V
Playful & Creative Science	500	6	4383PLCRS
Strategies in Creative and Performing Arts ⁴²	500	3	4383SCPA3
Hardware & Physical Computing	400	3	4383HPCX4
Meta Media	500	2	4383MEMEX
Sciences & Humanities	400	4	4383SCHX4

⁴⁰ This course is a renaming of the *Ars Electronica Festival* core course from 2020-2021, and therefore it is not available to students who completed the previous course before 1 September 2021.

⁴¹ This course is not available to students who completed *Introduction to Programming* (Level 400, 4 EC) before 1 September 2020.

⁴² This course is a renaming of the *Essentials in Art & Music* core course from 2021-2022 (Level 500, 3 EC). Therefore, it is not available to students who completed the previous version before 1 September 2022.

Non-Human Cognition	500	4	4383NHCG4
Artificial Creatures	500	4	4383ARTCR
Sound, Space & Interaction	500	6	4383SSPIX
Exhibition: Science to Experience ⁴³	500	12	4383EXSCX
Portfolio	400	1	4383PORTF
Graduation Lab	400	1	4383GRDLV
Graduation Project	600	30	4383GRADP

Accent courses (choose 2 or 3 out of 5)

AI in Society	500	6	4343AISOC
Computational Creativity	500	6	4383COMCR
Research Seminar: Artificial Intelligence	500	6	4383RSAIX
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society	500	3	4603SCIM3
Video Games for Research	500	6	4383VGFR6

Elective courses

400+ 10-19

Students are expected to take the core courses⁴⁴, with a total of 92 ECTS including the Graduation Project. The remaining 28 ECTS are obtained through a combination of accent courses and elective courses. Student must take minimally 2 and no more than 3 accent courses.

2.1 Substitution for Core Courses

Students can qualify for substitution of certain core courses (especially, but not exclusively, Creative Programming and Research Fundamentals) within their curriculum, when they can prove already having current knowledge of the topics dealt with. Substitution can be granted by the Board of Examiners, who consult the study advisor and course lecturer. As a guideline, the student must participate in the first lecture and present some form of proof that the knowledge was already obtained elsewhere. The study advisor and/or lecturer may advise the Board of Examiners to honour or turn down requests for substitution, based on the material provided by the student and the evaluation of such.

In case the request for substitution is honoured, the student must obtain the required number of ECs through other ways, i.e., for every granted substitution a student must follow another (elective) replacement course with the same number of credits or more. The contents of this replacement course must preferably be a logical extension to the course for which substitution was granted, and must be of at least the same level.

2.2 Acceptance of Elective Courses

Elective courses can be followed throughout Leiden University's various faculties, and at any accredited institute of higher education in the Netherlands or abroad. For curricular acceptance of elective courses, permission must be obtained from the LIACS Board of Examiners. The decision to accept and approve an elective course is based on course level, course load, course content, and the student's personal statement of motivation. Furthermore, the Media Technology prospectus contains

⁴³ This course substitutes *Exhibition: Statement to Experience* (Level 500, 12 EC), and therefore it is not available to students who completed the previous version before 1 September 2020.

⁴⁴ The courses *New Media & New Technologies* (level 500, 5 EC) and *Language Evolution* (level 500, 5 EC) if completed before 1 September 2020 are considered as core courses.

a list of pre-approved elective courses that don't require additional acceptance for the corresponding year of study. Practical guidelines for students and procedures to apply for curricular acceptance of elective courses are communicated via the programme's website. In addition, an annual "electives kick-off meeting" is organised in which students are informed about the possibilities and procedures.

2.3 Option for exchange and studying abroad

Students can apply for permission from the LIACS Board of Examiners to participate in an exchange (typically taking place in the student's 3rd semester). If this permission is granted, the study results obtained within the exchange replace the Accent Courses and elective space. In consultation with the study advisor, the Board of Examiners takes the following criteria into consideration:

- the exchange must take place at a qualified institution and programme in The Netherlands or abroad;
- the exchange should consist of a coherent "package" of courses, all taken at one institution, and cover (at least) 28 EC;
- the exchange should take place at MSc level or equivalent;
- the student has a strong and content-driven motivation to participate in the exchange, reflected in the application submitted to the Board of Examiners, as well as in the will and capacity to pro-actively organise the exchange in all its facets (courses, timeline, costs, housing, etc.).

Independent from this 28 EC exchange option, students can always apply for taking elective courses abroad. For this, the normal procedure for the acceptance of elective courses, as described above, applies.

3. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

3.1 Confirmation of admission

3.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 3.2 and 3.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

3.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.⁴⁵

3.2 Admission to the programme

3.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline from a research university in the Netherlands, or from a foreign research university of similar level.

⁴⁵ [Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

Relevant programmes include, for example, computer science (informatica), artificial intelligence, communication and/or information science, cognitive science, biology, linguistics, and creative/performing arts.

3.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 3.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 3.2.1. The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant meets the qualitative requirements as specified in 3.2.4.

3.2.3 Dutch and English languages⁴⁶

3.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with English A);
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in the Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

3.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 3.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection.⁴⁷
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

⁴⁶ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

⁴⁷ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](#)

3.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose mother tongue is not native Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II. The above does not apply to students whose native language is not Dutch, but who have completed a course in preparatory or higher education in Dutch.

3.2.3.4 The language requirements in 3.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 3.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 3.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 3.2.4, all students must meet it.

3.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

3.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 3.2.1 or 3.2.2 or in derogation of the language requirement in 3.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- Applicants have a demonstrable affinity and experience with **fundamental and/or knowledge-driven research** that aims at contributing new insights to academic discourses and is not primarily directed at solving (engineering, societal, commercial etc.) problems;
- Applicants have a demonstrable affinity and experience with **technology** and its embedding in the human context;
- Applicants have a **creative** attitude towards science and research in the sense of the programme, i.e. not necessarily demonstrated by artistic creativity, but by the abilities to think and reason beyond disciplinary borders and/or be open to unconventional ways of producing and disseminating academic knowledge.
- Applicants have affinity with, and demonstrable (basic) mastering of, imperative programming. Examples of imperative programming languages are Processing, C, C++, Java, Python and assembly languages.

3.2.4.2 These qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) will be assessed according to the following method:

- The qualitative requirements 1, 2 and 3 are evaluated using the answers given to the preparatory questions in the placement letter, the discussion regarding the qualitative requirements in the admission interview and information originating from the reference letters.

Sufficient mastering of programming skills can be demonstrated by submitting a certificate of successful completion for the [online programming course](#) selected by the Media Technology MSc programme. Or, by having obtained a bachelor's degree in the field of Computer Science or Artificial Intelligence. The specified online course is external to Leiden University.

3.2.5 Admission material and process

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.1 and Article 3.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- Copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- Curriculum vitae
- A placement letter that includes answering the questions related to the qualitative admission requirements.
- Optionally, a letter in which the applicant explains that he/she possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 3.2.1.
- One or two reference letters.
- The admission process includes an interview with the Board of Admissions, to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements as specified in 3.2.4.1 and when needed also the requirements specified in 3.2.1.

3.3 Deficiencies

3.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 3.2.1, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 3.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

3.3.3 For the admission referred to in 3.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

3.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 3.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

3.3 Pre-master and educational module

Not applicable, the Media Technology MSc programme does not have a pre-master's programme.

MSc Physics

CROHO-number 60202

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

Leiden University offers an MSc programme in Physics. Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Physics, with specification of the specialisation. All specialisations have the same Director, the same Board of Examiners, and the same Departmental Teaching Committee. For the specialisation-specific part the specialisations Business Studies (BS), Science Communication & Society (SCS), and Education (EDU), each have their own specialisation coordinator and a Board of Examiners appointed by the Faculty of Science.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The programme offers a solid background and a thorough experience at the forefront of physics research in the respective specialisations, including practical training in communication and computational skills. The programme aims at training students as independent researchers and provides them with the necessary skills to advance their career. Upon completion of the degree, the MSc graduate will be well equipped to start a PhD, work in research and development, or in other branches of the public and private sector that require strong analytical, computational, and problem-solving skills.

1.2 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

The MSc programme in Physics has nine specialisations. Six of the nine specialisations are research specialisations in the Leiden Institute of Physics (LION), including one in collaboration with the Leiden Observatory and one in collaboration with the Delft University of Technology. These are:

- Research in Physics, Theoretical Physics
- Research in Physics, Biological and Soft Matter Physics
- Research in Physics, Quantum Matter and Optics
- Research in Physics, Cosmology
- Research in Physics, Classical/Quantum Information
- Research in Physics; pre-PhD ('Casimir')

The full programme of these specialisations is in English. A short description is as follows:

- Theoretical Physics aims to describe and understand a broad range of physical phenomena through a variety of analytical concepts and methods and by encoding them into mathematical language.
- The Biological and Soft Matter specialisation is primarily experimental and is typically performed at the interface of medical, biological, chemical and physical sciences. Its study focus ranges from the physical processes of biomolecules, the emerging properties that evolve in cells, and the control of cell function by signalling, to the study of the mechanical and geometrical properties of soft media, such as granular matter or foam, and the self-assembly in soft-matter systems.
- The Quantum Matter and Optics specialisation is primarily experimental. It covers research topics like: the emergence of material properties from a combination of quantum

- mechanical confinement, electron-electron interaction, and/or electron spin properties, photon-matter interaction, and the quantum properties of light.
- The Cosmology specialisation is offered in collaboration with the Leiden Observatory. Research projects in the specialisation provide training in theory, data handling, and numerical simulations for current research in cosmology. It covers research topics like: observations of the universe with state-of-the-art telescopes, supercomputer simulations of the structure of the universe, and theoretical physics studies of the hot big bang, the expanding universe, and inflation.
 - The 'Casimir pre-PhD' specialisation was offered under the auspices of the Casimir Research School, a joint effort of the LION and various departments at the Delft University of Technology. It is no longer accepting new students. This OER is to serve current enrollees.
 - The specialisation in Classical/Quantum Information sits on the interface of Physics and Data Science. It covers a variety of topics, from the physical principles underlying machine learning and artificial intelligence, to information-science aspects of Quantum Computing. It offers flexible research possibilities for projects on these topics addressing physics challenges with modern data science tools.

The remaining three specialisations combine research in physics with Business Studies (BS), with Science Communication & Society (SCS), or with Education (EDU). The Physics part of these MSc programmes is in English, as is the Business and Communication Studies; the Education component is in Dutch. A more detailed description of these specialisations is given below.

1.3 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

(A) KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- A1 have a good understanding of the important physical theories (logical and mathematical structure, experimental support, physical phenomena described).
- A2 be familiar with the most important areas of physics and with the common approaches, which span many areas in physics.
- A3 have a good knowledge of the state of the art in (at least) one of the presently active topics in physics research.

(B) APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- B1 be able to frame, analyse and break down a problem in phases defining a suitable algorithmic procedure; be able to evaluate clearly the orders of magnitude in situations which are physically different, but show analogies, thus allowing the use of known solutions in new problems.
- B2 be able to identify the essentials of a process/situation and to set up a working model of the same; be able to perform the required approximations; i.e. critically think about how to construct physical models.

- B3 be able to understand and master the use of the most commonly used mathematical and numerical methods.
- B4 have become familiar with most important experimental methods and be able to perform experiments independently, as well as to describe, analyse and critically evaluate experimental data; and to be able to scientifically report the findings. (does not apply to students in the theory specialisation)
- B5 be able to use appropriate software, programming language, computational tools and methods in physical and mathematical investigations.
- B6 acquire an understanding of the nature and ways of physics research and of how physics research is applicable to many fields other than physics, e.g. engineering; be able to design experimental and/or theoretical procedures for: (i) solving current problems in academic or industrial research; (ii) improving the existing results.

(C) JUDGEMENT

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- C1 be able to develop a personal sense of responsibility; be able to gain professional flexibility through the wide spectrum of scientific techniques offered in the curriculum; be able to organize the personal learning process, evaluate personal work, consult experts for information (e.g. about career opportunities) and support when appropriate; have had the opportunity to take courses that prepare for teaching physics at secondary school, as well as the opportunity to gain in-depth interdisciplinary skills.
- C2 have become familiar with highly regarded research in the field, thus developing an awareness of the highest standards.
- C3 be able to understand the socially related problems related to the profession, and to comprehend the ethical characteristics of research and of the professional activity in physics and its responsibility to society; be able to conduct processes of decision making and inspect the consequences of actions taking into account principles, norms, values and standards both from a personal and a professional standpoint.
- C4 be able to work with a high degree of autonomy, even accepting responsibility in (project) planning, and in the managing of structures.

(D) COMMUNICATION

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- D1 be able to listen carefully and to present difficult ideas and complex information in a clear and concise manner to a professional as well as to lay audiences; be able to work in a multidisciplinary or in an interdisciplinary team.
- D2 be able to read, speak, and write in technical English.

(E) LEARNING SKILLS

On completion of the programme, the student should:

- E1 be able to search for and use physical and other technical literature, as well as any other sources of information relevant to research work and technical project development.
- E2 be able to enter new fields through independent study; have developed those learning skills that are necessary for them to continue to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy (lifelong learning).
- E2 enjoy the facility to remain informed of new developments and methods, and be able to provide professional advice on their possible impact or range of applications.

The aforementioned qualifications, which are derived from the international domain-specific reference framework for Physics, apply to all specialisations of the MSc Physics. For the six research-oriented specialisations they are complete. The three society-oriented specialisations have the following additional qualifications:

Business Studies
BS1- Insight in managerial issues related to knowledge-intensive businesses and basic theoretical skills in business disciplines most relevant to working in these businesses; BS2- The ability to make a plan for a new business or an innovation project; BS3- Experience with performing business activities in an existing company or organization or directed towards technology-based business creation.
Science Communication and Society
SCS1- Knowledge of the relationship between science & society through science communication frameworks and transdisciplinary perspectives. SCS2- Experience with these frameworks and skills to apply them in practice, e.g. in science journalism, visual communication, or in informal science education. SCS3- Basic skills in performing science communication research independently.
Education
EDU1- all qualifications necessary for teaching all years of secondary education and technical and vocational training (students from 12 to 18 years old);

The general qualifications of Faculty of Science are linked to the final learning outcomes of the programme as depicted below:

Final qualifications of Faculty of Science	Final learning outcomes MSc Physics
A. Knowledge and understanding	
A graduate has: * the ability to interrelate and integrate various areas of the discipline;	A1, A2, and A3
B. Applying knowledge and understanding	
* theoretical and/or practical skills in more than one specialist area of the discipline such that they can carry out research under overall supervision;	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6

* the ability to make an independent analysis of scientific problems, analysis of relevant specialist literature, formulate verifiable hypotheses, and set up and carry out research and critical reflection on one's own research and that of others;	
C. Judgement	
* sufficient understanding of the social role of the natural sciences to be able to reflect upon them and in part consequently to come to an ethically sound attitude and corresponding execution of one's professional duties;	C1, C2, C3, and C4
D. Communication	
* the ability to present clearly, verbally as well as in writing, one's own research results, and the ability to communicate with colleagues and to present their research results as a contribution to a congress or as (part of) a scientific publication;	D1 and D2
E. Learning (Skills)	
* the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.	E1, E2, and E3

1.4 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

The standard programme starts at the beginning of the academic year in September. Late admission in February is possible for those students who are able to show that they are proficient in the required courses for the relevant specialisation, but it is usually not possible to complete the studies in two years when the programme is started in February. The specialisation 'Cosmology' starts in September only.

2. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The duration of the programme is two years (120 EC). The nine specialisations are distinguished by a programme and a curriculum that emphasize the intended perspective and goal of the specialisation. Each programme consists of two components: a set of courses and one or more research projects. The selection of courses differs per specialisation and always comprises a mandatory part and an elective part. For the elective part, a minimum number of ECs has to be selected from lists of pre-approved courses. Other electives can be selected from either the pre-approved courses or from other courses offered within all specialisations in our MSc Physics programme. Students can also take certain elective courses from the physics MSc programme at the Technical University of Delft and -if appropriate- from other Dutch Universities, subject to approval by the Board of Examiners. Up to one course from a different MSc programme outside Physics can also be selected, subject to approval from the Study Advisor and the Board of Examiners. Details about the programme of each specialisation are given below.

The course programme selected by each individual student is set in a study plan that is discussed and agreed with the Study Advisor at the start of the studies. Approval of the study plan by the Study Advisor expresses the approval by the Board of Examiners. Students are allowed to change their study plan upon approval by the Study Advisor.

3. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

3.1 Confirmation of admission

3.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 3.2 and 3.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

3.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.⁴⁸

3.2 Admission to the programme

3.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a) a bachelor's degree in Physics from a research university in the Netherlands, or
- b) holders of a bachelor's degree in a physics-related programme who have additionally passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to Article 3.4.1

3.2.2 Holders of a BSc in physics from another university with a programme equivalent to those of Dutch universities, or holders of a BSc in other discipline with sufficient knowledge in the areas of quantum physics, electrodynamics, statistical physics and complex analysis, have to apply for admission. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 3.2.1, under (a). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned in 3.2.4 below.

Admission process

Applicants are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s);
- a letter in which the applicant explains that they possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified 3.2.1.a;

The Board of Admissions reserves the option to interview the candidate.

3.2.3 Dutch and English languages⁴⁹

⁴⁸[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

⁴⁹ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

3.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with English A);
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of the French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- a Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma with English as a subject.

3.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 3.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;⁵⁰
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

3.2.3.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who is not a native Dutch speaker and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* or *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply to students whose native language is not Dutch, but who have completed a course in preparatory or higher education in Dutch.. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II.

The Education specialisation of this master's programme sets the following Dutch language requirements: TUL exam (Toelatingsexamen Universiteit Leiden) - *Gevorderd*. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement.

3.2.3.4 The language level in 3.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 3.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 3.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 3.2.4, all students must meet it.

⁵⁰ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](#)

3.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

3.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 3.2.1 or 3.2.2 or in derogation of the language requirement in 3.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

1. For all specialisations knowledge of classical mechanics, quantum physics, statistical physics, complex analysis and electrodynamics at undergraduate level is required.
2. For the specialisation “Research in Physics, Cosmology” knowledge of ‘Physics of Elementary Particles’, ‘Astroparticle physics’ or an equivalent course at undergraduate level is required.

3.3 Deficiencies

3.3.1 Holders of a bachelor’s degree from a research university, referred to in 3.2.1, subsections a and b, or an equivalent diploma with at most 15 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 3.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

3.3.3 For the admission referred to in 3.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

3.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 3.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master’s programme.

3.4 Premasters and educational module

3.4.1 The department offers a bespoke pre-master’s programme (for the following target groups) in order to remove deficiencies:

For students with bachelor’s degrees other than Physics the Board of Admissions may impose a Pre-Master’s programme, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, before admission into the MSc programme. This Pre-master’s programme consists of maximally 60 EC and is agreed with the Board of Admissions, via the Study Advisor. It will remedy deficiencies in the following list of mandatory 2nd year BSc Leiden Physics courses:

- Linear Algebra 2NA (with prerequisite of Linear Algebra 1NA), 6 EC 4082LA2NAY (4082LIAL2Y)
- Analysis 3NA (with prerequisites of Analysis 1NA + 2NA), 6 EC 4082AN3NAY (4081AN1NAY+ 4081AN2NAY)
- Quantum Mechanics 1 + 2, 11 EC 4062QUM16Y+ 4062QUME2Y
- Statistical Physics 1, 6 EC 4062STAF1Y
- Classical Electrodynamics (with prerequisite of Electromagnetic Fields), 4 EC 4062KLSELY
- Classical Mechanics B (with prerequisite of Classical Mechanics A), 3 EC 4062CLMB3Y (4061KLASAY)
- Introduction to Solid State Physics, 3 EC 4062IVSF3Y
- Physics Experiments 1 + 2 + 3, 10 EC 4062PHEX3Y+ 4062PHEX5Y+ 4062PHEX2Y

and may include a selection of elective courses. Students should be familiar with computer programming, preferably in Python, at the level of the Programming Methods NA (4031PRGR4Y). In order to follow such program the student may need to have sufficient proficiency of the Dutch language, having passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* (equivalent to state examination NT2-II) or *TUL-gevorderd*;

3.4.2 Information about the premasters can be obtained from the programme.

3.4.3 A student who has been awarded the degree of Bachelor or Master in Science Education and who meets the established requirements concerning sufficient cognation may be enrolled with the sole purpose of taking and completing the educational module in order to obtain a limited second-degree qualification.

3.4.4 The educational module is the responsibility of ICLON's examination board.

4 Specialisation Research in Physics, Theoretical Physics

4.4 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Effective Field Theory 4403EFTH3Y	500	3
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Quantum Theory 4403QUTH6Y	400	6
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
Statistical Physics b 4403STPHBY	400	3
Topics in Theoretical Physics 4403TTP24Y	400	6
Elective courses from MSc Physics programme, with at least 12 EC from list of preapproved electives presented below, and max. 6 EC from other MSc programmes	400-600	42
Physics research project in Theoretical Physics at LION (division: research=36 EC 4403RPR36Y, thesis=8 EC 4403RPTH8Y, and presentation=4 EC 4403RPOP4Y)	600	48

Each project must be approved by the Study Advisor before the start. All research projects are performed under the responsibility of a LION staff member. The project can be either fully theoretical or theoretical/experimental, but if so it must be for the major part (>70%) theoretical. Data analysis may be part of the project, but the essence/main goal must be physics.

Preapproved electives: Theoretical Physics	Level	EC
Advanced Topics in Theoretical Physics I 4403AT122Y	600	6
Advanced Topics in Theoretical Physics II 4403AT222Y	600	6
Applied Quantum Algorithms 4343APQALY	500	6
Black Holes and Gravitational Waves * 4403BHWG3Y	500	3
Complex Networks 4609COMNWW	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH6Y	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH3Y	400	3
Econophysics 4062ECONOY	400	6
Origin and Structure of the Standard Model 4403OSSM3Y	500	3
Particle Physics and the Early Universe 4403PPEU3Y	500	3

Physics of Finance 4403PHOF3Y	400	3
Quantum Field Theory 4403QFTH6Y	500	6
Soft and Bio-matter Theory 4403SBMT6Y	500	6
Theoretical Cosmology * 4403THCO3Y	500	3
Theory of Condensed Matter 4403TCM06Y	500	6
Theory of General Relativity 4403TGR64Y	400	6
Origin and Evolution of the Universe 4303OEUNIY	500	6

Most courses (including those that are mandatory) are offered every year. The rest (indicated with *) are offered less frequently, usually in alternate years. The course offering is subject to change. The 3EC and 6EC versions of the Computational Physics course exclude each other.

Transitional arrangements: The course Physics of Finance replaces the level 300 BSc course of the same name, they are mutually exclusive. The BSc course Econophysics (4062ECONOY) replaces the MSc course of the same name (previous code 4406ECOPHY), they exclude each other.

5 Specialisation Research in Physics, Biological and Soft Matter Physics

5.4 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
Soft and Bio-matter Theory 4403SBMT6Y	400	6
Elective courses from MSc Physics programme, with 12 EC from list of preapproved courses presented below, and max. 6 EC from other MSc programmes	400-500	42
Research project in Physics 1 (division: research=20 EC 4403RP120Y, thesis=3 EC 4403RPPT3Y, and presentation=1 EC 4403RPPO1Y)	600	24
Research project in Physics 2 (division: research=30 EC 4403CRP30Y, thesis=4 EC 4403THRP4Y, and presentation=2 EC 4403OPRP2Y)	600	36

Each project must be approved by the Study Advisor before the start. At least one of the two projects has to be carried out in an experimental group. All research projects are performed under the responsibility of a LION staff member. Up to one project can be carried out outside LION.

Preapproved Electives: Biological and Soft Matter Physics	Level	EC
Biophysics 4062BIOPHY	400	6
Advanced Optics 4403ADVOPY	500	6
Complex Networks 4609COMNWX	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH6Y	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH3Y	400	3
Econophysics 4062ECONOY	400	6
Frontiers of Measurement Techniques 4403FRMT3Y	400	3
Mechanical Metamaterials * 4403MOMM6Y	400	6
Physics of Finance 4403PHOF3Y	400	3
Statistical Physics b 4403STPHBY	400	3
Topics in Theoretical Physics 4403TTP24Y	400	6

Preapproved BSM courses offered by other departments:	Level	EC
Engineering of Living Systems (TU Delft)	400	3
Advanced Optical Imaging (TU Delft)	400	6
Nanotechnology (TU Delft)	400	6
The Origin and Synthesis of Life (TU Delft)*	400	6

Most courses are offered every year. The rest (indicated with *) are offered less frequently, usually in alternate years. The course offering is subject to change. The 3EC and 6EC versions of the course Computational Physics exclude each other.

Transitional arrangements: The course 'Biophysics' (4062BIOPHY) replaces the previously offered MSc course Biophysics' (4403BIOPHY). The course Physics of Finance replaces the level 300 BSc course of the same name, they are mutually exclusive. The BSc course Econophysics (4062ECONOY) replaces the MSc course of the same name (previous code 4406ECOPHY), they exclude each other.

6 Specialisation Research in Physics, Quantum Matter and Optics

6.1 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Quantum Theory 4403QUTH6Y	400	6
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
Elective courses from MSc Physics programme, with 12 EC from list of preapproved courses presented below, and max. 6 EC from other MSc programmes	400-500	42
Research project in Physics 1 (division: research=20 EC 4403RP120Y, thesis=3 EC 4403RPPT3Y, and presentation=1 EC 4403RPPO1Y)	600	24
Research project in Physics 2 (division: research=30 EC 4403RP230Y, thesis=4 EC 4403THRP4Y, and presentation=2 EC 4403OPRP2Y)	600	36

Each project must be approved by the Study Advisor before the start. At least one of the two research projects has to be carried out in an experimental group. All research projects are performed under the responsibility of a LION staff member. Up to one project can be carried out outside LION.

Preapproved electives: Quantum Matter and Optics	Level	EC
Advanced Optics 4403ADVOPY	500	6
Applied Quantum Algorithms (<i>in collaboration with Computer Science</i>) 4343APQALY	500	6
Complex Networks 4609COMNWW	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH6Y	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH3Y	400	3
Condensed Matter Physics 4403COPH6Y	500	6
Econophysics 4062ECONOY	400	6
Effective Field Theory 4403EFTH3Y	500	3
Frontiers of Measurement Techniques 4403FRMT3Y	400	3
Magnetic Resonance Physics * 4403MRPH3Y	500	3

Quantum Optics 4403QOPT6Y	400	6
Physics and Classical/Quantum Information 4403PHCQIY	400	6
Statistical Physics b 4403STPHBY	400	3
Superconductivity * 4403SUPC3Y	500	3
Theory of Condensed Matter 4403TCM06Y	500	6
Topics in Theoretical Physics 4403TTP24Y	400	6

Preapproved QMO courses offered by other departments:	Level	EC
Introduction to Machine Learning (Computer Science; preferred course) 4343INTMLY	500	6
Nanotechnology (TU Delft)	400	6
Surface Science (Chemistry) * 4423SURFSY	500	6

Most courses (including those that are mandatory) are offered every year. The rest (indicated with *) are offered less frequently, usually in alternate years. The course offering is subject to change. The 3EC and 6EC versions of the course Computational Physics are mutually exclusive.

Students who have passed the BSc course Machine Learning (4032KIMLR) may not take the course Introduction to Machine Learning (4343INTML) for credit; these two are mutually exclusive.

Transitional arrangements: The course 'Foundations of Statistics and Machine Learning' replaces the discontinued course 'Information-theoretic Learning'.

7 Specialisation Research in Physics, Cosmology

7.1 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Large Scale Structure and Galaxy Formation 4303LSSG6Y	500	6
Origin and Evolution of the Universe 4303OEUNIY	500	6
Origin and Structure of the Standard Model 4403OSSM3Y	400	3
Particle Physics and the Early Universe 4403PPEU3Y	500	3
Quantum Theory 4403QUTH6Y	400	6
Theory of General Relativity 4403TGR64Y	400	6
Elective courses from the MSc Physics or MSc Astronomy programme, of which 12 EC must be Cosmology courses, and max. 6 EC from other MSc programmes	400-500	27
Research project in Cosmology 1 (division: research=26 EC 4403CRP01Y, thesis=3 EC 4403CTHS1Y, and presentation=1 EC 4403CORP1Y)	500	30
Research project in Cosmology 2 (Master's project) (division: research=26 EC 4403CRP02Y, thesis=3 EC 4403CTHS2Y, and presentation=1 EC 4403CORP2Y)	600	30

Both projects must be in Cosmology and must be pre-approved by the Study Advisor. The combination of the two projects must cover three aspects: theory, numerical modelling and data analysis. Typically, the two projects have different supervisors. At least one project must be done at LION.

Preapproved electives: Cosmology	Level	EC
Black Holes and Gravitational Waves * 4403BHW3Y	500	3
Computational Physics 4403CMPH6Y	400	6
Effective Field Theory 4403EFTH3Y	500	3
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
Theoretical Cosmology * 4403THCO3Y	500	3
Preapproved Cosmology electives offered by Astronomy	Level	EC
Simulation and Modelling in Astrophysics * (AMUSE) 4303SIMOAY	400	6
Modern Astrostatistics 4303MOASSY	500	3
Gravitational Lensing * 4303GRLENY	500	3
Observational Cosmology* 4303OBCOSY	400	3

Most courses (including those mandatory) are offered every year. The rest (indicated with *) are offered less frequently, usually in alternate years. The course offering is subject to change.

Transitional arrangements:

- Students who followed the old 6 EC course on 'Particle Physics of the Early Universe' have covered the same study material as currently offered in the combination of the two 3 EC courses 'Origin and Structure of the Standard Model' and 'Particle Physics of the Early Universe'.
- The course 'Modern Astrostatistics' replaces the old course 'Databases and Data Mining'.
- The old Computational Astrophysics (6 EC) course is equivalent to the course Simulation and Modeling in Astrophysics (AMUSE) (6EC).

8 Specialisation Research in Physics, Classical/Quantum Information

8.1 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Computational Physics 4403CMPH6Y	400	6
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
Introduction to Machine Learning (Computer Science) 4343INTMLY	500	6
Physics and Classical/Quantum Information 4403PHCQIY	400	6
<i>Choice of 2 courses from list of core courses presented below</i>	400	12
Elective courses from MSc Physics programme, with 12 EC from lists of core courses and preapproved courses presented below and max. 6 EC from MSc programmes outside Physics	400-500	18
Research project in Physics with Data Science (division 36 EC: research=30 EC, thesis=4 EC, and presentation=2 EC)	600	36*
Research project or internship (division 24 EC: research=20 EC, thesis=3 EC, and presentation=1 EC)	600	24*

* Each project must be approved by the Study Advisor before the start. All research projects are performed under responsibility of a LION staff member.

The course Introduction to Machine Learning (4343INTML) has strong overlap with the BSc course Machine Learning (4032KIMLR), they are mutually exclusive. Students who have passed Machine Learning should replace Introduction to Machine Learning by another course from the list of core courses.

Core courses: choose at least 2 from list (rest can serve as electives)	Level	EC
Advances in Deep Learning (Computer Science) 4343ADL6XY	500	6
Applied Quantum Algorithms (Physics, Computer Science) 4343APQALY	500	6
Introduction to Deep Learning (Computer Science) 4343INTDLY	500	6
Foundations of Statistics and Machine Learning (Mathematics) 4373FSML6Y	500	6
Reinforcement Learning (Computer Science) 4343REINLY	500	6

Preapproved electives: Classical/Quantum Information	Level	EC
Automated Machine Learning (Computer Science) 4343AUTMXY	500	6
Complex Networks 4609COMNWX	400	6
Econophysics 4062ECONOY	400	6
Physics of Finance 4403PHOF3Y	400	3
Quantum Theory 4403QUTH6Y	400	6
Statistical Physics b 4403STPHBY	400	3

Transitional agreement: the course 'Foundations of Statistics and Machine Learning' replaces the old course 'Information-theoretic Learning'. The BSc course 'Econophysics' replaces the (level 400) MSc course of the same name offered in previous years, they are mutually exclusive. The course Physics of Finance replaces the level 300 BSc course of the same name, they are mutually exclusive.

9 Specialisation Research in Physics, pre-PhD ('Casimir')

9.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The 'Casimir pre-PhD' specialisation is offered under the auspices of the Casimir Research School, a joint effort of the LION, and various departments at the Delft University of Technology. It is a selection track that can be followed from the three specialisations Theoretical Physics, Biological and Soft Matter Physics, and Quantum Matter and Optics. This specialisation offers research projects in both Leiden and Delft and requires students to participate in at least one research project at each location.

The programme follows a strict schedule, with the first year devoted to laying the theoretical basis, and the second year to a combination of short intensive research projects and a long MSc thesis project, culminating in the writing of a research proposal for a potential PhD project. The short projects and the proposal writing are special characteristics of the programme, aimed at broadening the research experience of the student.

The study projects and MSc research project, scheduled for the second year, are to be carried out in different groups. The PhD research proposal is the last item in the programme. The programme does not accept new enrollees at this time. The regulations below are for current already admitted students only.

9.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The 'Casimir pre-PhD' is a selection track that can be followed from any of the three-research specialisations Theoretical Physics, Biological and Soft Matter Physics, and Quantum Matter and Optics. Its requirements in the first study year copy those of the underlying specialisation (except for 30 EC of Electives in the Theory specialisation, instead of 42 EC). In the second study year, the division over research projects is different though and a research proposal is written (see below).

	Level	EC
Compulsory courses of the underlying specialisation	400-500	18-30
Elective courses of the underlying specialisation	400-500	30-42
Research project in Physics (division: research=30 EC, thesis=4 EC, and presentation=2 EC)	600	36
Study projects (2x)	500	2 x 8
Research Proposal	500	8

All research and study projects must be pre-approved by the Casimir coordinator and the Study Advisor. One of the 2 study projects must be experimental, the other must be theoretical/mixed theoretical-experimental. The 36 EC research project can be either experimental or theoretical or mixed theoretical-experimental, in line with the student's original specialisation. Occasionally a theoretical research project can be a continuation of the theoretical study project and combined into one 44 EC research project (division: research=34 EC, thesis=6 EC, and presentation=4 EC), with special permission from the Casimir coordinator. Data analysis may be part of the project, but the essence/main goal must be physics.

The following courses are also available to students of the Casimir pre-PhD specialisation, subject to the mutual-exclusion constraints mentioned at the end of the list

Selection of available (Casimir pre-PhD) courses from TU Delft	Level	EC
Foundational courses		
Advanced Electrodynamics	400	6
Advanced Solid State Physics	400	6
Continuum Physics	400	6
Topical Courses		
Engineering of living systems	500	3
Fundamentals of Quantum Information	400	6
Mesoscopic Physics	400	6
Quantum Communication and Cryptography	400	5
Quantum Hardware 1 – Theoretical Concepts	400	4
Quantum Hardware 2—Experimental State of the Art	500	4
Quantum Optics and Lasers		
The Origin and Synthesis of Life	500	6
Methods		
Computational Physics 4403CMPH6Y	400	6
Computational Physics 4403CMPH3Y	400	3
Electronics for Quantum Computing	400	5
Nanotechnology	400	6

It is unavoidable that the contents of certain courses in Delft and Leiden show significant overlap. To avoid redundancy in the study programme, the combinations of courses given below are mutually exclusive:

- Advanced Solid State Physics (Delft) ó Condensed Matter Physics (Leiden)
- Fundamentals of Quantum Information (Delft) ó Quantum Information (Leiden)}
- Quantum Optics and Lasers (Delft) ó Quantum Optics (Leiden)
- Computational Physics (Delft) ó Computational Physics (Leiden)

9.3 Additional qualifications for admission (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

The programme does not admit new students at this time.

10 Specialisation Business Studies

10.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Physics and Business Studies offers students the possibility to combine physics with knowledge, insights, and skills in the area of Management, Business and Entrepreneurship.

Students are encouraged to broaden their horizon, to form opinions, to prepare for a career in industry, and to enhance competences in pursuing entrepreneurial business opportunities stemming from research disciplines.

10.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
<i>Elective courses related to the research project</i>	400-500	12
Research project in Physics (division: research=30 EC, thesis=4 EC, and presentation=2 EC)	600	36
Business Studies component, as described here .		40-60
Electives from either the MSc Physics or Business Studies offerings	400-500	20-0

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

11. Specialisation Science Communication and Society

11.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Physics and Science Communication and Society (SCS) offers students the possibility to combine physics with science communication.

Students are prepared for a career in the area of science communication or for a career as a scientist with a communication focus.

11.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
<i>Elective courses related to the research project</i>	400-500	12
Research project in Physics	600	36
Division: research=30 EC, thesis=4 EC, and presentation=2 EC		
Science Communication and Society component, as described here .	500-600	40-60
Electives from either MSc Physics or SCS offerings	400-500	0-20

A more comprehensive description, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

12. Specialisation Education

12.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Physics and Education (EDU) prepares students for a career as a physics (Natuurkunde) teacher qualified to teach at the Dutch secondary education as 'eerstegraads docent'.

12.2 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

	Level	EC
Academic and Professional Skills 4403ACPRSY	400	3
Quantum Information 4403QINF3Y	400	3
Statistical Physics a 4403STPHAY	400	6
<i>Elective courses related to the research project</i>	400-500	12
Research project in Physics	600	36
Division: research=30 EC, thesis=4 EC, and presentation=2 EC		
Education component, as described here .		60

The Physics component of the programme is followed during the first year of study, the Education component during the second year.

For students who have completed the minor in Education (30 EC) during the BSc programme, the compulsory Education component is reduced by 30 EC. The freed up 30 EC can be filled by courses from either the Physics or Education offerings.

A more comprehensive description, qualifications for admission, exemptions and more information on the complete programme can be found [here](#).

MSc Statistics and Data Science

CROHO-number 60957

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The inter-faculty MSc programme Statistics and Data Science is taught in Leiden by the following institutes:

- Mathematical Institute;
- Department of Biomedical Data Sciences – Leiden University Medical Center;
- Methodology and Statistics – Institute of Psychology – Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences;
- Biometris – Wageningen UR;
- Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science.

The duration of the programme is two years (120 EC). Students who complete the programme receive the degree Master of Science in Statistics and Data Science.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The goal of the programme is to provide the student with a broad training in applied statistics and data science and their role in science and society. The graduate will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding critically, independently, and structurally to model and evaluate complex phenomena arising in a variety of situations. The graduate will be well equipped to pursue a career in science, in industry or in the public sector. Qualification to become a PhD candidate is a definite possibility.

Students will gain a thorough knowledge and understanding of statistical models and techniques, which will allow them to apply and/or develop new statistical and data science methods with application to a broad range of research fields.

Students learn practical skills such as statistical programming, statistical consultation, and written and oral presentation of analysis and research results.

1.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

a. Knowledge and understanding

The graduate has a broad knowledge of statistics and data science and its role in science and society. This includes

- a1. a firm grasp of the general concepts of statistical science and data science, with attention for the differences in jargon in different contexts;
- a2. an understanding of statistics and data science as a branch of science and not merely a collection of techniques;
- a3. knowledge of relevant statistical / data science methods, their strengths, assumptions, and limitations;

- a4. deeper knowledge of statistical/ data science methods in specific chosen areas of application;
- a5. familiarity with directions of current research in statistics and data science in specific chosen areas of application;
- a6. knowledge of planning and design of studies;
- a7. knowledge of computing and data management;
- a8. knowledge of mathematical tools that are essential for statistics and data science (including basic calculus, linear algebra and probability theory).

b. Application of knowledge and understanding

The graduate has the ability to apply their knowledge and understanding in a critical, independent, and a systematic approach to model and evaluate complex phenomena arising in a variety of situations. This involves

- b1. the choice of statistical/ data science methods for data analysis in concrete applications;
- b2. working with imperfect data;
- b3. the translation from concrete applications to statistical terms and vice versa;
- b4. the execution of statistical/data analytic tasks with appropriate methods;
- b5. the implementation of methods in computer programs and applying existing methods.

c. Judgement and Evaluation

The graduate

- c1. demonstrates the ability for sound statistical judgement both within a scientific and societal context;
- c2. is aware of the ethical implications of the use of data science and statistics;
- c3. has general insight in statistics and data science, its limitations, and its role in society.

d. Communication

The graduate is able to

- d1. explain the role of uncertainty in scientific discourse;
- d2. present and discuss, orally and/or in writing, the results of a statistical or data science analysis, both to statisticians/data scientists and non-statisticians/non-data scientists;
- d3. engage in a dialogue with an applied researcher in a particular subject area with the purpose to identify and formulate research questions that can be dealt with by statistical and data science analysis;
- d4. explain to substantive researchers the potential and limitations of statistical/ data science methods.

e. Learning Skills

The graduate takes responsibility to develop their competence, and therefore, will be able to

- e1. recognize gaps in their knowledge and find the resources to fill these gaps;
- e2. find and consult appropriate sources in the international relevant scientific literature;
- e3. recognize a need for novel statistical and data science methods and contribute to their development or implementation;
- e4. plan tasks within a given period of time.

1.3 Specialisations (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.2)

Not applicable.

1.4 Start of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.6)

Students can start their programme in September or February. However, they are strongly encouraged to start in September when a general introduction to the master programme and most of the compulsory courses are scheduled.

2. Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

2.1 Programme for those starting in the academic year 2024-2025

The curriculum consists of a core programme (59 EC), including one of the two homologation courses of 3 EC, electives (27 EC), and the thesis project (34 EC):

Core Programme	EC	Level
Empirical Research in the Life and Behavioural Sciences 4433ERLBS*	3	400
Mathematics for Statisticians 4433MSTT3**	3	300
Statistics and probability 4433STPRB	9	400
Statistical Computing with R 4433STCWR	6	400
Statistics and Data Science in Practice ⁵¹ 4433STDSP	3	400
Linear & Generalized Linear Models ⁵² 4433LGLM6Y	6	400
Linear Algebra ⁵³ 4433LALG3Y	3	400
Essentials for Data Science 4433EDASC	6	400
Statistical Learning 4433STLT6	6	500
Computational Statistics ⁵⁴ 4433COMSTY	3	500
Bayesian Methods I ⁵⁵ 4433BAYM1Y	3	500
Causal Inference I ⁵⁶ 4433CASINY	3	500

⁵¹ This course is not available to students who completed Introduction to Life and behavioural Sciences (4433SDL, 3 EC) before 1 September 2021.

⁵² This course is not available to students who completed Linear & Generalized linear Models and Linear Algebra (4433LAGLM)

⁵³ This course is not available to students who completed Linear & Generalized linear Models and Linear Algebra (4433LAGLM)

⁵⁴ This course is not available to students who completed Advanced Statistical Computing (4433ADSTC)

⁵⁵ This course is not available to students who completed Bayesian Statistics (4433BAYST).

⁵⁶ This course is not available to students who completed Missing Data and Causal Inference (4433MDCINY)

Essentials of Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling ⁵⁷ 4433EMLMDY	3	500
Statistical consulting 4433STCONY	5	500
	59	
Preapproved Electives	EC	Level
Survey Methodology 4433SURMT	6	500
Survival Analysis 4433SURAN	6	500
Design and analysis of biological experiments ⁵⁸ 4433DDABEY	6	500
Data visualisation 4433DAVISY	6	500
Exploratory Data Analysis 4433EXDAN ⁵⁹	6	500
Psychometrics and SEM 4433PSYAS	6	500
Statistical Genetics 4433STAGE	6	500
High-Dimensional Data Analysis 4433HDDAN	6	500
EMOS Core Module 4433EMOSC	12	500
Introduction to Deep Learning (Computer Science) 4343INTDLY	6	500
Advances in Data Mining (Computer Science) 4343ADVDMY	6	500
Advanced Statistical Learning 4433ADSTLY	3	500
Causal inference II 4433CASI2	3	500
Bayesian Methods II ⁶⁰ 4433BAYM2Y	3	500
	27	
Thesis project	EC	Level
Preparation of the thesis project 4433THES4Y	4	600
Thesis 4433THS30	30	600
	34	
Total	120	

* Homologation course for students with a quantitative Bachelor's degree, such as Mathematics, Econometrics, Statistics

** Homologation course for students with a substantive Bachelor's degree such as bachelor degrees in the life and behavioral sciences.

2.2 Electives

A maximum component of 12 EC may come from other electives than the listed preapproved electives. For electives other than the preapproved electives, approval has to be obtained from the Board of Examiners before the start of the study components, and it must meet the following criteria:

⁵⁷ This course is not available to students who completed Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433MISLM).

⁵⁸ This course is not available to students who completed both Study Designs in the Life and Behavioural Sciences (4433SDLBSY) and Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433MISLM). It is available if only one of these courses is completed.

⁵⁹ This course is not available to students who completed Multivariate and Multidimensional Data Analysis (4433MAMDA) or Nonlinear (Mixed) Data Analysis (4433NLMDAY)

⁶⁰ This course is not available to students who completed Bayesian Statistics (4433BAYST).

1. The elective course should be on MSc level;
2. The elective course should not show a (considerable) overlap with or replace compulsory courses or any of the other chosen electives;
3. The elective should have objectives that contribute to the final learning outcomes of the programme (see article 1.2), or provide topical knowledge on the masters' thesis research of the student.

2.3 Transitional arrangements

2.3.1 The course Computational Statistics (4433COMSTY) replaces the course Advanced Statistical Computing (4433ADSTC).

2.3.2 The course Causal Inference I (4433CASINY) replaces the course Missing Data and Causal Inference (4433MDCINY).

2.3.3 The course Exploratory Data Analysis replaces the course Nonlinear (Mixed) Data Analysis (4433NLMDAY) and the course Multivariate and Multidimensional Data Analysis (4433MAMDA).

2.3.4 The courses Linear & Generalized Linear Models (4433LGLM6Y; 6 EC;) and Linear Algebra (4433LALG3Y; 3 EC) will replace the course Linear & Generalized linear Models and Linear Algebra (4433LAGLM; 9 EC).

2.3.5 Preparation of the thesis project (4433THES4Y; 4 EC) and thesis (4433THS30; 30 EC) replace the former thesis project (4433THES4Y; 34 EC).

2.3.6 Preparation of the thesis project (4433THES4Y; 4 EC) and thesis (4433THS30; 30 EC) replace the former separate internship (4433INT10; 10 EC) and master thesis (4433MTH24; 24 EC). Students who started before September 2021 are still allowed to plan their thesis and internship as separate projects, provided they did not interrupt their registration.

2.3.7 The course Statistics and Data Science in Practice (4433STDSP; 3 EC) can be used to replace the course Introduction to the Life and Behavioral Sciences (4433INLBS; 3 EC) for students who started before September 2021.

2.3.8 The course Essentials for Data Science (4433EDASC; 6 EC) can be used to replace the course Introduction to Data Science (4433IDAS3; 3 EC) for students who started before September 2021.

2.3.9 The two courses Essentials of Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433EMLMD; 3EC) and Design and analysis of biological experiments (4433DDABE; 6 EC) can be used to replace the course Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433MISLM 6 EC) for students who started before September 2022.

2.3.10 The two courses Bayesian Methods I (4433BAYM1; 3EC) and Bayesian Methods II (4433BAYM2Y; 3EC) can be used to replace the course Bayesian Statistics (4433BAYST; 6 EC) for students who started before September 2022.

2.3.11 The course Bayesian Statistics (4433BAYST; 6 EC) can be used to replace the course Bayesian Methods I(4433BAYM1; 3EC) for students who started before September 1, 2022.

2.3.12 Students who started in the year 2021-2022 are allowed to follow the three courses Bayesian Methods I (4433BAYM1; 3EC) , Essentials of Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433EMLMD; 3EC) and Multivariate and Multidimensional Data Analysis (4433BAYST; 6 EC) , to replace the requirement to follow at least two of the following courses : Bayesian Statistics(4433BAYST; 6 EC), Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433MISLM 6 EC) or Multivariate and Multidimensional Data Analysis(4433BAYST; 6 EC).

2.3.13 The course Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433MISLM 6 EC) can be used to replace the course Essentials of Mixed and Longitudinal Modelling (4433EMLMD; 3EC) for students who started before September 1, 2022.

2.3.14 After cancellation of a component or major changes to a component, the student is provided with one more option to finish the component in the following academic year, where applicable via partial exams and/or compensatory assignments.

2.4 Examinations, Final Examination (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 4)

2.4.1 Obligatory sequence (Course and Examination Regulations art. 4.2). Students may only take the following courses and sit their attendant examinations once they have passed the examinations for one or more other components:

<i>Programme component:</i>	<i>Follow course and sit its attendant examination after having passed:</i>
EMOS Core Module	Survey Methodology

<i>Programme component:</i>	<i>Follow course and sit its attendant examination after having obtained:</i>
Statistical Consulting	45 EC from the programme
EMOS Core Module	42 EC from the programme
Thesis Project	42 EC to follow the preparation of the thesis project, 60 EC from the programme to start conducting the Thesis Project, and 90 EC from the programme to sit its attendant final examination. ⁶¹

For the components and their attendant examinations, which must be completed in a given sequence, the Board of Examiners may in special cases, and following a substantiated written request by the student, agree to an alternative sequence.

3. Admission to the programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

3.1 Confirmation of admission

3.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 3.2 and 3.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum

⁶¹ Students who started before September 2021 and conduct a separate internship (10 EC) and thesis (24 EC), need 96 EC from the programme to sit its attendant final examination. Students who are following thesis project (4433THES4Y; 34 EC) need 86 EC from the programme to sit its attendant final examination.

number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

3.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be applied for according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.⁶²

3.2 Admission to the programme

3.2.1

Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

- a. holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university in the Netherlands or from a foreign research university of similar level, provided the student accumulated at least 20 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects in statistics/ methodology and/or mathematics, of which at least 10 EC in statistics/methodology/probability calculus, and has a basic knowledge of calculus (equivalent to the Dutch: vwo Wiskunde B). There are qualitative requirements corresponding to the grades of these courses, see 3.2.4.

3.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 3.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 3.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to in 3.2.4.

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 3.2.1., subsections a, and Article 3.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- a letter in which the applicant explains that the applicant possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified 3.2.1, subsections a , or explains how the applicant aims to catch up for deficiencies .

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 3.2.1, subsections a.

3.2.3 Dutch and English languages⁶³

⁶²[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

⁶³ Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

3.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of this OER) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with "English A");
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of French taught education in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa;
- A diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- A diploma from a higher vocational education course taught in English and completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- A Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

3.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 3.2.3.1, at least one of the following language requirements can be set:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each individual subsection;
- TOEFL: internet based 90, with a minimum of 20 for each individual subsection;⁶⁴
- Cambridge English Exam C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, with a minimum of 169 for each individual subsection.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

3.2.3.3. As further clarification of Article 2.8 (see Faculty part of these regulations) concerning command of the language of instruction, a student whose mother tongue is not Dutch and who wishes to be admitted to a Dutch-taught master's programme must have passed *TUL-halfgevorderd* - or *TUL-gevorderd*. The TUL exam is organised by Leiden University. The *TUL-halfgevorderd* requirement can also be met with the State Examination NT2-II. A Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (*Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*) at *Educatief Startbekwaam* or *Educatief Professioneel* level is also sufficient to meet the language requirement. The above does not apply for students for whom Dutch is not their native language, but who have completed a course in preparatory or higher education in Dutch.

3.2.3.4 The language level in 3.2.3.1, except for the second and third bullets, and 3.2.3.2 are not applicable when a higher level of language proficiency is required and is considered a qualitative admissions requirement (selection requirement) in Article 3.2.4. If a higher requirement is included in Article 3.2.4, all students must meet it.

3.2.4 Qualitative admissions requirements (selection requirements)

In addition to the requirements specified in 3.2.1 or 3.2.2 or in derogation of the language requirement in 3.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- the courses/projects referred to in 3.2.1 sub-section a, must have been concluded with an average mark of at least 7.5/10 (or GPA \geq 3.4).

⁶⁴ See also the following comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](#)

3.2.4.1. These qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) will be measured or assessed according to the following method:

- Grades of the courses/projects referred to in 3.2.1 sub-section a, will be averaged.

3.3 Deficiencies

3.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, referred to in 3.2.1, subsection a, or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 10 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 3.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit any final examinations or examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

3.3.3 For the admission referred to in 3.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

3.3.4 If a student is admitted to the programme on the basis of 3.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the Master's programme.

3.4 Pre-master and educational module

Not applicable.

Specialisation Business Studies

1. Description of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2)

The specialisation Business Studies is for MSc students in the sciences and biomedicine who are interested in management, entrepreneurship, and/or a career in industry. The objective of the specialisation is to teach students basic analytical frameworks and skills that enable them 1) to analyse business-related problems, and 2) to contribute to managerial decision making, all within the context of established knowledge-intensive organisations or new technology ventures. This faculty-wide specialisation blends discipline-specific scientific knowledge with business and managerial skills. It is designed to meet the evolving needs of start-ups and companies, where a combination of scientific knowledge and effective management has become increasingly important.

1.1 Objectives of the programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.1)

The specialisation *Business Studies* aims to provide an introduction to general management theory and practice. In addition, students will gain practical experience in applying their business knowledge and skills through working as an intern in a knowledge-intensive organisation.

The specialisation emphasises interactive teaching that connects with management practice. This means opportunities for students to learn through real-life business case discussions, guest speakers, and hands-on business experience in internships.

1.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

Graduates of the master programme with specialisation *Business Studies* have become proficient in the use of fundamental conceptual frameworks in business studies, and have attained the following general learning outcomes:

- theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the core areas of business and management;
- the ability to interrelate and integrate various scientific disciplines with business and managerial concepts, enabling a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving;
- the ability to independently analyse business research problems, critically engage with relevant literature, formulate testable hypotheses, and conduct and critically reflect on research, demonstrating a synthesis of scientific and business perspectives;
- communication skills tailored for the business environment, enabling effective collaboration and engagement with diverse stakeholders;
- practical business skills, encompassing hands-on experience in applying scientific expertise to real-world business challenges, and developing effective business strategies.

1.3 Qualifications for Admission (Course and Examination Regulations art. 5)

Admissible to the specialisation Business Studies are all students that are admitted to a Master Programme of the Faculty of Science or the Master Programme in Biomedical Sciences of the Faculty of Medicine (LUMC) provided that the rules and regulations of the subject Master Programme do allow so.

1.4 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations art. 3)

The MSc programme in combination with the Business Studies specialisation consists of two components:

- a component within the chosen MSc programme:
 - [Astronomy](#);
 - [Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences](#);
 - [Biology](#);
 - [Chemistry](#);
 - [Life Science and Technology](#);
 - [Mathematics](#);
 - [Physics](#); or
 - [Biomedical Sciences \(LUMC\)](#).
- a *Business Studies* component

The *Business Studies* component comprises at least 40 EC, of which 20 EC should consist of master courses from the Business Studies programme (as listed in the overview below) and minimally 20 EC of the business internship. An additional maximum of 20 EC of electives can be chosen from the listed courses and electives, or from the MSc programme of choice. The choice of courses and electives should be made in consultation with a study adviser, mentor, or specialisation coordinator.

The specialisation encompasses minimally the following modules⁶⁵:

	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Strategy and Technology	500	5	4603BSSAT
Marketing Science	500	3	4603BSMK3
Strategic Financial Management	500	3	4603BSSF3
Operations Management	500	4	4603BSOM4
Research Methods	500	5	4603BSRM5
Business Internship	600	20 of 30 ⁶⁶	4603SBBSI

In addition, the following course modules can be included in the Business Studies tracks:

	Level	EC	Catalogue nr.
Accounting	500	3	4603BSAC3
Machine Learning for Business Analytics	500	3	4353MLBA3
Digital Transformations	500	5	4603BSDT5
Entrepreneurship	500	3	4603BSEN3
Leading & Managing People	500	5	4603BSLM5
Lean Six Sigma	500	3	4603BSLS3
Financing Technology Ventures	500	3	4603BSFT3
AI for Strategy	500	3	4603BSAS3
Marketing Analytics	500	3	4603BS1MA
Management Science	500	3	4603BSMS3
Systems Optimisation	500	3	4603BSSO3

⁶⁵ Students that completed the former minor SBB can substitute the mandatory courses (except for Research Methods) with business electives.

⁶⁶ The *Business Internship* is worth 20 or 30 EC, depending on the type and duration of the internship. This is further specified in the Prospectus.

Electives⁶⁷

variable⁶⁸ variable

Course renaming

As of September 1st, 2024, the 40 EC variant of the Business Internship is no longer offered. Students that started their specialisation before that may be able to complete a 40 EC Business Internship after consultation with the specialisation manager.

As of September 1st, 2022, the following courses have been renamed: *Machine Learning for Business Analytics* (was *Business Intelligence*), *Financing Technology Ventures* (was *Entrepreneurial Finance*). Previously completed courses are considered equivalent to those renamed in September 2022.

1.5 Exemptions

Students with prior education in management, business and entrepreneurship may – depending on the contents and extent of said education – be exempted from following (parts of) one or more of the courses. These courses need to be substituted such that their master programme contains at least 20 EC of business courses as mentioned in the overview above and an internship of at least 20 EC. Decisions on exemptions and substitutions are taken by the Board of Examiners.

⁶⁷ Electives can be either courses from the Science Based Business (SBB) Business Studies portfolio or courses that are offered as electives elsewhere. Electives offered elsewhere have to be approved by the Board of Examiners after the advice from the SBB Business Studies staff.

⁶⁸ For courses with a level less than 400 or unspecified levels the approval of the Board of Examiners is required next to the approval of SBB Business Studies staff. Students are allowed to include a maximum of 12 EC in courses with a level less than 400 in their total MSc programme.

Specialisation Education

The specialisation Education is taught in Leiden by the Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching (ICLON).

1.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The MSc specialisation Education prepares students for a career in teaching in their subject matter specialisation. This programme leads up to the so-called “eerstegraads-lesbevoegdheid”, qualifying the student to teach in Dutch lower and upper secondary education in the school subject associated with the MSc programme as indicated in the table below.

Master programme	Qualifies for school subject
Mathematics	Wiskunde (Mathematics)
Physics	Natuurkunde (Physics)
Astronomy	Natuurkunde (Physics)
Chemistry	Scheikunde (Chemistry)
Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences	Scheikunde (Chemistry) ⁶⁹ or Biologie ⁷⁰ (Biology)
Life Science and Technology	Scheikunde (Chemistry) or Biologie ⁷¹ (Biology)
Biology	Biologie (Biology)
Computer Science	Informatica (Computer Science)

Students with an MSc specialisation in Education are also admissible to a PhD programme in their MSc programme.

1.2 Qualifications for admission (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

Students should be admitted to an MSc programme within the Faculty of Science. The teacher educator of the subject matter will assess if there are deficiencies in the prior education of the student. When deficiencies are identified, the teacher educator will propose how these can be solved.

For all other (international) candidates, the Board of Admissions will judge the equivalence to this BSc degree of their previous training.

Applicants must provide proof of proficiency in Dutch TUL exam (Toelatingsexamen Universiteit Leiden) – Advanced or a Dutch as a Second Language Certificate (Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal) at Educatief Startbekwaam.

⁶⁹ Students Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences wishing to qualify for the school subject “Chemistry”, need to solve their deficiencies in concert with the *teacher educator Chemistry* of the ICLON.

⁷⁰ Students Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Life Science and Technology wishing to qualify for the school subject “Biology”, need to solve their deficiencies in concert with the *teacher educator Biology* of the ICLON.

⁷¹ Students Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Life Science and Technology wishing to qualify for the school subject “Biology”, need to solve their deficiencies in concert with the *teacher educator Biology* of the ICLON.

1.3 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The MSc programme in combination with the Education (EDU) specialisation consists of two components:

- a component within the chosen MSc programme (60 EC):
 - [Astronomy](#),
 - [Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences](#),
 - [Biology](#),
 - [Chemistry](#),
 - [Computer Science](#);
 - [Life Science and Technology](#),
 - [Mathematics](#),
 - [Physics](#),
- An Education component (60 EC).

The component within the chosen MSC programme should be followed during the first year of study, the Education component should be followed during the second year.

The Education specialisation is offered as a joint programme of the faculty and the Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching (ICLON) and consists of the following components:

	Level	EC
Pedagogy in Practice 1	400	7
Pedagogy in Practice 2	500	3
Adolescent development	400	4
Teaching Methodology 1	400	4
Teaching Methodology 2	500	5
Subject-specific research project	600	5
Elective course:		2
Subject-specific research project 2	600	
Adolescent development 2	600	
Innovations in School	600	
World Teachers	600	
Teaching Practice 1		15
Teaching Practice 2		15

For students who passed the minor Education (30 EC) during the BSc programme, the programme consists of the following:

	Level	EC
Pedagogy in Practice 2	500	3
Teaching Methodology 2	500	5
Subject-specific research project	600	5
Elective course:		2
Subject-specific research project 2	600	
Adolescent development 2	600	
Innovations in School	600	
World Teachers	600	
Teaching Practice 2		15

The remaining 30 EC can be used for both the education specialisation and the research component of the MSc programme. For LST and Chemistry the remaining 30 EC are restricted to the MSc programme.

Specialisation Science Communication and Society

1.1 Description (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 2)

The specialisation Science Communication and Society (SCS) concerns science communication in a broad sense. The programme focuses on the link between science and society and covers knowledge and skills in the field of science communication. The programme prepares students for a career in the area of science communication, for example, as a science communicator, a science policymaker or a public relations or health communication officer, or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mind-set.

Students with an MSc specialisation Science Communication and Society are admissible to a PhD programme in their MSc research field or in Science Communication.

1.2 Learning outcomes (Course and Examination Regulations art. 2.3)

After completion of this specialisation students will have acquired:

- Knowledge of the relationship between science & society through science communication frameworks and transdisciplinary perspectives.
- Experience with these frameworks and skills to apply them in practice, e.g. in science journalism, visual communication, or in informal science education.
- Basic skills in performing science communication research independently.

1.3 Qualifications for admission (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 5)

Admissible to the specialisation SCS are all students that are admitted to one of the designated Master Programmes of the Faculty of Science (see below) or the Master Programme in Biomedical Sciences of the Faculty of Medicine (LUMC) provided that the rules and regulations of the subject Master Programme do allow so. Preferably, the BSc programme has included some coursework in (science) communication.

In addition, international applicants must provide proof of proficiency in English with an IELTS \geq 6.5.

1.4 Programme (Course and Examination Regulations chapter 3)

The MSc programme in combination with the Science Communication and Society (SCS) specialisation consists of two components:

- a component within the chosen MSc programme:
 - [*Astronomy;*](#)
 - [*Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences;*](#)
 - [*Biology;*](#)
 - [*Chemistry;*](#)
 - [*Computer Science;*](#)
 - [*Life Science and Technology;*](#)
 - [*Mathematics;*](#)
 - [*Physics;*](#) or
 - [*Biomedical Sciences \(LUMC\).*](#)

- a Science Communication and Society component⁷².

Preferably, the component within the chosen MSc programme should be followed during the first year of study, the Science Communication and Society component should be followed during the second year.

The SCS specialisation programme comprises at least 40 EC. A maximum of 20 EC of electives can be filled in with either SCS courses, or with courses within the MSc programme of choice. The choice of electives should be made in consultation with a study adviser, mentor, or specialisation coordinator.

The Science Communication and Society component consists of the following:

* **SCS courses** are available as elective course for students who don't follow the SCS specialisation.

SCS courses	Level	EC	Catalog nr
Informal Science Education*	500	4	4603SCISEY
Policy & Development in Science and Society*	500	4	4603SCPDSY
Research in Science Communication*	500	4	4603SCRSCY
Science Journalism (ENG)*	500	4	4603SCSJ4Y
Wetenschapsjournalistiek (NL)*	500	4	4603SCSWJY
Science Communication Product Development**	500	4	4603SCPRDY
Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society*	500	3	4603SCIM3Y
Internship			
SCS Project Proposal	600	3	4603SCSPPY
SCS Internship(s)	600	14-34	4603SCSS1Y 4603SCSS2Y
Additional elective			
SCS Elective	400-500	1-10	4603SCSELY

** the course **Science Communication Product Development** is only admissible for students who have completed all other SCS courses.

Transitional arrangement

Students who have successfully completed the course *Scientific Narration and Visualization* (4603SCNV3Y) during the academic year 2023-2024 or before can use that course as a substitute for the requirement of *Innovative Methods in Science Communication and Society* (4603SCIM3Y).

Internship

The internship will be in the field of science communication (e.g. science journalism, museum education, new media, health communication). The total internship period may consist of one internship, or can be divided into two smaller internships. Each internship is assessed by an evaluation of: 1. the internship performance, 2. a written report and 3. an oral presentation. The entire internship period consists of 14-34 EC depending on the amount of credit needed in the specialisation (40-60EC). The total internship period includes a minimum of 10 EC of research in science communication. The Project Proposal is the research proposal that needs to be written during the start of the internship period and provides for an additional 3 EC.

⁷² Completion of the specialisation Science Communication and Society requires a minimum of 40 EC and a maximum of 60 EC within the SCS component.

The choice of internships should be approved beforehand by the coordinator of the specialisation and if applicable by the MSc programme coordinator.

Additional elective

The SCS elective is an elective course in which students can perform e.g. a book exam, a literature review, or an independent project related to science communication. Students need to write a project proposal before starting the SCS elective including description of the project, significance and planning. The SCS supervisor needs to approve the proposal before the start of the project. Students outside of the Science Communication and Society specialisation need permission from their exam board and the specialisation coordinator.