



Maastricht University



University College Maastricht

Maastricht University, The Netherlands



University College Maastricht

Liberal Arts & Sciences

University College Maastricht is a three-year bachelor's programme that combines extensive academic choice with personal guidance. UCM students come together from more than 50 countries to study, take part in lively debates, and socialise over coffee in the common room. They are supported by dedicated staff members who encourage learning beyond the classroom. Our dedication to academic standards as well as our strong sense of belonging to a community makes UCM a unique place where academic passion is encouraged and individual talents are nurtured.

UCM students greatly appreciate the quality of teaching, the personal attention they receive and the study environment UCM offers. With classes no larger than twelve students and a Problem-Based Learning method which emphasizes student participation, the majority of our students complete the programme on time. In addition, over 90% of UCM students go on to do a master's programme, often at renowned international universities.

What is University College Maastricht?

University College Maastricht offers an English-taught bachelor's programme intended for students with broad academic interests.

It gives you the freedom to construct your own programme, focusing on the subjects and issues you are passionate about. UCM offers more than 150 courses in a wide variety of academic disciplines. Together with your academic advisor you plan your curriculum to meet your ambitions. The curriculum at UCM ensures that you gain in-depth knowledge in your field of interest through your chosen concentration. You also acquire academic and practical skills through our extensive skills trainings and projects. You learn how to conduct scientific research, present ideas in a clear and persuasive way, and improve your writing and debating skills. The College also offers the opportunity to learn a foreign language.

The workload at UCM is high and requires commitment and ambition to excel in your studies. However, as you can choose your courses, study with other motivated students in a small-scale academic community, and interact closely with your tutors, you will be motivated to make the most of your studies.



Sebastiaan Olislagers (Dutch), 3rd year student

To me UCM is a place that connects different disciplines, cultures and ideas. Most of all, the College connects people and enables the many encounters and exchanges that make life extraordinarily enjoyable and meaningful on a daily basis. This does not only take place inside of a classroom, but within a vibrant and committed academic community of wonderful people. And for me, it is all about the people when deciding what place to call home.

The city of Maastricht

Maastricht is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the Netherlands with its 17th century townhouses, cobblestone streets, charming squares, but also striking modern buildings. Over the past decades, Maastricht has changed from a quiet provincial capital to a vibrant, international student city. More than 10 percent of the 122,000 inhabitants are students, and almost half of those are international. With relatively low living costs, students can enjoy a rich cultural and social life in Maastricht where distances are covered by foot or bike. European capitals such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, London, and Berlin are just a few hours away by public transport.

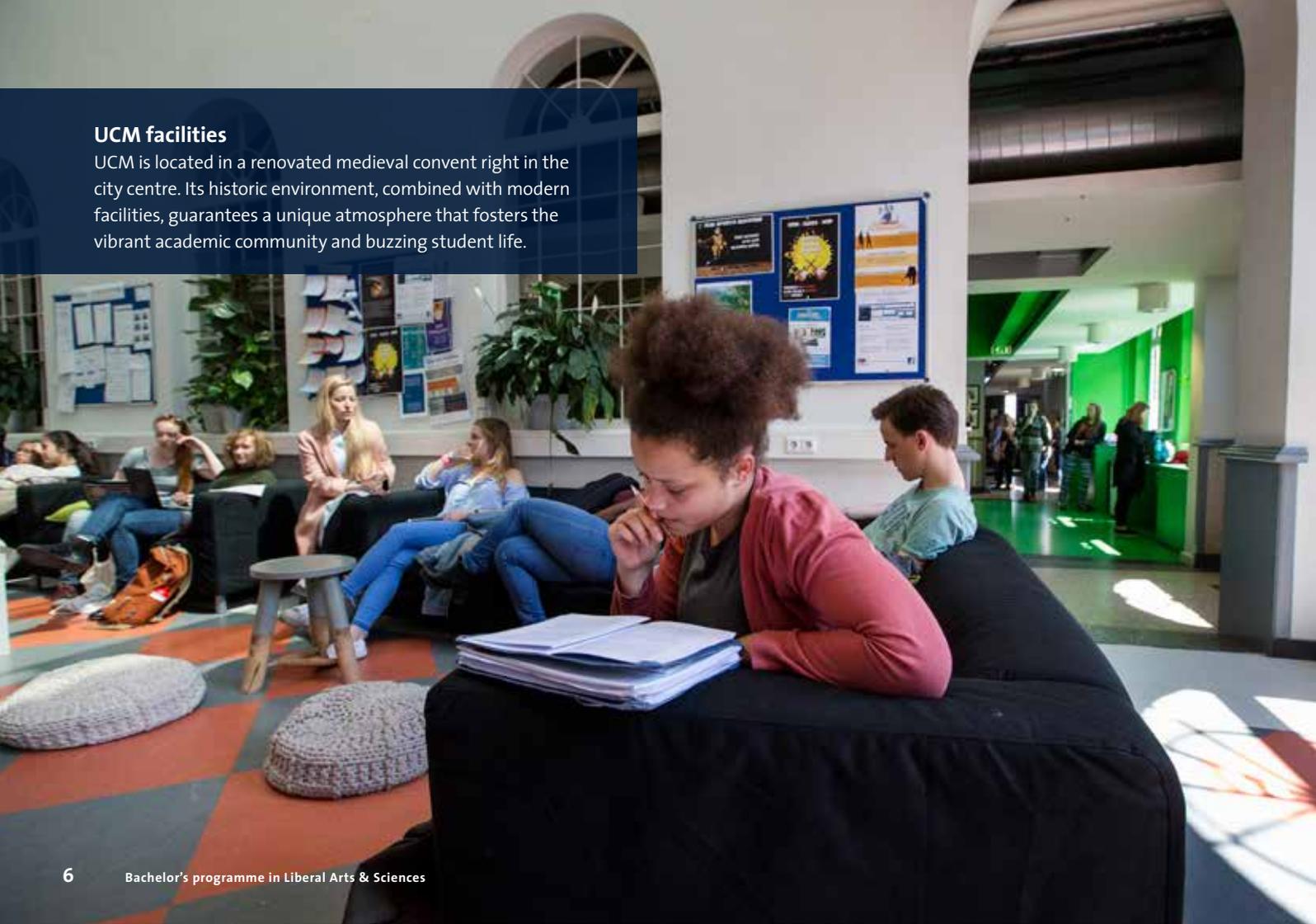
Maastricht University

Maastricht University (UM) is the most international university in the Netherlands and, with more than 16,000 students and 4,000 employees, is still growing. The university stands out for its innovative education model, international character and multidisciplinary approach to research and education. University College Maastricht is an integral part of Maastricht University, which means that students have access to all the facilities of UM, for instance the library and the sports centre. UCM students are offered the possibility of taking courses at other UM faculties.



UCM facilities

UCM is located in a renovated medieval convent right in the city centre. Its historic environment, combined with modern facilities, guarantees a unique atmosphere that fosters the vibrant academic community and buzzing student life.



The Programme

The concentration

The concentration is the central part of your curriculum, which allows you to gain in-depth knowledge in the fields of your interest. UCM offers a choice of three concentrations: Social Sciences, Humanities and Sciences. You may focus on a particular discipline (e.g., psychology, economics, history, biology) or instead opt for courses around a combination of themes or disciplines. For instance, your curriculum could include economics, law and international relations, or sciences and psychology, or cultural studies and history.

During your first year at the College, you explore which concentration you would like to choose by taking courses in academic disciplines of your interest. Once you decide upon a concentration, you can start taking more advanced, in-depth courses.

The UCM curriculum structure helps ensure that you gain enough specialist knowledge to successfully apply for a master's programme of your choice, an internship or a job.



Dr. Jan de Roder,
Assistant Professor
in Literature, Faculty
of Arts and Social
Sciences (visiting
teacher at UCM)

For many years now I've been teaching two courses at UCM, one on Shakespeare and one on Darwin and the Arts. I am academic advisor too and I have been appointed chair of the Education Programme Committee, guarding the quality of teaching and the courses. Whenever I walk to UCM to teach and enter the building it's really like coming home. I have never had the feeling of an academic community like I have at UCM, especially because of the students. I may be getting older but because of them I stay young.

What can you study at UCM?

Humanities

- History
- Cultural Studies
- Arts and Literature
- Philosophy

Social Sciences

- Economics and Business Administration
- Sociology
- Political Science
- International Relations
- Public Policy
- International Law
- Psychology
- Statistics

Sciences

- Applied Mathematics
- Information and Computer Sciences
- Biomedical Sciences
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Cognitive Sciences and Neurosciences



The academic core and general education

In addition to the courses in your concentration, you need to complete the 'academic core'. This consists of four courses that give you the fundamental knowledge any academic should have. You learn about the principles of scientific research, the major political issues of our time, historical developments in the world over the last 70 years, and why abstract concepts and models are vital in academic thought.

Moreover, in order to get a broad perspective you are required to choose four courses outside of your concentration. This ensures that you learn to think from different perspectives and understand how people in other academic areas think and work.

Skills trainings and projects

Academic skills, such as writing reports and papers, planning and conducting research, formulating a policy plan, or persuading people in a debate are essential in a professional environment. Acquiring and developing such skills is a central part of the UCM programme. At the end of every semester you participate in a project, where you work fulltime for four weeks on applying what you learned in your courses and in the skills trainings to produce an extensive piece of academic work, for instance a journal article, position paper, research report or policy analysis. Some students choose to do research for six months with a professional research

group and gain valuable experience for a future career in research.

The final thesis

The 'capstone' is an academic project that rounds off your studies. In this final thesis you explore a topic that requires you to use all the knowledge and skills you have acquired at the College. An expert in your field acts as your supervisor.



Florentine Friedrich (German, on the left), 3rd year UCM student (with fellow students: John Niedergesäss and Helle Huisman)

For the internship project we worked together with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on an extended research about European integration. It gave us great opportunities to first-hand experience the workings of politics in the real world. By taking part in minister briefings and parliamentary questioning we learned how to apply our academic knowledge in a real political context. It was a unique and valuable learning experience.



A semester abroad

UCM provides you with the opportunity to study a semester abroad at internationally renowned universities all over the world. UCM's semester abroad programme includes for instance the Australian National University in Canberra, Singapore Management University, the University of Helsinki, the University of California and the Chinese University of Hong

Kong. Of all eligible students, around 90% are able to go to their first choice destination. UCM's partner universities offer a wide range of courses which allow you to complement your curriculum. Going on a semester abroad enables you to grow academically, but it is also an exciting and challenging personal experience. You travel the world, you make new friends and develop an understanding of different cultures.





Personal guidance

Which courses should you take? What concentration will work best for you? What do you want to do after UCM? Choosing your own courses at UCM allows you to create a programme that really fits your academic and professional ambitions, but it also means you have a lot of responsibility for your own learning process. From the beginning of your studies at UCM, your personal academic advisor will support you with these questions. Your academic advisor is a staff member of Maastricht University and with him or her you discuss all your important academic decisions. So, although at UCM the decisions are always yours, you are not on your own when you make them.

UCM is committed to supporting students when they encounter study or life-related problems so that they can make the most of their time at university. The College offers a dedicated student counsellor and an extensive support network at Maastricht University, such as student psychologists, career services, or other support offices.

Problem-Based Learning

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is the main method of teaching at UCM. Maastricht University has used Problem-Based Learning ever since it was founded and has been a leader in this method for over 40 years.

In small tutorial groups of no more than 12 students, you collectively analyse scientific problems and questions. You discuss and formulate your learning goals as a group, and then you find the answers to them by doing research and exchanging your findings. Throughout this process you learn to think for yourself and you have intensive contact with other students and academic staff. The number of hours in class varies from 12 to 14 hours a week. You spend the remaining time in the week on self-study (preparing for the next class, writing papers, assignments, etc.).

By actively discussing scientific questions, students better grasp the theory and learn to apply their insights to various contexts and situations. The variety of perspectives that different students bring to the table enlivens the discussions and allows students to benefit from the group's cultural diversity. Moreover, they gain essential social skills, such as presenting their viewpoints, listening actively, giving and receiving constructive feedback, and working together.

PBL is student-centred, meaning that even though your tutors help you along, you are in charge of the learning process. This increases your motivation and makes you take responsibility for your education.





Dora Dubravec (Croatian),
1st year UCM student

What I appreciate most about UCM is the ability that's given to students to create their own individual curriculum and find their own way to approach their education. There is a lot of freedom to explore new subjects where even the 'wildest' choices bring remarkable experiences and valuable knowledge. Most importantly, UCM encourages the students in all their endeavours to build an education that is beneficial to them, and provides the students with all kinds of support in achieving their own individual goals.

Continuous feedback

Continuous feedback is central to the Problem-Based Learning method and the assessment system at UCM. Teachers make use of a wide range of evaluation methods, such as written or oral exams, papers and presentations. Your contribution to the tutorial groups may also count towards your grade. There may also be a final exam, which usually consists of essay questions. Regular feedback allows you to adjust your study habits if necessary and helps you to keep up with your work.

Skills that last a lifetime

Problem-Based Learning is highly effective, as can be seen from the achievements of our graduates. In the labour market they are considered independent, assertive professionals, who excel at analysing problems, structuring information, working as part of an international team, conducting and leading discussions, and presenting ideas. UCM graduates are able to succeed on the job market because their training has provided them with the skills and knowledge essential to their field. At UCM, they have gained experience in analysing real-life issues, structuring information, working in international teams, and giving presentations. These skills set them apart in whatever they choose to do after UCM.

UCM is like home for me. From the first moment I stepped through the doors, I knew that this was the right place for me to do my bachelor's degree. I appreciate the wide range of courses at UCM and the openness of the academic community. I can just knock on the door of my academic advisor and ask whether she has a minute to spare. The community and the home-feeling is something I love about UCM. For me it is the perfect atmosphere to grow in my academic understanding, but also in my personal life as I truly made friends for life.

Julia van Zijl (Dutch),
3rd year UCM student



After UCM

Master's programmes

After successfully completing three years at the College you receive an internationally recognised Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science diploma, enabling you to enrol in master's programmes all over the world. Which programmes you qualify for depends on the courses you took during your bachelor's programme.

Around 90% of UCM graduates have enrolled in a master's programme at a wide range of universities, including highly prestigious institutions, such as: University of Oxford, Sciences Po, Freie Universität Berlin, University of Cambridge, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Warwick, Columbia University, and Johns Hopkins University. A recent survey showed that the majority of UCM graduates went to one of the top-100 universities in the Times World University Ranking.



Career prospects

As UCM allows you to design your own curriculum to suit your individual interests and ambitions, there is an almost unlimited range of future career possibilities. UCM graduates have gone on to a wide variety of professional careers in the Netherlands or abroad, including:

- management consultant
- researcher
- government policy advisor
- economic analyst
- assistant to an EU Commissioner
- legal advisor
- think tank member
- entrepreneur
- industrial designer
- pharmacologist
- stock trader
- head of charity organisation
- NGO project coordinator
- forensic psychologist
- theatre programmer
- museum curator
- education innovator

With your UCM diploma, the whole world is open to you!

Application and admissions

UCM offers a programme that is different from most university programmes. Hence, the College is looking for students that fit this unique programme. If you are a motivated, hardworking student with serious academic ambitions who loves debates and discussions, and is interested in interdisciplinary education, you are the kind of student UCM is looking for.



UCM ALUMNUS

Robin Hoenig (graduated in 2015),
Senior Trade Policy Consultant,
Singaporean–German Chamber of
Industry and Commerce

*After UCM I completed a Master in
Public Policy at the Hertie School of
Governance, where I focused on*

economic policy. I worked as a consultant for the EU-ASEAN Business Council
and conducted quantitative assessments of markets in terms of growth
potential, trade restrictiveness and competition policy. I currently work at the
Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, covering the Asia-
Pacific region. I monitor and assess trade agreements, non-tariff barriers to
trade and tax policy. The UCM degree has allowed me to develop strong
analytical skills, taught me to be a critical thinker and thus helped me to excel
academically as well as professionally.*

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations*

To assess your suitability for the programme, UCM has a selective admissions procedure. After applying online, potentially suitable candidates will be invited for an interview by the Board of Admissions. The final decision will be based on your letter of motivation, the personal interview and your grades. All details about the admissions procedure are available at www.ucm.nl/admissions.



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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: /UniversityCollegeMaastricht

Check the dates of our Experience Days and Open Days.
We will be happy to welcome you at UCM!

Based in Europe, focused on the world. Maastricht University is a stimulating environment. Where research and teaching are complementary. Where innovation is our focus. Where talent can flourish. A truly student oriented research university.