

# Science Communication and Society

## Master of Science Specialisation

The Science Communication and Society specialisation (SCS) focuses on the interaction between science and society.

Increasingly, the general public wants to be and needs to be informed about scientific topics. At the same time, scientists need to show accountability to the general public about their research. In this specialisation you bridge the gap between experts and the public by combining high quality research in one of the science fields with extensive training in science communication. After completion you have obtained the necessary knowledge and skills to either become a science communicator with a strong science background, or a scientist with a communicating mindset.

### Why choose the SCS specialisation?

- The programme provides you with a full year of courses, internships and research in the field of science communication.
- You will get hands-on experience during a science communication practical and/or research internship within a relevant organisation, such as popular science magazines, science museums, patient organisations, radio or television.
- You are prepared for a career as a science or health communicator, a science policy maker, a public relations officer, a science journalist, a health officer, an educator, a science communication researcher or for a career as a scientist with a communicating mindset.



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands



### Facts and figures

Language	English
Duration	2 years, of which 40-60 EC in SCS specialisation
Degree	Master of Science with a specialisation in SCS
Start	September or February (SCS starts in September)
Admission	Start September: 1 April non-EU / 15 June EU Start February: 15 October non-EU / 1 December EU
Tuition fee	€ 2,078 EU/18,300 non-EU
Combine SCS with	Astronomy; Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences; Biology; Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Computer Science; LST; Mathematics; Physics.

### More information

For more information about the programme, entry requirements, admissions procedures, tuition fees and scholarships, please visit our website or contact the programme:

[masters.universiteitleiden.nl](https://masters.universiteitleiden.nl)  
[infosc@biology.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:infosc@biology.leidenuniv.nl)

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# Science Communication and Society specialisation: programme overview and courses

The SCS specialisation can be followed by students doing a two-year master's degree in one of the Natural Sciences programmes at the Faculty of Science, including Mathematics and Biomedical Sciences (LUMC). Completing the specialisation requires 40-60 EC of SCS courses and internships.

## Programme overview (120 EC)

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### Master's programme component (60 – 80 EC)

Depending on the programme, you follow (compulsory) courses, electives and you will conduct a research project within your field of science.

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### SCS component (40 – 60 EC)

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#### SCS fundamentals (19 EC)

This 16-week course is offered once a year, starting in September and should be combined with the Scientific Narration and Visualization course for SCS specialisation students. Within SCS Fundamentals several different modules are offered including science journalism, informal science education, theories and methods and policy and funding. In addition, several workshops are offered to increase science communication skills and knowledge. The course consists of lectures, in-class activities, field trips, individual assignments and group assignments. The final three weeks of the course are spent working on a final project in which students apply what they have learned during the course to developing a science communication product.

#### Scientific Narration and Visualization (4 EC)

The course Scientific Narration and Visualization deals with unconventional ways of conveying scientific insights, i.e. all formats besides scientific articles and scientific posters. This course is different compared to e.g. data visualization as it deals with conveying understanding instead of data. The main learning goal of this course is to make students aware of the drawbacks and advantages of the various formats, such that they will be able to use the most appropriate format for their case.

#### Research proposal (3 EC)

You are required to write a research proposal before starting your research internship. The research proposal includes a theoretical introduction, methodology and planning of the research project.

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#### Internship(s) (14 – 34 EC)

Internships will be in the field of science communication (e.g. science journalism, museology, new media, health communication). The total internship period may consist of one internship, or can be divided into 2 smaller internships. Each internship includes a written report and an oral presentation. The total internship period includes a minimum of 10 EC of research in science communication.