

Astronomy (MSc)



Universiteit
Leiden

Discover the world at Leiden University

Specialisations

- Astronomy and Cosmology (MSc)
- Astronomy and Data Science (MSc)
- Astronomy and Education (MSc)
- Astronomy and Instrumentation (MSc)
- Astronomy and Science Communication and Society (MSc)

- Astronomy and Business Studies (MSc)
 - Astronomy Research (MSc)
-

The master's programme Astronomy covers observations using the world's most powerful ground- and space-based telescopes, theoretical astrophysical and astrochemical modeling, large scale simulations, and laboratory experiments that mimic conditions in space.

What does this master's programme entail?

In this two-year master's programme in Astronomy you get access to cutting edge research in modern astronomy. Main focus areas include galaxies and the structures in which they are embedded, exoplanets, and star and planet formation. With seven challenging specialisations to choose from, you will be prepared for a wide variety of careers within academia, industry and the public sector.

Read more about our Astronomy master's programme.

Discover why our students choose the Astronomy master's programme

Why study Astronomy at Leiden University?

- We offer you a tailor-made master's programme with many opportunities to match your study path with your interests and ambitions.
- You have access to a cutting edge research infrastructure with strong international partners and top facilities.
- Leiden University offers a welcoming environment and an open international community with highly approachable renowned staff, a buddy system and individual student support.

Find out more reasons to choose Astronomy at Leiden University.

Astronomy: the right master's programme for you?

Are you interested in astronomy research within or outside academia? Do you want to add value to society through scientific and technological progress? Are you keen on solving complex matters and are you up for a challenge? Then our Leiden University Astronomy master's programme is designed for you.

Read more about the entry requirements for Astronomy.

Why Leiden University?

By effectively integrating world-class scientific research and excellent education, you will become a professional astronomer with an internationally recognized degree.

Education at a world class research institute

Leiden Observatory has a strong international reputation and is widely known to turn out masters and doctoral students of the highest quality. Students are trained by world-renowned astronomers including Spinoza prize winners Prof. Ewine van Dishoeck, Prof. Marijn Franx and Prof. Xander Tielens, European Research Council (ERC) grant holders Prof. Ignas Snellen and Prof. Huub Röttgering and NWO-Vici grant holders Dr. Joop Schaye and Prof. Henk Hoekstra. Therefore, you can expect research at the cutting edge of modern astronomy as an integral part of the Astronomy master's programme.

Strong skill set

During the programme, you learn to perform academically sound research and evaluate scientific information independently and critically. Without exception, you actively participate in current research within the institute and are individually supervised by our international scientific staff. Students with a Leiden degree in Astronomy become strong communicators and collaborators and can easily operate in an international setting. You will acquire extensive astronomical research experience and highly advanced analytical and problem solving skills.

Access to the world's best observational facilities

Leiden astronomers have access to the foremost observational and computer facilities in the world, including the Hubble Space Telescope, ESO's Very Large Telescope, ALMA, Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope, XMM-Newton, Chandra, JVLA, LOFAR and others. On a daily basis, Astronomy master's students work with data directly obtained from Leiden research at these facilities. The Leiden Observatory also hosts unique astrochemistry and optics laboratories that are also open for master student's research projects.

Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science is a first-class research faculty with an excellent position in the basic disciplines of science. The current research and education programmes span the entire spectrum of science ranging from Mathematics and Statistical Science, Computer Science and Data Science, Astrophysics, Physics, Chemistry and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences to Biology and Environmental Sciences. Our science community is driven by their curiosity and desire to increase basic knowledge, for science and to contribute to the great societal challenges of today and tomorrow. Core values are scientific impact, technological innovation and relevance to society.

Study at a world-class university

Leiden University is the oldest university in the Netherlands and enjoys an excellent worldwide reputation built up over more than four centuries. Since 1575 we've provided sound personal education for hundreds of thousands of students. We'll do our utmost to give you the best possible support. And if you can and want to do more, we'll challenge you every step of the way. For many years, we've been among the leaders in Dutch university rankings and we are currently to be found in a variety of top international rankings too.

More reasons to choose Leiden University

About the programme

Within the two-year Astronomy master's programme, you can choose from seven specialisations, ranging from fundamental or applied astronomy research in cosmology, instrumentation or data science, to combinations of astronomy research with education, management or science communication.

Overview of the Astronomy programme

The two-year Astronomy master's programme offers seven specialisations:

- Astronomy Research: you follow a tailor-made programme to become an independent and resourceful scientist.

- Astronomy and Instrumentation: obtain in-depth knowledge of state of the art approaches to develop high tech astronomy instruments.
- Astronomy and Data Science: focus on development and application of new data mining technologies, fully embracing modern astronomy as a data rich branch of science.
- Astronomy and Cosmology: discover all aspects of modern astrophysics, including extensive observation, interpretation, simulation and theory.
- Astronomy and Business Studies: combine training in astronomy with education in management and entrepreneurship.
- Astronomy and Science Communication and Society: combine research with all aspects of science communication, such as journalism and universe awareness education.
- Astronomy and Education (taught partly in Dutch): prepare yourself for a career in teaching science at high school level.

All Astronomy master's specialisations have their own curriculum with a wide variety of in-house Astronomy courses to tailor your own study path:

- Origin and Evolution of the Universe
- Interstellar Medium
- Galaxies: Structure, Dynamics and Evolution
- Stellar Structure and Evolution

- Computational Astrophysics
- Large Scale Structure and Galaxy Formation
- Star and Planet Formation
- Interacademy Courses of NOVA research school for astronomy

- Astronomical Telescopes and Instruments
- Astronomy from Space
- Detection of Light
- High Contrast Imaging
- Observational High-Energy Astrophysics
- Project Management for Scientists
- Radio Astronomy

- Observational Cosmology

- Astrochemistry
- Databases and Data Mining in Astronomy
- High-energy Astrophysics
- Gravitational Lensing
- Compact Objects and Accretion

Educational methods

- Lectures
- Working groups
- Practical classes
- Excursions
- Research

Assessment methods

- Written, oral and take home exams
- Homework assignments
- Presentations and colloquia
- Reports (scientific paper, literature study)

Student support

The favorable student–staff ratio guarantees a high degree of interaction with and personal attention from the (senior) staff. The Astronomy study advisor is available for individual and confidential study support. In addition, Astronomy master’s students get their own desk and computer during their master research project. Therefore, close collaboration with supervisors and group members is guaranteed. Moreover, the Astronomy master’s programme provides an informal atmosphere and a welcoming research community, in which social activities flourish.

Extra-curricular

Are you interested in taking up an extra challenge during your Astronomy master’s programme? Have you thought about applying for our Summer School programme or are you interested in developing your personal leadership style?

Leiden Leadership Programme

Do you like a personal challenge in leadership? Then join the Leiden Leadership Programme. In this one-year programme, you work on developing your personal leadership skills through an assessment, training, seminars and a practice assignment in an organisation. You discover and develop your qualities in the context of an organisation. The goal is to learn how to work intensively with other professionals and learn how to use their qualities. With the Leiden Leadership Programme, a Dutch-based honours programme, you will be able to follow 20 EC next to your Leiden, The Hague or Delft master's programme. Read more about Leiden Leadership Programme

International Leiden Leadership Programme

Curious about your personal leadership style? The International Leiden Leadership Programme is a 5 EC honours programme for master's students looking to understand leadership, train and develop their leadership skills and acquire an insight into their personal strengths and weaknesses. Thanks to its small-scale approach and supportive tutor-mentor system, you'll be working on your development on a very personal level. During this interdisciplinary programme you will attend seminars and skills-training sessions, which will give you more insight into the effect that your behaviour has on others. The programme involves the creation of a Personal Leadership Roadmap, a five-year plan for reaching and developing your own leadership style.

For more information: International Leiden Leadership Programme

Summer School

The Leiden/ESA Astrophysics Programme for Summer Students (LEAPS) is an opportunity for students with an interest in astronomy and astrophysics to perform a 10 - 12 week summer research project in collaboration with a research scientist from Leiden Observatory or ESA. If you are interested in the Astronomy master's programme, taking this summer course is a good opportunity to get acquainted with the educational and research opportunities within the institute. Read more

Study abroad

Gain international experience by taking courses or perform your Master's Research Project at a university abroad. Leiden Observatory has many international contacts and the institute is setting up exchange collaborations with universities in the United Kingdom, Poland and China.

Extra internship

Explore the world outside academia without missing out on any research in an extracurricular business internship within a company. You can also take the opportunity to perform an extra astronomy research internship at another university in the world.

Teaching assistant

We encourage you to support our teaching activities as a paid student teaching assistant. You will assist our lecturers in organising courses, practical classes and excursions for Astronomy bachelor's students. As a teaching assistant, you gain valuable experience to add to your resume. Also, it is a unique opportunity to get more familiar with the staff.

Career prospects

With a master's degree in Astronomy you are well prepared for jobs in research, industry and the public sector, including technological, financial and consultancy companies, research institutes, governments and science communication organizations.

Acquired skills and competence

With a Leiden degree in Astronomy you obtain an impressive skill set leading you to a top-level job quickly after graduation (see Beste Banen 2016). As a strong communicator and collaborator you can easily operate in an international setting. You have acquired extensive astronomical research experience and highly advanced analytical and problem solving skills. Their helicopter view and ability to prioritise enable astronomers to successfully engage in large multidisciplinary projects.

Career

Most graduates holding a MSc degree in Astronomy from Leiden University find work in many different capacities, including:

- Research: universities, observatories, research institutes
- Industry and consultancy: ICT, R&D, telecom, high technology, aerospace
- Finance: banking, insurance, pension funds
- Public sector: governments, policy makers, high schools

- Science communication: journalism, popular writing, museums

Typical jobs for Astronomy graduates include:

- Scientific researcher (postdoc, research fellow, professor)
- R&D engineer
- Consultant
- Data scientist, statistician
- Policy advisor, public information officer (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- High school physics teacher
- Scientific editor for magazines, newspapers and other media

Research at Leiden Observatory

If you want to get more deeply involved in research after graduating in Astronomy, consider pursuing a PhD at Leiden Observatory. If you have completed the Leiden master's degree programme in Astronomy, you are directly eligible for admission to our PhD programme. [Read more.](#)

Career preparation

Leiden University offers you several services related to career orientation and job application skills

Preparation for the job market is integrated in the Astronomy master's programme. You will learn what skills and competences are needed for finding a future job that fits you. We guide you in getting to know yourself and help you to develop your personal and professional skills. You can also participate in astronomy-specific career events to find out what job sector appeals to you the most. In addition, our Study Advisor is always available to help you in shaping your study and career path.

Astronomy Career Information Meetings

Learn how to get a PhD at an astronomical research institute, find out what it takes to get hired by a company as an engineer or a consultant and ask questions to PhD students, CEOs, lecturers and job coaches. These meetings are organized twice a year by the Education Office Astronomy.

Science Career Service

Are you looking for career advice? Get in touch with our science career advisor. The Science Career Service supports students of the Science Faculty in their career orientation and making effective career decisions during their study. We offer services such as consultation hours, individual appointments with the career counselor and advice on your CV or motivation letter.

Science Career Event

Whether you are actively looking to meet interesting companies, or even if you have no idea what your career will look like yet, the Science Career Event gives you a chance to speak with a large number of companies. Every year the Science Career Event is organized by students of the Faculty of Science. During this event you can get your resume checked, participate in a workshop or speed date with a company to discuss possibilities in the near future. The Science Career Event is the ideal day to orient yourself on career possibilities.

The Mentor Network

If you have questions about the job market, you can get in touch with Leiden alumni who are happy to offer their advice. On the Mentor Network platform you can view the profiles of around 650 alumni. Once you have found someone you would like to contact for advice, you can send him or her a request for assistance.

Admission and application

Do you want to apply for the master's programme Astronomy at Leiden University? Find out how to apply for your programme by following the step-by-step guide in the application and admission section.

The guide will give you the necessary help and guidance in submitting your application.

- Step 1: Check the admission requirements.
- Step 2: Check the application deadlines.
- Step 3: Collect the required documents.
- Step 4: Start your application.
- Step 5: Pay your tuition fees
- Step 6: Prepare for your studies at Leiden University

Admission requirements

To enter the master's programme in Astronomy at Leiden University, applicants have to satisfy the following criteria.

Diploma requirements

Either:

- A BSc degree in Astronomy or its equivalent in Physics and Astronomy from one of the universities participating in the NOVA Netherlands Research School for Astronomy. Applicants holding such a degree will be admitted without further requirements.

Or:

- An equivalent degree to the BSc degree *, to be decided by the Board of Admissions.

* Candidates holding a bachelor's degree in related sciences, such as Mathematics, Computer Science or Aerospace Engineering, may be considered. The previous training of all applicants will be assessed by the Board of Admissions, which may propose an Astronomy pre-master's programme as an additional requirement for admission. The admission process may also include an interview with the Board of Admissions.

Either:

- A BSc degree in Physics that includes modules in Astronomy.

Or:

- An equivalent degree to the BSc degree*, to be decided by the Board of Admissions.

* Candidates holding a BSc degree in other sciences, such as Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science or Aerospace Engineering, may be considered. The previous training of all applicants will be assessed by the Board of Admissions. In case of notable deficiencies in the student's record, the Board of Admissions may propose a premaster's programme as precondition for admission. The admission process may also include an interview with the Board of Admissions.

Dutch applicants with a higher vocational education (hbo) degree in a related field of science can be considered as well. For more information, please contact the Astronomy Study Advisor.

Language requirements

Proof of sufficient proficiency in English, evidenced by appropriate language test:

- IELTS: minimum 6.5
- TOEFL: internet based 90
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), minimum grade C

Please note: This requirement does not apply if you have completed your education in Canada, USA, UK, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, or when you hold an International Baccalaureate, or for Dutch students, if you have completed vwo level English.

Application deadlines

Starting in February

- If you need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the **deadline is 15 October**.
- If you do not need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the **deadline is 1 December**.

Starting in September

- If you need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the **deadline is 1 April**.
- If you do not need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the **deadline is 15 June**.

Apply early!

- If you need to apply for admission make sure you initiate your application in Studielink a week before the application deadline. After this first step you will be sent log-in details for our online application portal (uSis) where you can apply for admission. This can take a couple of days. So please take this into consideration when planning your application and don't wait till the last minute.
- Make sure that you submit your complete application before the deadline. If your application is not complete before the deadline, it will not be processed.
- On top of that, you may have to take an additional entrance exam or submit additional documentation. If you apply at the last minute, you risk missing deadlines, such as those for housing or visa applications.
- Late applications will only be considered in exceptional cases, and at the discretion of the faculty Board of Admissions.
- Please read the explanation of the application procedure carefully.

Scholarships, grants and loans

Do you want to apply for a scholarship, grant or loan? Please note, these have different application deadline.

[Read more](#)

Required documents

Along with your application, you will need to submit a variety of documents.

Required application documents

Please upload a copy of the passport page(s) with your personal details and photograph. If you come from the EU/EER, you may also send a copy of your identity card.

If you are already staying in the Netherlands with a Dutch residence permit for study or for another purpose, please upload a copy of both sides of your Dutch residence permit.

Your CV must be written in English. Other than this, no standardised format or template is required. Your CV should clearly outline your educational and professional history up until the present date, as well as basic personal facts. Please provide the average mark (Grade Point Average) in your bachelor, calculated until March 15, 2018 (for start in September) or September 15, 2018 (for start in February 2019).

A personal statement must be submitted explaining why you want to follow the programme, why you have chosen to do so at Leiden University, and what makes you think you are a good candidate. The statement should be between 700 and 1,500 words.

- Digital copies are required initially. Once you have been admitted, we will tell you how to submit certified copies to the Admissions Office.
- Documents must be in the original language and accompanied by official translations if they are not in English, Dutch, German or French. If you have not yet completed your study programme, state your expected graduation date and submit copies of all transcripts obtained to date.
- If you are applying for an LLM Advanced Studies programme: all documents must be available in English (or translated into English).

You can apply to a programme before you obtain the results of your language exam (if you already have your results you can upload them directly in our online portal). If you are admitted, it will be on the condition that these results will meet the required levels specified.

Always check first if your programme requires you to send in letters of recommendation. If you need to submit more than one letter, at least one letter must be from an academic staff member.

- The letter must be printed on letterhead paper, signed and bearing the full contact details of the referee (for verification purposes).
- Your referee should describe your skills, qualities and competencies.

Recommendation letters - submission information

Letters of recommendation can be scanned and uploaded as part of your online application. Alternatively, your referee can send them directly to us, making sure your name and application number are clearly indicated.

- By post:
Leiden University Admissions Office
“Gravensteen” Pieterskerkhof 6
2311 SR Leiden
The Netherlands
- Digitally via our contact form

Additionally please complete the attached format and upload this in your application.

Application procedure

The application procedure consists of three steps.

Part 1. Apply for a programme in Studielink

All students applying for a programme at Leiden University will need to start in Studielink. Apply in Studielink for the master’s programme of your choice.

Please follow the instructions given in Studielink. After taking the first step, you will receive an email with the following information (but bear in mind that it can take a few days):

- confirmation that you have started the application process in Studielink
- login details for Leiden University’s online application portal (uSis)

In the online application portal, Leiden University will let you know whether you qualify for automatic admission and will guide you through all necessary steps to complete your registration, as well as informing you about what you have to do after applying.

Part 2. Online application at Leiden University

In our online application portal you can finalise your application by uploading the necessary documents and answering a few questions. The portal provides an overview of what you need to do to complete your application at Leiden University. Please follow the instructions carefully.

All students with an international degree have to pay a **non-refundable** €100 application fee. This fee cannot be refunded and entitles you to apply for up to three programmes /specialisations within the same academic year. After we have received your application fee, we will start processing your application. Please do not delay paying the fee as this will delay the application process. The online application system describes how you can pay the fee.

Can I be exempted from paying the application fee?

You do **not** have to pay the application fee if:

- You submit a copy of a bachelor's degree or current bachelor's transcript from a Dutch institute of higher education (hbo or wo).
- You were previously registered as a foreign exchange, bachelor's, master's or pre-master's student at Leiden University.
- You have refugee status in the Netherlands (residence permit for asylum).
- You are an Indonesian student applying for an MSc programme and have been issued with a 'review letter' by the Leiden Science Indonesia Office.
- You have applied for a CEU Praesidium Libertatis scholarship (this only applies to students who have been nominated by the Central European University).
- You have previously been admitted to a degree programme at Leiden University, but you decided to postpone your studies. This does *not* apply if you wish to apply for a different study programme or specialisation.

Exemptions cannot be granted on any other grounds.

After submitting your application, the online portal will, if applicable, ask you if you want to apply for student housing, a visa or a scholarship. Make a careful note of the deadlines for applying for a scholarship, student visa/residence permit and student accommodation.

- Upon receipt of your application fee (if applicable), the Admissions Office will check whether all the necessary documents have been uploaded and will inform you by email whether your application is complete or if there are any omissions.
- Your application will then be forwarded to the Board of Admissions at the faculty and they will decide whether you meet the entry requirements of the degree programme of your choice.
- The Board of Admissions will make a decision within four to six weeks after the University has received your application.

The Board of Admissions will send you its decision by email within four to six weeks after Leiden University has received your application.

There are two possible options:

1. You are conditionally admitted; in other words you will be admitted, provided you meet certain conditions.

The condition(s) will be given in the decision letter. Important: the decision letter will always contain the condition, that, in case that more than 100 candidates are admitted, a qualitative selection procedure will decide on your placement in the master.

2. You are not admitted, because you do not meet the programme's entry requirements.

The reasons will be clearly stated in the decision letter.

The Admissions Office will ask you to inform them whether you will accept the offer of conditional admission. Please go to the online application portal (uSis) to accept the offer.

You have the following choices:

1. Accept
2. Accept, but start later
3. Decline

Part 3. Student registration

You've been admitted? Congratulations! Follow the steps below to register as a student of Leiden University:

- Check in the online application portal (uSis) whether you need to submit any documents to meet your conditions of admission, if applicable. Instructions on how to do so will be provided in uSis.
- Arrange tuition fee payment before the official start date of your study programme. You will receive instructions and information on payment methods by email.
- International students should also go to our prepare your stay pages to find out about all the practical matter you should take care of before and upon arrival. For example arranging housing, applying for a visa/residence permit and taking out insurances.

Pre-master's

Are you interested in the master's programme Astronomy and do you have minor deficiencies in your previous education which keep you from meeting the entry requirements? Then the Astronomy pre-master's programme might be an option for you.

The Astronomy pre-master's programme is designed especially for applicants holding a university or HBO degree (applied sciences) in a related field of science with proven experience in the field of astronomy, who lack specific knowledge or experience required for successful participation in the Astronomy master's programme. These deficiencies usually include astronomy, math and/or physics courses, which can be included in a tailored Astronomy pre-master's programme.

The pre-master's a programme can only be imposed by the Board of Admissions, and is therefore not a programme for which students can apply themselves. Upon successful completion of the Astronomy pre-master's programme within the deadline imposed by the Board of Admissions, students will be admitted to the Astronomy master's programme.

For more information on courses, application procedures and costs, see the **e-Prospectus**

Tuition fees

The amount of tuition fee you have to pay depends on a number of factors. Your nationality, study programme and previous Dutch higher education qualifications determine the amount of tuition fee you have to pay.

The tuition fees for the academic year 2017-2018 are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,006 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €17,800 per year
- Second Dutch master's programme: €16,000 per year

The tuition fees for the academic year 2018-2019 are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,060 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €17,800 per year
- Second Dutch master's programme: €16,000 per year

More information about tuition fees

The tuition fee for this programme is €2,006.- for the academic year 2017-2018 and €2,060.- for the academic year 2018-2019 (statutory fee).

This tuition fee applies if this is not your second master's programme and you are a national of the Netherlands, or one of the following countries:

Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Liechtenstein
Bulgaria	Lithuania
Croatia	Luxembourg

Cyprus	Malta
Czech Republic	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Slovakia
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Suriname
Iceland	Sweden
Ireland	Switzerland
Italy	United Kingdom

The fee applies for both full-time and part-time study.

If you are not a national of an EEA country, Suriname or Switzerland you must generally pay an institutional tuition fee. However if, on the basis of your Dutch residence permit, you are eligible for student finance from the Dutch education agency (DUO) you are entitled to

pay statutory tuition fee. Information on qualifying residence permits can be found in the DUO nationality chart.

If you **do not qualify** for Dutch student finance and you are **not a national of an EEA country, Suriname or Switzerland** you can find the amount of tuition fee you are required to pay for your study programme here below. These tariffs apply for both full and part-time study.

Please note! If you will study at Leiden University via a cooperation agreement the tariffs stated in the agreement apply

Tuition fee: €17.800,- (academic year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019)

If you will undertake a second Dutch master's programme you will generally have to pay an institutional tuition fee that is higher than the statutory tuition fee.

If you obtained a Dutch Bachelor's, doctoraal, ingenieurs or HBO (Bachelor's in professional education) diploma after 1991, and you are a national of an EEA country (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), Suriname or Switzerland, the following institutional tuition fees apply.

Institutional tuition fee: €16,000.- (academic year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019)

Did you commence a Bachelor's programme at Leiden University before 2010, and will you continue directly onto a second Master's programme in the year you complete your Bachelor's programme, or in the following year? If so you are entitled to pay statutory tuition fee in accordance with a transitional ruling (also see 'Exceptions').

Please note! Other tariffs apply for students who are not nationals of an EEA country, Suriname or Switzerland. Please refer to the information in the section 'Students who are not nationals of an EEA country, Suriname or Switzerland'.

Are you unsure whether you have to pay statutory tuition fee or an institutional fee? Consult our tuition fee flowchart for second Master's programmes.

Exceptions

In some cases nationals of EEA countries, Suriname or Switzerland may be permitted to pay tuition fees set at the same amount as statutory tuition fee for their second degree programme.

- If your second degree programme is in the field of healthcare or teacher training you are entitled to pay institutional tuition fees set at the same amount as statutory tuition fee.
- If you begin your second Bachelor's or Master's programme whilst you are still following your first Bachelor's or Master's programme you may pay institutional tuition fees set at the same amount as statutory tuition fee for your second degree programme – on condition that you remain continuously registered as a student.

If you begin a second Bachelor's or Master's programme at Leiden University in the academic year directly following the year in which you obtained your first Bachelor's or Master's degree at Leiden University you may pay institutional tuition fee set at the same amount as statutory tuition fee.

Scholarships, grants and loans

Leiden University offers a wide range of scholarships for students from specific regions of the world, or for specific programmes. If you have EU/EEA or Swiss nationality and are under 30, you may be eligible for a loan from the Dutch government to cover your tuition fees. Leiden University also offers the Leiden University Excellence Scholarship (LExS). This scholarship programme is designed for non-EU/EEA students enrolling in a master's programme and for students of all nationalities enrolling in an Advanced LLM programme.

Find out more about scholarships, grants, loans and deadlines

Astronomy scholarships and waivers

Leiden Observatory is pleased to offer various scholarships to excellent, non-Dutch master's students. The scholarships are meant for students who have a bachelor's degree in astronomy or physics, and wish to obtain their master's (MSc) degree in Astronomy research or

instrumentation at Leiden University. Successful candidates must be of outstanding academic merit and in need of financial support.

Oort scholarship for excellent, non-Dutch students who wish to obtain their master's degree in Astronomy research

Walraven scholarship for excellent, non-Dutch students who wish to obtain their master's degree in Astronomy and Instrumentation

In addition, Leiden Observatory offers conditional waivers, reducing the non-EU/EEA tuition fee to the amount of the home fee. For more information, contact the Astronomy programme coordinator at masters@strw.leidenuniv.nl.

Student life

Your time at Leiden is about more than just studying. Some of your best experiences will stem from being a part of our lively and diverse student community, as well as from life in the beautiful city of Leiden.

Life in Leiden

Quaint, picturesque and the perfect size, Leiden is an idyllic place to spend your university days. You will soon become familiar with the dozens of cafes, shops and bars that line the leafy canals, as well as its year-round line-up of cultural events. For visits further afield, the major cities of The Hague and Amsterdam are a short train ride away, along with Schiphol Airport, which is just half an hour away by train.

Within the university's student community, our study and student associations organise a huge variety of social, cultural, and study events to keep you busy all year round. You can also join the University Sports Centre, which offers scheduled group sports and fitness classes amongst other activities.

Welcome and orientation programme

In August and February each year, Leiden University hosts the English-language Orientation Week Leiden (OWL), which welcomes both international and Dutch students. The OWL is an excellent way to get to know Leiden University, the city and to meet other students.

Follow Christine around the city and see what it is like to live in Leiden

De Leidsche Flesch

Leidsch Astronomisch Dispuut F. Kaiser is the Astronomy study association. It is part of De Leidsche Flesch, the study association for students of the Physics, Astronomy, Mathematics and Computer Science programmes. Kaiser fosters the integration between Astronomy students and other members of the Leiden Observatory community by organising social activities and events, including guided tours and public events at the Leiden historical observatory Oude Sterrewacht. Study association De Leidsche Flesch arranges the book sale for the Astronomy programme, through which members can easily order their books with a discount.

Science Buddy Programme

The Science master's Buddy Programme has been set up by the Faculty of Science to help all international students who are new to the university to integrate quickly and easily into university life. Through the programme you will learn everything you need to know about the university, the student community, and the practical side of life in Leiden. Your buddy is your first connection in the Netherlands and he or she can help you to find your way around. A few weeks before the start of your studies, you will get an invitation for the programme. After signing up, you will be matched to a student preferably from your own study programme.

Information activities

Are you thinking about studying at Leiden University? Come and visit our Master's Open Day.

About our Master's Open Day

Are you exploring your options for a master's programme? You can learn a lot by coming to our Master's Open Days. This event is your opportunity to learn everything you need to know about our master's programmes and how they can help you reach your goals. Attend presentations by the different programmes, visit the information fairs, and ask lecturers, students, alumni and study advisers all your questions. And you'll get to know the best student city right in the heart of Europe in the Netherlands.

Read more about the Master's Open Days

Impressions Master's Open Day

Contact

Do you have questions about the Astronomy master's programme? Please contact us.

Contact the programme

For more information and questions about entry requirements, admissions procedures, tuition fees and scholarships, please contact the Education Office Astronomy.

Astronomy programme coordinator

Arianne Pen MSc

Head of Education Office Astronomy

E-mail: masters@strw.leidenuniv.nl

Phone: +31 (0)71 527 5839

Contact Astronomy alumni

Would you like to talk to someone who knows the Astronomy master's programme? Who knows how to get around in Leiden and can tell you more about entering the job market after graduation? Then contact one of our Astronomy Ambassadors and feel free to ask anything about their experiences studying at Leiden University.

Name	Institute
Isa Oliviera	Optimum Soluções, São Paulo, Brazil
Roderik Overzier	National Observatory in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Demereze Salter	Pontificia Catolica Universidad de Chile

Thijs Kouwenhoven Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China

AnneMarie Weijmans School of Physics and Astronomy, University of St. Andrews, UK

Wouter Vlemmings Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

Frank van den Bosch Yale University, US

Contact the university about general questions

Do you have questions about studying at Leiden University?

Do you want to know more about one or more programmes or about our information activities? The StudyLine is a source of information for students and is staffed by students. You can contact them by mail or by phone on +31 (0)71 527 11 11 on working days between 9.00 am and 17.00 pm.

Do you have questions about your admission and application?

For questions about your admission and application, you can contact the Student Information Centre. You can contact them by telephone on +31 (0)71 527 80 11 (daily between 11:00 am and 16:00 pm) or ask your question in the online contact form.