Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (MSc)

Master



Universiteit Leiden

Discover the world at Leiden University

Specialisations

- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy (MSc)
- Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (MSc)
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Business Studies (MSc)
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science Communication and Society (MSc)
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Education (MSc)

In the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences master’s programme you are trained at the leading edge of drug-design and fundamental research of new drugs, optimization of existing drugs, and personalised medicine.

What does this master’s programme entail?

Despite major advances in drug-research, many common diseases such as cancers, neurological diseases, cardiovascular disease and other auto-immune diseases, lack effective treatment, or are found incurable. You are trained for a scientific career in drug research and development. Depending on your interest, you can eventually choose from five specialisations to further extend your scientific training and theoretical background. However, the research specialisation is considered to be default specialisation. Hence, students will only be admitted to the master on the research specialisation. Students following the research specialisation continue their research training in the second year. Students opting for a non-research specialisation will be admitted after the successful completion of their first year of the master programme.

Read more about our Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences programme. Note that from Sept. 2025 the Prospectus will be updated to match the new specialisations.

Discover why our students choose the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences master's programme

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Why study Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences at Leiden University?

- The programme is offered by the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR) – one of the world leading academic pharmaceutical research groups.
- We offer you a research-oriented programme in which you can specialize in different areas in the wide spectrum of drug research; from Analytical BioSciences, Biopharmaceutics, Drug Delivery Technology, Medicinal Chemistry to Pharmacology, and Toxicology.
- The programme offers flexibility and tailoring to meet your individual scientific interests and career aspirations.

Find more reasons to study Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences at Leiden University.

Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences: the right master’s programme for you?

The master’s programme of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS) aims to train you in the research area of bio-pharmaceutical sciences and drug research in such a way that you have extensive knowledge and hands-on experience to be able to work independently as a scientific researcher. Moreover, you have a wide range of other career opportunities in bio-pharmaceutical industry, science communication, and education.

Read more about the entry requirements for Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Why Leiden University?

We are committed to provide you with meaningful, rigorous and quality graduate experiences in a personalized environment with a cutting edge research infrastructure and internationally renowned supervisors.

Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research

Research environment

As a MSc student you are taken up as members of our institute thus providing an ideal environment for our philosophy; You can best learn science by doing science together with fellow junior and senior scientists.

Array of disciplines

You can expand your intellectual horizons while deepening your expertise in an array of disciplines. You can learn about the fundamentals of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences in a compelling and challenging environment. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary challenges provide a unique learning and research environment for our graduate programme.

Small groups

Courses and working classes concern small groups, while you are in one-to-one contact with our staff member during your research periods. We are committed to show that a graduate study in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences is professional in its core.

International environment

The Leiden Graduate School of Science aims to provide an international academic environment with an appreciable number of master and PhD students from abroad. Moreover the same applies to the scientific staff and the post-doctorate fellows. English is the language used in courses, the colloquia, the scientific meetings and the daily conversations that take place in the research groups.

Faculty of Science

The Leiden University Faculty of Science is a first-class research faculty with an excellent position in the fundamental disciplines of science. The current research and education programmes cover the entire spectrum of science, including Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science, Computer Science, Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, 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. Our core values are scientific impact, technological innovation and societal relevance.

Study at a world-class university

At Leiden University, you choose a master’s degree with impact. You study at a university with a strong international reputation and high-quality research, where academic freedom and critical thinking are at the core. Our master’s programmes offer intellectually challenging curricula with a wide range of courses and specialisations, allowing you to explore what truly interests you while preparing for a strong position in the

job market. You become part of an international and diverse community, collaborating with students and academics from around the world. At the same time, you study in a personal and close-knit environment in Leiden and The Hague, where the atmosphere remains engaging and supportive. With a strong connection between education, research and societal challenges, you contribute to solutions for the issues of today and tomorrow – while shaping your own future.
More reasons to choose Leiden University

About the programme

The two-years MSc programme spans the entire spectrum of Analytical BioSciences, Biopharmaceutics, Drug Delivery Technology, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Overview of the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences programme

All students first register for the major research specialisation Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. In your first year, you start with a major research project in one of the research disciplines of the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR). LACDR is a centre of excellence for multidisciplinary research in the area of drug-design and fundamental research of new drugs, optimization of existing drugs, and personalised medicine.
In the second year, you have the option to continue the specialisation Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences or to combine the research component with one of these four other specialisations:

- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy (in Dutch, max. 2 selected participants): This specialisation trains you in quality control and safety in the production of medicinal products, and prepares students for a career in Quality Assurance and Quality Control in the biotechnological and pharmaceutical industry.
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Business Studies: Combine training in BPS research with education in business and entrepreneurship.
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science Communication and Society: combine research with programmes in different aspects of science communication, such as journalism.
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Education (taught partly in Dutch): prepare yourself for a career in teaching.

Educational methods

- Colloquium
- Individual paper
- Lab work
- Literature study
- Presentations
- Lectures
- Working group

Overview curriculum general part (all specialisations)

The research specialisation is considered to be **default** specialisation of the master BPS. Students following the research specialisation continue their research training in the second year. Student’s opting for a non-research specialisation will be admitted after the successful completion of their first year of the master’s programme.

The programme of the **research specialisation** consists of an introduction course, one research project, at least one BPS lecture series, and the course Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation. The general outline of year one of the master BPS is indicated below:

- Introduction Course Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (6 EC)
  prepares you for Research Project 1
- Research project 1 (47 EC)
  a nine-month research project within a division of the LACDR
- Lecture series 1 in BPS (4 EC)
  select one of the lecture series listed in the e-prospectus of the master BPS
- Course Advanced Academic Skills and Career Orientation (3 EC)

Overview curriculum research specialisations

The programme of the specialisation consists of an introduction course, two research projects, at least one BPS lecture series, the course Advanced academic skills and career orientation, and optional courses. The general outline of the research-oriented specialisation is indicated below:

- Introduction Course Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (6 EC)
  prepares you for Research Project 1
- Research project 1 (47 EC)
  a nine-month research project within a division of the LACDR
- Research project 2 (35 EC)
  a six-month research project at an academic institute or a pharmaceutical company
- Literature study plus thesis (7 EC):
  five consecutive weeks at one of the divisions of the LACDR
- Lecture series 1 in BPS (4 EC)
  select one of the lecture series listed in the e-prospectus of the master BPS
- Course Advanced academic skills and career orientation (3 EC)
- Optional courses or traineeships (18 EC)

Overview curriculum specialisations Industrial Pharmacy, Education, Business Studies, and Science Communication and Society

The non-research specialisations combine at least one year of Biopharmaceutical Sciences (see 'Overview curriculum general part'; 60-62 EC) with training to prepare you for specific science-related careers (58-60 EC).

Find out more about the practical-oriented specialisations:

- BPS and Industrial Pharmacy
- BPS and Education
- BPS and Business Studies
- BPS and Science Communication and Society

Extra-curricular

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

Honours education for master's students

Are you a curious and motivated master’s student? The Honours Academy of Leiden University offers various kinds of extracurricular education, ranging from long-running programmes to short-term courses.

Leiden Leadership Programme (15 EC)

Are you interested in a leadership challenge? Join the Leiden Leadership Programme (LLP). This one-year programme will equip you with the leadership knowledge, insights and skills you need to increase your societal impact. You work on your personal development through trainings, seminars and a practical assignment within an organisation, in which you learn to cooperate intensively with other professionals. With the LLP, you earn 15 EC in addition to your master's degree.

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Master Honours Challenges (3-5 EC)

Broaden your horizons with a Master Honours Challenge at Leiden University. In a small-scale, interdisciplinary course, you will tackle a complex issue for society or an organisation.

- **Discover your path**. Try out new topics, fields, and skills and discover what suits you.
- **Gain interdisciplinary experience**. Work with other disciplines on complex issues.
- **Broaden your skillset**. Pitch for stakeholders, make a podcast, documentary, or exhibit or create your own business.
- **Build a network.** Work with motivated students and teachers, as well as real-life partner organisations.

Study Abroad

Drug researchers inherently operate internationally. Therefore, BPS students are strongly stimulated to go abroad for their second research project to gain international work experience. International experience is not only important to start building an international network but it will also increase the career prospects and chances in the job market.

Career prospects

In the Master’s programme in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences of Leiden University you are trained for a scientific career in drug research and development.

After graduating you are theoretically and experimentally trained in all relevant aspects of drug research. You have hands-on experience in specialized research project. The combination of expertise in drug research and academic skills makes you attractive for employers, irrespective of the chosen specialisation. All students who complete the master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, regardless of the specialisation, are admissible to a PhD programme in Bio-Pharmaceutical, Biomedical or other Life Sciences.

Career

One finds graduates from Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences in the entire width of the (bio)pharmaceutical field. Their careers generally remain closely related to the field of drug discovery and design, or the development and production of drugs, including drug quality, safety and clinical trials. Jobs outside research include various functions in the pharmaceutical industry, in biotechnology companies, or with the government.

Many graduates from Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences choose a career in scientific research and pursue a PhD degree. After obtaining your PhD degree you can continue as a postdoctoral fellow and subsequently, via a tenure track position at university, develop further to assistant-, associate-, or full professor.

- 59 % University (Medical Centre)/Research Institute*
- 29 % Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology Industry
- 3 % Food/Cosmetics Industry
- 2 % Entrepreneur/Freelancer
- 2 % Education/Science Communication
- 2 % Continue schooling
- 3 % Other

*Predominantly PhD positions

Career preparation

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

Career orientation BPS

The study association L.P.S.V. „Aesculapius” run by students of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences organizes several career orientation activities, such as a biannual Career day with pitches, presentations, workshops and stands of pharmaceutical and biotech companies and other possible future employers. Moreover, excursions to pharmaceutical companies and lunch lectures are organized.

Science Career Service

Are you looking for career advice? Get in touch with our science career counsellor. The Science Career Service of Leiden University 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, workshops, speed-dating events, individual appointments with the career counselor and advice on your CV or motivation letter.

Science Career Event

Whether you are actively looking forward to meeting interesting employers, or if you are still unsure about what your career path will look like, the Science Career Event gives you a chance to speak with a large number of employers. Every year the Science Career Event is organised 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 potential employer 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 eager to offer their advice and support. On the Mentor Network platform, you can view the profiles of many alumni. Once you have found someone you would like to contact for advice, you can send them a request for assistance.

Master's application and admission

Find out how to apply for Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences at Leiden University by following our step-by-step guide.

Step-by-step guide

This guide clearly explains the steps you need to take to apply, and the subsequent admission process.

- 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

The Research in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences specialisation is considered to be the default specialisation. Hence, students will only be admitted to this specialisation of the master Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. Students following the research specialisation continue their research training in the second year. Students opting for a non-research specialisation will be admitted after the successful completion of their first year of the master programme.

Every master student of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences has to start with a Research Project of 9 months (RP1) within the LACDR (our research institute). On the website of the LACDR you can find information on the various research themes that are offered by our research divisions/centre.
During the first week of September, you are required to attend information sessions of principal investigators of the LACDR, after which you can indicate your preference. Based on the information you provide, the education office of the master BPS will match you with a suitable RP1 spot in the second/third week of September.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences at Leiden University, you must meet the following admission requirements.

Diploma requirements

Entry requirements for students from a Dutch research university

You are eligible to apply if you have:

- A BSc degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (Bio-Farmaceutische Wetenschappen) from any research university in the Netherlands.
  OR
- A bachelor's degree in a Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences-related programme from a research university in the Netherlands, under the condition that you have accumulated at least 150 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and have had basic research training in the field of life science including a 16 EC, level 400 (or equivalent) final research assignment, covering all aspects of the research cycle and being concluded with an individual research thesis written in academic English, and an oral presentation.|

You might be eligible to apply if you hold a bachelor's degree in a related programme such as Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Informatics with the specialisation Informatics & Biology, Life Science and Technology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Your eligibility to apply depends on the individual choices that you made within your programme, e.g. the choice of a minor programme and research project(s) in the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Board of Admissions will assess whether your degree and background are sufficiently related to the BSc degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. Only after a positive decision of the Board of Admissions you will be admitted to the programme.

Please note that admission to the specialisation in *Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy* is limited to only a few students each year. Selection of candidates for this specialisation takes place during the first year of the programme. For this specialisation, proficiency in Dutch is required.

For more information, please contact the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences' admission committee.

Entry requirements for students from a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo)

If you have a degree in Dutch higher vocational education (hbo/HLO) in a Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences-related field of science (e.g. Chemistry, Biomedical Sciences or equivalent field of Science), you are eligible to apply under the condition that you have:

- accumulated at least 150 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and have had basic research training in the field of life science including a 16 EC, level 400 (or equivalent) final research assignment, covering all aspects of the research cycle and being concluded with an individual research thesis written in academic English, and an oral presentation, obtained your degree within four years with a grade point average (GPA) above 7.5, and,
- the research project that was included in the (hbo/HLO) programme must have been conducted at a research university or a university medical centre and must have been assessed with a grade above 8.0 (grades according to the Dutch grading scale).

Your eligibility to apply depends on the individual choices that you made within your programme, e.g. the choice of a minor programme and research project(s) in the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Board of Admissions will assess whether your degree and background are sufficiently related to the level and content of the Dutch BSc degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and whether you meet the additional requirements. Only after a positive decision of the Board of Admissions you will be admitted to the programme.

Please note that admission to the specialisation in *Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy* is limited to only a few students each year. Selection of candidates for this specialisation takes place during the first year of the programme. For this specialisation, proficiency in Dutch is required.

For more information, please contact the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences' admission committee.

Entry requirements for students from a foreign research university

If you have a bachelor's degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences or in a Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences-related programme from a foreign research university with a level similar to Dutch research universities, you are eligible to apply under the condition that you have:

- accumulated at least 150 EC (or the equivalence thereof) in courses/projects belonging to the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and have had basic research training in the field of life science including a 16 EC, level 400 (or equivalent) final research assignment, covering all aspects of the research cycle and being concluded with an individual research thesis written in academic English, and an oral presentation.

You might be eligible to apply if you hold a bachelor's degree in a related programme such as Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Informatics with the specialisation Informatics & Biology, Life Science and Technology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Your eligibility to apply depends on the individual choices that you made within your programme, e.g. the choice of a minor programme and research project(s) in the domain of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Board of Admissions will assess whether your degree and background are sufficiently related to the Dutch BSc degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. Only after a positive decision of the Board of Admissions you will be admitted to the programme.

Please note that admission to the specialisation in *Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy* is limited to only a few students each year. Selection of candidates for this specialisation takes place during the first year of the programme. For this specialisation, proficiency in Dutch is required.

For more information, please contact the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences' admission committee.

Language requirements

English Language requirements
English language proficiency

The following requirements apply:

- IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, with at least 6.0 for each separate component score.

For other accepted exams, including score equivalency tables and criteria for the accepted exams, refer to our English language proficiency requirements.

Note that English test results may **not** be more than two years old.

You do not have to submit an English proficiency test if you have completed your education in the USA, UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada) Singapore, South-Africa or Malta, if you have obtained an English-taught International Baccalaureate™; if you have completed a Dutch VWO diploma or an English-taught degree at a Dutch research university or an English-taught bachelor's degree from a Dutch university of applied sciences.

Dutch language requirements Education specialisation and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy specialisation

The education component and the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Industrial Pharmacy specialisation of this master's programme are taught in Dutch. All applicants that have not achieved a Secondary Education

qualification in the Netherlands, have to demonstrate their Dutch communication skills. The level of Dutch is assessed through an advanced Dutch language exam. For more information about the exam: Admission Exam TUL Advanced.

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.

Mind: after completion of the Education specialisation you obtain a qualification to be a teacher in the Netherlands.

Additional information

Laptop profile

We expect students to bring a regular laptop running Windows (or running Linux for certain study programmes). MacOS may in most cases also suffice (with Parallels for Windows installed), but not all specialized applications may be supported, and less support may be available.

- Windows 11 compatible – 64-bits (or Linux for some study programmes)
- Processor/CPU – modern, medium range
- Memory/RAM – 8 GB, if possible 16 GB
- Storage – 512 GB, if possible 1 TB

>> Go to the next step: Check the application deadlines

Application deadlines

Application deadlines

Starting in September

- If you need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **1 April**. The same deadline applies to students who already have a Dutch residence permit for study purposes and need to extend it.
- If you do not need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **15 May**.

All deadlines expire at 23:59 (midnight) Central European Time on the specified date.

Starting in February

- If you need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **15 October**.
- If you do not need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **15 November**.

All deadlines expire at 23:59 (midnight) Central European Time on the specified date.

Application start and deadline

It is possible to start studying in both September and February. However, starting in September is highly recommended because otherwise the programme contains a lot of self-study in the first semester. Therefore, for starting dates other than in September, the Board of Admissions will judge whether the candidate's academic background provides sufficient confidence that the candidate will be able to complete the Master's programme in two years.

Apply early!

We advise you to apply as soon as possible. The earlier you apply, the more time there is for us to help you if your application file is not complete.
If you do not have a Dutch diploma that grants direct admission or you need to meet additional admission criteria, you'll have to complete a two-part application procedure:

- First register your application(s) in the national system Studielink.
- A day later you will receive log-in details for Leiden University's application system (uSis), where you can complete your application.

You must submit your application via Leiden University's application system (uSis), before the deadlines mentioned above. So don't delay; if you haven't registered in Studielink and activated your uSis account in time to apply by the deadline, you'll miss out!

Other deadlines

Housing deadlines

Leiden University reserves a limited number of rooms each year for international students. However, as the number of housing requests always greatly exceeds the number of rooms available, we strongly recommend that you also look into other housing options at the same time. Read more about how and when to arrange housing. If you want to request accommodation via Leiden University, submit both your application for admission and your housing request well before the deadlines! Accommodation is offered on a first-come first-served basis and is not guaranteed. You don't have to await admission before requesting housing.

Scholarship deadlines

If you want to apply for a scholarship, grant or loan, please bear in mind that different deadlines apply, and these deadlines can often be earlier. Deadlines vary per scholarship. Visit the scholarship website for more details.

>> Go to the next step: Collect the required documents

Required documents

When you apply for admission, you'll be asked to submit several documents.

Note: If you have a Dutch diploma that grants direct admission, you will generally *not* be asked to submit additional documents.

Required application documents

You'll need to submit the following documents:

Language proficiency (if applicable)

You can apply for admission before receiving the results of your English language test. However, a sufficient result will then be a condition of your eventual admission. Of course, if you already have your English language test results, you can upload them directly.

Copies of diplomas and transcripts

- Digital copies of diplomas and transcripts are initially required. Once you have been admitted, we will inform you how to submit certified copies.
- The documents must be in the original language. If they are not in English, Dutch, German or French, they must be accompanied by official translations into one of these languages.
- If you have not yet completed your current programme, state your expected graduation date and submit copies of all transcripts obtained to date plus a list of subjects still to be completed.

If you have a BSc degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (BFW; Bio-farmaceutische wetenschappen) from any research university in the Netherlands, you are directly admissible.

BFW students who want to start the master BPS in the academic year 2026-2027 (September admission), please enroll in Studielink. During the first week of September, you are required to attend information sessions of principal investigators of the LACDR, after which you can adjust your preference for a specific Research Project 1 (RP1). Based on the information you provide, the education office of the master BPS will then match you with a suitable RP1 spot. This procedure is also applicable to students who have completed the bachelor in past years.

Additional documents for this programme:

Writing sample/essay

You are required to submit a writing sample (a relevant research paper or Bachelor's Thesis). It should be a paper with you as a single author, with an introduction, materials and methods section, results section (with experiments you conducted yourself and/or data you collected, analyzed and interpreted), discussion section in which you compare the key findings to the expectations and/or relevant earlier findings, explain and evaluate their differences and/or similarities; answer your research question and/or accept/reject the hypothesis; describe the scientific and societal implications/contributions of the research; provide suggestions for future research. If it's a group project, please explain which part of the experimental work is yours.

Application Form Programme (''aanmeldformulier opleiding''): placement letter

Application Form Programme (''aanmeldformulier opleiding''): placement letter

For all students except students with a BSc BFW:
In this letter you are asked to explain in writing that you possess the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as applicants who are holding a Bachelor's degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences from a Dutch

research university.
Please indicate also in this letter at which research division of the LACDR you would like to do a Research Project.

In order to be admissible it is essential for you to have sufficient (hands-on) training in research. Therefore we recommend that you choose the research themes that fit best with your prior education. Please also refer to this research experience in this letter.

*Please note that if you would like to apply for a **scholarship** with this programme, you may need to upload additional documents with your application. Please inform yourself here.*

>> Go to the next step: Step 4: Start your application

Application procedure

The application procedure is broken down into three parts.

Part 1. Application in Studielink

All students applying for a degree programme at Leiden University must start the application process in Studielink, the national online registration system for students wishing to follow a degree programme at a Dutch university. Studielink is open for applications from 1 October in the year preceding the academic year in which you wish to start.

Apply in Studielink

1. Go to Studielink and enter your details according to the instructions provided. For this step you will need:

- a copy of your valid passport or European ID card, or
- if you are a Dutch resident, your DigiD.

Be aware! If you wish to apply for a specialisation of a master's programme: first select the master's programme in Studielink, then select the specialisation for which you wish to apply in Step 4 (Institutional Questions) in Studielink.

2. Within two days you will receive:

- an email with information on the next steps you'll need to take;
- your university ULCN student account details (unless, of course, you already have a ULCN account)
- the link to Leiden University's online application portal (uSis)

Directly admitted?

After receiving your ULCN student account details, log into Leiden University's online application portal (uSis), using the link provided. Here you can view the status of your application, which will be one of two possibilities.

1. You can be directly admitted
If your (Dutch) diploma grants you direct admission, Leiden University's online application portal (uSis) will let you know. The portal provides an overview of what you have to do to complete your application, for

example arranging housing, scholarships, applying for a visa/residence permit and insurances. Please follow the instructions carefully and proceed to step 3 Student registration.

2. You cannot be directly admitted: additional action is required
If you do not have a (Dutch) diploma that grants you direct admission, we will require additional documents to allow us to decide about your application. The online application portal (uSis) will tell you this and explain how to do so. See also Part 2: Admission to Leiden University.

Part 2. Admission to Leiden University

If you cannot be directly admitted, you must apply for admission via Leiden University's online application portal (uSis). Please follow all steps below.

Submit your online application

In our online application portal (uSis) you can finalise your application by uploading the necessary documents and answering a few questions. This portal provides an overview of what you need to do to complete your admission application. Please follow the instructions carefully and make sure to include all the items that are asked for. We strongly recommend that you complete your application well in advance of the application deadline.

Pay the application fee (if applicable)

All applicants with an international degree must pay a **non-refundable** €100 application fee, which entitles you to apply for up to three programmes/specialisations in the same academic year. We cannot start processing your application until we receive this application fee, so please pay it as soon as possible. The online application system explains how you can pay it.

Can I be exempted from paying the application fee?
You do *not* have to pay the application fee if:

- You are following, or have completed, a bachelor's degree at a Dutch university (of applied sciences).
- You have previously registered as an exchange, bachelor's, master's or pre-master's student at Leiden University.
- You have previously been admitted to **the same** degree programme at Leiden University, but you decided to postpone your studies. This does *not* apply if you are applying for a different study programme or specialisation.
- You have refugee status in the Netherlands (with a residence permit for asylum).

Exemptions cannot be granted for any other reasons.

Other things to arrange

After you have submitted your application, the online application portal (uSis) will, if applicable, ask you if you want to apply for student housing, a visa/residence permit or a scholarship. Be sure to make a careful note of the relevant deadlines for these options.

Your application will be assessed

After receiving your application fee payment (if applicable), the Admissions Office will check whether all the necessary documents have been uploaded and they will inform you by email whether any further items are required. The Board of Admissions of the faculty will then:

- decide whether you meet the admission requirements for the programme;
- strive to issue a decision on your completed application within four to six weeks of the University receiving it.

Receiving the decision

Once a decision has been reached you will be informed by email. You can view your admission status in the online application portal (uSis).

There are three possible outcomes:

1. **You are admitted**
   You have met all conditions for admission.
2. **You are conditionally admitted**
   You will be admitted, provided that you meet certain conditions. These conditions will be specified in the online application portal (uSis).
3. **You are not admitted**

The reason(s) for non-admission will be clearly stated in the online application portal (uSis). If you are informed that you have been (conditionally) admitted, you will have to take a number of additional steps.

Confirm attendance

If you are (conditionally) admitted, the Admissions Office will ask you to confirm whether you will join the study programme. You can do so in the online application portal (uSis).

1. Go to 'Application study programme' in the online application portal (uSis).
2. Open the 'Confirm' screen. Here you will see three options:

- Yes, I want to study at Leiden University.
- No, I no longer wish to study at Leiden University and hereby withdraw my application.
- Maybe later; I do not wish to start this semester/academic year. I would like to receive further instructions by email.

The sooner the better
Confirm attendance as soon as possible, to avoid missing other important deadlines and information about your study programme.

Changing your mind
You can still change your mind if necessary, either in uSis or by contacting the Admissions Office master team.

Deadline final decision
Do you need a student visa or residence permit? You can only request one after confirming attendance. So make sure to confirm attendance before the visa/residence permit deadline.

If you don't need a visa or residence permit, the latest deadline for confirming attendance is before the start date of your study programme.

Part 3. Student registration

If you've been (conditionally) admitted, follow these steps to register as a student at Leiden University:

Meet all conditions

Check in the online application portal (uSis) whether you need to submit any documents to meet the conditions of your admission. Instructions on how to do so will be provided in uSis.

Arrange the payment of your tuition fee

Arrange the payment of your tuition fee before the official start date of your programme. You will receive instructions and information on the available payment methods by email.

Practical matters for international students

If you are an international student, go to the Prepare your stay page of our website for information about the practical matters you should take care of before and upon arrival. These include, for example, arranging housing, scholarships, applying for a visa/residence permit and insurances.

>> Go to the next step. Step 5: Pay your tuition fees

Tuition fees

Your tuition fee depends on a number of factors, such as your nationality and your previous Dutch higher-education qualifications.

The tuition fees for the academic year **2027-2028** are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,771 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €23,300 per year
- Second Dutch master's programme: €17,900 per year

Are you unsure which tuition fee applies to you? Consult our Tuition Fee Calculator.

More information about tuition fees

Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese nationals

The tuition fee for this programme is €2,771 for the academic year 2027-2028 (statutory fee).

This tuition fee applies if this is your first master's programme and you are a national of 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	

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

Other nationalities

The tuition fee for this programme is €23,300 for the academic year 2027-2028 (institutional tuition fee).

If you are not a national of an EEA country, Suriname or Switzerland, generally speaking you will have to pay an institutional tuition fee. This fee applies for both full-time and part-time study.

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 the statutory tuition fee. Information on qualifying residence permits can be found at the DUO website.

Please note! If you will be studying at Leiden University via a cooperation agreement, the fees quoted in the agreement will apply.

Second Dutch master's programme

Only applicable to EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese nationals.

The tuition fee for this programme is €17,900 for the academic year 2027-2028 (institutional tuition fee).

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

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

- Legal transitional arrangement for second bachelor's or master's degree: student pays the statutory tuition fee when:
  - Student has already obtained a bachelor's or master's degree but is starting a programme in the field of education or healthcare for the first time.
  - The student has already started a second bachelor's or master's programme before the first programme was completed and remains registered for it uninterruptedly.
- Institutional transitional arrangement for a second bachelor's or master's degree: student pays the institutional tuition fee equal to the statutory rate) when:
  - Student has already obtained a bachelor's or master's degree, but is starting a teacher training programme.
  - After completing a bachelor's or master's degree at Leiden University, a student will subsequently start a second programme (in academic years).

Are you unsure which tuition fee applies to you? Consult our Tuition Fee Calculator.

Pre-master or conversion programmes

Tuition fee if the pre-master's or conversion programme has less than 60 study credits (EC)	**2027-2028**
	1/60 of the statutory tuition fee per EC

If the pre-master's or conversion programme has 60 study credits or more, you pay the statutory tuition fee of that college year.

Scholarships, grants and loans

Scholarships, grants and loans

Leiden University offers a wide range of scholarships for students from specific regions of the world, or for specific programmes. Leiden University also offers the Leiden University Excellence Scholarship (LExS), a programme specifically designed for non-EU/EEA students enrolling in a master's programme. Find out more about scholarships, grants, loans and deadlines.

If you are an EU/EEA or Swiss national and under 30, you may be eligible for a loan from the Dutch government to cover your tuition fees.

>> Go to the next step. Step 6: Prepare for your studies at Leiden University

Prepare for your studies

You've been accepted! Leiden University looks forward to welcoming you as a new student. Your next step is to prepare for your studies. Below you can find some tips to help you get a head start as you embark on your studies at Leiden University.

Please visit the Welcome to Leiden University page to find an overview with all necessary information to prepare for your MSc Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences studies.

For international students

If you are an international student, a wealth of information can be found on the 'Prepare your stay' page of our website. This includes information about visas, housing, financial matters, what to arrange upon arrival, and much more.

For Dutch students

Student website

- The 'student website' page on Leiden University's student website contains information about practical aspects, introduction weeks and student associations. It's also a handy source of study-related information and advice.
- For detailed information about courses, schedules and reading materials, check out the Prospectus.

Introduction programme

Sign up for the introduction week in Leiden (OWL) or The Hague (HOP)! It's the best way to get acquainted with student life and the student cities of Leiden and The Hague.

Digital student card

Three days after you receive a digital proof of enrolment, you will get access to your digital student card. You will receive the proof of enrolment by email, so make sure to check your inbox. You can find your digital student card in the Universiteit Leiden app. Read more about your student card here.

LU-Card

As soon as you receive notification that your student registration has been finalised you should apply for a Leiden University ID card, or LU-Card. It also serves as your library card, print & copy card and access pass. Read more about applying for an LU-card here.

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.
In addition, there is also the EL CID week: the introduction week (in Dutch) for all students in Leiden.

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New to the city and the university? Take part in the best introduction to the city, the university and your faculty: The OWL! Enjoy this week of fun, music, culture, sports, games and making new friends. It will be an unforgettable start of your studies!

- 
  Our Hortus botanicus is a place where science is conducted, but it is equally popular for studying or relaxing. Come visit it!

- 
  Leiden is a lively, compact and safe city which is appreciated by national and international students alike. Everything is in reach within a 15 minutes bicycle ride.

- 

The city is located centrally between Netherland's biggest cities like Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and Rotterdam, all easily reached by public transport.

- 
  Enjoy strolling through the narrow cobbled streets and become familiar with the dozens of cafes, shops and bars that line the leafy canals.

Student Association L.P.S.V. „Aesculapius”

The Leiden Pharmaceutical Student-Association (L.P.S.V.) „Aesculapius” was founded on November 16th 1885 and has since operated on the behalf of the students of Pharmacy and later Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS). The association organizes events for BPS students. From symposia, lunch lectures and career events to social drinks and parties.

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 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

Get to know us through our online and in-person events for prospective students!



Student with laptop

Are you thinking about joining this Master's programme, and want to determine if it will be the right fit for you? Below, you can browse the events that we have coming up, and sign up to experience Leiden University and the programme for yourself. Alternatively, take a look at the Master Talks videos to find out more about the programme or check out our virtual campus tours!

Master Talks: Programme videos

On the Master Talks: programme videos platform you can find videos for each master's programme. This includes a video which gives a short introduction to the programme and after the Master's Online Open Days you will also be able to watch a recording of the programme presentation on the platform.

Upcoming events

Master's Open Days

About our Master's Open Day

Are you exploring your options for a master's programme? You can learn a lot by visiting our Online Master's Open Day in Autumn or our On Campus Master's Open Day in Spring. 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 (student) presentations or talkshows by the different programmes, and ask lecturers, study advisers and current and former students all your questions. We are looking forward to meeting you! Read more about the Master's Open Days

Get to know the campus

Check out our virtual campus tours, filmed in 360 degrees – by dragging the video, you can look around at the surroundings yourself. Below is the video recorded at the Science faculty, where most of your lectures will take place; you can also view other 360 campus tours of the various university faculties here.

360 Campus tour: the Science faculty

Due to the selected cookie settings, we cannot show this video here.

Watch the video on the original website or
Accept cookies

Taster day: join the LACDR Spring Symposium

During this symposium the focus is on the research activities of the LACDR PhD students, through poster presentations and oral presentations. It is also the opportunity for interaction between researchers within the LACDR, students of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, and researchers of the Faculty of Science. For prospect students it is a unique opportunity to get informed about the possibilities within the programme and get acquainted with the institute.

Contact

Do you have questions about the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences master's programme? Please contact us.

Contact the programme

For more information and questions about the programme contact:

Admission Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences
E-mail: admissionbps@lacdr.leidenuniv.nl
Phone: +31 (0)71 527 6010

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 on 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 (From Monday to Thursday between 11:00 am and 16:00 pm) or ask your question in the online contact form.