Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (MSc)

Specialisations

- BioTherapeutics (MSc)
- Drug Discovery and Safety (MSc)
- Industrial Pharmacy (MSc)
- System Biomedicine and Pharmacology (MSc)
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Business Studies (MSc)
- Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science Communication and Society (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 choose from seven specialisations to further extend your scientific training and theoretical background.

Read more about our Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences programme.

**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 students 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 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

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
The master’s programme offers three major research specialisations corresponding to the disciplines of the Research Clusters of the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR):

- **BioTherapeutics:** You are focusing on the development of new therapeutic approaches to treat immune-based disorders and state-of-the-art therapies using novel biologicals.
- **Drug Discovery and Safety:** In this specialisation you focus on targeting hallmarks of cancer. We offer education into advanced systems microscopy technologies and clinically relevant model systems for target and drug screening in combination with cheminformatics for development of novel and safe drug leads.
- **System Biomedicine and Pharmacology:** You will combine cutting-edge experimental training in the field of systems biology, and quantitative pharmacology education in the area of computational modelling of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic relationships.

The remaining four BPS tracks consist of a research component in combination with another specialisation:

- **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.

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

- **Introduction Course Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (4 EC)**
- **Research project 1 (51 EC)**
- **Research project 2 (36 EC)**
• Literature study plus thesis (7 EC)
• Lecture series 1 in BPS (4 EC)
• Course Advanced academic skills and career orientation (3 EC)
• Optional courses or traineeships (15 EC)

Find out more about the specialisations:

• Drug & Target Discovery
• BioTherapeutics
• Systems Pharmacology

The specialisations combine at least one year of Biopharmaceutical Sciences (60 EC) with training to prepare you for specific science-related careers (60 EC).

Find out more about the practical-oriented specialisations:

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

**Educational methods**

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

**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?

**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

**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.

- 59.0 % University (Medical Centre)/Research Institute*
- 29.0 % Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology Industry
- 3.0 % Food/Cosmetics Industry
- 2.0 % Entrepreneur/Freelancer
- 2.0 % Education/Science Communication
- 2.0 % Continue schooling
- 3.0 % 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 an 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 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 forward to meet interesting employers, or even if you have no idea what you career will look like yet, the Science Career Event gives you a chance to speak with a large number of employers. 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 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 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.
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 specialisations are considered to be default specialisations. Hence, students will only be admitted to the master on a research specialisation. Students following the research specialisations continue their research training in the second year. Student’s opting for a non-research specialisation are admitted after the successful completion of their first year of the Master’s programme.

Every master student Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences has to start with a Research Project of 9 months within the LACDR (our research institute). On the website of the LACDR you can find information on the various research programmes that are performed in our research divisions. It is difficult to become admitted if the applicant has received insufficient (hands-on) training in research in his/her previous education, so please select the research theme(s) that fit(s) best with your prior education, and motivate your choice in your motivation letter.

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

**Diploma requirements**

- Students holding the BSc degree in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences from Leiden University are directly admissible to the programme.
- For all other (international) candidates, the Board of Admissions will evaluate the equivalence of their previous training to the BSc degree of Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The preferred specialisation in the Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences Master’s programme should match the previous education of the applicant. The choice in optional courses in the MSc programme may be limited by the need to adapt the programme to the present knowledge of the candidate. Please note that basic research training in the field of life sciences is required to be eligible for the programme. Students with a Dutch degree do not have to submit a proof of language proficiency in English.

As a guideline for applicants with an international BSc university degree, the student should have:

- Basic research training in the field of life science, including a bachelor internship of 16 EC assessed with a mark above 8.0. The final average mark should be above 7.5 (marks according to the Dutch grading scale)

Applicants with a BSc (or equivalent) in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Life Science and Technology, as well as applicants with a higher professional education (hbo/hlo) degree (BSc in Applied Sciences) in Chemistry or Biomedical Sciences (or equivalent field of science) may be considered. Students with a Dutch degree do not have to submit a proof of language proficiency in English.

As a guideline for applicants with a higher professional education (hbo/hlo) bachelor degree, the student should have:
 Obtained the degree within four years with an average final mark above 7.5.
 Conducted a research project that was included in the higher professional education (hbo/hlo) programme at a university or a university medical centre. The average mark should be above 8.0 (marks according to the Dutch grading scale).

**Language requirements**

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

- IELTS: minimum 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for each of the components Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking
- TOEFL: internet based 90
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), minimum grade C

For detailed information about which English qualifications are accepted, as well as the relevant exemption criteria, refer to [English language proficiency](#).

Please note: You do not have to submit proof of proficiency if you have completed your education in Canada (except French-taught programmes 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 or an English taught bachelor at a Dutch Research University.

The education component of this master's programme is 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. For the speaking (fluency) part of the exam, at least a 7.5 must be achieved.

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

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

Application deadlines

- If you need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **1 April**.
- If you do not need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **15 June**.

- 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 **1 December**.

Apply early!

If you don’t have a Dutch diploma that grants direct admission, 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

If you want to request accommodation via Leiden university Housing Office, apply early! Accommodation is allocated on a first-come first-served basis and there is limited availability, which means the Housing Office cannot guarantee accommodation. Submit both your application for admission and your housing request well before the deadlines. You don’t have to wait for a decision on your application before submitting your housing request. Read more about when to arrange housing.
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.

### 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 or Dutch. 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 student 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.

>>> 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.

1. Go to Studielink and enter your details according to the instructions provided.
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)

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.

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.

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).
- You are an Indonesian student applying for an MSc programme and have been given a “review letter” by the Leiden Science Indonesia Office (LESIO).

Exemptions cannot be granted for any other reasons.

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.
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.

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.

   The Admissions Office will ask you if you want to accept the offer of (conditional) admission. Please respond via the online application portal (uSis), by going to ‘Application study programme(s)’ then accessing the ‘Confirm’ screen, where you will have three options:

   1. Accept
   2. Accept, but defer to a later start date
   3. Decline
Part 3. Student registration

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

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

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 2019-2020 are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,083 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €18,300 per year
- Second Dutch master’s programme: €16,500 per year

More information about tuition fees

The tuition fee for this programme is €2,083 for the academic year 2019-2020 (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:

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

The tuition fee for this programme is €18,300 for the academic year 2019-2020 (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 in the DUO nationality chart.

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

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

The tuition fee for this programme is €16,500 for the academic year 2019-2020 (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. Some exceptions apply.

Consult the tuition fee flowchart for second master’s programmes to find out how much tuition fee you will have to pay.
Less than 45 EC

If you are going to follow a pre-master’s or conversion programme after completing a bachelor’s programme, and if the programme is less than 45 ECs, you will have to pay €34 per study credit (EC).

45 EC or more

For programmes of more than 45 ECs you will have to pay the statutory tuition fee. If the pre-master’s or conversion programme is more than 60 ECs – and therefore longer than one year - or if you are going to follow courses that are not part of your conversion programme, you will have to pay the institutional tuition fee for the programme in question (see second study programme). These fees apply to students of all nationalities.

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.
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

- 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 e-prospectus.

Sign up for an introduction programme! It’s the best way to get acquainted with student life and the student cities of Leiden and The Hague.

Your student card is your proof of registration as a student of Leiden University. It will be sent to you at your Dutch address as soon as you have registered as a student and paid your tuition fee. Alternatively, you can collect it from the Student Affairs Front Office. Read more about your student card here.

As soon as you start studying at Leiden University 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.
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 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

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*
Dr. Diana Klomp
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 (daily between 11:00 am and 16:00 pm) or ask your question in the online contact form.