Biomedical Sciences (MSc)

Specialisations

- Biomedical Sciences Research (MSc)
- Biomedical Sciences Communication (MSc)
- Biomedical Sciences Education (MSc)
- Biomedical Sciences Management (MSc)

Discover the world at Leiden University
In this programme you are trained in interdisciplinary approaches to address scientific and societal challenges in the field of (bio)medical sciences. The research in our master programme Biomedical Sciences is related to the maintenance of health and prevention of disease. You will acquire a skill set suitable for a wide range of career opportunities not only in (biomedical) research, but also in industry, policy making and communication/education.

What does this master’s programme entail?

The first, common, master year provides you with a solid background in Biomedical Sciences via compulsory and elective courses and a research internship. The interdisciplinary character of the first year offers you great opportunities to address health and disease-related issues from various directions. The second master year is dedicated to one of the above mentioned specialisations.

Egbert Lakke
Teacher Neuroscience at LUMC

“I educate Biomedical Science students in Neuroscience with great pleasure. BS in Leiden is small-scale so contact with students is direct and stimulating.”

Jaap Schreurs
Alumnus Biomedical Sciences working at Boston Consulting Group

“In Biomedical Sciences, you deal with a broad spectrum of theories. You learn how to work on the basis of hypotheses, how to think critically and how to reflect on your own research and that of other people. I also do this in my job. I survey the field, look at the company, hypothesise and test.”

Five reasons to choose the Master Biomedical Sciences at Leiden University

• The flexibility of our programme allows you to follow your individual interests in the order that suits you best;
• You will have the opportunity to specialise in different areas of research or to zero in on management, communication or education;
• You will enjoy small-group teaching, traineeships, an international classroom and high-quality courses on subjects at the frontiers of science;
• Biomedical Sciences is taught at the Leiden University Medical Center, which is a modern institution where research, education and patient care with a high quality profile and a strong scientific orientation are combined;
• Our alumni have very good job opportunities.
Is the master Biomedical Sciences the right program for you?

The master Biomedical Sciences is the right programme for you if you are interested in studying at the intersection of medicine and the natural sciences. You will learn about causes of specific illnesses, the molecular, genetic and physiological mechanisms of disease, methods for diagnosis and the translation of knowledge to actual treatment (from bench to bedside). The master’s program aims to train you in such a way that you have knowledge, insight and hands-on experience to be able to work independently as an academic.
professional, not only in research, but also e.g. in industry, policy making and communication/education.

Interested? Read more about the entry requirements.

Why Leiden University?

The Biomedical Sciences Master programme in Leiden will help to deepen and broaden your understanding of human health and disease. You will acquire new academic skills and methodology in order to pursuit a career in the field of biomedical sciences.

Why choose the Master Biomedical Sciences at Leiden University?

We provide you with a challenging and flexible program in a personalized environment, at the frontiers of (medical) science, internationally orientated, with excellent infrastructure and enthusiastic supervisors.

Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC)

The LUMC is a modern university medical centre for research, education and patient care with a high quality profile, excellent research facilities and a strong scientific orientation. Its research practice, ranging from pure fundamental medical research to applied clinical research, places the LUMC among the world top. The collaboration between LUMC, Leiden University and the Leiden Bio Science Park creates unique possibilities for (bio)medical innovation in the Leiden area.

Flexible program

The set-up of our program allows students to follow their individual interests in the order that suits them best.

Personalized environment

Courses concern small groups, while you are in one-to-one contact with staff members during your internships.

Frontiers of science

Researchers at LUMC work together around 7 medical research profiles: Vascular and Regenerative Medicine; Immunity, Infection and Tolerance; Translational Neuroscience;
Cancer Pathogenesis and Therapy; Ageing; Innovation in Health Strategy and Quality of Care; and Biomedical Imaging. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary challenges provide a strong learning and research environment for our program.

**International environment**
The LUMC is an international academic environment with master and PhD students from all over the world. The same applies to the scientific staff. English is the language used in courses, scientific meetings and the daily conversations that take place in the research groups. The LUMC has collaborative research alliances with leading institutes and consortia around the world, including non-academic representatives such as commercial enterprises and special interest groups in addition to academic research institutions.

![Research setting](image)

**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
Entry requirements

The maximum number of students that can be enrolled in the first year of the programme of the master Biomedical Sciences at LUMC is 100 students.

*Admission for 2017-2018: Students are admitted in the order of their admission number (assigned by the faculty).*

*Admission for 2018-2019: Students that meet the entry requirements can be admitted after a qualitative selection procedure.*

All candidates have to submit a request for admission.

- **BSc in Biomedical Sciences in the Netherlands (or abroad):** deficiencies are unlikely, but may occur depending on which bachelor courses were taken;
- **A relevant bachelor’s degree (for example Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences or Biology, Life Science)**
  This implies a bachelor’s degree obtained at a high level university with sufficient education (about a month of full-time study per subject) in the following subjects: Molecular Cellular Biology, Genetics, Immunology, Anatomy, Pathology, Physiology, Microbiology, Neurosciences, Epidemiology, and Statistics. Several months’ experience of working in a laboratory is also required.
- **The Bachelor’s Grade Point Average (GPA) was 6.5 or higher (according to the Dutch Grading system or 2.43 according to the international Grading system (maximum 4.00). The GPA is the average of the bachelor’s course grades weighed by course/study load;**
- **The bachelor examination was passed within the nominal duration of the study plus maximally one year; The Board of Admissions may, on request, admit persons to the programme who do not meet this requirement.**
- **The Bachelor’s degree is not older than 18 month at the start of the master’s program, without relevant work experience. The admittance committee determines, if the deadline of 18 month is exceeded, whether relevant work experience is sufficient to be eligible for admission.**
- **Hbo Bachelor’s in Biology and Medical Laboratory Research: students can be admitted to the premaster’s programme of one year at LUMC, provided good results were obtained in previous education, relevant modules were taken, and research**
/laboratory experience was gained. A maximum of 10 candidates can be placed in the pre-master's programme. Other hbo-bachelor certificates are unlikely to warrant admission to the pre-master’s programme.

- Proof of sufficient proficiency in English evidenced by an appropriate test. IELTS: each test component must score a minimum of 6.5; TOEFL: each test component must score a minimum of 23 (internet-based); C1 level within CEF.

This requirement does not apply if you have:
- completed your education in Canada, USA, UK, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, or
- an International or European Baccalaureate
- 6vwo English

International students who want to apply for the Education specialisation should have proof of proficiency in Dutch (TUL Advanced Leiden University examination for the regular teachers training programme, or a TUL Intermediate Leiden University examination for the bilingual World Teachers Training Programme, or equivalent qualifications in the Dutch language).

- Insufficient education in a number of the aforementioned subjects may be compensated by sufficient previous education in other subjects relevant for a Biomedical Science education (e.g. Biochemistry, Pharmacology);
- Insufficient education in one or more of the aforementioned subjects may be compensated prior to, or at the beginning of the master’s programme, by taking (bachelor’s) courses offered by LUMC (in English if available);
- Students with a Dutch bachelor degree in applied sciences (hbo bachelor) may be admitted to the master’s programme after a pre-master’s programme at LUMC of approximately one study-year. NOTE: a maximum of 10 candidates can be placed in the pre-master's programme. When more than 10 candidates are admissible, candidates will be selected on basis of their results in the bachelor (Grade Point Average) and their motivation letter.

All of the above possibilities for candidates with educational deficiencies are subject to a decision to that effect taken by the board of admission.
Admission and application procedure

Part 1. Apply for a programme in Studielink

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

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

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

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

Part 2. Online application at Leiden University

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

Important note: If you are applying for a programme that starts in February 2018, you won’t receive login details from Studielink for the online application system. In this case, go the online application system and apply for admission. In the online application you can finalise your application by uploading the necessary documents and answering a few questions. Please follow the instructions carefully. We strongly recommend that you complete your application as early as possible because the sooner you do so, the sooner you will receive a decision.
All students with an international degree have to pay a **non-refundable** €100 application fee. This fee cannot be refunded and entitles you to apply for up to three programmes/specialisations within the same academic year. After we have received your application fee, we will start processing your application. Please do not delay paying the fee as this will delay the application process. The online application system describes how you can pay the fee.

**Can I be exempted from paying the application fee?**

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

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

Exemptions cannot be granted on any other grounds.

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

*Important note: If you are applying for a programme that starts in February 2018, and if applicable, the Admissions Office will send you an email with information about student housing, immigration, student registration and other formalities.*
• Upon receipt of your application fee (if applicable), the Admissions Office will check whether all the necessary documents have been uploaded and will inform you by email whether your application is complete or if there are any omissions.
• Your application will then be forwarded to the Board of Admissions at the faculty and they will decide whether you meet the entry requirements of the degree programme of your choice.
• The Board of Admissions will make a decision within four to six weeks after the University has received your application.

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

There are two possible options:

1. You are conditionally admitted; in other words you will be admitted, provided you meet certain conditions.
   The condition(s) will be given in the decision letter. Important: the decision letter will always contain the condition, that, in case that more than 100 candidates are admitted, a qualitative selection procedure will decide on your placement in the master.
2. You are not admitted, because you do not meet the programme’s entry requirements.
   The reasons will be clearly stated in the decision letter.

The Admissions Office will ask you to inform them whether you will accept the offer of conditional admission. Please go to the online application portal to accept the offer. You have the following choices:

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

**Part 3. Qualitative selection**

When more than 100 students are conditionally admitted, a qualitative selection procedure will decide on definite placement in the master programme. There are two possible outcomes of the selection procedure:
1. Based on your ranking in the selection procedure, you are offered a place in the master’s programme. You will have 14 days to accept this offer. If you accept the offer, you can proceed to finish your registration as a student of the master Biomedical Sciences. If you do not accept the offer within 14 days, you will forfeit your place.

2. Based on your ranking in the selection procedure, you are not offered a placed in the master’s programme. In this case, due to exceeding the maximum capacity of the master’s programme, you will not be placed as a student in the master Biomedical Sciences. If a candidate, mentioned above, declines an offer, the highest ranking candidate on the admission list will obtain the offer that was not accepted by the candidate as mentioned above.

Part 4. Complete your registration in Studielink

In addition to applying to Leiden University, you will also need to register in Studielink. We will send you a reminder to register in Studielink once you have been accepted into a master’s programme at Leiden University. We strongly advise that you register in Studielink as soon as possible.

The deadlines for registering via Studielink are:

- 31 January for programmes starting in February
- 31 August for programmes starting in September

After 1 September you will not be able to register in Studielink or change your choice of master’s programme.

Remember to submit all the necessary documents.

Complete your registration for your master’s programme via Studielink. Enter your payment details in Studielink and submit all the necessary documents before the official start date of your programme. Failure to do so means you won’t be allowed to study. If you have any questions about Studielink, go to the 'I have a question' page.

Pay your tuition fee before the official start date of your programme. Failure to do so means you won’t be allowed to study.
Deadlines and documents

Admission requests

- If you need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the deadline is 1 April 2018.
- If you do not need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the deadline is 15 April 2018.
- If you need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the deadline is 15 October 2018.
- If you do not need a visa, residence permit or accommodation via Leiden University Housing Office, the deadline is 15 October 2018.

Selection and placement

- A decision on conditional admission is taken before 1 June 2018.
- The result of the Selection procedure will be communicated before 16 June 2018.
- A decision on conditional admission is taken before 1 December 2018.
- The result of the Selection procedure will be communicated before 16 December 2018.

Scholarships, grants and loans

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

Registration deadline

After you have been admitted, you need to register for your Master’s in Studielink.

Registration deadlines:
- **31 August** for start in September
- **31 January** for start in February

Please note: Registration after these dates is not possible!

For non-Dutch students, there is an administration charge of € 100 for processing applications, except for a few exceptional cases.

**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.

You will have to provide an overview of the relevant subjects in your previous education. Further, you are asked to provide information about the research you have done, as well as on your experience in laboratory work. Please use the application form to provide these data.

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

If you are applying for an LLM Advanced Studies programme: all documents must be available in English (or translated into English).

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

International students should upload two letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from an academic staff member.

For Dutch students letters of recommendation are facultative.

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

**Recommendation letters - submission information**

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

- By post:
  
  *Leiden University Admissions Office*
  
  “Gravensteen” Pieterskerkhof 6
  
  2311 SR Leiden
  
  *The Netherlands*

- Digitally via our contact form

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

Statutory tuition fee applies if you will follow a government-subsidised study programme, which is not a second degree programme, and you are a national of: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland or the United Kingdom.

Statutory tuition fee applies whether you study full time or part time.

The statutory tuition fee is: €2.006,- (academic year 2017-2018)

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

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

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

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

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

**Institutional tuition fee: €16.000,- (academic year 2017-2018)**

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

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

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

**Exceptions**

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

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

**Less than 45 EC**
If you will follow a pre-master or conversion programme, after completing a Bachelor’s programme, you must pay €33,- per study credit (EC) if the programme is less than 45 ECs.

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

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**Student life**

Leiden is a real student city and has everything you’ll need to turn your time as a student into the time of your life

**Leiden student city**

Leiden University has contributed to the city’s unique atmosphere for over 400 years. The city’s historical centre is full of student associations, student accommodation and university buildings. With its many pubs, cafés, restaurants, theatres and museums, there’s always something to do. Leiden is a winning combination of small and fun, yet big in character as a student city. Thanks to its compact layout, it’s never more than a short bike ride from your accommodation to the University, and you’ll always see someone you know along the way.

**Study association**

As a Master student Biomedical Sciences you are automatically part of the study association Medical Faculty of Leiden students (M.F.L.S.). The M.F.L.S. takes care of the improvement of education and organises several activities to improve the relationships between students and teachers. One can think of excursions, travel, drinks, movie nights, dressed-balls, lectures, sport activities and parties.
Information activities

Would you like to know more about the Master Biomedical Sciences? Or studying and living in the city of Leiden? Biomedical Sciences has several information sessions to help you in making the best choice.

Events

Are you exploring your options for a master’s programme? You can learn a lot by coming to our Master’s Open Days. 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 cities right in the heart of Europe in the Netherlands. Read more about the Master's Open Days
Contact

Are you seriously considering starting with the Master’s programme Biomedical Sciences? Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

Questions about the Master Biomedical Sciences
Make an appointment with study advisor Bianca Hogers if you have a question about issues regarding the Master Biomedical Sciences such as procedures and regulations, planning and organization of your studies or personal circumstances such as disabilities, top-level sport, management duties or graduation.

Send a short question to B.Hogers@lumc.nl.

**Questions about studies at the LUMC**

You can contact the LUMC Education Service Desk for general questions about studies at the LUMC. Call (+31) 071 – 526 8700 from Monday to Friday, 08.30 to 16.45. You may be referred to a study advisor.

For general information concerning admission, the possibilities within the master and advice with respect to the scheduling of your master’s program, contact our advisors via masterBMS@lumc.nl.

**Questions about Leiden University**

Call +31 071 527 11 11 from 9.00 to 17.00 for questions about Leiden University or send an e-mail.

Call +31 071 527 80 11 from 11.00 to 16.00 for questions about registration and admission or use the contact form.