



**Maastricht University**

**The Colloquium Doctum**

**at the**

**Faculty of Law**

**2023**

## General Information

### Definition

The entrance exam, hereinafter “Colloquium Doctum”, is an examination as referred to in article 7.29 of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en het Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)), whereby the general level of education and knowledge of candidates and their suitability for legal studies are assessed. Successful completion of the Colloquium Doctum examination results in admission to one of the Bachelor programmes offered by the Faculty of Law at Maastricht University.

The examination is administered by members of the Colloquium Doctum Committee and, as the case may be, other faculty staff. Candidates who have successfully completed the Colloquium Doctum are admitted to a legal study programme offered by the Faculty of Law based on a certificate issued by Maastricht University.

### For whom?

The Colloquium Doctum is intended for persons who have reached the age of 21 as of 1 September 2023 and who do not possess a Secondary School Diploma giving access to university education in the Netherlands.

Click [here](#) for an alternative option to meet the admission requirements for admission to the programmes of the Faculty of Law by obtaining a pre-university diploma.

You can contact the [SSC](#) for more information

### Colloquium Doctum exam dates

The Colloquium Doctum examination takes place once per year. In 2023, the written part of the examination (language tests and essay) shall take place on Wednesday 17 May 2023. If the candidate fails to pass one of the written examination components, s/he shall have the opportunity to resit that component on Friday 2 June 2023.

The oral examination (history and analytical thinking) is held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 and the resit of the oral examination shall be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023. In case of unforeseen circumstances, (individual components of) the examination may be rescheduled to an earlier or later date. In this event, candidates will be informed at the earliest possible moment.

### Application Deadline

Applications for the Colloquium Doctum examination to be taken in 2021 must have been received by the Colloquium Doctum Committee before 15 April 2023.

Registration forms received after this deadline will **not** be taken into consideration. Applicants should not forget to pay the registration fee in time. The fee has to be transferred no later than **24 April 2023**.

### Registration Fee

The registration fee is € 100,-.

For participation in any written and/or oral resit, the registration fee of € 100 needs to be paid again.

### **Application**

Applications to take the Colloquium Doctum are to be submitted, before the deadline, to:

Maastricht University  
Faculty of Law/Education Office  
Colloquium Doctum Committee  
Attn. Mayke Stegen  
Postal Code 616  
6200 MD Maastricht

See for the registration form, Colloquium Doctum regulations and the evaluation protocol the website: [www.maastrichtuniversity.nl](http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl) > Education > Bachelor's > European Law School > Admission requirements.

### **The application must include:**

- Your completed Application Form;
- Your resume;
- Copies of relevant diplomas and certificates, plus the accompanying List of marks;
- A copy of your passport or ID card.

### **Applications will not be considered if:**

- The documents submitted are incomplete;
- The candidate has not yet reached the required age;
- The application has been submitted after the expiration of deadline for registration.

Exceptional cases will be considered at the discretion of the Colloquium Doctum Committee.

## **Content of the Colloquium Doctum of the European Law School**

### **General Information**

The Colloquium Doctum comprises the following components:

1. Completing language tests in two modern languages (Dutch, French, German, Spanish) under supervision (possibly online, through video-conferencing). This may involve answering questions on and/or summarising the content of one or multiple texts in the relevant languages;
2. Writing an essay in the English language on the basis of one or several articles from 'The Times', the 'International Herald Tribune', or any other appropriate daily or weekly publication; or writing an analysis of such an article. Selection is at the discretion of the Committee;
3. Examination of knowledge of European history from 1789 until the present, with special attention to the candidate's analytical thinking skills. The history

test is an oral test examined by at least two Committee members, which may be taken after the candidate has successfully completed the written Colloquium Doctum components, or if s/he has obtained an exemption for the written components.

Model question: How has the Congress of Vienna shaped the development of the European continent in the long run?

Recommended Literature for the History Test:

N. Davies, Europe: A History, London: The Bodley Head, 2014, ISBN 1847922902.

### **Exemptions**

Given the exceptional nature of the Colloquium Doctum procedure, exemptions shall in principle not be granted. The granting of an exemption from one or more components of the Colloquium Doctum examination in cases of particular hardship or exceptional circumstances, as well as the decision, in exceptional circumstances, to grant a language exam in another foreign language than those mentioned above, is at the discretion of the Colloquium Doctum Committee.

### **Resits**

A candidate is allowed to resit only one of the components of the first, written stage of the Colloquium Doctum. This means that if the candidate fails two or more components of the written stage, they cannot take any resits, nor continue with the Colloquium Doctum.

### **Subsequent Procedure**

#### **Final Assessment Colloquium Doctum**

The final assessment is expressed as 'eligible' or 'not eligible'.

Candidates receive the results of their examination within four weeks of having taken the final component of the Colloquium Doctum. Pursuant to Article 7.61 WHW, the candidate in question may submit an objection to the College van Beroep voor de Examens c/o Maastricht University, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, the Netherlands, within four weeks of the result having been sent.

#### **Validity of the Colloquium Doctum certificate**

The Colloquium Doctum certificate issued upon successful completion of the examination remains valid for two years. This means that the successful candidate must commence her/his bachelor studies at the Faculty of Law either in the calendar year in which she or he completed the Colloquium Doctum examination or in the year following that. For admission at a later moment, the candidate will have to undergo the Colloquium Doctum examination again.

#### **No admission at another Dutch Faculty of Law**

A Colloquium Doctum certificate issued by the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University does not give you access to a Bachelor Programme at any other Faculty of Law. A successfully completed Colloquium Doctum at another Dutch Faculty of Law does not give you access to a study programme at the Faculty of Law at Maastricht University.

**Training and/or Coaching Programmes**

The Faculty of Law of Maastricht University does not offer any training and coaching programmes preparing for the Colloquium Doctum.

**For further details please contact:**

Maastricht University

Faculty of Law/Education Office

Colloquium Doctum Committee

Attn. Mayke Stegen

Postal Code 616

6200 MD Maastricht

The Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0) 43-388 30 76.

Email: [colloquiumdoctum@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:colloquiumdoctum@maastrichtuniversity.nl)