



Maastricht University

University College Maastricht



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Maastricht University, The Netherlands

What students say about UCM



"I chose UCM because the smaller classes with active conversations and debates really appealed to me. Instead of passively attending lectures as the main form of learning, I get the chance to voice my own opinions, listen to new perspectives, and see how theories can be applied in different situations. UCM allows me to explore different subjects of interest, however I still follow some direction and receive a first-class bachelor's degree."

Kate Robinson, South Africa, 3rd year UCM student



"UCM is a great option for students like me, who are unsure about what to study but are academically motivated, feel hindered by another programme's set courses, or are simply interested in multiple disciplines. Here I have been able to choose my own courses to explore my academic interests, specifically psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence, through UCM's open curriculum."

Sophia de Spiegeleire, Russia, USA, and Belgium, UCM alumna 2021



University College Maastricht

Liberal Arts & Sciences

University College Maastricht (UCM) is a three-year bachelor's programme that combines extensive academic choice with personal guidance. At UCM, you will meet staff and students from all over the world as more than 70% of our students and over 60% of our staff members come from abroad. UCM students come together from more than 50 countries to study, take part in lively debates, and socialise over coffee in the common room.

You will be supported by dedicated staff members who encourage learning beyond the classroom. Our dedication to academic standards, as well as our strong sense of belonging to a community, makes UCM a unique place where your academic passion is encouraged and your individual talents are nurtured.

UCM students greatly appreciate the quality of teaching, the personal attention they receive, and the study environment UCM offers. You will actively participate in small-scale interactive classes, composed of around 12 students, as our innovative education method Problem-Based Learning (PBL) emphasises student participation.

The majority of our students complete the programme on time. In addition, over 91% of UCM students go on to do a master's programme, often at renowned international universities.



UCM facilities

UCM is located in a renovated medieval convent right in the city centre. Its historic environment, combined with modern facilities, guarantees a unique atmosphere that fosters the vibrant academic community and buzzing student life.



What is University College Maastricht?

University College Maastricht offers an English-taught Liberal Arts & Sciences bachelor's programme intended for students with broad academic interests.

It gives you the freedom to construct your own bachelor's programme, focusing on the subjects and issues you are passionate about. UCM offers more than 150 courses in a wide variety of academic disciplines. Together with your academic advisor, you plan your curriculum to meet your ambitions. The curriculum at UCM ensures that you gain in-depth knowledge in your field of interest through your chosen concentration.

You also acquire academic and practical skills through our extensive skills trainings and projects. You learn how to conduct scientific research, present ideas in a clear and persuasive way, and improve your writing and debating skills. UCM also offers the opportunity to learn a foreign language.

The workload at UCM is high and requires commitment and ambition to excel in your studies. However, as you can choose your courses, study with other motivated students in a small-scale academic community, and interact closely with your tutors, you will be motivated to make the most of your studies.



"I believe UCM facilitates what tertiary education ideally is about: the critical dialogue between educators and students. The fact that staff members are approachable and eager to discuss has allowed me to share academic and personal issues with more than one staff member on multiple occasions. I have spoken to staff members about ideas for papers in various courses, plans for my future and questions about life and philosophy."

Rufus Busse, Germany, UCM alumnus 2021

The city of Maastricht & Maastricht University

Maastricht

You will study in one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the Netherlands, with its 17th century townhouses, cobblestone streets, charming squares, as well as striking modern buildings. Over the past decades, Maastricht has become a vibrant, international student city. Currently, students make up more than 20% of the overall population, and 55% of those students come from outside of the Netherlands.

You can enjoy a rich cultural social life in Maastricht, where new cultural initiatives are flourishing. An excellent example of this is a former industrial area at the edge of the city centre, which was transformed into a cultural hub, with multiple cinemas (including an art house cinema), a concert hall, a student hotel, and many more exciting initiatives for students. You can also easily discover European capitals such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, London, and Berlin, which are only a few hours away by public transport. Alternatively, you can simply walk or cycle across an international border, as Germany and Belgium are just around the corner.

Maastricht University

Maastricht University (UM) is the most international university in the Netherlands and, with more than 21,000 students and over 4,000



employees, it is still growing. The university stands out for its innovative education model, international character, and multidisciplinary approach to research and education.

Thanks to its high-quality research and study programmes as well as a strong focus on social engagement, UM has quickly built up a solid reputation. Today it is considered one of the best young universities in the world.

You will have access to all the facilities of UM, such as the library and the sports centre, as UCM is the honours college of UM and an integral part of the university. Moreover, you are offered the possibility of taking courses at other UM faculties.



"I love Maastricht so much, I think it's beautiful, the people here are so friendly - always just saying hello on the street. It's a small city, which means you often bump into people you know and you never feel lonely, but it's big enough and has such a large student population that there are always events, from parties to art exhibitions and community gardens, it's so full of life."

Lauren May, United Kingdom, UCM alumna 2021

The programme

The concentration

The concentration is the central part of your curriculum, which allows you to gain in-depth knowledge in the fields of your interest. UCM offers a choice of three concentrations:

1. Social Sciences
2. Humanities
3. Sciences

You may focus on a particular discipline (e.g., psychology, economics, history, biology) or instead opt for courses around a combination of themes or disciplines. For instance, your curriculum could focus on disciplines such as economics, law and international relations, sciences and psychology, or cultural studies and history.

During your first year at UCM, you explore which concentration you would like to choose by taking courses in academic disciplines of your interest. Once you decide upon a concentration, you can start taking more advanced, in-depth courses. The UCM curriculum structure helps ensure that you gain enough specialist knowledge to successfully apply for a master's programme of your choice, an internship, or a job.



"My focus at UCM is on economics, international relations, politics, and history. In my first year, I used the options of the open curriculum and tried out new fields, such as psychology. With these additional courses I am confirmed in my concentration and will now take more advanced courses in the fields of my concentration."

Moritz Odersky, Germany, 3rd year UCM student

What can you study?

Humanities

- History
- Cultural Studies
- Arts and Literature
- Philosophy

Social Sciences

- Economics and Business Administration
- Sociology
- Political Science
- International Relations
- Public Policy
- International Law
- Psychology
- Statistics

Sciences

- Applied Mathematics
- Information and Computer Sciences
- Biomedical Sciences
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Cognitive Sciences and Neurosciences

The programme

The academic core and general education

In addition to the courses in your concentration, you need to complete the 'academic core'. It consists of four core courses that provide the fundamental knowledge that any academic should have. These courses are about the principles of scientific research, the major political issues of our time, historical developments in the world over the last 75 years, and scientific achievements in relationship to human progress.

Moreover, in order to get a broad perspective you are required to choose four courses outside of your concentration. This ensures that you learn to think from different perspectives and understand how people in other academic areas think and work.

Skills trainings

Academic skills, such as writing reports and papers, planning and conducting research, formulating a policy plan, or persuading people in a debate are essential in a professional environment. Acquiring and developing such skills is a central part of the UCM programme. Every period, you take one skills course and two content courses.



Projects

In addition, at the end of every semester, you participate in a project, where you work full-time for four weeks applying what you learned in your courses and in the skills trainings. The aim is to produce an extensive piece of academic work, for instance a journal article, position paper, research report or policy analysis. Some students choose to do research for six months with a professional research group in their third year and gain valuable experience for a future career in research.



UCM has allowed me to explore my interests and helped me discover new interests. It also provided me with skills I did not imagine having before signing up, such as presentation and negotiation skills, which will stay with me for the rest of my life. As I consider myself quite introverted, PBL pushed me out of my comfort zone. Having to participate made me more confident and taught me to not be scared to take the floor and give my opinion.

Amélie Grieco, Italy and France, UCM alumna 2021

The programme

A semester abroad

UCM provides you with the opportunity to study a semester abroad at one of our 50 internationally renowned partner universities all over the world. UCM's semester abroad programme includes the Australian National University in Canberra, Singapore Management University, the University of Helsinki, the University of California, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Approximately 85% of our students go on a semester abroad. UCM's partner universities offer a wide range of courses, which allow you to complement your curriculum. Going on a semester abroad enables you to grow academically and personally, as it is an exciting and challenging personal experience. You travel the world, you make new friends, and you develop an understanding of different cultures.

The final thesis

The 'capstone' is an academic project that rounds off your studies. In this final thesis, you explore a topic that requires you to use all the knowledge and skills you have acquired at UCM. An expert in your field acts as your supervisor.

For more information about the programme content, you can download our course catalogue via: www.ucm.nl/coursecatalogue



"I went to the University of California, Berkeley in my fourth semester at UCM. It was an amazing opportunity that broadened my horizons. It was great to take courses with world-renowned professors who are experts in their field. I had many US college experiences such as football games, travelling through California, parties. It was an experience I would not want to miss, with all its challenges and unforgettable happy moments."

Marie Rasche, Germany, UCM alumna 2021

Personal guidance

Academic Advisor

Which courses should you take? What concentration will work best for you? What do you want to do after UCM? Choosing your own courses at UCM allows you to create a programme that really fits your academic and professional ambitions, but it also means you have a lot of responsibility for your own learning process. From the beginning of your studies at UCM, your personal academic advisor will support you with these questions. Your academic advisor is a staff member of Maastricht University and you will discuss all your important academic decisions with them. So, although at UCM the decisions are always yours, you are not alone when you make them.

Student Counsellor

UCM is committed to supporting students when they encounter study or life-related problems so that they can make the most of their time at university. Thus, UCM has two dedicated student counsellors.

In addition, UM offers an extensive support network, such as student psychologists, career services, an international student desk, top sport support, and a disability support office.



UCM Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides focused and encouraging one-to-one tutorials and group workshops. They can give you feedback on a draft or completed paper or at any other point in your writing process. Their workshops focus on common issues encountered in academic writing.

UCM Methods Lab

The Methods Lab is a general research support centre for UCM students. You can make an appointment if you need help or advice related to your research methodology, such as writing your research question, choice of methodology or data analysis.



"In my first year at UCM, I became part of the very international and vibrant community of students - a community which made me feel at home from the start. I think this sense of community is what makes UCM so special. You always feel like you are studying with a big family around you, ready to support you when you are in need, but also ready to share the most incredible experiences."

Yago Hecht-Wulff, Spain and Germany, 3rd year UCM student

Problem-Based Learning

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is the primary method of teaching at UCM. Maastricht University has used Problem-Based Learning ever since it was founded and has been the European leader in this method for over 45 years.

Interactive & small-scale

You collectively analyse scientific problems and questions in small-scale interactive tutorial groups of approximately 12 students. Together, you discuss and formulate your learning goals as a group, and then you find the answers by doing research, reading your literature, and by exchanging your findings with your fellow classmates.

Contact hours

Throughout this process, you learn to think for yourself and you have intensive contact with other students and academic staff. The number of hours in class varies from 12 to 16 hours a week. You spend the remaining time of the week on self-study (e.g. preparing for the next class, or writing papers and completing assignments).

Obtain skills through PBL

By actively discussing scientific questions, you will better grasp the theory and learn to apply these insights to various contexts and situations. The variety of perspectives that different students with different backgrounds bring to the table



enlivens the discussions and allows you to benefit from the group's cultural diversity.

Moreover, you will gain essential social skills, such as presenting your viewpoints, listening actively, giving and receiving constructive feedback, and working together.

Student-centred learning

PBL is student-centred; you are in charge of your learning process, even though your tutor guides you to make most of the assignment. This increases your motivation and makes you take responsibility for your education.



"I think the tutors and lecturers at UCM are very approachable in the small-scale setting of Problem-Based Learning. Even though the students are the drivers of the discussion during a tutorial, it is nice to have an expert asking critical questions to keep you thinking."

Sterre van de Ven, The Netherlands, 3rd year UCM student

Problem-Based Learning

Skills that last a lifetime

Problem-Based Learning is highly effective, as can be seen from the achievements of our graduates. In the labour market, they are considered independent, assertive professionals, who excel at analysing problems, structuring information, working as part of an international team, conducting and leading discussions, and presenting ideas. UCM graduates are able to succeed on the job market because their training has provided them with the skills and knowledge essential to their field. At UCM, they have gained experience in analysing real-life issues, structuring information, working in international teams, and giving presentations. These skills set them apart in whatever they choose to do after UCM.

Continuous feedback

Continuous feedback is central to the Problem-Based Learning method and the assessment system at UCM. Teachers make use of a wide range of evaluation methods, such as written or oral exams, papers and presentations. Your contribution to the tutorial groups may also count towards your grade. There may also be a final exam, which usually consists of essay questions. Regular feedback allows you to adjust your study habits if necessary and helps you to keep up with your work.

For more information, please visit:
www.ucm.nl/whyucm



"I enjoy the Problem-Based Learning setting because the learning process is more efficient by explaining it to one another and taking on more responsibility by preparing it yourself."

Sophie Dinh, Germany, 3rd year UCM student



After UCM

Master's programmes

After successfully completing three years at UCM, you receive an internationally recognised Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science diploma, enabling you to enrol in master's programmes all over the world. Which programmes you qualify for depends on the courses you took during your bachelor's programme.

A recent alumni survey showed that 24% of UCM graduates went to one of the top-50 universities in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking.

91% of UCM graduates have enrolled in a master's programme at a wide range of universities, including highly prestigious institutions such as:

- University of Oxford
- Sciences Po (Paris)
- Freie Universität Berlin
- University of Cambridge
- London School of Economics
- University of Warwick
- Columbia University
- Johns Hopkins University



"I was lucky enough to take part in discussions with the European Commission, guided a debate with the Dutch Minister of Education and moderated the opening of the academic year in 2018. This work really inspired my interest in communicating academic topics and debates."

Florentine Friedrich, Germany, UCM alumna 2018
Master's degree: Applied Economics, Paris School of Economics;
Research Assistant, World Inequality Lab, Supervisor Thomas Piketty



After UCM

Career prospects

As UCM allows you to design your own curriculum to suit your individual interests and ambitions, there is an almost unlimited range of future career possibilities. UCM graduates have gone on to a wide variety of professional careers in the Netherlands or abroad, including:

- Management consultant
- Pharmacologist
- Researcher
- Stock trader
- Government policy advisor
- Head of charity organisation
- Economic analyst
- NGO project coordinator
- Assistant to an EU Commissioner
- Forensic psychologist
- Legal advisor
- Theatre programmer
- Think tank member
- Museum curator
- Entrepreneur
- Education innovator
- Industrial designer

More information about career prospects:
www.ucm.nl/alumni



With your UCM diploma, the whole world is open to you!



"The interdisciplinary and intercultural classes enabled me to understand other viewpoints, even those that are different from mine. UCM was a place where people truly believed in making the world a better place - which seemed impossible to me at the time. [...] Now, as I'm working on my passion project, I know I can count on the UCM alumni for feedback, support, and inspiration."

Eszter Boros, Hungary, UCM alumna 2011 | Master's degree: Financial and Management Accounting, Berlin School of Economics and Law | Founder and Project coordinator: Careers in the Common Good

Application and admissions

Is UCM the right choice for you?

Are you a motivated, hardworking student with serious academic ambitions who loves debates and discussions, and is interested in interdisciplinary education?

If so, then you are the kind of student UCM is looking for!

A selective admissions process

UCM has a selective admissions procedure to assess your suitability for the programme. After applying online, potentially suitable candidates will be invited for an interview by the Board of Admissions. The final decision will be based on your letter of motivation, your CVm the personal interview, and your grades.

- For more information about the admission requirements, please visit: www.ucm.nl/requirements
- All details about the admissions procedure are available at: www.ucm.nl/admissions



What alumni say about UCM



"Studying at UCM made me more aware of my surroundings, both environmentally and socially. Spending so much time at a small faculty like UCM made it easier to look out for one another. I admire that the focus on mental health and the environment was such a big part of the culture there. I still try to be aware of how people around me are doing [...]"

Cato Boeschoten, The Netherlands, UCM alumna 2018
Master's programme: Clinical Psychology, Leiden University



"I learned to be engaged with my academic work; not just writing for the grades and for my teachers, but writing because I think it has value for society. [...] This is something that I have learned in close relationship with the teachers that supported me, and their experiences and enthusiasm have been the greatest gift of my UCM journey."

Gaëlle Aminata Colin, France, UCM alumna 2018
Master's degree: Gender and Sexuality Studies, L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris



"At UCM, there was always the possibility to go the extra mile. If you are passionate about something and have a sound plan to pursue your passions, there is always someone who will listen to you and help you to realise your ambitions. [...] To me, such demonstrations of personal care have always been remarkably delightful and an absolute privilege."

Sebastiaan Olislagers, the Netherlands, UCM alumnus 2018
Master's programmes: Crisis and Security Management, Leiden University; Law and Politics of International Security, VU Amsterdam

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Check the dates of our Experience Days and
Open Days via: www.ucm.nl

We will be happy to welcome you at UCM!



www.ucm.nl

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