CAST

Research Master (MPhil)

Cultures of Arts, Science, and Technology
What’s special about CAST?

- Research master
- 2-year programme
- M Phil degree
- Selective
- Typical ‘Maastricht’ focus on
  - Cultures
  - Arts
  - Sciences
  - Technologies
What is a research master?

- Makes you a **scientific researcher** in a specific field.
- Field in this (CAST) case:
  - Study of and intervention in relations between the Arts, Science, and Technology
    - scientific
    - political
  - From philosophical, historical, sociological (+ anthropology and political sciences) and literary perspectives.
What does ‘2 years’ mean?

- Curriculum comprises two years, full time
- Dutch students receive a 5th year of state scholarship (*studiefinanciering*)

(However: in exceptional situations qualified students may enter CAST at the beginning of the second year)
Why study CAST?

You should study CAST ...

1. When you are curious and have an inquisitive mind; when you are adventurous enough to leave trodden paths; when you are creative in asking questions and investigating things...

2. Because, then you may:
   - want to be a researcher
   - in the interdisciplinary field of philosophical-historical-sociological-literary studies
   - of arts, science, and technology
What jobs lay ahead?

• A job as researcher in organisations such as GR, Rathenau, WRR, AWT, TNO, ministries, …

• University jobs and other senior research jobs after you complete additional PhD training
What is an MPhil degree?

A master’s degree with a high (international) standing, indicating your capacity to continue with a PhD

The other master degrees are:
- MA: Master of Arts (in the humanities and social sciences)
- MSc: Master of Science (in the natural and technical sciences)
Relation with ‘graduate research schools’?

- Graduate research schools:
  - Are for doing a doctorate by writing a dissertation (*proefschrift*)
  - Have a 4-year programme (*3 years for MPhil students*)

- CAST is related to:
  - WTMC (science, technology, and modern culture)
  - Huizinga (cultural history)
  - OSL (literature)
What will I learn?

• Hands-on research
  - Variety of qualitative methodologies (historical, philosophical, literary, anthropological, sociological)
  - Explicit reflection and (self-)critique
• Different kinds of writing
  - Review article
  - Conference paper
  - Exhibition catalogue
  - Research report
  - Scholarly research thesis
• Different kinds of research (scholarly, contract)
• Critical, scholarly review
• Manage your own projects
• Acquire funding
What is the curriculum?
(modules and ECTS-points)

First year

• Entering the field (12)
• Rules of the Game (12)
• Getting a feel for research (6)
• Optional course (12)
  • the culture of innovation
  • digital culture
  • beyond the three cultures
• Project (12)
• Various (6)

Second year

• Research internships (24)
• Thesis workshops & master classes (6)
• Thesis research and writing (30)

Participation in departmental research seminars
What are examples of internships?

- Gezondheidsraad: “Xenotransplantatie: Achtergronden, wetenschappelijke ontwikkelingen en maatschappelijke implicaties”
- Rathenau: “De Gebruiker Centraal? Een inventarisatie van gebruikersgericht onderzoek op het gebied van Ambient Intelligence en gezondheid”
- Cornell University: “Analysing online digital music technologies. The case of ACIDpalnet.com”
- Louisiana State University: “Coastal engineering in New Orleans and the Netherlands compared”
What are examples of thesis (plans)?

- The role of Internet in the cultural integration of Turkish immigrants
- Of churches and museums — When turns a religious object into an art object?
- Posthumanism in the subcultures of heavy metal, (industrial) gothic and mecha-anime
- History of the governance of nanotechnology
- Just what the doctor prescribed? – ICTs and health education in Uganda
- Hearing protection for musicians in symphonic orchestra’s?
- Sensing Seseo
What will I do?

- Read
- Write
- Discuss
- Archival research
- Interviewing
- Ethnographic observation
- Contract research
- Developing innovative presentations
- Present

- Lectures
- Working groups
- Projects
- Individual and group research
- Master classes with international experts
- Thesis research
How do I apply?

Application dossier must contain:

- Curriculum vitae
- Certified copies of diploma and grades’ list of bachelor degree
- Description of bachelor curriculum, providing brief course summaries
- Two specimens of writing, done in the undergraduate programme
- A personal letter (800 – 1200 words) describing the motivation to join the CAST programme
- Two letters of recommendation

Procedure involves: dossier (including a personal motivation letter), language test (7.0 or higher), possibly an interview

Use the application form from the UM-FdCW website:
What is IELTS?

- IELTS is the language test that you need to perform
- Information: [http://www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)
- You need a score of 7.0 or higher
- For Dutch students: you can take the test every second week in Utrecht or Amsterdam
- For all nationalities: do make this test soon in the New Year, since later in Spring there will be longer waiting times!
What are the deadlines?

- for EU/EEA Students: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006
- for non-EU/EEA students who need a visa or a residence permit: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006
- (but: the sooner the better!)

More information: see website: 
Http://www.fdcw.unimaas.nl
What to do next, after today?

- Leave your name and email address
- Contact me when you have further questions:

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