CAST

Research Master (MPhil)

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

• Research master
• 2-year programme (but see slide 4, below)
• 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: qualified students with an appropriate one-year MA degree may enter CAST at the beginning of the second year: see below)
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 (*sometimes 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 gebruikersgerichte 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 in symphonic orchestra’s
- Sensing Seseo
Can I enter half-way?

- Yes, some students are accepted at the beginning of the 2nd year
- Requirements: top results in a relevant MA degree
- Resulting curriculum: first two 1st year CAST courses + Thesis (no internship)
- Application dossier: same as all applicants; see below
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:
  http://www.unimaas.nl/default.asp?template=werkveld.htm&id=47S73HMW7W3LH5R1Q1J4&taal=en
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\textsuperscript{st} June 2007
- for non-EU/EEA students who need a visa or a residence permit: 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2007
- **Extra extended deadline for students who are interested to apply for a PhD student position in 2008:** 15 August 2007

More information: see website:

Http://www.fdcw.unimaas.nl