Science in Society
Specialisation in all two-year Master's programmes at the Faculty of Science

Become a professional intermediary between science and society in your specific field of interest

Science and technology clearly have a profound influence on society. The reverse is also true: society significantly shapes the ways in which science and technology evolve. The Science in Society specialisation will teach you how to connect these various perspectives. You’ll be able to reflect on the implications of scientific results and give advice on how to apply this knowledge in policymaking or use it for communication purposes.

Why study this specialisation at Radboud University?
- You’ll deepen your knowledge in your scientific field and learn to connect scientific knowledge with divergent perspectives and interests of various stakeholders.
- This specialisation is closely connected to the Institute for Science, Innovation & Society (ISIS), an institute that brings together a group of experts from various disciplines and backgrounds in order to jointly tackle societal issues.
- You get to take classes with students from all natural and computer scientific fields.
- You’ll get to work in positions that deal with complex real-world issues while still being able to closely enjoy the wonders of scientific research.

change perspective

Radboud University
Programme outline (2 years, 120 EC)
The first year depends on the Master's that you follow. During the second year, you will connect that knowledge to a societal context:

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<td>Risk Communication (3 EC)</td>
<td>Framing Knowledge (3 EC)</td>
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<td>Science and Societal Interaction (3 EC)</td>
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You can find more information on the first year and the course descriptions in the online prospectus (see ‘More information’).

Graduation project
In the graduation project, you’ll perform an individual empirical study which features the communication of and the reflection on scientific knowledge. The central focus is the relation between science and society. Preferably, the topic of your project will also be related to your main Master’s programme.

Examples of places you can conduct the research for your graduation project are:
- Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (ru.nl/isis)
- Rathenau Instituut (rathenau.nl)
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (rivm.nl)
- Rijkswaterstaat (rijkswaterstaat.nl)

Other options are profit- and non-profit organisations, like patient- and nature organisations. But also (non-)governmental organisations, advisory bodies and editorial offices of (popular) scientific magazines. If you wish, you may do your internship abroad. For other possibilities, you can always contact a lecturer or the student advisor (see online prospectus).

Extracurricular meetings
Besides the regular programme, the societal specialisation Science in Society also offers three types of meetings you can attend:
- ISIS colloquia: presentations of experts discussing issues at the interface of science, technology and society
- Lunch meetings: students present their Master’s thesis
- Annual excursion: explore and discuss practical aspects of science communication on site

Your advantages on the labour market
The specialisation in Science in Society equips you with the tools and skills to become a professional intermediary between science and society. You’ll not only have a thorough scientific background, but also a broad societal perspective. Possible career fields are:
- intermediary organisation between science and society: policy or advisory bodies, interest groups, and governments
- interdisciplinary research: connecting science and society
- science communication: as journalist, communication advisor or information officer

Admission requirements
You are required to have a Bachelor’s degree that admits you to one of the two-year Master’s programmes at the Faculty of Science. You must also have a sufficient proficiency in English. For details, please visit the website or contact the student advisor (see online prospectus).

Application procedure
The programme starts in September. The application deadline is 1 April for students from non-EU/EEA countries and 1 May for students from within the EU/EEA.

You apply via www.studielink.nl for one of the two-year Master’s programmes of the Faculty of Science: Biology, Chemistry, Computing Science, Mathematics, Medical Biology, Molecular Life Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, or Science. After admittance to the Master’s programme, you can enrol for the specialisation in Science and Society.

>>> More information

Prospectus: www.ru.nl/prospectus/sciencefaculty

For more information, please contact the student advisor of your Master’s programme. You can find the contact details in the online prospectus of each Master’s programme.