Science in Society

A specialisation for 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 have a profound influence on society, but the reverse is also true: society significantly shapes the ways in which science and technology evolve. However, experience shows that scientists on the one hand and the general public, government and businesses on the other aren’t always able to clearly understand one another. That is why experts with a background in science and an understanding of social processes are indispensable. This specialisation will equip you with the knowledge, tools and skills to be a professional intermediary between science and society whilst getting a broader societal perspective.

Why should you choose Science in Society at the Faculty of Science?

• 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 in Society (ISIS), an institute that brings together a group of experts from various disciplines and backgrounds in order to jointly tackle societal issues.
• It’s a great experience to work together with students from various disciplines and backgrounds.
• 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.

Programme outline (2 years, 120 EC)
The first year depends on the Master’s programme that you follow. During the second year, you will connect that knowledge to a societal context. The programme of the second year consists of:
• Compulsory courses (24 EC)
• Electives (6 EC)
• Graduation Project (30 EC)

Courses
Below you can find an overview of the compulsory courses. Please have a look at the online prospectus for more detailed information, www.ru.nl/prospectus/science/.

Compulsory courses
• Research, Responsibility and Uncertainty (3 EC)
• Science and Societal Interaction (3 EC)
• Science and Media (3 EC)
• Science and Public Policy (3 EC)
• Framing Knowledge (3 EC)
• Knowledge Society (3 EC)
• Methods of Societal Research (6 EC)
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 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 in Society (ru.nl/isis)
• Rathenau Instituut (rathenau.nl)
• National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (rivm.nl)
• Rijkswaterstaat (rijkwaterstaat.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 Master’s 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

Career prospects
The specialization Science in Society equips you with the tools and skills to become a professional intermediary between science and society. You can work for intermediary organisations between science and society such as policy and advisory bodies, interest groups and governments. You could also work in interdisciplinary research, e.g. as a PhD student, that connects science and society, or as a 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 deadlines
The programme starts on 1 September. The application deadline is 1 April for students from non-EU/EEA countries and 1 May for students from within the EU/EEA.

How to apply?
Students with a Dutch degree 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, or Physics and Astronomy. International students can apply via www.ru.nl/masters/application. After admittance to the Master’s programme, you can enrol for the specialisation in Science in Society.

After reading all the information, are you interested and enthusiastic about the specialisation Science in Society at Radboud University? Then apply now!

We hope to see you in Nijmegen!

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More information
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.

www.ru.nl/masters/scienceinsociety

Social media
F: Facebook.com/facultyofscienticeradboud
T: Twitter.com/radboudscience
C: www.ru.nl/ask-current-students