

## **Admission procedure for the Master's program in Medical Informatics at the University of Amsterdam**

### **Introduction**

The increased awareness of the need for professionals who can contribute to the development, evaluation and adaptation of ICT applications supporting health care research and delivery has encouraged universities to offer specialized educational programs in medical/health informatics. In 1990, at the University of Amsterdam at the Academic Medical Center, a four-year full-fledged Medical Informatics university program was introduced as a discipline next to the Medical Science university program. As a consequence of the Bologna Declaration, which implies the explicit separation between a Bachelor and a Master program, a BSc program in Medical Informatics was introduced in September 2003.

The MSc program in Medical Informatics started in September 2006. The MSc program is offered in English. The first year of the curriculum is divided into two semesters, each in turn divided into five blocks of one month. Each semester contains four educational courses and one internship (the last course of the semester). During these internships the MSc students have the opportunity to get involved in research projects to learn how to carry out research. Each academic year there are two starting dates: September and February.

### **Admission requirements**

The MSc Medical Informatics program is open not only to students who followed the BSc Medical Informatics program but also to students who have obtained a degree at other faculties of the UvA or at other universities (of applied sciences). These students from other faculties or universities are called lateral entrants.

Lateral entrants have to successfully complete a conversion program, the content of which depends on the education that was previously followed.

### **Pre-Master conversion program**

The Academic Medical Center at the University of Amsterdam (hereafter "AMC-UvA") has designed a conversion program (called Pre-Master program) that supports students in obtaining the necessary knowledge at home, visiting the AMC-UvA only for testing. The conversion program can be started at any time and is provided via a learning environment called Canvas.

This program is divided into ten topics, a programming test, and academic skills evaluation with a maximum of 26 ECTS. Students are exempt from topics for which they have proof (i.e., in the form of diplomas) that they have previously completed courses which covered the topic in sufficient detail and extent. The Examination Board decides on possible exemptions.

The program offers the candidates the necessary literature, such as articles and book chapters, online. The candidates can ask the respective teachers questions about the material via Canvas.

For student in the Netherlands, exams are held once per month at the AMC (Amsterdam). Students may take any combination of exams, up to a maximum of three tests, on one test day, as long as the total allotted exam time does not exceed 3 hours. Remote testing is possible only for students who are not yet in the Netherlands.

The cost of the conversion program is calculated per ECTS ([European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#)). An ECTS is equivalent to 28 hours of study and costs €40. The maximum cost of the conversion program is €1040.

All students with qualifications from outside the Netherlands (EEA and non-EEA) who are non-native English speakers are required to have passed an English proficiency test. The following three tests are accepted as proof of proficiency in English:

1. TOEFL, minimum score: 100, sub scores 24.
2. Cambridge International Examinations, minimum score: 183, CAE B, CPE C
3. IELTS, minimum score: 7, sub scores 7.

Students who have completed a degree in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States may be granted an exemption from this requirement.

### **Admission procedure for the Master**

The steps of the admission procedure to the Master's program are:

1. The candidate sends an application form to the Examination Board of the School of Medical Informatics. The application can be downloaded from: <http://www.uva.nl/shared-content/programmas/en/masters/medical-informatics/application-and-admission/application-and-admission.html>  
All prospective lateral entrants (that is, those that did not follow the BSc Medical Informatics program at the AMC-UvA) must apply in advance to the Examination Board, enclosing the following documents for consideration:
  - A letter of application, including a description of the student's motivation to take the Medical Informatics Master program.
  - Reference letter(s) (at least one).
  - Authenticated copies of relevant qualifications (Bachelors' and/or Masters' degree certificates).
  - A list of courses or modules taken, graduate points and marks obtained.
  - A curriculum vitae describing the candidate's educational and employment history, as well as any additional courses taken.

2. The application is evaluated to determine if it meets the requirements of our program in terms of evidence of relevant background education, academic skills, and motivation. An in-person or telephone/internet interview may be scheduled to supplement the information in the application.
3. Based on the information provided by the candidate (certificates, list of courses or modules and marks obtained) it is determined whether the prior education of the candidate is comparable to or exceeds the requirements of a Bachelor degree of our university. Any specific deficiencies in the Medical Informatics knowledge of the candidate are identified, and the relevant pre-master courses selected to compensate for these deficiencies.
4. The Examination Board sends a letter to the candidate indicating whether the candidate can be admitted to the MSc program. If admitted, the letter also indicates the topics the candidate should study in order to be accepted for the MSc program. The candidate is then registered in the conversion program. The candidate has a maximum of two years to pass all required exams.
5. Candidates that successfully pass all required exams receive a letter indicating they can enter the MSc program. The letter is valid for two years.

#### **Computer exams**

Candidates who are admitted that do not have enough knowledge of the programming language Java and/or SQL (a standard language for accessing databases) must take a programming exam, which will be in Amsterdam prior to the MSc program and after topic 1 and 3 have been successfully done. In order to prepare, an online course is available (link on Canvas). This exam takes place four times a year, twice before the start of each semester. Usually they are scheduled in June/August and December/January. For students who would require a visa to enter the Netherlands, an alternative exam can be arranged.