

# Premedical Science at UCU

## What is “pre-med” at University College Utrecht?

Students who wish to study medicine or apply for a program in a related field (like biomedical science) after UCU must take certain courses in life science, biomedical science and chemistry. This body of courses is referred to as the *pre-med* track. Pre-med is not a separate degree or status; rather it can serve as a requirement for a future in medicine.

With a completed pre-med track you may, for example, apply to SUMMA, Utrecht University’s medical master. Although access to this program cannot be guaranteed a large percentage of SUMMA students are UCU graduates.

This document will provide you with additional information

## Pre-med advice update September 2016

### Index:

- I. Premed advice Package
- II. Preparation for SUMMA & SUMMA tech
- III. Other medical masters programs in the Netherlands
- IV. Student who want to enter SUMMA or another medical Masters in the Netherlands need to master written and spoken Dutch
- V. Requirements medicine abroad: mathematics, physics and chemistry are often required
- VI. Make use of the possibility to look beyond biology and biomedical courses
- VII. Premedical science fellow

Dear interested students (medicine/biomedical science),

What does being “pre-med” include at University College Utrecht? First of all, it should be made clear that this is not an official status, in that it will not be indicated as such on your final graduation transcript. You will obtain a Bachelor of Science. However, “pre- med” indicates that you plan to follow certain specific tracks in life science, biomedical science and chemistry here at UCU. This is what the medical masters and “Zij-instroom geneeskunde” programs refer to when they state on their website that the pre-med track at University College Utrecht can serve as a requirement to apply.

In other words, if you intend to study medicine after UCU or to enroll in a master’s program related to medicine (e.g. Biomedical Science) we advise you to include certain specific courses in your curriculum. This list of course is indicated as UCU’s pre-med track.

This document focuses on the requirements for studying medicine after UCU, but the same courses are useful for a prospective masters in biomedical research, although there the emphasis at level 3 (OSIRIS level 3 courses) might be slightly different. Details follow below.

### I. Pre-med advice package

What courses are advised and how far can students deviate from this advice package?

Please find an overview of the advised courses in the “Premed Curriculum” excel file posted at <http://students.uu.nl/en/university-college-utrecht/academics/study-programme/science/pre-med>

It is advised to take as many as possible of the listed courses, but please recognize that that some flexibility is allowed, both for medical masters in the Netherlands, in specific SUMMA (within limits) and for biomedical science. Equivalent courses on exchange could function as good alternatives as well. Please discuss these options with your tutor, and if more specific advice is needed he/she might also refer you to the fellow in the field (see info below) or to me.

In addition to the listed courses, students are advised to take at least one of the courses UCSCIBIO31 *Advanced Cell Biology*, UCSCIBIO32 *Biotechnology* or UCSCIBIO34 *Genes, Development and Diseases*, especially if you are a student intending to go into biomedical

research *and* a course in Mathematics (which is a general Science requirement anyway) and Biostatistics.

## II. Preparation for SUMMA & SUMMA tech/ Website SUMMA

The courses listed in the premed curriculum overview file cover the entry requirements for SUMMA (School for Utrecht Medical Masters) and they prepare you for the entrance exam. If the courses indicated in the light-yellow colored boxes are included in addition, you also qualify for the SUMMA tech track. For further information, see:

<http://www.uu.nl/masters/selective-utrecht-medical-master-summa>

<http://www.uu.nl/masters/selective-utrecht-medical-master-summa/toelating-en-aanmelden/nl/uu#quicklinks>

However, some self-study for the entrance exam will always be necessary. A spot in SUMMA cannot be guaranteed. If you apply for SUMMA, you will go through a selection procedure including a couple of rounds (for details see website). Please check the SUMMA website regularly for updates.

The good news is that UCU students do, in general, very well on SUMMA admissions. Most UCU students applying so far have been admitted, and the instructors of SUMMA are in general very enthusiastic about our alumni.

## III. Other medical masters programs in the Netherlands

1. AKO University of Maastricht (Arts Klinisch Onderzoeker Research Masters).

The content of this program is similar to the SUMMA program at the UMC in Utrecht. However, the teaching method is different, since it is based on “problem based learning”. For information, go to:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Faculteiten/FHML/Doelgroep/AankomendeStudenten/Masteropleidingen/Opleidingen/ArtsKlinischOnderzoekerResearchMaster.htm>

2. There are various “zij-instroom” possibilities at, for instance, Leiden University and the VU Amsterdam, The program consists of 1 year at Bachelor’s level (year 3 of the regular program) plus 3 years at Master’s level. Check the entry requirements beforehand: for some of these programs, Higher Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics and Standard level Mathematics at secondary school is required. In the Dutch school system this is covered by the Dutch VWO profile “Nature and Health”.

## IV. Students who want to enter a medical masters in the Netherlands need to speak/write Dutch

Non-Dutch native students who apply for SUMMA need to pass the Dutch language state exam (NT2). The reason: a large part of this master’s program is in Dutch, since Dutch is the language of communication with most patients in the Netherlands.

Therefore, it is very important that international students who are interested in the SUMMA program start to learn Dutch as early as possible while they are studying at UCU (UCHUMDUT01, UCHUMDUT11, UCACCDUT21).

#### V. Requirements medicine abroad: start checking in an early stage

Please realize that if you plan to continue medicine abroad that most colleges in the UK, USA and Canada require mathematics, chemistry and physics at college level (at least at OSIRIS level 1). Therefore, a course like UCSSCPHY12 will definitely increase your possibility abroad. Start checking the requirements of such programs in an early stage of your preparation; do not wait until your senior year.



#### VI. Make use of the opportunity to look beyond biology and biomedical courses

In addition to the indicated chemistry/life science and biomedical science courses, you are encouraged to take courses in other fields/departments. You are in a liberal arts and science college so make use of this possibility to explore other fields of study. Once you enter the master's program you will focus mainly on medicine, but UCU gives you the chance to pursue other academic interests.

#### VII. Premedical science fellow

Finally, please find below the contact information of the **Premedical Science Fellow** in the Science Department, Dr. C.J.G. Sanders.

Contact information:

Dr. C.J.G. Sanders

UMC Utrecht

Department of Medicine

Email: [c.sanders@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:c.sanders@umcutrecht.nl)

I hope that this information is clear enough to get you on track. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Patricia Post-Nivelstein

*Life science and premedical science tutor representative SCI department*

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