Communication (C) profile as part of your science master

The Right Choice?
The Communication profile is a track that can be taken up as part of your science research master. For GSLS students it is a replacement for their minor Research Project of 33 EC. If you integrate it as part of a Geoscience or a Natural Science research master it will take up 30 EC.

The C profile is interesting for those of you who do not want to develop a career in research, but would rather like to work for instance in museums or journalism. The C profile is also a good choice for researchers who are increasingly called upon to engage with society, to share their results with a great variety of groups, to exchange information and to talk about work-related matters with citizens and interested parties.

Programme
In the Communication profile you learn how to make all kinds of knowledge accessible and useful for your target audiences. In addition you strive for interaction, as the public’s knowledge is valuable as well. A key component in these processes is a thorough understanding of the way people think and act. You implement this knowledge in the design of communication products and educational activities. Important questions are: What engages the target audience? How can we reach them and motivate them to share or take up information? How best to support these learning processes?

Outline of the Programme
Compulsory elements (25 EC)
FI-MSECIPD Internship Product Development (20 EC)
FI-MSECCSP Communicating Science with the Public (5 EC)

Choose one out of the elective courses (5 EC):
FI-MSECITS Issues and Theories in SEC (sem1)
FI-MSECPsi Professional Skills and Identity (period 2)
FI-MSECDSE Designing Science Education (sem2)
FI-MSECSIS Science in Society (period 4)

Extra for GSLS students (3 EC):
BMB614319 Engaging Scientists with the Public (3 EC)

- Make science relevant and accessible
- Design education and communication products
- Internship is a major part of the profile
PRACTICAL WORK
During the Internship Product Development you will get to know the communication and informal education work place, and you will develop a relevant product for your organization related to the subject matter of your own science research master. For instance, if you study Biology of Disease you could work in Utrecht University Museum on educational materials about bones or design an exhibit about viruses. If you study Earth, Life and Climate you could work on a public information folder for the Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute.

SCHEDULE
The C profile starts twice a year, in September and in February. By default, the profile will be completed in a single semester of full time study. Your board of examination needs to approve your plan to take up the C profile as part of your study programme.

• Application goes through contacting C profile coordinator Liesbeth de Bakker (e.p.h.m.debakker@uu.nl). She will send you all necessary information about the C profile including the registration procedure.
• Deadline for registration is 1 May for a start in September and 15 October for a start in February. If possible, please register as early as possible as it can take a lot of time to arrange good internships. Late applications will only be considered if there are still places left (max. 16 students per semester). However, placement cannot be guaranteed for late applicants.

Please note: Early registration is especially important for international students who do not speak and understand Dutch, as suitable EN-language internships are hard to find in the Netherlands. In addition you already need to have a good command of the English language and good communication skills before starting the C profile.