Introduction to the Graduate School of Natural Sciences

Tuesday 1, Wednesday 2 September 2015

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Outline

- Organisation: Schools, map
- A master’s curriculum
- Assessment
- Retrieval of information
- Evaluations and student participation
Organisation

Faculty of Science

Undergraduate School
Graduate School of Life Sciences
Graduate School of Natural Sciences
School of Pharmacy
Graduate School of Natural Sciences

- School of master’s and PhD programmes
- ~ 400 master student enrollments each year (Sept/Feb)
- ~ 250 PhD students
- Host to exchange students
- Rank 40 on the Shanghai University Ranking 2014 for the field of Science
- [http://www.uu.nl/naturalsciences](http://www.uu.nl/naturalsciences)
# Organisation

## Graduate School of Natural Sciences

- **Chairman**
- **Board of Studies** (responsible for programme quality and content)

- **Master's Programme Coordinators/Directors**

- **Board of Scientific Directors** (PhD-programmes)
- **Board of Examiners** (quality of exams)
- **Education Council** (*opleidingscommissie*)
- **Degree Councils** (advisor to the Education Council)
- **Board of Admissions** (controls the admission procedures)
- **Executive Team** (day-to-day management)

- **Student and Academic Affairs** (Buys Ballot Building, 184.b)
- **Science International Office** (Buys Ballot Building, 119)
Location of education:

North-West corner of the Uithof
Master’s Programmes (10)

- Artificial Intelligence
- Business Informatics
- Computing Science
- Game and Media Technology
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Mathematical Sciences
- Meteorology, Physical Oceanography and Climate
- Nanomaterials: Chemistry and Physics
- Experimental Physics
- Theoretical Physics
A master’s curriculum

A two years research programme:

<table>
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<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<td>Block 2</td>
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<td>courses</td>
<td>courses</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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- Summer holidays
- X-mass
Study load

- The academic year has four blocks. Each block consists of 10 weeks and a study load of 15 EC.

  1 EC = 28 hours of study load: i.e. contact hours, self study, assignments, exam preparation and so on.

- A semester consists of 2 blocks

- Generally, a single course has a study load of 7.5 EC.

- Students should take 2 courses per block with a total study load of 15 EC or 4 courses per semester
Courses and research

- You are entitled to take (at least) one 7.5 EC master level course from another faculty or university, but always discuss this with your programme coordinator.

- You will spend most of your time in a research group.

  - **Application Form:** Before you start your research, you need to fill out this form. In it you need to provide a description of your research, the allocated time, your supervisor, daily supervisor, second examiner, the assessment criteria and their weight, feedback moments, and holidays.

  - **Assessment Form:** At the end of your research, you need to make sure your supervisors fill out the Assessment Form which should contain a clear and transparent evaluation of your work as well as a final grade.
Honours programmes
Teaching qualifications
Complex systems profile

Several options available within or on top of your programme

Detailed information about these options: tomorrow morning
Preparing you for the labor market

The university and the Faculty of Science: Career Service

**UU career event day**
first week of February!

Simone Kastelein

Advice on what to do during your studies
Career check /Check CV
Talk to Career Officer
Workshops
Location -> Career Officer Buys Ballot Building
Preparing you for the labor market

- The Graduate School: introduction programme
- The master’s programme
- The student associations
Assessment

- First rule: start on time!

- Testing is different in the Dutch system: check old exams in your student’s association database or ask the course coordinator for old exams!

- Be informed of the School’s **Education and Examination Regulations** (OER in Dutch).
  - Regulations are updated annually and can be found online
  - The regulations describe your entire programme (check the appendix)
  - you will lose the right to graduate ‘*cum laude*’ if you exceed the 3 years of study
  - You have to pay tuition fees: course results are not valid unless you are registered as a paying student
  - Fraud and plagiarism are not taken lightly, carefully read the articles concerning these issues
Retakes: only possible with a grade >=4 and <6.

Absense during the exam: in principle no right to retake. Admission based on judgement of course coordinator and study counselor.

Redoing the course (scheduled next year) with a grade <4.

Fixed exam dates.
Retrieval of Information

Two sites! Take the appropriate one!
**www.uu.nl/students** and not the master’s site.
Retrieval of Information

Two sites! Take the appropriate one!
www.uu.nl/students and not the master’s site.
Retrieval of Information
Online Information

- Did you forget your Solis Password or want to change it? [www.uu.nl/password](http://www.uu.nl/password)

- Need to contact staff members? Their contact details can be found here: [http://www.uu.nl/medewerkers](http://www.uu.nl/medewerkers)

- Unable to log on to several systems? [www.uu.nl/studentenservice](http://www.uu.nl/studentenservice)

- Blackboard for all course information provided by the course coordinator: [www.uu.nl/blackboard](http://www.uu.nl/blackboard) with Free BB app
To whom can I go with my questions?

- With programme- or course-related questions: first go to your master coordinator

- For a study abroad:
  Ms Liesbeth Achterberg, science.internatoff@uu.nl, BBL 1.19

- If you have a general question about your study or about university life: try your buddy or your fellow students
To whom can I go with my questions?

- If your question is study-related (study problems, complaints, motivational ...) go to the student counselor

Gert-Jan Roelofs
Physics

Corine de Gee
Information Science, Computing Science, Artificial Intelligence

Marije de Jong
Chemistry

Marian Brands
Mathematics
Evaluations and student participation

- Each degree programme has one student-representative and one staff-representative who are members of the Graduate School’s Education Council.

- At the end of the course you will be invited to evaluate – anonymously- the course and you will see the course coordinator’s reaction about 2 till 4 weeks later. You could also check the appraisal of students who followed your course in previous years.

  See https://caracal.science.uu.nl
Looking for a place to study?
Be prepared!

Tips

• Check www.uu.nl/studyspot for available study spots

• Too busy in the library? There are many more places to study in other buildings

• The libraries are more quiet in the evening

• Please remember that all study spots may be taken in busy times
We wish you lots of success and an interesting stay at Utrecht!