
Graduate School of Social Sciences

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE APPLYING

Last updated: 30 September 2025

This guide is meant for students wishing to apply for one of the Master's programmes offered by the Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS). It explains the application procedure in detail.

Preparing your application

You have chosen one of our Master's programmes and you are about to apply. We look forward to receiving your application!

As selection may be highly competitive, admission cannot be guaranteed. A well prepared application will give you the best possible start. Please make sure that your application gives the Admissions Board the best and most complete picture of your academic background and motivation.

Also, please make sure that your application is complete before you submit. Everything that the Admissions Board must know in order to assess your application should be filled in and uploaded before you submit. The Admissions Board will only evaluate complete applications. A complete application means that you have uploaded all the required documents and have submitted a complete application file. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the Admissions Board and your application will be cancelled.

To make sure your application is complete, please take note of: Quick reference:

- [Programmes and deadlines](#)
- [Required documents](#)
- [Certified Documents](#)

For more comprehensive guidance:

- The information presented in this guide
- [Documents explained](#)

Planning your application

Application deadlines

Please refer to our elaborate overview of [Programmes and deadlines](#). Please submit your online application on the day of the deadline 23h59 (CET) at the latest, or on the day of the early deadline if you are in need of a visa and/or scholarship, also 23h59 (CET) at the latest.

Start programmes

All Master's programmes start in September.

Pre-Master's programmes

Depending on the Admissions Board's assessment of your academic background, you may be offered enrolment at an earlier or later date, starting with a pre-Master's programme.

If your academic background is relevant but lacking in social sciences research methodology, it is recommended that you allow for a possible early start in July/August as we offer the Comprehensive Introduction to Research Methodology and Design in July and August.

If your academic background is not entirely relevant, it is recommended that you allow for the possibility of having to follow a pre-Master's programme of 4 to 12 months prior to the start of the Master's programme.

Please refer to our [website](#) for more information on pre-Master possibilities for each of our Master's programmes. See also the section *Applying for a preparatory programme* below.

Early notification needed?

Students who wish to apply for one of the University of Amsterdam scholarships or who are in need of a visa, please note that the application deadline is **2 February 2026**. See also section *Applying for a Scholarship*.

Students who are applying for a scholarship that is not offered by the University of Amsterdam, or other funding and therefore in need of an early notification of admission, are advised to apply as soon as possible and at least 2,5 months before the desired date of notification, and before applying for the scholarship or other funding. Timely handling will be aimed for, but cannot be guaranteed.

Please also note that an early notification may not be possible at all if applying for a highly competitive Master's programme. Your application may need to await comparison with the other applications before a final decision can be made. See the overview of [Programmes and deadlines](#) for an indication of expected selectivity.

UvA Bachelor's students with a Bachelor's in "Sociale Geografie en Planologie" or "Sociologie" applying to the corresponding Master's programme (doorstroommaster)

Are you a UvA Bachelor's student in "Sociale Geografie en Planologie" or "Sociologie" and do you graduate before 1 September? Then you do not need to submit an application via SIS when you are applying to the corresponding Master's programme. Your enrollment will become definitive as soon as your university has registered your graduation. Your graduation date must be no later than 31 August in order to be able to start the Master's programme on 1 September.

Applying for a second track

Within one (and the same) Master's programme offered by the GSSS, you may apply for a maximum of 2 tracks. If you wish to do so, you can select a second track in your application file in SIS. Please note that we will start by processing your first track. The Admissions Board's decision for the first track will then also apply for the second track. There is one exception: if not admitted to our Master's programme Cultural and Social Anthropology Visual track, admission to Cultural and Social Anthropology and Cultural and Social Anthropology Applied track, may still be possible.

Applying for more programmes

In Studielink, students can apply for a maximum of 4 programmes selected from the Master's programmes offered by the GSSS or offered by another faculty of the UvA or even by another university in the Netherlands.

If you wish to do so, please submit 4 separate applications in SIS.

You can find more information on how to register in Studielink when applying for a second track or programme on the Application and Admission page of each Master's programme (under point 3).

If accepted for more programmes or tracks (with us or other institutes), we recommend you choose just one. Our programmes need to be studied full time, each representing a minimum 40-hour workload per week.

Applying for a pre-Master's programme

If you do not meet the entry requirements of the programme yet (e.g. if you are a Dutch HBO student or a student from a different academic field), it may be possible to complete a pre-Master's programme (schakelprogramma) first.

Please check the information of the Master's programme on our [website](#) to see whether your academic background meets the entry requirements and whether there is a suitable pre-Master's programme on offer.

Application for a pre-Master's programme is not needed or even possible: you just need to register and apply for the Master's programme itself. The Admissions Board will assess your application for the Master's programme and decide if a pre-Master's programme or course is indeed needed and if it will sufficiently prepare you for entry to the Master's programme.

Please adhere to the application deadline of the Master's programme. To avoid delay in enrolment, however, it may be advisable to adhere to an earlier application deadline. Depending on the estimated workload of the pre-Master's programme, one to two semesters earlier is advised.

Please note that tuition fees for pre-Master's programmes may differ substantially from tuition fees for Master's programmes.

Please also note that admission to a pre-Master's programme is as competitive as admission to the corresponding Master's programme. If and when accepted to a pre-Master's programme, you will have guaranteed access to the Master's programme starting in the semester following the timely completion of the pre-Master's programme.

Applying for a scholarship

For updated information on the availability of scholarships and how to apply for one, please check our [website](#). For other scholarships, it is also recommended to consult:

- The study abroad office at your (previous) university
- The Dutch embassy or consulate in your country of residence
- The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC): www.nuffic.nl
- www.grantfinder.nl

Please note that the application for an UvA scholarship will require an additional and separate application procedure with the funding organisation itself, with its own application form, requirements and application deadline. So you must apply for one of our Master's programmes and for the scholarship. This scholarship application requires an early notification of admission by us. See the section *Early notification needed?* above. An application for the scholarship without having (timely) applied for the study programme (and vice versa) will be rendered invalid.

Before applying

Before submitting your application in SIS, you will need to register in Studielink first. Please take the following steps:

1. *Apply for your DigiD (Dutch students only)*

Dutch students will need their Dutch civil number DigiD when registering in Studielink. All other students can register in Studielink without DigiD. Dutch students are strongly recommended to apply for their DigiD 3 weeks before registering in Studielink at the latest.

Please refer to: www.digid.nl

2. *Register in Studielink*

Register in Studielink for the Master's programme(s) of your choice. Please follow the instructions Studielink will give you.

Please refer to: www.studielink.nl

If you wish to apply for a pre-Master's programme, please register and apply for the corresponding Master's programme.

If you wish to apply for a specialization/track, please choose the study programme name first. After confirming the study programme and starting date you will be asked to indicate the specialization/track in SIS.

You can find more information on how to register in Studielink on the Application and Admission page of each Master's programme (under point 3).

Our programme names may differ from the ones in Studielink. An overview of the current programme titles and the corresponding Studielink names is given below (next page):

Master's programmes

GSSS MSc programme name	Studielink name in Dutch	Studielink name in English	Studielink track name
Conflict Resolution and Governance	Conflict Resolution and Governance	Conflict Resolution and Governance	N/A
Cultural and Social Anthropology	Culturele Antropologie en Sociologie der niet-westerse samenleving	Cultural and Social Anthropology	Cultural and Social Anthropology
Cultural and Social Anthropology: Applied Anthropology	Culturele Antropologie en Sociologie der niet-westerse samenleving	Cultural and Social Anthropology	Applied Anthropology
Cultural and Social Anthropology: Visual Anthropology	Culturele Antropologie en Sociologie der niet-westerse samenleving	Cultural and Social Anthropology	Visual Anthropology
Human Geography: Digital Economic Geography	Sociale Geografie	Human Geography	Digital Economic Geography
Human Geography: Spatial Sustainability Studies	Sociale Geografie	Human Geography	Spatial Sustainability Studies
Human Geography: Political Geography	Sociale Geografie	Human Geography	Political Geography
Human Geography: Urban Geography	Sociale Geografie	Human Geography	Urban Geography
Human Geography: Spatial Analysis	Sociale Geografie	Human Geography	Spatial Analysis
International Development Studies	International Development Studies	International Development Studies	N/A
International Development Studies (research)	International Development Studies (research)	International Development Studies (research)	N/A
Medical Anthropology and Sociology	Medische Antropologie en Sociologie	Medical Anthropology and Sociology	N/A
Political Science: Comparative Politics	Politicologie	Political Science	Comparative Politics
Political Science: European Politics and External Relations	Politicologie	Political Science	European Politics and External Relations
Political Science: Gender and Sexuality	Politicologie	Political Science	Gender, Sexuality and Society
Political Science: International Relations	Politicologie	Political Science	International Relations
Political Science: Political Economy	Politicologie	Political Science	Political Economy
Political Science: Political Theory	Politicologie	Political Science	Political Theory
Political Science: Public Policy and Governance	Politicologie	Political Science	Public Policy and Governance
Social Sciences (research)	Social Sciences (research)	Social Sciences (research)	N/A
Sociology	Sociologie	Sociology	Sociology
Sociology: Gender and Sexuality	Sociologie	Sociology	Gender, Sexuality and Society

Urban and Regional Planning	Planologie	Urban and Regional Planning	N/A
Urban and Regional Planning: Spatial Sustainability Studies	Planologie	Urban and Regional Planning	Spatial Sustainability Studies
Urban Studies (research)	Urban Studies (research)	Urban Studies (research)	N/A

Pre-Master's programmes

GSSS MSc programme name	Studielink name Pre-Master's programme in Dutch	Studielink name Pre-Master's programme in English
Conflict Resolution and Governance	NA	NA
Cultural and Social Anthropology (all tracks)	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie: schakelprogramma	Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology: pre-Master's programme
Medical Anthropology and Sociology	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie: schakelprogramma	Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology: pre-Master's programme
Human Geography (all tracks)	Sociale Geografie en Planologie: schakelprogramma	Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning: pre-Master's programme
Urban and Regional Planning (all tracks)	Sociale Geografie en Planologie: schakelprogramma	Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning: pre-Master's programme
International Development Studies	Sociale Geografie en Planologie: schakelprogramma	Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning: pre-Master's programme
International Development Studies – Research Master's	Sociale Geografie en Planologie: schakelprogramma	Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning: pre-Master's programme
Political Science (all tracks)	Politicologie: schakelprogramma	Political Science: pre-Master's programme
Social Sciences – Research Master's	NA	NA
Sociology (all tracks)	Sociologie: schakelprogramma	Sociology: pre-Master's programme
Urban Studies – Research Master's	NA	NA

3. *Receive your UvAnetID*

If you are not a University of Amsterdam student yet, you will receive your UvA student number by e-mail within 1 to 2 working days after registering in Studielink. You will need the UvA student number for your application in SIS. Please register in Studielink 2 working days before the application deadline at the latest. After receiving your student number you will be invited to complete your application through SIS.

4. *Pay the application fee*

All students applying for a Master's degree programme with an international bachelor's diploma are required to pay a non-refundable €100

application fee. Only after you have paid this fee can the UvA start to process your application.

You need to pay your application fee in SIS. You can pay your €100 application fee by credit card (Master or Visa), GooglePay, ApplePay, Bancontact or iDEAL.

Only after paying the fee, you can start your application in SIS. It is not possible to start an application without paying the application fee. Note that it can take up to 24 hours for your fee payment to be registered and you are able to submit your application in SIS. Make sure to pay your application fee in time and at least 24 hours before the application deadline of your programme.

If you have any questions regarding the payment, please contact the Central Student Service Desk (CSSD).

You don't have to pay the application fee:

- If you have or will obtain a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university or university of applied sciences (HBO).
- If you have already applied and have paid the application fee for another master's programme at the UvA for the academic year 2026-2027.
- If you are an exchange student.
- If you are applying through the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF).
- If you have deferred your application (in 2025-2026) for Sociology (all tracks), Human Geography (all tracks), Urban & Regional Planning (all tracks) and Cultural & Social Anthropology (all tracks except for Visual Anthropology) and would like to apply again for coming year.

Before submitting

Is your application complete?

For more guidance, please refer to [Required documents](#). Please make sure that your application is complete before you submit.

Documents cannot be added afterwards by you or the Admissions Office. Everything the Admissions Board will need to assess your application should be filled in and uploaded before you submit. The admissions office will only process complete applications.

Saving a draft

Your progress will be saved automatically so that you return later to continue your application.

About your family name

You will be registered under the name as indicated in your passport or other proof of identity. Please also use this name in all correspondence. Please inform us if important documents such as your transcripts and diplomas indicate a different (e.g. maiden) name.

After submitting

You can check the status of your application online. The Admissions Office will communicate with you about your application through SIS.

If incomplete

If your application is found to be incomplete, it will not be forwarded to the Admissions Board, and your application will be cancelled. Please be informed that all complete applications received before the deadline will be processed first.

If complete

If your application is complete, your educational background will be assessed by trained diploma evaluators. After that, your application will be forwarded to the Admissions Board. The Board will evaluate your application carefully, check whether or not all entry requirements have been met, whether your academic background is sufficient and in the case of a (highly) competitive Master's programme, compare your application with the other applications received. Once the Board has reached a decision, you will be notified by email.

Notification

The procedure takes approximately 2,5 months. Students can expect to be notified before the notification deadline as listed on [Programmes and deadlines](#).

Notification period: all students will receive a decision regarding their application during this period at the latest. We will try and notify you earlier, but this may not be possible. So students who submit their application well in advance, may also receive the decision during the notification period.

After admission

Confirmation within 2 weeks

If admitted, you will be asked to accept or decline our offer online. Our programmes Conflict Resolution and Governance, Medical Anthropology and Sociology, Cultural Anthropology and Sociology – Visual track and our Research Master Social Sciences have a limited number of places. For this reason, we ask you to confirm within two weeks in My Applications that you really want to enroll in this master's programme. This step is necessary to initiate the administrative steps, such as course registration and a possible visa application.

If you do not confirm your place within two weeks, we will give your place to the next student on the waiting list. This means that you will definitely not be admitted to the master's programme and your enrolment request will be cancelled. The confirmation is not binding – you can cancel your enrolment at a later date.

If you have been admitted to one of our other Master's programmes, you must also confirm your participation within two weeks via My Applications. This confirmation is not binding, but it is necessary to complete your registration and initiate the administrative steps, such as course registration and a possible visa application. You can cancel your enrolment at a later date.

Receiving practical information

After admission and confirmation of acceptance, you will receive more information on practical matters such as visa, housing, and (payment of) tuition fees. The study adviser will provide you with extensive information on courses and schedules.

Visa

Applying for a visa and residence permit for the purpose of studying is only possible through the university. After admission, students with a nationality whereby a visa will be needed, will receive more information on the visa procedure. It is recommended however that you start preparing the visa application procedure as early as possible and start collecting the necessary documents before admission (even though admission cannot be guaranteed).

For current information, please refer to our university's website: [Visas and permits](#). It is also recommended to consult the [NUFFIC's website](#).

Please note that the visa procedure will take several months and can only be started after having met all requirements for admission which will be stipulated in the letter of acceptance.

Housing

After admission, international students will receive more information on student accommodation possibilities. For current information, please refer to our university's website: [Housing](#)

Please note that it is extremely difficult to find a room in Amsterdam, and also the UvA's student accommodation fills up very quickly. So please apply for housing as soon as you receive the housing information.

Tuition fees

After admission, you will receive more information on tuition fees and payment thereof. For current information, please refer to our university's website: [Tuition fees](#)

Fees are raised annually to reflect the rate of inflation.

Some students will be required to complete pre-Master courses involving extra tuition fees before starting the Master's programme. Please note that tuition fees for pre-Master's programmes may differ substantially from tuition fees for Master's programmes.

Fulfilling outstanding conditions

If accepted, you will need to make sure that all outstanding conditions as stipulated in your conditional acceptance letter are fulfilled one month prior to enrolment or, if you are in need of a visa, 3 to 4 months prior to enrolment.

If your Bachelor's diploma will not be issued in time

Non-UvA students: You cannot start the Master's programme without having completed your Bachelor's studies. If you have completed your studies, but the diploma itself will not be issued until after the start of the Master's programme, please provide the Admissions Office with an official statement of graduation sent by your university, declaring that you have fulfilled all requirements for graduation and also stating the date that the diploma will be issued.

UvA students: if you are an UvA student, your Bachelor's diploma needs to be recorded in SIS as completed. You cannot start with the Master's programme without having met this condition. It is therefore recommended that you apply for your Bachelor's diploma in SIS well in advance.

Deferring your application

Sociology (all tracks), Human Geography (all tracks), Urban & Regional Planning (all tracks), and Cultural & Social Anthropology (all tracks except for Visual Anthropology)

An official deferral is only possible if you have been conditionally accepted for our Master's programmes Sociology (all tracks), Human Geography (all tracks), Urban & Regional Planning (all tracks), and Cultural & Social Anthropology (all tracks except for Visual Anthropology) last year. Admission for the subsequent year is guaranteed.

You must re-apply before the next application deadline: please register again in Studielink and then fill in and submit the application form in SIS. Please also upload the letter of (conditional) acceptance received for the programme you are deferring for (the previous year). You do not have to upload any of the other required documents (you can upload empty pages instead of the required documents).

Please note that students who have deferred their application for one of the Master's programmes mentioned above, do not have to pay the application fee again in SIS. Please contact the admissions office to request a waiver via: apply-gsss@uva.nl.

All our other Master's programmes

If you applied to one of our other Master's programmes and were (conditionally) accepted the first time you applied and you decide to defer until the next year, please note that admission is not guaranteed for the subsequent year: it will depend on that year's specific entry requirements. In the case of a highly competitive programme, it will also depend on the quality and number of applications received.

You must also re-apply before the next application deadline: please register again in Studielink and submit a new and complete application in SIS, including all the required documents and your letter of (conditional) acceptance received for the programme you are deferring for (the previous year).

Please note that you do need to pay the application fee again in SIS before submitting your application.

Please also make sure to mention any relevant changes in your curriculum since you decided to defer.

Questions and contact

Technical support whilst filling in the application form or uploading your documents

If you are in need of technical support whilst filling in the application form or uploading your documents, you can contact the [Education Desk Social Sciences \(EDSS\)](#).

Questions about the programme(s) and application procedure

If you have any questions about the programme(s) and application procedure, please contact the Admissions Office.

GSSS Admissions Office

Email: apply-gsss@uva.nl

Disclaimer

We have tried to make the application form and instructions as accurate as possible. Nevertheless the information may not be exhaustive. Please check our [website](#) regularly for updates. Please [notify](#) us if the information seems to be incorrect or incomplete.

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