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# How to apply for the OT-EuroMaster

## Information for applicants

### The five cooperating institutions



**University of Brighton**

University of  
Brighton Eastbourne,  
United Kingdom



**Amsterdam University  
of Applied Sciences**

Amsterdam  
University of  
Applied  
Sciences  
Amsterdam, the  
Netherlands

Zürich University  
of Applied Sciences



**School of  
Health Professions**  
Institute  
of Occupational Therapy

Zurich University  
of Applied  
Sciences  
Winterthur,  
Switzerland



**UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA**

University of A Coruña,  
Spain



Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm, Sweden

## 1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy!

The OT-EuroMaster is a truly international programme which enables students to study in five different European countries (the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain and Sweden). It is the first of its kind. We operate in the 'spirit of a joint degree' across each institution. This means that staff work as a team in the development and delivery of a fully integrated curriculum.

In 2016 and 2023, the programme received the European Consortium for Accreditation's Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation.

The European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy is a government-subsidised study programme. It is accredited by NVAO<sup>1</sup> and approved and funded by the Dutch and the Swiss Ministries of Education and Sciences. The Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) are the degree awarding powers.

**All OT-EuroMaster students are enrolled at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.** Swiss resident and non-European Economic Area (EEA) citizen students will be enrolled both at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, and additionally at Zurich University of Applied Sciences Winterthur Switzerland. In addition to the NVAO accredited European Master of Science Degree that they receive from the AUAS, they receive the degree Europäischer Master of Science ZFH in Ergotherapie from ZHAW. EU / EEA citizen students will be enrolled solely at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

Every student will receive the same programme, will have to pass the same assignments, and will meet the same learning outcomes.

We all look forward to supporting you and contributing to deepening your understanding of occupational therapy and occupational science and building your research skills and your international network!

### **Start the application process early!**

We advise you to start the application process early. Administrative Office will support you throughout this process. Please send an e-mail to [ot-euromaster@hva.nl](mailto:ot-euromaster@hva.nl) if you need any assistance or advice. It is also possible to arrange an online or telephone conversation with a member of staff or to have contact with one of the current or former students, possibly from your country.

**Deadline for submission: May 1<sup>st</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie: Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders

## 2. Admission criteria OT-EuroMaster

- Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy or equivalent
- International English Language Testing System (academic IELTS) score 6.5 or equivalent.

### 2.1 Bachelor of Science in OT or equivalent

Applicants should hold a Bachelor *of Science* degree in Occupational Therapy.

#### **Other qualifications, plus a portfolio, which may be accepted as equivalent**

Those who hold a **degree or diploma in Occupational Therapy** which is not a Bachelor of Science degree will be asked to submit additional documents, such as f.ex. your final Bachelorthesis or a detailed overview on the content of your OT-education programme. Admission Committee will let you know which documents they will need.

If you are not an Occupational Therapists, but you have a **Bachelor of Science in a field related to OT** you might be able to gain admission after submitting an extensive portfolio and letter of motivation, evidencing that you have sufficient knowledge and understanding of Occupational Therapy and/or Occupational Science and that you have achieved the requested entrance competences (annex 1 on p. 8). Please get in touch with [ot-euromaster@hva.nl](mailto:ot-euromaster@hva.nl) beforehand to check whether we consider your field to be related.

And please be aware that this programme does not lead to a professional qualification and license to practice as an Occupational Therapist.

In both cases, do get in touch with the Administrative Office to receive instructions.

The admission committee will look into each portfolio individually and consider whether the person concerned has attained the requested entrance competences by previous work and/or study.

**No admission is possible for** those holding a degree which is not a Bachelor of Science degree in a field related to OT.

### 2.2 English language test

Applicants are required to prove that they have very good command of the English language by submitting evidence of an overall band score of at least 6.5 for the **ACADEMIC IELTS**<sup>2</sup>-test, or of a comparable score.

The following test scores are accepted as equivalent to an Academic **IELTS** score of 6.5:

- a. **TOEFL**<sup>3</sup> Paper: 575;
- b. **TOEFL** Computer: 232;
- c. **TOEFL** Internet: 90;
- d. **TOEIC**<sup>4</sup> Listening and Reading: 720 in combination with TOEIC Speaking and Writing: 310
- e. **Cambridge** Advanced<sup>5</sup> CAE: Grade C (scale 180-192)

These are the only alternative test scores we can accept with your application.

**Please make sure that you plan for the English test early** – you need to register in time for the testdate because it takes some weeks after you have done the test until you get the official result which you need to hand in with your admission documents.

<sup>2</sup> International English Language Testing System: [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

<sup>3</sup> Test of English as a Foreign Language: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

<sup>4</sup> Provided the candidate has passed both the 'Speaking and Writing' and 'Listening and Reading' components in combination

<sup>5</sup> English for Speakers of Other Languages

### 3. Application

Have you decided to apply for the OT-EuroMaster? Please check all steps of the application process and the admission criteria in good time. The administrative office is ready to support you in this procedure.

Application is open from November 1<sup>st</sup> until end of April.

**You must finalise step one (registering on Studielink) and step two (uploading the application documents) before May 1<sup>st</sup>**

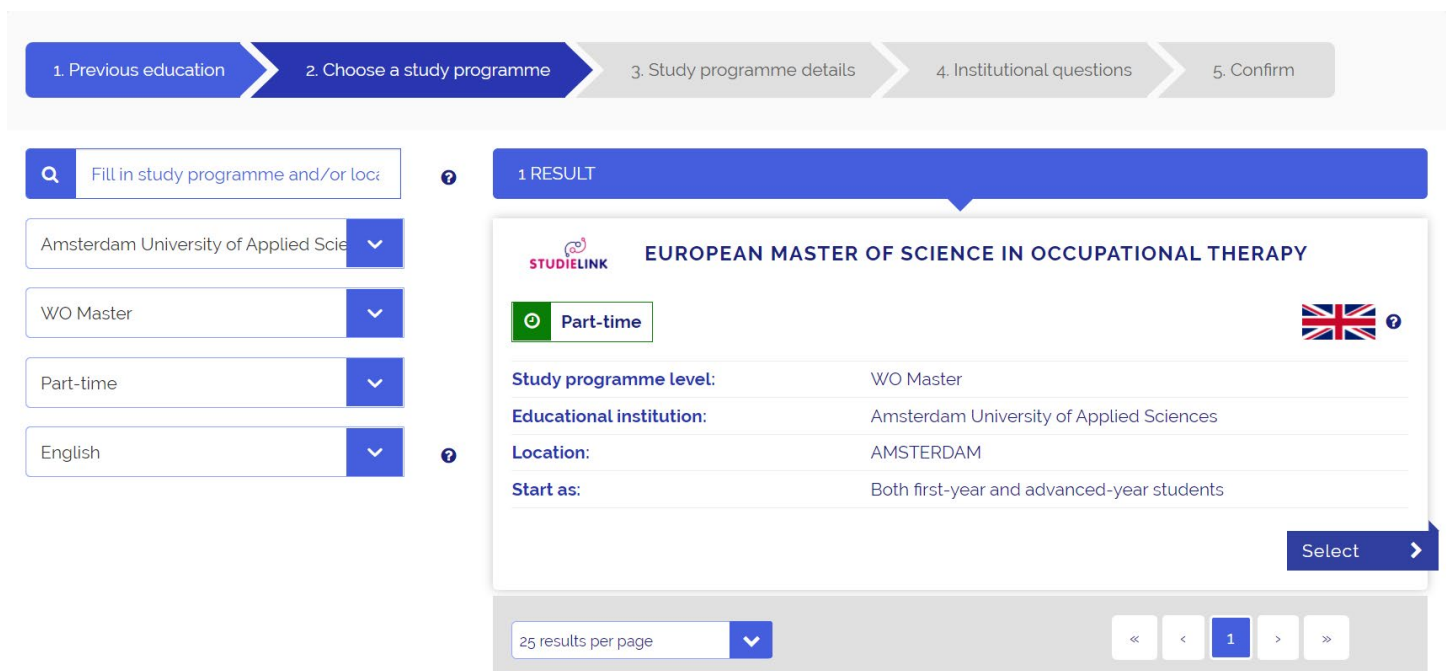
#### 3.1 Step one: Register on Studielink

For registration on Studielink, go to [www.hva.studielink.nl](http://www.hva.studielink.nl)

If you live in the Netherlands, you can log in on the Studielink website using your DigiD. If you do not have a DigiD, you can request one via the DigiD-site (it can take up to five working days until you receive the DigiD).

*If you do not live in the Netherlands, you have to apply for a username and password by clicking on the “Create account” button.*

Within Studielink, choose the OT-EuroMaster as follows:



The screenshot displays the Studielink search interface. At the top, a progress bar shows five steps: 1. Previous education, 2. Choose a study programme (active), 3. Study programme details, 4. Institutional questions, and 5. Confirm. Below the progress bar, there are four filter dropdown menus: 'Fill in study programme and/or loci' (set to Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences), 'WO Master', 'Part-time', and 'English'. The search results section shows '1 RESULT' for the 'EUROPEAN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY' program. The program is listed as 'Part-time' and includes a UK flag icon. The details provided are: Study programme level: WO Master; Educational institution: Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences; Location: AMSTERDAM; Start as: Both first-year and advanced-year students. A 'Select' button is visible at the bottom right of the result card. At the bottom of the page, there is a '25 results per page' dropdown and a pagination control showing page 1 of 1.



## Activate your AUAS ID and e-mail

After registering on Studielink, you will receive several automated e-mails, one of which includes the invitation to activate your AUAS ID and your AUAS-e-mail:

- As a future AUAS student, you will be given your own AUAS ID and email account.
- Your AUAS ID provides access to the digital resources offered by the AUAS.
- The email account is where the AUAS will send emails informing you about your enrolment and degree programme.
- Be sure to regularly check this inbox to ensure you don't miss any important information.
- To log in to your email account, you will first need to activate your AUAS ID on [id.student.hva.nl](https://id.student.hva.nl) using the details that will be emailed to you after the AUAS has processed your enrolment request.
- If you have any questions about your AUAS ID and/or email address, send an email to [servicedesk-icts@hva.nl](mailto:servicedesk-icts@hva.nl) or telephone +31(0)20 595 1402.

### 3.2 Step two: Upload documents on TopDesk

After having registered on Studielink, you will receive a second link with the invitation to upload your application documents onto "TopDesk".

A) If you have a **Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy**, you will have to upload the following documents:

- **Scan of your original BSc diploma and International diploma supplement.** Both with a **certified English translation**. If our diploma and supplement are issued in English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Afrikaans, you only have to submit the scan of your original diploma.
- An English certificate with test score of the **academic IELTS** (or equivalent test, see 2.2)
- **Curriculum Vitae** in English; addressing education, work experience, and further professional and academic training courses
- 2 page **motivation letter** in English concerning your level of competence and motivation for applying to the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy programme
- Copy of your **passport**

B) If you have a **diploma or another degree (not a BSc) in Occupational Therapy or a Bachelor of Science in a related field**, you will have to upload the following documents:

- **Scan of your original Diploma and International diploma supplement.** Both with a **certified English translation**. If our diploma and supplement are issued in English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Afrikaans, you only have to submit the scan of your original diploma.
- An English certificate with test score of the **academic IELTS** (or equivalent test, see 2.2);

- **Curriculum Vitae** in English; addressing education, work experience, and further professional and academic training courses;
- 2 page **motivation letter** in English concerning your level of competence and motives for applying to the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy programme;
- Copy of your **passport**;
- Professional **portfolio**<sup>6</sup> (see annex 1 and 2 for further information).

### 3.3 Tuition fees

The fee for EU/EEA citizens is 2'530 Euro for the academic year 2024-2025.<sup>7</sup> A slightly different fee applies for non- EU/EEA citizens. Please contact [ot-euromaster@hva.nl](mailto:ot-euromaster@hva.nl) for further information. For Swiss residents Swiss semester fees apply.

Depending on your citizenship and/or residency, you will be additionally enrolled at ZHAW - this is to make sure everyone pays a comparable tuition fee.

The tuition fee does not include additional costs, such as travel and accommodation expenses and the costs of studymaterial.

#### Overview: handing in your application:

Action	Information	Status
<b>Step one:</b> Register on Studielink	<a href="http://www.hva.studielink.nl">www.hva.studielink.nl</a>	
Activate AUAS ID		
Activate AUAS e-mail		
<b>Step two:</b> upload application documents onto TopDesk	See 3.2 which documents are requested	
After you receive the admission statement and admission letter stating you are admitted without further conditions: <b>Payment of tuition fees</b>	<p><b>EU/EEA-citizens:</b> please pay tuition fees to AUAS <b>latest by mid-August</b></p> <p>Swiss citizens and residents and non-EU/EEAcitizens: pay fees to zhaw (registration to zhaw follows when you are admitted to the programme)</p>	

<sup>6</sup> Applicants with a Swiss (non BSc-)Diploma and a „Nachträglicher Titelerwerb“ need to hand in their diploma and the NTE-Certificate as a portfolio

<sup>7</sup> The tuition fees slightly increase every year at AUAS. The fees for academic year 2023-2024 will be published in 2023.

## 4. Visa

You will study in five different countries. It will be a 2 weeks stay in modules 1 to 4 each and a 1 week stay in module 5. Depending on your citizenship, country of residence and your specific situation it may be necessary to apply for a short stay visa. Since the OT-EuroMaster is a part time programme it's not possible to apply for a long stay visa.

The first country to travel to is the **United Kingdom** in September. **For travelling to the UK, everyone needs a valid passport** (personal ID is not accepted).

***We strongly advise you to start preparing your visa application documents as early as possible and submit them the very latest three months in advance.***

***Do make sure that all the papers are correct and complete. If not, your visa application may be rejected.***

Once your admission to the programme has been confirmed, you will receive an admission statement and an admission letter. For module 1, all students will receive an invitation letter from University of Brighton. On your request, you will also receive an invitation letter from each institution concerned, for the visa application in the specific country prior to each module. However, gathering all other documents and the visa application itself needs to be done by you.

Refer to

- <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa> for information about a visa for the United Kingdom.
- <http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/> for information about visas for the Schengen region.

*Make sure:*

1. To find out whether you need a visa. Please note that regulations on visas may change.
2. To find out what documents you need for your visa application and start collecting them.
3. To fill out required forms *completely and truthfully*.
4. To use only *original* letters of admission, statements from your employer or others if requested.
5. To use only *recent* documents.



## Annex 1: Requested entrance competences

Entrance competences based on Dublin descriptors on Bachelor of Science level	
<p><b>1. Knowledge and understanding</b> is supported by advanced text books with some aspects informed by knowledge at the forefront of their field of study</p>	<p>You are able to identify the forefront of knowledge in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science supported by leading literature. You are able to explain the theoretical concepts underpinning occupational therapy specifically the nature of human beings and their performance of occupation. You can explain the relationship between occupational performance, health and wellbeing. You identify the differences between a research question and a clinical question. You are able to identify the forefront of knowledge in research methodologies within the literature about quantitative and qualitative traditions. You mention the fundamental steps in a research process.</p>
<p><b>2. Applying knowledge and understanding</b> through devising and sustaining arguments</p>	<p>You are able to select, modify and apply appropriate theories, models of practice and methods to meet the occupational and health needs of individuals/populations. You are able to actively seek, critically evaluate and apply a range of information and evidence to ensure that occupational therapy practice is up-to-date and relevant to the client. You search independently, critically examine and synthesize scientific literature and other information relevant to occupational therapy. You are able to identify different approaches in quantitative and qualitative studies.</p>
<p><b>3. Making judgments</b> involves gathering and interpreting relevant data</p>	<p>You are able to critically evaluate occupational therapy practice to ensure that the focus is on occupation and occupational performance. You are able to identify the need for research on issues related to occupation, occupational therapy and/or occupational science and formulate relevant research questions. You can gather and interpret relevant data with quantitative and qualitative methods.</p>
<p><b>4. Communication</b> of information, ideas, problems and solutions</p>	<p>You recognize the difference between scientific knowledge and common sense knowledge. You can present information learned from clinical practice and can recognize theories within their own practice. You are able to present information, ideas and solutions to specialists in the field of OT and non-specialists.</p>
<p><b>5. Have developed those learning skills</b> needed to study further with a high level of autonomy</p>	<p>You are able to independently identify your gaps in knowledge, based on your practical/clinical experience. You seek and find relevant information and use information technology.</p>



## Annex 2: Portfolio

### What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is an instrument to show the personal and professional skills you have to offer. With a portfolio, you can show that you meet the requested entrance competences. The portfolio contains one or several products that demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have acquired through your education, experience in occupational therapy practice and lifelong learning.

Please add a description explaining how each product links to the different fields of the entrance competences and how it shows that you have reached the required level of the competence (shown in annex 1) and are able to study at Master of Science level.

The admission committee examines the portfolio to assess whether you have acquired a sufficient level in all five fields of the entrance competences (see annex 1).

*Applicants with a Swiss (non BSc-)Diploma and a „Nachträglicher Titelerwerb“ need to hand in their diploma and the NTE-Certificate as a portfolio.*

### Examples of suitable evidence

- A report, presentation, writing, article or other product that presents the process and outcomes of a clinical project that you led or took part in.  
Please note: if you refer to a published article, please provide a pdf-version or a link to an online copy of the article.
- A certificate of a post-graduate course with an English summary of the content of the course and a description of the competences you gained through completing this course.
- A critically appraised paper (CAP) or topic (CAT). Look for more information [here](#) and find a template for a CAT [here](#)
- An extended case study of a clinical situation and an essay on theoretical and/or practical Occupational Therapy (OT) or Occupational Science (OS) aspects using relevant OT and/or OS literature.
- A bachelor final thesis supplemented by a follow-up research outline using relevant methodological literature.
- A literature review of a topic within Occupational Therapy/Occupational Science
- A report of a research project that you took part in (describing clearly your role, e.g. assisting in data collection).

### How many products are needed?

Your portfolio and your degree should cover all five entrance competences. Some competences may be clear from your education; if so, only the missing competences should be demonstrated in your portfolio. One product can give evidence of more than one competence. Usually, more than one product is needed.

### Does the portfolio have to be in a paper form?

No, the portfolio can be made in a form that suits you. Be creative! The use of a website or presentation programme like PowerPoint or Prezi is also possible. Remember to organise and structure your portfolio so it shows you possess the entrance competences.



## Example of part of a portfolio

### Portfolio Anna Hoogenkamp

This portfolio shows my personal and professional skills acquired until now through my education, experience in practice and lifelong learning. The pieces of evidence are supplemented with a description on how each product links to different fields of the entrance competences. Etc....

### Personal information

My name is Anna Hoogenkamp and I work as an occupational therapist in an academic hospital in Amsterdam. I'm 27 years old and have 3 years of working experience. Etc...

### Competences

1. Knowledge and understanding is supported by advanced text books with some aspects informed by knowledge at the forefront of their field of study
2. Etc....

### Evidence competence 1 Knowledge and understanding

#### *'Participation in social activities of teenagers at the Indische Buurt, Amsterdam'*

This article shows my knowledge and understanding of participation of a specific group. Social participation is one of the study fields of Occupational Therapy. The relationship between occupational performance, health and well-being is demonstrated by the use of a qualitative scientific method.

## Annex 3: Overview of the OT-EuroMaster

Please note: due to unforeseen circumstances, information or dates may change.

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6
University of Brighton in Eastbourne	Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences the Netherlands	Zurich University of Applied Sciences Switzerland	Universidade da Coruña Spain	Karolinska Institutet Sweden	Own country
United Kingdom					
12 ECTS	12 ECTS	12 ECTS	12 ECTS	12 ECTS	30 ECTS
Week 35-46	Week 47-8	Week 9-20	Week 21-32	Week 35-46	Week 47-25 Week 37 or 38
Wk 37/38 class September	Wk 49 / 50 class December	Wk 11 / 12 class March	Wk 23 / 24 class June	Wk 45 exam/class Nov	Graduation September
<b>Applying occupational therapy and occupational science research and theory to practice</b>	<b>Qualitative research in relation to human occupation - critical reflections on methods and researcher positionality</b>	<b>Applying and reflecting on quantitative research methods in relation to human occupation</b>	<b>Socio-cultural perspectives of human occupation - Scientific and theoretical argumentation</b>	<b>Designing and planning a research project in relation to Human Occupation</b>	<b>Conducting a research project in relation to Human Occupation</b>
<b>Preparatory work</b>	<b>Preparatory work</b>	<b>Preparatory work</b>	<b>Preparatory work</b>	<b>Semi-independent research plan</b>	<b>Semi-independent research</b>
<b>Class work:</b> Introduction to OT EuroMasters: Skills for post-graduate learning, <u>problem based</u> learning and research. Concepts of Occupational Science. Critical appraisal of research literature. Application of learning to practice.	<b>Class work:</b> Understanding and applying methods in qualitative research Developing skills in qualitative research methods Reflect on your own position as researcher in relation to culture and diversity and human occupation  Qualitative research methods	<b>Class work:</b> Understanding and reflecting on the use of quantitative methods in relation to human occupation Applying quantitative methods Understanding the role of assessments and the development process of assessments in Occupational	<b>Class work:</b> Societal and sociological perspectives on human occupation, population health and OT-practice. Political, economic, healthcare and cultural conditions and the relationship(s) to human occupation in different social situations and cultural settings  Using theoretical perspectives to argue for research topics	<b>Class work:</b> Methodological master classes, Workshops on ethics, research methods and theory	Data collection Data Analysis Discussion on results Synthesize the material to a master thesis, which includes an article manuscript and a critical reflection on research aspects such as ethics.
<b>Assignment</b> Poster presentation about a critical appraisal of literature	<b>Assignment</b> A report on a <u>small scale</u> qualitative study	<b>Assignment</b> A report on a <u>small scale</u> quantitative study	<b>Assignment</b> Paper on argumentation for a research topic	<b>Assignment</b> Research plan Oral presentation	<b>Assignment</b> Thesis
<b>Learning Group</b> reflections on own research ideas and ongoing research	<b>Learning Group</b> reflections on different research designs	<b>Learning Group</b> reflections on different research designs	<b>Learning Group</b> seminar on students' research ideas	<b>Learning Group</b> reflections on research plan	<b>Learning Group</b> as peer review