

Frequently asked questions about U-TEAch

This list of FAQs contains a number of specific questions prospective students may have about our U-TEAch program, the honour's track of the teacher training program at Utrecht University.

There are six parts to the FAQs: entry requirements (language requirements included), school placements, the program study load, course costs, qualifications the program gives, and the application process.

Please also check out our website for the program:

1. For general information about our master programs please check <http://www.uu.nl/masters/> (>find you program)
2. For specific information on U-TEAch check 'Extra Uitdaging' (= extra challenge). <http://www.uu.nl/masters/leraar-voorbereidend-hoger-onderwijs/extra-uitdaging>
3. For subject specific entry requirements, please check the information for your program on the same UU website: Toelating en aanmelden (in Dutch)
4. If you have any questions, ask one of our student advisors: studieadviseur.gst@uu.nl

Part one: Entry requirements and start of the program

Q: What are the subject-related entry requirements?

A: In general: an academic bachelor's degree in the field of your school subject for the two-year "education and communication" masters. For the one-year program in Teaching / Leraar voorbereidend hoger onderwijs you need a bachelor's *and* master's degree in the field of your school subject. Please check the exact requirements via our website <http://www.uu.nl/masters/> as mentioned in the introduction of these FAQs. If you don't meet the subject-related entry requirements, the U-TEAch selection committee will not consider your application.

Q: Is it mandatory to do an educational orientation course?

A: Applicants should either have successfully completed an orientation course in education, or can otherwise show they have good prospects of the teaching profession. E.g. having worked as a remedial teacher, as homework supervisor, as coach of a sports team, etc.

Moreover, for foreign applicants it is important to have a good understanding of Dutch education.

Q: What language level is required for English?

A: C1

Q: How will this C1-level be assessed?

A: For Dutch students the C1 level will be tested during the selection interview.

Q: What language level is required for Dutch for non-native speakers of Dutch?

A: Students need to have B2 for Dutch for the passive language skills: reading and listening. The selection committee decides on admission if you have not taken an official language exam (Staatsexamen Nt2 – Lezen en luisteren).

Although the program is being offered in English for the U-TEAch students, we do require a good understanding of Dutch since some documents will be in Dutch.

You will take Subject Related Methodology (vakdidactiek) with your Dutch peers, therefore we require a flexible attitude as some of the materials are related to the Dutch educational system and therefore the sessions and / or documents will be in Dutch.

Q: How will this B2-level for reading and listening be assessed for non-Dutch students?

A: Students have passed the "Staatsexamen Nederlands als tweede taal, programma 2" or their B2 level will be tested during the selection procedure.

Q: When does the programme start?

A: The programme starts one week before the schools in the middle region of the Netherlands start. As we start straight away with a full time programme and we work on the course philosophy and group formation, attendance during that week is absolutely necessary and we cannot make exceptions. Please realize that this date is before the official start of the academic year.

Q: How often does it start?

A: The U-TEAch program starts once a year: in August!

Part two: schools placements

Q: For the first internship in the Netherlands, who chooses the internship schools?

A: The U-TEAch instructors select the placement school for each student. About two thirds of our students do their internship at a TTO school and one third at an international school. We use different TTO-schools in the Utrecht area (e.g. Anna van Rijn College in Nieuwegein, Christelijk Lyceum in Zeist) and International schools (e.g. Amsterdam International Community School, International School Hilversum, International School Utrecht). Thus we ensure we can closely cooperate with schools we know and the group gets input from both a TTO school and an international school. In some cases students may be placed at a school outside of the Utrecht area!

Q: When will I be notified about my school placement for my first internship?

A: After the formation of the U-TEAch group we use the months of June/July to finalise our placements with the various schools. There are often last-minute changes, so we can only inform you about the finalized placements in August in the first week of the course. If you have urgent reasons to know this before the summer holidays, please mail us and if possible we will inform you.

Q: For the second internship abroad, who chooses where each student goes?

A: You will be asked to give your preference for specific countries at the start of the program, but we will allocate the students to the various schools. It is always a challenging puzzle that needs solving each year (for example, if we send one historian to one country, we usually cannot send a second one there as well) so there is no guarantee that you will get to go to your preferred destination.

Q: Will I go abroad on my own?

A: As we want you to learn from each other and work together as professionals, we always send you off in pairs, groups of three or four to the school/institution.

Q: Is the internship abroad mandatory?

A: Yes, it is. We value this internship as an educational and intercultural encounter and experience which is vital to your training programme.

Q: When does this second internship take place?

A: The internship abroad takes place in the second semester and lasts for about 15 weeks. It runs from the beginning of February till mid-May.

Q: Are there exceptions for not doing the second internship abroad?

A: If you are doing the in-service stream ('baanvariant') or if you have done your own secondary education at a school outside the Netherlands, you may be exempted from a second internship abroad. In this case you will do the second internship in the Netherlands. This will be discussed with you during the selection interview and will be confirmed in the acceptance letter.

Q: Do we get paid for the internships?

A: No, unfortunately not. Please also keep in mind that travel expenses to the schools are not reimbursed.

Q: I work as a teacher at an international school or TTO-school. Can I use my job for the internships?

A: Yes, you can, but only if your job meets various requirements, e.g. your job has a maximum of 0,5 fte, you have fixed classes teaching your school subject, you teach middle and upper level. The adequacy of your job will be discussed during the selection interview.

Part three: study load

Q: How full time is full-time?

A: As the program is an honours track, this is a full-time program. The course offers extra contents as you will do an extended Practice Based Research. Teaching in English both in the Netherlands and teaching in a foreign country can be quite demanding. Furthermore, because of the internship abroad, some of the contents of semester 2 will be dealt with in semester 1. This means an extra study load in semester 1. This makes the program more than full time! For students doing the in-service stream, please keep in mind that the program requires a study load of 20 clock hours aside your teaching hours at school.

Q: When do have to be present for sessions at the university?

A: On Mondays (full days; 9.00–17.00) and Tuesday afternoons (13.00-17.00) you will participate in university sessions. The other three days you are expected to be at a school between 8.00–16.30 hrs.

Q: Can I take a part-time job whilst studying on U-TEAch?

A: We strongly recommend you don't. The course is demanding.

Q: Can I take the U-TEAch program as a part time track?

A: No, unfortunately we cannot offer this track in part time.

Part four: course costs

Q: Is there an extra tuition fee for the program?

A: No *extra* tuition fees will be charged. You can find information on tuition fees on the website of Utrecht University:

<https://students.uu.nl/en/practical-information/financial-matters/tuition-fees>

Q: What are the costs for the internship abroad?

A: It depends very much on the country you are going to and your own standard of living. However, most students do sublet their room and hand in their OV 'jaarkaart' for a few months in order to help with the costs.

Q: Are there any bursaries available to help with the cost of the internship abroad?

A: For the internships abroad in European countries students can apply for an Erasmus + grants. Unfortunately, there are no bursaries for South Africa and Saint Maarten.

Q: What are the regular fees for the programme?

A: Please refer to our website for this.

Part five: qualifications that the programme gives

Q: Which qualifications do I get at the end of the U-TEAch programme?

A: You will get your Dutch ('eerstegraads') teaching qualification which allows you to teach at all levels in the Dutch secondary education system.

Moreover, you will receive an additional UTEAch- honors certificate from Centre for Education and Learning stating that you are competent in teaching in CLIL and International settings.

Q: Do I get a certificate/diploma to teach at international schools and or abroad?

A: No, there is no internationally recognized standard diploma for teaching abroad. Each country has its own standards and one needs to have the Dutch diploma validated. In most countries in which former U-TEAch students have applied this was not a problem, although sometimes there was a certain amount of red tape involved. For more information about how to get your teaching qualification recognized for teaching at an international school check the website of the International Baccalaureate Organization (www.ibo.org).

Q: Am I qualified to teach at Dutch TTO (bilingual) schools?

A: Yes, your Dutch diploma allows you to teach there. Most Dutch TTO schools do value the UTEACH diploma, but teaching in the TTO does not require a special qualification.

Q: Do I get the Cambridge Certificate for bilingual teaching?

A: No, unfortunately, we cannot offer the Cambridge Certificate

Part six: application proces

Q: How do I apply?

A: Please check our website www.uu.nl/masters The application deadline is 1 April.

Q: Will I be invited for a selection interview after I have applied for U-TEAch?

A: First our subject related methodology teacher will assess whether you are eligible as far as your subject is concerned. Only if this positive, the U-TEAch selection committee will examine your application and motivation letter and decide whether you will be invited for an interview. The dates for the interviews will be in April/May.

Q: What is expected of me in the selection interview?

A: You are asked to prepare a two-minute elevator pitch as to why you particularly want to do this programme. In the remainder of the interview you will be questioned on your motivation and experiences related to teaching, CLIL and International education. Also some practical issues will be discussed.

Q: What is the procedure after the selection interview?

A: After the selection interview you will receive an email which states whether we consider you to be a suitable candidate or not.

Q: What does 'suitable candidate' mean?

A: It means that after we have interviewed all the candidates, we will form a group of about 20 students out of those suitable candidates. Unfortunately, we cannot place everybody. Beginning of May the final group formation takes place at which point you will be informed about your position in the U-TEAch group.

Q: What happens if I do not get a position in the U-TEAch group?

A: If you have indicated with your application that you want to do the regular Dutch program you will join the matching procedure for the Dutch-taught program. Please keep in mind that for a few subjects there is a numerus fixus. For those subjects you will have to take part in the selection procedure.

Q: I will be doing the two year master's programme Education and Communication in Humanities, Geography or Science: how do I apply for U-TEAch?

A: When you apply for the master's program in Education and Communication you can indicate that you want to take part in the honours program U-TEAch