



EUROPEAN MASTER^{of}SCIENCE in OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Accredited by the NVAO | Approved by the Dutch Ministry of Education and Sciences under CROHO nr. 69312
Approved by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

How to apply for the OT-EuroMaster

Information for applicants

For August 2017 – August/September 2019

The five cooperating institutions



University of Brighton
Eastbourne, United Kingdom



Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences
Amsterdam, the Netherlands



Zurich University
of Applied Sciences
Winterthur, Switzerland



University College Sjælland,
Næstved, Denmark



Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm, Sweden

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1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy which is also referred to as the OT-EuroMaster. This application pack contains information about how to apply for the programme starting End of August 2017 and finishing in August/September 2019.

The OT-EuroMaster is a truly international programme. It is the first of its kind. The OT-EuroMaster has a fully integrated curriculum that is coordinated and offered jointly by five institutions in higher education that together form one consortium. We operate in the 'spirit of a joint degree' across the five institutions. This means that staff work as a team in the development and delivery of the programme.

The Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences AUAS formally holds the degree awarding power. The Masters degree is accredited by NVAO¹ and approved by the Dutch Ministry of Education and Sciences. In 2010 and 2016, the OT-EuroMaster programme additionally received the Special Quality Feature "Internationalisation" certificate from the NVAO stating that "the programme has internationalisation at its core" - 'the carousel design' of the programme, which enables the students to study in five different European countries (the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Sweden and Denmark), was described by the panel as 'innovative and original'.

In June 2013, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) received approval by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Education (SERI) to offer the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy programme to residents of Switzerland. In addition to the European Master of Science Degree which they receive from the AUAS, they receive the degree Europäischer Master of Science ZFH in Ergotherapie from ZHAW.

All OT-EuroMaster students are enrolled at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. Swiss resident students are additionally enrolled at ZHAW. In practice, every student will receive the same programme, will have 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 early!

We advise you to start the application process early. The Administrative Office supports you throughout this process. Please send an e-mail to ot-euromaster@hva.nl if you need any support or advice. It is also possible to arrange a Skype 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 1st 2017

All applications need to be sent to Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. Swiss resident applicants will get further information about enrolment at ZHAW after admission to the programme around June 2017.

¹ Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie: Dutch accreditation institute

2. Admission criteria OT-EuroMaster

- Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy or equivalent
- International English Language Testing Service (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 (see 3.1 Procedure A).

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

Those who do not hold a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, but have a Bachelor of Science in a field related to OT, will have to submit an extensive professional portfolio demonstrating that they meet the requested entrance competences (see annex 1), including a good level of understanding of occupational therapy (see 2.3 Procedure B and annex 2). You can send us the International Diploma Supplement of the degree you obtained to get feedback if we consider your field to be related.

Those who hold a degree or diploma in Occupational Therapy which is not a Bachelor of Science degree will have to submit an extensive professional portfolio demonstrating that they meet the requested entrance competences (see 3.2 Procedure B and annexes 1 and 2).

The admission committee will look into each portfolio individually and consider whether the person concerned has attained the required entrance competences by previous work or study and can be considered to be equivalent to a BSc in Occupational Therapy.

2.1.2 No admission possible

Those holding a degree which is not a Bachelor of Science degree in a field related to OT are not accepted on this programme.

2.2 English language test

Students are required to prove that they have a sufficient command of the English language by submitting evidence of an overall band score of at least 6.5 for the **ACADEMIC IELTS**²-test, or of a comparable score.

The term 'test' – comparable with an IELTS test score of 6.5 is understood to refer to:

- a. TOEFL³ Paper: 575;
- b. TOEFL Computer: 232;
- c. TOEFL Internet: 90;
- d. TOEIC⁴: 720;
- e. Cambridge ESOL⁵: CAE – C.

Please make sure that you plan for the English test early – you need to register for the test date and it takes two to three weeks after the test until you get the official result which you need to hand in with your admission documents. On the IELTS-Website, there is practice material available for training.⁶

² International English Language Testing System: www.ielts.org

³ Test of English as a Foreign Language: www.ets.org/toefl

⁴ Provided the candidate has passed both the 'Speaking and Writing' and 'Listening and Reading' components.

⁵ English for Speakers of Other Languages.

⁶ If you completed OT-education in a country where English is the official language and language of instruction, please email ot-euromaster@hva.nl for further information

3. Admission Procedure

If you decide to apply for the OT-EuroMaster, please check all steps of the procedure and the application criteria in good time. The administrative office is ready to support you in the procedure. You can apply any time before the deadline.

After your application, the admission committee is in charge of the application process.

Those holding a Bachelor of Science degree in OT should follow **procedure A**.

Those with a (non-BSc-) Diploma, or another degree in Occupational Therapy or a Bachelor of Science in a related field, should follow **procedure B**. Please note, people who follow procedure B must send in a professional portfolio (see annexes 1 and 2).

The deadline for application: May 1st 2017

Please send all application documents in electronic form to: ot-euromaster@hva.nl

Please send the hardcopy of your complete application documentation to:

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
European Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy
Administrative Office, Niermela Chote / Debbie Kramer-Roy
Tafelbergweg 51
1105 BD Amsterdam ZO
the Netherlands

We recommend you to send your documents by registered post.

Note:

Please make sure your documentation is complete, that the requested documents are translated into English, that the translations are certified, and that you provide a counter signature on the copy of your diploma and diploma supplement from the education institution that issued the diploma.

Only complete application documentation will be judged by the admission committee. If any documents are missing, the admission committee will not be able to consider your application.

3.1 Procedure A

If you have a **Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy**, please hand in the following documents:

1. A **Copy of your BSc diploma and International diploma supplement, officially certified** with a counter signature and dated by the Occupational Therapy education institution which issued the diploma. Both with a **certified English translation**⁷;
2. The certificate with test score of the **academic IELTS** (or similar test, see 2.2);
3. A **Curriculum Vitae** in English; addressing education, work experience, and further professional and academic training courses;
4. A 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;
5. A Copy of your **passport**;
6. One original **portrait photo**.

3.2 Procedure B

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

1. **Copy of your Diploma and International diploma supplement, officially certified** with a counter signature and dated by the issuing education institution. Both with a **certified English translation**⁸;
2. The certificate with test score of the **academic IELTS** (or similar test, see 2.2);
3. A **Curriculum Vitae** in English; addressing education, work experience, and further professional and academic training courses;
4. A 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;
5. A Copy of your **passport**;
6. One original **portrait photo**;
7. A professional **portfolio**⁹ (see annex 1 and 2 for further information).

⁷ If our diploma supplement is issued in English, you only have to submit the certified copy

⁸ If our diploma supplement is issued in English, you only have to submit the certified copy

⁹ Applicants with a Swiss (non BSc-)Diploma and a „Nachträglicher Titelerwerb“ need to hand in their diploma and the NTE-Certificate as a portfolio

3.3 Tuition fees

The new fee for EU/EEA citizens is 2006 Euro per year. A slightly different fee applies for non-EU/EEA citizens. Please contact ot-euomaster@hva.nl for further information. For Swiss residents, Swiss semester fees apply.

The tuition fee is exclusive of travel and accommodation expenses and the costs of study material.

3.4 Deadlines

Before May 1 st	Applicants can send their (preliminary) applications and receive advice about the development of a portfolio.
May 1 st	Complete applications must be received by (registered) post and by e-mail.
May 15 th latest	Applicants receive email to confirm receipt of their application.
May 2017	Those who need a visa for the UK to attend Module 1: start collecting information and documents for visa application (see 4.1.)
May – June 2017	Admission committee reviews applications
	The admission committee decides whether there are enough accepted candidates (ca. 20) and whether they are from different countries to guarantee the international nature of the programme. If not, the start date may be deferred.
June 30 th 2017	Accepted applicants receive statement of acceptance and a letter to confirm attendance to the programme. <i>Please return your letter to confirm attendance immediately after you have received the statement of acceptance from us.</i>
	Applicants who do not fulfil the criteria receive a letter with an explanation why their application has been rejected.
July 15 th	Signed confirmation letter is sent by applicant to the administrative office.
July 30 th	Accepted students receive practical information about first module including instruction for digital platforms, e-mail-account and housing information for the UK.
August 2017	Accepted students receive the first invoice with instructions to pay the first instalment of the fees prior to September 1 st 2017

4. Visa

During your studies at the OT-EuroMaster programme you will study in five different countries. Depending on your nationality, country of residence and your specific situation it may be necessary to apply for a visa. The first country to travel to is the United Kingdom. Module 1 starts End of August 2017 (week 35) and class work is in weeks 37 and 38.

We would strongly advise you to start preparing your visa application documents at least three months in advance to make sure that all the papers are correct and complete. If not, your visa application may be rejected.

We can support you with a statement of acceptance and a visa letter once your admission to the programme has been confirmed. 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 rules 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>1. Knowledge and understanding 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.</p> <p>You are able to explain the theoretical concepts underpinning occupational therapy specifically the nature of human beings and their performance of occupation.</p> <p>You can explain the relationship between occupational performance, health and wellbeing.</p> <p>You identify the differences between a research question and a clinical question.</p> <p>You are able to identify the forefront of knowledge in research methodologies within the literature about quantitative and qualitative traditions.</p> <p>You mention the fundamental steps in a research process.</p>
<p>2. Applying knowledge and understanding 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You search independently, critically examine and synthesize scientific literature and other information relevant to occupational therapy.</p> <p>You are able to identify different approaches in quantitative and qualitative studies.</p>
<p>3. Making judgments 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You can gather and interpret relevant data with quantitative and qualitative methods.</p>
<p>4. Communication of information, ideas, problems and solutions</p>	<p>You recognize the difference between scientific knowledge and common sense knowledge.</p> <p>You can present information learned from clinical practice and can recognize theories within their own practice.</p> <p>You are able to present information, ideas and solutions to specialists in the field of OT and non-specialists.</p>
<p>5. Have developed those learning skills 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.</p> <p>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. The portfolio contains a collection of products that demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have acquired through your education, experience in practice and lifelong learning. The products should be supplemented with a description explaining how each product demonstrates that you have achieved the entrance competences (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.
- 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 by completing this course.
- A critically appraised paper (CAP) or topic (CAT). Look for more information at <http://www.otcats.com/>
- 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, 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 demonstrates particular 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.

*Notice: provide a paper version or a link to a digital copy of the article

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	Zurich University of Applied Sciences	University College Zealand in Næstved	Karolinska Institutet	
United Kingdom	the Netherlands	Switzerland	Denmark	Sweden	Own country
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 Wk 38 Graduation ¹² September
Wk 37/38 class September	Wk 49/50 class ¹⁰ December	Wk 11/12 class March	Wk 23/24 class ¹¹ June	Wk 46 exam/class November	
Exploration of concepts of occupation and research	Qualitative research methods and human occupation, diversity, culture and participation	Quantitative research methods in relation to evaluation and enhancement of occupational performance	Socio-cultural perspectives of human occupation	Planning a research project within the body of knowledge of the OT discipline	Conducting a research project within the OT discipline
Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Semi-independent research plan Master classes	Semi-independent research
Class work: Introduction to OT-EuroMaster: skills for post-graduate learning and competence based teaching and assessment Concepts of occupation Epistemology Ontology (philosophy underpinning science) Ethics Critical appraisal of literature	Class work: Understanding and applying qualitative methods Developing skills in qualitative methods Dynamic interaction of human occupation with diversity, culture and participation Qualitative research methods	Class work: Understanding and applying quantitative methods Developing skills in quantitative methods Development of assessment for measuring occupational performance Implementation of research Quantitative research methods	Class work: 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	Literature review as background study Research plan Methodological master classes connected to the research plans	Data collection Data Analysis Discussion on results Synthesize the material to a master thesis
Assignment Critical appraisal of literature	Assignment A report on a small scale qualitative study	Assignment A report on a small scale quantitative study	Assignment Paper on argumentation for a research topic	Assignment Research plan Oral presentation	Assignment Thesis Oral presentation
Learning Group	Learning Group	Learning Group	Learning Group	Learning Group	Learning Group
reflections on own research ideas and ongoing research	reflections on different research designs	reflections on different research designs	seminar on students' research ideas	reflections on research plan	as peer review

¹⁰ Between class work and 1st submission of assignment: 8 weeks self study time plus 2 weeks Christmas break

¹¹ Between end of module 4 and start of module 5: 3 weeks of summer break

¹² Date to be confirmed

Module 1: Exploration of concepts of occupation and research

Module 1 starts with an introduction to master's level study and the rationale for the OT-EuroMaster programme. Problem-based learning is introduced, practiced and discussed so that students become familiar with this pedagogical approach that underpins the whole programme. Epistemology and ontology are explored in relation to the basic concepts of occupation. Students practice critical appraisal of literature in groups.

The assignment consists of a critical appraisal of literature of both a qualitative and quantitative research article, within the field of occupational science or occupational therapy.

Module 2: Qualitative research methods and human occupation, diversity, culture and participation

The second module explores the nature of occupation, participation and their effect on health and wellbeing. Special attention is given to the influence of culture and diversity on daily activities. Qualitative methodologies are introduced and practiced with formative and summative assessments.

The assignment consists of a small-scale qualitative research project that you conduct in your own home country.

Module 3: Quantitative research methods in relation to evaluation and enhancement of occupational performance

Module 3 focuses upon measuring occupational performance, clinical reasoning, assessments and evaluations of interventions including environmental aspects. The psychometric properties of reliable and valid assessments are reviewed and skills in statistical analysis are practised. The competences of quantitative data analysis and reporting are tested in the summative assessment.

The assignment consists of a small-scale quantitative research project that you can conduct in your own home country.

Module 4: Socio-cultural perspectives of human occupation

Module four builds on societal perspectives on human occupation, population health, and OT-practice. Societies are studied as products of people's engagement in occupation, given their socio-cultural context. In this module, in particular we seek to understand the needs of all citizens and their living conditions and the impact of society on everyday life. Furthermore, the influence of different levels within social contexts on human occupation and the professional development and practice of occupational therapists are critiqued from various theoretical perspectives. The module develops skills in scientific argument and enables participants to position their practice and research within the European context.

The assignment consists of a paper on argumentation for a research topic.

Module 5: Planning a research project placed within the body of knowledge of the OT discipline

This module is a step toward synthesizing and applying the knowledge and scientific skills gained in the earlier modules. The starting point for this module is the portfolio with the students' documents about their research interests, designs, methods and ethical issues as discussed modules. A synthesis of knowledge is achieved through the preparation of a research plan with a state of the art review of background literature that places the proposed research question and specific aims within the relevant knowledge field. Based on the research question a methodology and design is chosen and ethical considerations addressed. The research plan ends with a proposed time plan.



The assignment, the examination, is the formulation and presentation of a well-designed, ethical research plan, the findings of which will contribute to the body of knowledge about occupation.

Module 6: Conducting a research project within an area of the OT discipline

Finally, in Module 6 the project is conducted as a semi-independent research project which is then reported as a Master of Science thesis. The thesis has two parts: firstly, an article prepared for a named, peer reviewed journal; the second part is an extended introduction and reflective discussion.

The examination has two parts: the assessment of the written part and the assessment of the oral presentation.