The Master's in Information Sciences trains you to become an outstanding professional who is capable of independent and team problem solving with regard to the design, application and practical use of complex information systems in organizations.

The program is given in collaboration with the UvA program "Information Studies". This UvA master program admits students with a similar bachelor as the VU IMM bachelor.

The program is set up in such a way that you can still follow the majority of the courses at the VU, if you prefer. VU and UvA courses are scheduled on different weekdays, to prevent travel overhead.

Information Sciences is the multidisciplinary area bridging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its practical use in society. Are you interested in how information is created and processed in companies and institutions? Are you more interested in the application of technology than technology for its own sake? Do you believe it's important not to lose sight of the role people, organizations and cultures play in designing, modelling, communicating and sharing information? Are you fascinated by knowledge and innovation? If so, then the Master's programme in Information Sciences at VU Amsterdam is an excellent choice for you.

Information Sciences (IS, in other countries also called Information Systems) focus on theory development and best practices of effective creation, structuring, processing, communication and sharing of information and knowledge using ICT. Information processes and contexts of organizations and individuals are studied, not just from a technological perspective but also from the social, economic, cognitive and organizational perspectives.

At VU we pay special attention to the latest innovative developments and applications of ICT, related to Internet, World Wide Web, multimedia, intelligent systems, and electronic business. Here are some of the advanced topics that IS researchers at VU currently investigate:

- How can you make the World Wide Web intelligent so that it becomes much more easy to represent, process and share electronic information and knowledge across companies and communities of interest?
- How do you design multimedia databases for broad user groups on the Internet on, say, some pop music style or museum art collection, including videoclips, sound samples, explanatory notes, and an easily searchable discography or collection overview?
- What are successful networked business models for small and medium-sized enterprises to offer e-services over the Web, for example for sustainable and cost-effective energy management in smart buildings, or electronic support for medical and elderly care at home? Information Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit strikes a healthy balance by combining technology and information with the study of people, culture and organizations. It builds on a solid computer science foundation, but does so in an inherently multidisciplinary approach that continuously crosses and challenges the boundaries between exact and social sciences. Our research is at the international forefront, an achievement directly reflected in the Master's program. Social, communicative and managerial skills are important in IS. So, during your study you will regularly work in project teams and collaborate with others to solve practical problems regarding complex information systems in real-life settings.
## Inhoudsopgave

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Business Information Systems

Opleidingsdelen:

- Constrained Choice (12 EC)
- Constrained Choice (6 EC)
- Compulsory Courses

Constrained Choice (12 EC)

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Compulsory Courses

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Web & Media
Opleidingsdelen:

- Constrained Choice (12 EC)
- Constrained Choice (6 EC)
- Compulsory courses

Constrained Choice (12 EC)

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(Virtual) Organizations in a Dynamic Context

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Intelligent Interactive Systems

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Knowledge and Media

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**Doel vak**
The goal of the course is to provide insight in the concepts of knowledge, ontologies and knowledge processes in relation to various ICT-based media.

**Inhoud vak**
This course treats the principles and theories that form the foundation of knowledge-intensive processes in relation to various multi-media applications. Knowledge processes are those processes that use knowledge (reasoning), document knowledge (representation), acquire knowledge or transfer knowledge (teaching). The relation between knowledge processes and (interactive) media will be explored. Various types of applications will be discussed, such as special purpose search engines, educational systems, serious gaming and mind tools.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Working lectures

**Toetsvorm**
Portfolio

**Literatuur**
Articles distributed through Blackboard

**Doelgroep**
UvA students and optional course for mCS, mAI and mIS

**Knowledge Engineering**

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**Doel vak**
goals:
1) to be able to elicitate knowledge from experts by using several elicitation techniques
2) to be able to build all CommonKads models that play a role in the development of a knowledge based system, this includes the context of
the KBS and the expertise model based
3) to be able to implement the expertise model as a prototype
4) to be able to reflect on your own process of modelling and building a knowledge based system, and to reflect on your product (=which are the models and the implementation)

**Inhoud vak**
Knowledge Engineering is a discipline that involves integrating knowledge into a program for solving a complex problem, which requires human expertise. Typical tasks are classification, diagnosis, planning etc. In the course we use CommonKADS as the methodology for the process of modeling the organisation, the context and the knowledge intensive tasks. This methodology give clear guidelines and concrete templates for modeling the organisational aspects and the expertise model, which is the core model of knowledge based system. The notion of pattern-based knowledge modeling is a key issue in the knowledge modelling process. The goal of the final project is to perform the entire knowledge technology process for a knowledge intensive problem of your own choosing, starting with context analysis, up to a (partial) implementation of the knowledge based system.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures, assignments, group project

**Toetsvorm**
Assignment, project reports.

**Literatuur**

**Doelgroep**
mAI, mIS, mCS-TAI

**Master Project Information Sciences**

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**Mobile Systems**

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Multimedia Information Systems

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Inhoud vak
The course description is available on:

Doelgroep
miS

Overige informatie
Registration is required via https://www.sis.uva.nl until four weeks before the start of the semester.

Perspectives on Information & Management

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Inhoud vak

Overige informatie
Opgave via https://www.sis.uva.nl tot 4 weken voor aanvang van het semester is verplicht

Course registration at the UVA is compulsory at least 4 weeks before the start of the semester via https://www.sis.uva.nl
Research Methods

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**Doel vak**
This course helps prepare students for scientific research and particularly their Master research project and thesis.

After completion of the course the student:
- is able to conceptualize the problem space at hand and formulate a clear research question in the field of information studies, information sciences or AI
- is able to find, analyse and critically reflect on and use scientific literature relevant to the research context
- is able to design a research plan containing applicable research methods, covering qualitative, quantitative and constructive elements typical to the field
- is able to defend his research design with solid argumentation explaining the underlying assumptions, pros and cons etc. of the chosen methods.
- is able to collect and process the research data and to critically judge the obtained results in relation to the research questions
- is able to describe and critically discuss the above activities in a written report, in which the methodology is accounted for and the original phrasing is substantiated
- is able to present and discuss the results to a scientific audience

**Inhoud vak**
The course provides an interdisciplinary overview of and hands-on work with different scientific research methods, with an emphasis on ICT/information systems and technologies in interaction with their human, social and organizational contexts.

Topics are:
- scientific research and its goals, the idea of scientific method;
- developing and framing the research questions you want to answer;
- making a research design and planning your research;
- conceptualization, theory formation and validation/triangulation;
- research methods and their assumptions, pros and cons (e.g. interview,
- observation, case study, field and action research, modelling and simulation, experiment, survey, statistical analysis);
- how do you (and others) know that your research results are valid?
scientific argument, communication and research report writing.

**Onderwijsvorm**
In addition to lectures on various aspects of and issues in research methodology, students will get hands-on experience with different research methods. The setting of the practical work is that of a continuing research case investigation that emulates the different stages of a scientific research project. The research case question to be investigated is: What is it for systems to be considered "smart" or "intelligent"?

**Toetsvorm**
Group assignments (research project report), individual assignments, take-home written exam, active course participation (incl. self-report).

**Literatuur**

**Vereiste voorkennis**
Basic knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods.

**Doelgroep**
mAI, miS

**Rule Governance**

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**Inhoud vak**
http://studiegids.uva.nl/web/uv/a/sgs/en/c/14025.html

**Overige informatie**
Opgave via https://www.sis.uva.nl tot 4 weken voor aanvang van het semester is verplicht

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**Service Oriented Design**

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**Doel vak**
Learn advanced design techniques applicable to large service-oriented software systems. Be able to select among them and apply them for a specific system. Be able to reason about and assess the design decisions.

**Inhoud vak**
The lectures explain the concepts related to the Service Orientation software paradigm and Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). The lectures provide the students with knowledge about how to identify the requirements for a service-oriented software system, how to map them on business services and transform them into complex networks of software services. Special emphasis is given to the design reasoning techniques for crucial decision making, service identification, SOA design and migration. Each year experts from academia and industry are invited to give guest lectures.

The students participate in small teams to piecemeal develop understanding of various service-oriented aspects, and work on an assigned SOA design project.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures and group work.

**Toetsvorm**
Written reports of the assignments. Teamwork.

**Literatuur**
Material handed out by the lecturer and on Blackboard.

**Aanbevolen voorkennis**
Software modeling experience (knowledge of UML and SoaML preferred). Programming.

**Doelgroep**
mAI, mCS

**Overige informatie**
Registration for this course is compulsory four weeks prior to the start. Further information on this module will be made available on the Blackboard system [http://bb.vu.nl](http://bb.vu.nl).

**Software Architectuur**

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<tr>
<td>Coördinator</td>
<td>prof. dr. J.C. van Vliet</td>
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<td>Docent(en)</td>
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Doel vak
Get acquainted with the field of software and information architecture.
Understand the drivers behind architectural decisions. Be able to
develop and reason about an architecture of a non-trivial system.

Inhoud vak
Students work in groups to develop an architecture for a fictitious
system. They have to develop different representations (called views)
of the architecture. These different representations emphasize
different concerns of people that have a stake in the system. Each
group will also be asked to assess ("test") the architecture of another
group for certain quality attributes.

Onderwijsvorm
Group work with a number of assignments

Literatuur

Doelgroep
mCS, mIS

The Social Web

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<td>dr. L.M. Aroyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Docent(en)</td>
<td>dr. L.M. Aroyo, V. Maccatrozzo MSc, C.R. Dijkshoorn MSc</td>
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Doel vak
In this course the students will learn theory and methods concerning
communication and interaction in a Web context. The focus is on
distributed user data and devices in the context of the Social Web.

Inhoud vak
This course will cover theory, methods and techniques for:

- personalization for Web applications
- Web user & context modelling
- user-generated content and metadata
- multi-device interaction
- usage of social-web data

Onderwijsvorm
- lectures
- practical sessions
- assignments including final paper
**Toetsvorm**
Weighted average of assignments and final paper

**Literatuur**
- course lecture slides
- selected articles, videos and Web links for each lecture

**Doelgroep**
VU: mIS
UvA: master Information Studies - Human-Centered Multimedia
mCS
mAI

**Thesis Design**

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**Doel vak**
Students will write a Thesis Design document, in which they will formulate a clear research question in the field of information sciences. To answer this research questions, they will identify a design a methodology and formulate a plan so that the research project can be performed in time.

**Inhoud vak**
The Thesis Design is performed by the student as individual work under regular supervision by a pre- supervisor. Students may propose a supervisor, or ask the master-thesis coordinator for assistance in finding one.

Students have to write, by the end of period 3, a Thesis Design document (written in English) of max. 6 pages all inclusive, in which he or she has to describe:
- the problem to be addressed in the thesis project,
- the relevance of the problem, based on a literature survey,
- the resulting research question,
- the methodological approach to answer the research question and potential sub questions
- the plan of the thesis work to realize the thesis within the given time frame (end of period 3)

The course will be concluded with a public presentation of the final Thesis Design paper, in a joint presentation session at the end of period 3.
The final electronic version of Thesis Design should be uploaded by the end of the course at [http://wiki.cs.vu.nl/mp](http://wiki.cs.vu.nl/mp)
Onderwijsvorm
Self study with individual guidance by Thesis Design supervisor.
Final presentation in a joint presentation session.

Toetsvorm
The grade is based on the grade for the Thesis Design report and the grade for the final presentation of the report.

Aanbevolen voorkennis
Prior to the start of the course, students need to register with the Master Coordinator (via Mrs. Ilse Thomson).
To start the course students need to have an approved supervisor for their thesis, latest by December 1, 2013.

Doelgroep
mIS

Web Search

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Inhoud vak
The course description is available on:
http://studiegids.uva.nl/web/uva/sgs/nl/c/740090.html

Overige informatie
Registration is required via https://www.sis.uva.nl until four weeks before the start of the semester.