



PRE-MASTER PROGRAM MASTER (INTERIOR) ARCHITECTURE

info booklet



version September 2025

Preparation Program | Pre-master

Academy of Architecture Maastricht

Zuyd Hogeschool





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PRE-MASTER PROGRAM MASTER (INTERIOR) ARCHITECTURE

The Pre-master at the Academy of Architecture Maastricht (AAM) is part of the Preparation Program (PP). This program includes various modules focused on design and research skills, professional skills, and technical competencies. Key competences to have or to develop when pursuing a master in (interior) architecture.

AAM has two master studies: the Master Interior Architecture and the Master Architecture. These master programs within the academy deepen and individualize the already acquired professional attitudes. To focus on this, it's important to have a solid foundation in your personal and professional portfolio. If this is not the case, we offer a Pre-master Program to acquire these skills.

Furthermore, it's relevant to understand the unique didactic quality of the academy. This entails an autobiographical approach to current, relevant themes addressed in education. Autobiographical means more than just choosing for oneself: it means getting to know oneself as an architect/designer within the architectural domain and beyond. Expressing oneself in word, image, and action, and visibly and audibly growing therein. This approach to studying, shapes you not only into an architect/designer but also into an independent, critically minded cultural entrepreneur.

josef bischofs, head aam
ivo rosbeek, coordinator PP



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Why a Pre-master program?

At the AAM we have a one year Pre-master program. Only after a successful completion of this course a student can start studying at the Master Architecture or the Master Interior Architecture of AAM. If the student decides to study at a different master, Zuyd Hogeschool/AAM will provide a certificate with the studyresults.

Preparation Program

The pre-master is part of the AAM Preparation Program. This Preparation Program is open for both Pre-master students as for AAM students (Bachelor or Master students) with a deficiency. These deficiency students have to follow certain study modules or maybe a complete trimester. That means that within one group, students with a different background study together. Of course a bachelor student with a deficiency will be evaluated in a different way than a (Pre)master student.

entrance requirements

You are admissible if you are a graduate with a Bachelor's degree in architectural/interior design or another Bachelor's program in the field of architecture.

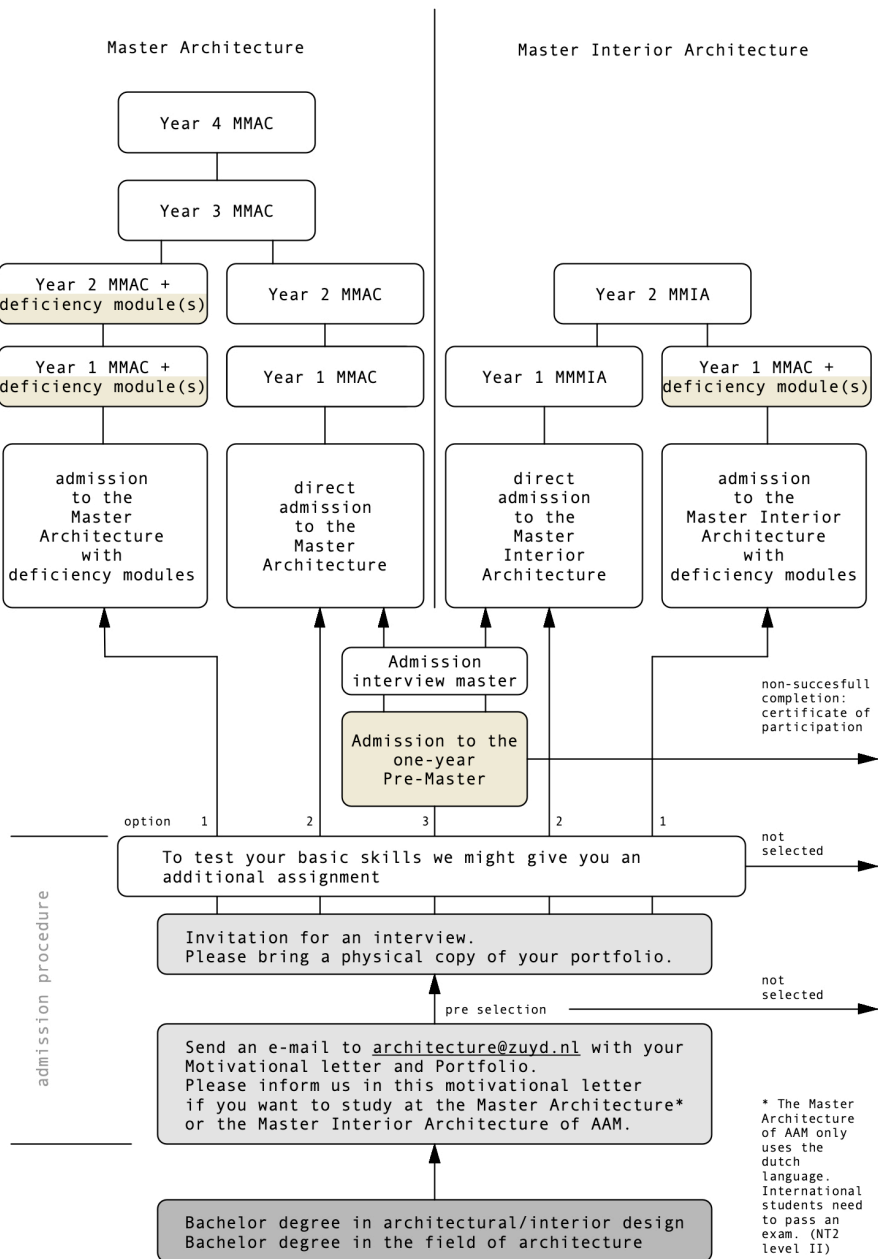
admission

To assess if you have the desired entry competencies for one of the master studies of AAM, we invite you to start the admission procedure. First step is to send an e-mail to architecture@zuyd.nl.

admission procedure

As soon as we receive your e-mail we will invite you for the admission procedure, which consists of the following steps:

1. A pre-selection based on your letter of motivation, bachelor diploma in the field of architecture and a digital portfolio.
2. A motivation interview and evaluation of your portfolio.
3. A practical assignment.







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When you pass the pre-selection (1) we will invite you for an interview. During this interview you will be tested on your suitability for the Pre-master program. You can show and discuss examples of the work in your portfolio with the admission committee (2). The final part can be a practical assignment set by the admission committee (3).

admission deadlines

- If you are a non-EU student, you have to apply before 1 June
- If you are a EU student, you have to apply before 1 July

language of instruction

The language of instruction of the Pre-master program is English. The Pre-master is open for both Dutch and international students.

start of the study program

The study program starts in September.

division of the study program

The Pre-master year is divided in three trimesters.

trimester 1: 12 weeks

trimester 2: 12 weeks

trimester 3: 10 weeks

calendarium

The time schedule for instruction and guidance of the study modules will be provided in advance of each trimester.

study load

In general you will study and work for about 32 hours a week. 16 hours at the academy. 16 hours at home.

week schedule

Instruction and guidance for the modules, with a few exceptions, take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

This allows you to autonomously schedule the accompanying self-study and work on assignments, taking into account your personal situation.



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For students who plan to proceed studying at the Master Architecture, this means they can already start looking for a job at an architecture office.

study modules

The modules of the Pre-master program are thematically grouped:

art architecture and theory (aat1, aat2, aat3)

Knowledge of art and architectural history.

Critical reflective competencies.

technical skills (ts1, ts2, ts3)

Applying building engineering and constructional insight not only in a technical but also in an conceptual and architectural way.

professional skills (ps1, ps2, ps3)

Working with materials, drawings, models, and text.

case studies (c1, c2, c3)

Applying and combining skills and knowledge in small architectural design projects.

study trips

AAM is located in the South of the Netherlands in the province Limburg, close to the borders with Belgium and Germany. This Euregional context provides subtle cultural differences between the three countries. Every trimester one or two one-day study trips are part of the curriculum to experience these differences and architectural highlights. The sites we visit in the Netherlands and its neighboring countries are also beneficial in relation to the content of the study modules.

lectures

AAM provides a comprehensive lecture program. We offer Thursday evening lectures with international keynote speakers, round table discussions with architects and artists (Thought arcade) and Friday lunch lectures where teachers talk about architectural topics. Part of the theory program is reflecting on the lecture program. Therefore attending the Thursday evening



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lectures is part of the PP curriculum. The Friday lunch lectures are not obligatory but strongly advised.

evaluations

The last two weeks of every trimester a reflective and intersubjective evaluation is planned. Students present their results of the separate study modules and the total scope of their work in a physical portfolio and presentation. All relevant work produced during the trimester that shows the development process is part of the evaluation. Each presentation ends with a Q&A session with teachers and fellow students.

The teaching staff will assess the work per trimester and provide a reflective narrative.

For modules that have not been successfully completed, a resit will be offered until the end of the Pre-master year. (End of the third trimester.) It's the responsibility of the student to plan and execute the additional resit task(s). The student can ask the teaching staff for guidance during this process.

professional attitude

We expect a professional attitude from students who want prepare themselves to study at the Master (Interior) Architecture. A professional attitude means in all cases: attending all modules of the curriculum (including lectures and study trips), informing teachers when the student is unable to attend, completing work according to the provided planning and the ambition to excel.



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autodidactical, autobiographical attitude

We expect an autodidactical attitude from students who want prepare themselves to study at the Master (Interior) Architecture. This autodidactical aspect is linked to the autobiographical attitude: it means getting to know oneself as an architect/designer within the architectural domain and beyond. Expressing oneself in word, image, and action, and visibly and audibly growing therein. This approach to studying shapes you not only into an architect/designer but also into an independent, critically minded cultural entrepreneur.

tuition fee

If you send an e-mail to architecture@zuyd.nl you receive the information about the tuition fee of the Pre-master. If the student decides to stop during the pre-master program the tuition fee is non refundable.

extra costs

You may need to purchase some study materials or equipment during the course of the program. Examples are:

Course materials and other study aids, estimated at € 1.500 per year:

text books/reading material;

study trips;

additional academic tools

(e.g. software licenses and presentation materials).

It is necessary that students bring or own a laptop/computer with relevant software. After you have been accepted as a pre master student, you can purchase software programs with a considerable discount. Information will be sent separately.

Educational facilities, such as study trips and work visits, may be part of your study program and therefore might involve extra costs for you. In the program booklets you can find which activities it concerns.



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tips for international students

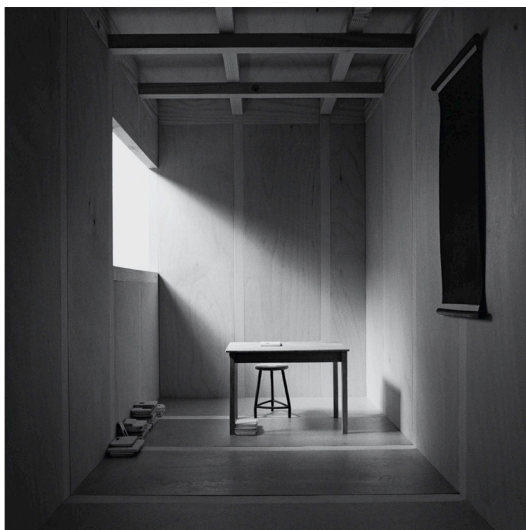
Tips for e.g. housing, health care, insurance, registration at the municipality of Maastricht will be send to you in a seperate mail before the start of the program.

for more information

Send an e-mail to: architecture@zuyd.nl

or to the coordinator Preparation Program: ivo.rosbeek@zuyd.nl

instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/architectureacademymaastricht/>



images: 8 rooms Ingeborg Meulendijks