

# Master Scientific Illustration

## Admission Procedure

Scientific Illustration is part of the Maastricht Academy of Arts. If you want to be admitted to our master you have to follow the selection procedure described below.

### Application

First step is to apply at [www.studielink.nl](http://www.studielink.nl) and then we will invite you to start the preselection. You can apply for the 2026-2027 Academic year starting from 1 October 2025.

### Prerequisite

You need a bachelor's degree but it is not specified which one it should be. We have students who have studied veterinary medicine, biology, biotechnology, as well as Fine Arts. It can be useful to practice observational drawing, in order to build an interesting portfolio.

### Important: language requirements

The programme is given in English. It is therefore important that you have a good command of the English language. Your language level will be checked during the admission interview together with the other skills and competences.

### Selection procedure

After your request for registration has been processed, the admission procedure is as follows:

- PHASE 1      A preselection based on a home assignment and your digital portfolio;
- PHASE 2      A motivation interview and evaluation of your portfolio;  
A practical assignment.

### Phase 1 | Preselection

You are requested to digitally submit the following three documents, each in a PDF file:

- Brief bio and motivation letter (max 1A4)
- Portfolio
- Home assignment

### Digital portfolio

Make a digital portfolio of minimal 5 and maximal 15 illustrations. The illustrations can depict every imaginable subject and do not necessarily have to be medical or scientific illustrations.

It can be drawings in traditional techniques (graphite pencil, conté, charcoal, watercolour etc.), but also digital techniques. Scan or make photographs of the drawings in traditional techniques. Email us your illustrations in .jpg or .png format with the maximum size of 1500x1500 pixels (combined in one pdf)).

### Home assignment

The preselection assignment will be sent to you by e-mail. Please send this assignment together with your portfolio and motivation letter as no more than 2 PDF's back to us via [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com) (choose Free Version).

Please clearly mention your name and address information and send your application **1 May 2026 the latest** to the email-address: [msi@zuyd.nl](mailto:msi@zuyd.nl)

Please note that we only admit ca. 8 students per year, and a timely admission is appreciated so that we are able to group candidates for the second phase of our admission process.

| Selection 1: registration before mid-January 2026 |   |                       |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Phase 1   | Portfolio & preselection assignment     | until 31 January 2026 |
| Phase 2   | Admission interview and home assignment | February - March 2026 |

| Selection 2: registration before mid-March 2026 |   |                     |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Phase 1   | Portfolio & preselection assignment     | until 31 March 2026 |
| Phase 2   | Admission interview and home assignment | April 2026          |

| Selection 3: registration before 1 May 2026 |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| Phase 1                                     | Portfolio & preselection assignment     | until 1 May 2026 |
| Phase 2                                     | Admission interview and home assignment | May 2026         |

## Phase 2 | Entrance examination

If you have successfully completed phase 1, you will be invited for the entrance examination. Depending on your situation, this examination will take place either online or at the academy.

### → Interview

During the admission interview you will be tested on your motivation, professional attitude, strengths / weaknesses and suitability for the programme. You will also have the chance to ask questions concerning the assignment and the MSI program.

The interview will be conducted by two teachers, including the programme director.

### → Assignment

Furthermore, you will have to do a practical assignment set by the admission committee; you receive a drawing assignment, for which the exact details are given to you in a briefing at the end of the interview. This assignment involves drawing from observation, some additional scientific details and a layout. You will receive all sources to be able to do them.

### Result phase 2

You will be informed of the result within approximatively 10 working days after the interview. If you are assessed positive, you will be considered *admissible*. As a limited number of applicants is admitted to the master programme, a final selection will take place at the end of May - beginning of June. The selected students will be able to start the Master Scientific Illustration in 2026-2027.

If *selected* for our programme: Provided all necessary steps will be taken to complete your enrolment in Osiris/Studielink, we can welcome you as a student of the Master Scientific Illustration at the Maastricht Institute of Arts for the study year 2026-2027.

### Term of validity for the successful completion of the second phase

Successful completion of the second stage of the selection procedure/application screening process gives students access to the study programme in the academic year following the academic year during which the selection procedure/application screening process took place. If a prospective student does not start on the study programme in the academic year in question, then he/she can register again **before 1 May 2026** and is free to take part once again in the second phase of the selection procedure/application screening process in the following academic year, or refer to the previous assignments carried out.

Admission is valid for the next academic year and is valid for two years.