

Master of Epidemiology

2024-2025

From theory to
practice, with a
**solid methodological
foundation**



University
of Antwerp

| Let's shape the future

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This programme helps me to be more independent and build my own pathway as a future epidemiologist.



In brief

Learn from experts and engage in international classrooms in the Master of Epidemiology. In this two-year programme, you will gain knowledge, skills and competencies to design and conduct epidemiological research. You will learn to translate results into practice and policy to improve the health of people and populations.

In detail

— **What makes people sick?** Certain genes? Certain behaviour? Other determinants?

— How do we best **diagnose** diseases? What are the consequences of a disease?

— How **effective** are interventions in daily practice?

As an epidemiologist you learn to formulate an answer to these questions. You identify the best suited study design in order to achieve the most accurate and least biased answer that is scientifically correct.

Epidemiologists are indispensable

Epidemiology is the discipline that studies the occurrence of health related events and conditions in populations. It focuses on the factors influencing the health condition and on the way diseases spread. As a result, epidemiology is closely related to the field of public health.

Epidemiologists have become **indispensable in:**

— **the design**, performance and analysis of applied medical scientific research

— **the application** of medical scientific knowledge to the development of public health policy.

Apply for a VLIR-UOS scholarship!

Thanks to the support of VLIR-UOS, students from selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America can apply for a **full scholarship** to follow a Master's programme at a Flemish university. We provide 10 full scholarships for the Master of Epidemiology.

The VLIR-UOS scholarship **includes** the tuition fee, air ticket, insurance, visa costs, and a monthly allowance to cover both living expenses and accommodation.



Programme structure

Mix of theory and practice

The first year of this Master's programme focuses on expanding your knowledge in the field of epidemiology, statistics and research methods. You will also become acquainted with the practice by attending seminars and through workplace visits.

In the second year you will mainly focus on your own research for the Master's thesis. You will get to know the different fields of epidemiology, such as infectious disease epidemiology, clinical epidemiology and environmental epidemiology. You will deepen your methodological knowledge in the course Advanced Methods in Epidemiology and learn how to convert theory into practice in the course Public Health, Policy and Practice.

Strong in qualitative research

Qualitative research can be used to place the results of quantitative studies in context or to generate hypotheses that can be tested by quantitative epidemiological studies.

Full-time or part-time

This English-taught programme covers 120 credits, corresponding to 2 years of full-time study. For working students, there is a part-time programme of 30 credits per year. This way working students can complete the Master's programme in 4 years. Important: if you need a student visa to study in Belgium, you are required to follow a full-time programme and take a minimum of 54 credits per academic year.



During lectures there is an active participation from the students who can freely exchange their ideas and doubts with the professors.

Linda, Peru

An international experience

This Master's programme welcomes students from all over the world. All classes are taught in English and international epidemiologists are regularly invited to teach seminars. This programme is an international experience right from the start.

You will have the opportunity to go abroad for a part of your Master's thesis. Our professors have a large international network, but you can also suggest a professional epidemiological institution or public health organisation abroad yourself.



Curriculum

Year 1

Compulsory courses	ECTS credits 60
Classic and Modern Methods of Epidemiology	12
Data Management and Statistical Software	6
Introduction to Statistics	3
Research project part 1	6
Classic and Modern Methods of Data Analysis	9
Metrics: Exposure and Outcome Assessment	3
Research Project part 2	6
Workplace Visits	3
Introduction to Qualitative Research	3
Genetic Epidemiology	3
Applied Research Methods	3
Seminars in Epidemiology 1	3

Year 2

Compulsory courses	ECTS credits 60
Public Health, Policy and Practice	9
Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	6
Clinical Epidemiology	6
Chronic Disease Epidemiology	3
Master's thesis 1: Data Collection and Management	6
Seminars in Epidemiology 2	3
Advanced Methods in Epidemiology	3
Environmental Epidemiology	3
Master's thesis 2: Analysis and Writing	21

Total

ECTS credits 120

Job opportunities

Epidemiologists are mainly employed in **health policy, medical scientific research** or **education**.

The epidemiologist's field has greatly expanded over the last decades. Whereas epidemiologists mainly used to focus on research in preventive medicine and public health, their methodological expertise is increasingly being called upon nowadays.

The Master of Epidemiology is also a good base if you are interested in participating in **clinical, scientific or applied genetic research** as an applied clinical researcher. If you are drawn to the academic world and considering or doing a PhD, the Master of Epidemiology will provide you with a solid foundation. The PhD needs to be linked to the field of epidemiology.

Orientation year

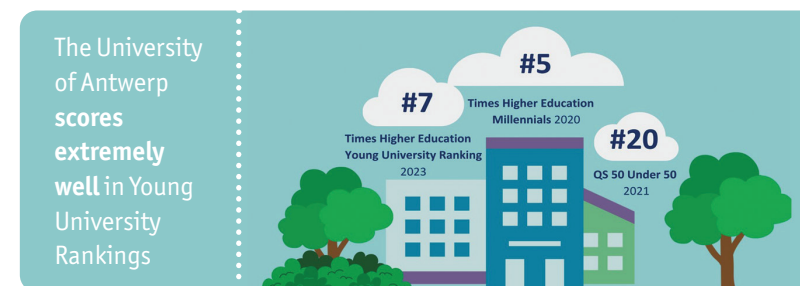
After completing your studies you can choose to look for work opportunities in Belgium. You can apply for an orientation year and extend your stay in Belgium by 12 months. Guidance and administrative assistance with this process is available through the university.

Why choose UAntwerp

Our university is located in the **city of Antwerp**, in the heart of Belgium and Europe. The port of Antwerp is one of the biggest in the world. Antwerp is not just an ancient medieval and baroque city, full of history. It is also a bustling metropolis with a vibrant social scene, impressive architecture and cultural contrasts. Over 170 nationalities live here, more than in New York! This cosmopolitan vibe is also reflected at the University of Antwerp.

First-rate research and education make the University of Antwerp a wonderful place to study and to work. We foster the nexus between research and education. Internationalisation is key to our mission. It is no coincidence that the University of Antwerp is a partner in a highly promising European University Network, the Young Universities for the Future of Europe www.YUFE.eu.

As home away from home to over **20,000 students**, the University of Antwerp prides itself on operating on a human scale. Our faculty and staff will welcome you into top-notch infrastructure on one of our four campuses. While you're here you are also invited to enjoy our vibrant cultural programme, sports facilities and many student services.



Why study Epidemiology in Antwerp?

Focus on epidemiological methods. You will learn how to design research and which methods you can use. You will acquire competencies in statistics.

International classrooms. You will join a group of students from all over the world, with different study backgrounds. This diversity will broaden your view.

Link to public health. Public health is an important area of application. You will learn to identify health problems in society by conducting epidemiological research.

Translate research into policy and practice. Research results are a means to an end. You will also gain insight into how you can convert those results into practice and how this can influence policy.

Green campus and the city within reach. Your classes are held on Campus Drie Eiken, which is located in the green suburban area of Antwerp. You will receive lectures in large, modern auditoriums and practice your skills in well-equipped practical rooms.

Make-over

Campus Drie Eiken is currently **undergoing a real make-over**. A tower and a low-rise building with student rooms, a large bicycle parking area, a space for commercial activities, a brand new sports hall and a student restaurant with 400 extra dining places are under construction. The project should be finalised. Campus Drie Eiken will have a **vibrant heart** and will be a campus that is alive 24/7.





Testimonial

The Master of Epidemiology gave me better opportunities to keep pursuing my career.

I am a medical doctor who graduated from the National University of the Peruvian Amazon in 2015 in Iquitos, the capital of the Peruvian Amazon. Before coming to Antwerp, I was working as a clinical coordinator at hospital sites in Iquitos. While conducting and coordinating studies I realised that my knowledge on research was limited. The little knowledge on Epidemiology that I obtained from medical school was not enough to be involved in the research I am interested in. That frustrated me a lot because I always wanted to be part of the whole process of conducting research, not just in the medical field. So, that encouraged me to quit my job and start this new stage of my career.

What were your impressions of the Epidemiology programme?

I found the study programme to be very well organised. During lectures there was active participation from the students and we could freely exchange our ideas and doubts with the professors. The professors encouraged us to be more proactive and work as a team. This has helped me to be more independent to build my own pathway as an epidemiologist.

What did you think of our city?

The first time I came to Antwerp I was impressed by how clean the city is and how beautiful the architecture is. My favourite spot in Antwerp is when I cross the river by boat. From the river you can have a nice view of the city, especially in spring and summer.



The Belgian people that I know have been very kind, respectful and polite to me, but I can see that it is very important to learn Dutch in order to make close Belgian friends. English is not enough for it.

What can you recommend to future epidemiology students?

Do make friends, exercise and if you have the opportunity to learn Dutch, do so. That will help you to get along in every aspect here and it is always nice to learn another language. Belgian people really appreciate it.

What is your current career, after graduating from the Master of Epidemiology?

I am employed at the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands as a PhD student. My PhD position is linked to Utrecht University. I'm also affiliated at Imperial College London as an honorary research associate where I work mostly on TB-related cost studies.

Linda, Peru

Admission criteria

Prior education requirements

Applicants should hold a **university-level Bachelor's degree**. This degree should be of an **academic nature**, as opposed to a technical or professional degree.

We do not accept students with the following degrees, which we consider to be **technical** or **professional**:

- Bachelor of Agriculture
- Bachelor of Animal Health
- Bachelor of Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Education of Science
- Bachelor of Laboratory Sciences
- Bachelor of Microbiology
- Bachelor of Midwifery
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Nutrition

(This is a non-exhaustive list)



There can be heated debates in class about methodology of a particular research topic. It's normal and constructive.

Mary Ann, Philippines

If you have an additional Master's degree, you are **eligible to apply**.

A degree in Medicine, (Biomedical) Sciences or Public Health gives you a good base for the Master of Epidemiology. However, if you have **another academic background** and feel that you would benefit from more knowledge in epidemiology, statistics and research methods to strengthen your research, you might be the right candidate as well.

Since the programme is taught in **English**, candidates with a prior degree issued outside Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg are required to demonstrate their proficiency in English. They can do so in two ways:

- Either by submitting a **language certificate** showing their TOEFL, IELTS or ITACE results (the level required can be checked on www.uantwerpen.be/admission)
- Or by submitting **proof** they have studied at least one academic year (or 60 ECTS credits) in an English-language Bachelor's or Master's programme.

The Board of Admission may still ask for additional proof of proficiency in English.

Students who are still completing their Bachelor's degree are also encouraged to apply. They have to submit an official letter in English from their university confirming that they are expected to finalise their Bachelor's studies at the end of the current academic year. They should also submit up-to-date authenticated transcripts with their results of the previous years.

Application procedure

Candidates with a **Bachelor's** or **Master's degree** from a higher education institution in Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg can enrol directly. Candidates who do not fulfil this condition or who need a visa must submit an online application through the online application tool **Mobility Online**. Applications files for the academic year 2024–2025 can be started in Mobility Online as from 9 November 2023 onwards.

As a first step, the programme's **Board of Admission** will review their grades, their background in life sciences, research methods, epidemiology and statistics, and their motivation for application.

Application deadlines

To submit an application through Mobility Online

For non-EEA * nationals and for students who need a visa: **before 1 March 2024**

For EEA nationals: **before 1 June 2024**

Enrolment deadline

4 October 2024

Enrolments start on 1 July 2024.

The academic year 2024–2025 starts on Monday 23 September 2024.

* **EEA** = European Economic Area

Member states:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

ECTS credits

The University of Antwerp applies the '**European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System**' (ECTS) in all its degree programmes.

A full-time one-year study programme amounts to **60 ECTS credits** (30 ECTS credits per semester), which implies a student workload of about 1500 to 1800 hours. One ECTS credit stands for 25 to 30 hours of work including contact hours, preparatory work, study and assessment.



Quick facts

Level

Master

Language

English

Credits

120 ECTS credits

Number of years

2

Tuition fee per year *

EUR 1092.10 for EEA nationals

EUR 5800 for non-EEA nationals

Campus

Campus Drie Eiken

Faculty

Medicine and Health Sciences

More information

[www.uantwerpen.be/
master-epidemiology](http://www.uantwerpen.be/master-epidemiology)



* subject to yearly revision

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Questions about the VLIR-UOS scholarship?

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This brochure was published in September 2022.
As all information is subject to change,
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