

VU University Amsterdam



# Master Program Oncology



# From bench to bedside

## **Are you a talented student with an interest in oncology?**

Do you have affinity with scientific research? Then the two-year Master degree program in Oncology at the VU University Amsterdam is definitely the program for you!

## **Improve treatment success and life expectancy**

Each year worldwide around 12,7 million people are diagnosed with cancer\*. At the Cancer Center Amsterdam (CCA), 26 departments cooperate to make sure that patients with (suspicion of) cancer receive the best suited treatment available, as quickly as possible. Despite therapeutic developments, cancer remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Together, we want to improve treatment success, life expectancy and quality of life of cancer patients. Good research forms the basis to achieve this.

During the Master degree program in Oncology, you will be introduced to the current knowledge on the development of cancer and its treatment. You will be learning about the newest discoveries regarding oncology, as well as working on this yourself, not only within, but also far beyond the walls of the CCA.

\*The incidence and mortality statistics for cancers worldwide were taken from the International Agency for Research on Cancer GLOBOCAN database (version 1.2), which presents estimates for 2008.





# General information

## Unique and small scale

The Master program in Oncology at the VU University Amsterdam is a unique program and teaches from the perspective of translational research. The program is designed to equip the next generation of scientists who are eager to understand the causes of cancer and develop novel diagnostics and therapeutic modalities. It is developed by passionate clinical and preclinical scientists who are active in the field of Oncology.

Since it is a small-scale program with a maximum of 40 students that are admitted each year, you can count on intensive and personal guidance and supervision from the program coordinator and the leading researchers and clinicians affiliated with the program.

## Curriculum

The Master program in Oncology at the VU University Amsterdam is a highly flexible program. To a large extent, you are free to decide your own research topics and choose your research locations. The major part of the program consists of practical work in the world of research. You have the opportunity to execute a significant part of the program in one of our leading national and international partner institutes.





# Nature of the program

## Two-year international program

The Master's program in Oncology is a two-year international program, in which practical learning is paramount. There are six compulsory courses and several optional courses. In addition to these courses, there are two internships and a literature review.

## Compulsory courses of the program include:

<b>September</b>	Oncogenesis
<b>October</b>	Tumor Immunology
<b>November</b>	Tumor Biology and Clinical Behavior
<b>December</b>	Innovative Tumor Therapies
<b>January</b>	Biostatistics
<b>January - February</b>	Writing a Research Proposal
<b>Throughout the program</b>	Academic Core

Students are free to choose from several optional courses that are organized by the program such as Life Cell Imaging, Bio-business and Biomedical Proteomics. Students can also take optional courses at other faculties and universities, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

## Internships

For the Minor Internship, students will carry out research at the Amsterdam UMC or at one of our partner institutes in Amsterdam. During the Major Internship, students will conduct research and be trained in important academic skills to prepare them for a career in medical science. Throughout the program, students can rely on the supervision of researchers who are experts in the field.

## The Academic Core

The Academic Core is a component of the Master program which is designed to prepare students for the transition from student to scientist. During this course, students will learn academic elements such as writing a CV, skills required for a job application, presenting in English, visit a career event and participate in a conference. The academic skills are all related to a future career in scientific research or outside academia.

## Career paths

Over half of the master's students start working on their PhD in the first few months after graduating. Due to the versatile master's program, other employers, such as policy makers, have also shown interest in our alumni. There are many other possible career paths including jobs in large pharmaceutical or biotech companies as well as teaching. Five years after the start of the program, approximately 90% of all the graduating students have a job within or outside academia.





# Overview ECTS

## Year 1

**Compulsory Courses**  
30 ECTS

**Minor Internship**  
30 ECTS

**Academic Core**

## Year 2

**Optional Courses**  
12 ECTS

**Literature Thesis**  
9 ECTS

**Major Internship**  
36 ECTS  
*Master Thesis*

**Academic Core 3 ECTS**



**2 year program**  
**120 ECTS**



Since the program provides a lot of opportunities to choose your own subjects for both internships, the literature study and optional courses, you can make your own program as ambitious and diverse as you prefer. I learned to translate my basic knowledge into practical experience, to formulate and answer my own research questions and present my ideas enthusiastically.

Student experience:  
**Inge van der Werf,**  
Alumnus

# Student experiences

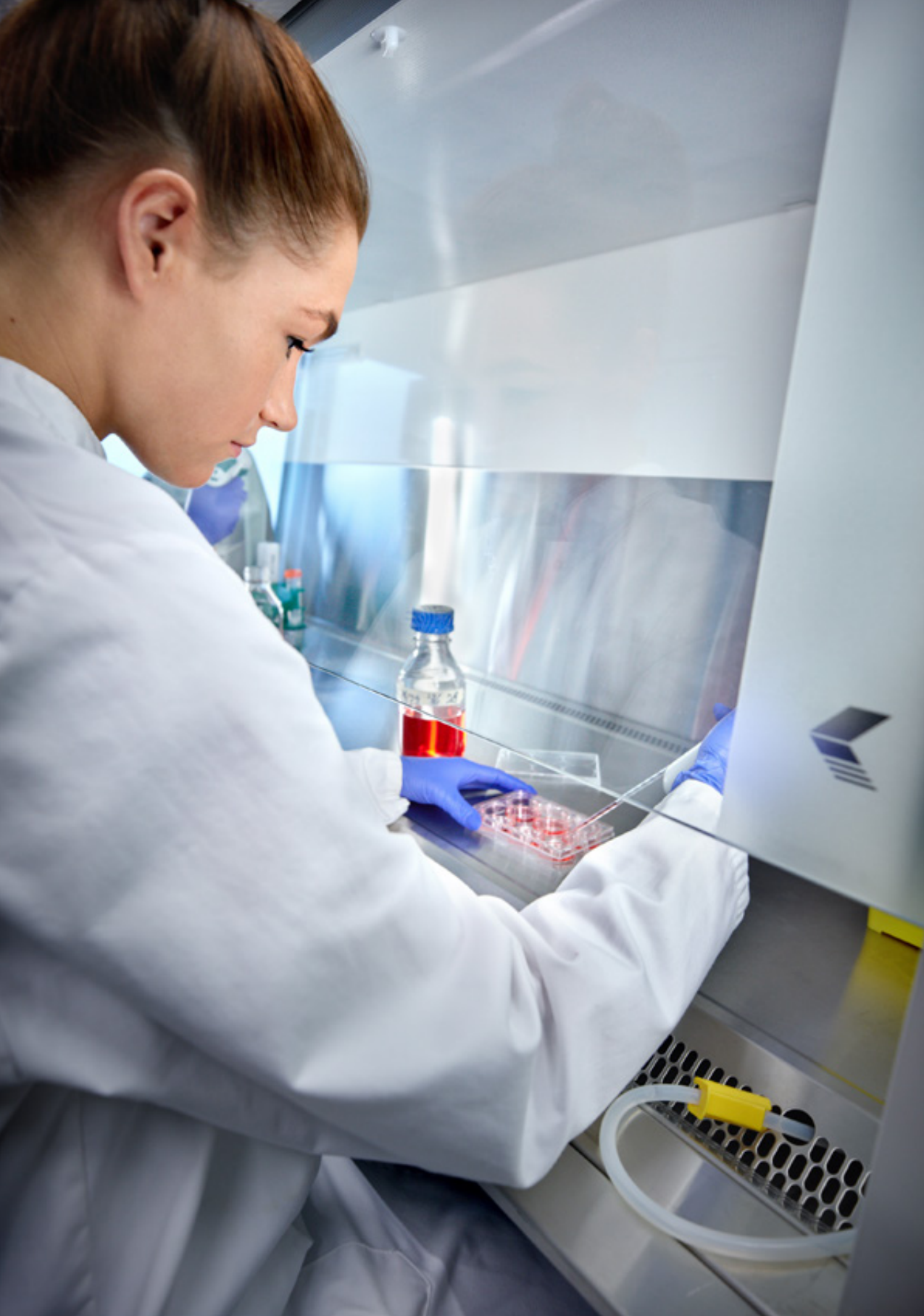
"Our group is very pro-active, motivated and able to help each other in reaching their goals."

"Clinical and pre-clinical scientists teach us inspiring front line research, which provides a broad perspective of opportunities."

"I had a great time during my internship. I have learned a lot in terms of scientific skills but also at a personal level. The people at the department and the master program challenged me to become a better scientist."

"I really like the small scale of this master program, there is a lot of interaction with the lecturers and program management."





Are you interested in  
working on Cancer Research?



Do you have a Bachelor's  
degree in Biomedical Sciences  
or related Life Sciences?

Does the idea of working in  
a multidisciplinary research  
environment appeal to you?



Do you like to work with  
people who challenge each  
other in order to achieve the  
best results?



If your answer is yes, then the VU University  
Amsterdam is definitely **looking for you!**

# Admission requirements

- A Bio-medically or Life Sciences oriented Bachelor's degree
- English language proficiency requirements
- Basic knowledge of the program topic
- Laboratory experience
- Passing the Assessment test of the master program

Check our website for more information about the program and admission & application!

**<https://med.vu.nl/en/Programs/Master-Oncology>**



# Admission procedure

To be part of the Master program in Oncology at the VU University Amsterdam, positive completion of the selection procedure is required.

1. Complete an admission request through Studielink
2. Complete your application in VUnet
3. Upload all required documents
  - Proof of a valid Bachelor's degree
  - Transcript of records
  - Proof of the English language proficiency requirements
  - CV
  - Motivation letter
  - Two reference letters (preferably one from the supervisor of the Bachelor thesis)
4. Register and Participate in the assessment test



## Contact

### **Program coordinator**

Master programs

Cardiovascular Research and Oncology

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### **Visiting address**

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Van der Boechorststraat 7

1081 BT Amsterdam

The Netherlands

**Further information at:**

**<https://med.vu.nl/en/>**

**Programs/**

**Master-Oncology**