



Honours Programme Delft

Delft University of Technology

Honours Programme Master ME

2024-2026

All rules mentioned in the *Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER)* and *Rules and Guidelines of the Board of Examiners (RGBE)* are leading. This explanatory document is intended as a supplement and has a practical approach to the effect on article 10 of the *OER* and article 32/32A of the *RGBE* of all master's degree programmes of the ME faculty.

Honours Programme ME director

Dr.-Ing. Cornel Thill

Honours Programme ME coordinator

Dr. Filippo Tosi

Contact information & Social Media

TUD Honours Programme Delft (HPD) homepage	https://www.tudelft.nl/onderwijs/opleidingen/honours-programme-delft-hpd
TUD Study Programme Administration (SPA > Registration form HPM)	https://www.tudelft.nl/studenten/contact/study-programme-administration
Faculty ME Honours Committee email	honourscommittee-ME@tudelft.nl
Faculty ME Honours Programme homepage	https://www.tudelft.nl/en/student/faculties/ME-student-portal/education/honours-programme
Brightspace Honours Programme ME	https://brightspace.tudelft.nl/d2l/home/42767
Brightspace Honours Programme Delft Masters	https://brightspace.tudelft.nl/d2l/home/46145
HP Linktree	https://linktr.ee/honoursprogrammetudelft
HP Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/HonoursProgrammeDelft/
HP X	https://x.com/honoursdelft
HP Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/honoursprogrammetudelft/

Introduction

The Honours Programme Masters (HPM) is an additional programme for outstanding MSc students who are looking for an extra challenge. Students will have the chance to dive into a specific topic and/or broaden their knowledge by following interdisciplinary courses or doing a research or design project. This can be done individually or in collaboration with internal or external partners. An academic supervisor from the TU Delft must always be involved.

The main goal of the Honours Programme is to stimulate ambition and talent through extracurricular activities. The HPM student decides how to fill in their programme; the initiative lies with the student. The opportunity to get the most out of your studies also means that more time needs to be spent on your studies. Since 20 extra ECTS have to be earned in 1.5 years, students should count on spending in average about 9 extra hours of studying per week during their MSc programme.

Participation in this programme fosters your abilities in:

- Scientific and intellectual development;
- Research and design skills;
- Collaboration and communication;
- Self-reflection and self-management;
- Having a scientific network.

As a participant in the Honours Programme, the student can be part of the HPD Community. If the student likes to be involved with this community and is interested in receiving the newsletter, please email board-hpd@tudelft.nl.

In terms of organisation and content, the Honours Programme of the faculty ME is managed by the Honours Committee ME, consisting of the director and the coordinators of the Honours Programme, resp. Dr.-Ing. Cornel Thill and dr. Filippo Tosi.

Admission and registration

Admission requirements

Students of the faculty ME can register for the Honours Programme Masters ME if they meet the following requirements (TER – article 10):

1. At least 25 EC credits are obtained during the first semester of the first MSc year, including all obligatory courses from the exam programme;
2. A weighted average of at least 8.0. Students having a weighted average between 7.5 and 8.0 can apply when they provide an elaborated rationale in their motivation letter. The Honours Committee ME will then decide on individual basis.

Please note: meeting these requirements does not mean the student is directly admissible to the Honours Programme Masters ME.

Registration

The registration period for the Honours Programme Master 2023-2025 is from 15 December 2024 until 15 February 2025.

- First-year Master's students can apply by sending their approved **MSc Individual Study Programme** ([Form 2](#)), their **Osiris list of grades** of semester 1 (including their weighted average – to be requested at SPA-ME@tudelft.nl), their obligatory and dedicated **motivation**

letter and their **Curriculum Vitae** (CV). These documents can be sent via email (attached as separate PDF files) to honourscommittee-ME@tudelft.nl.

- The motivation letter should indicate why the student would like to participate in the programme, what fascinations or passions they would like to explore in their honours programme, and how they would like to do this within their programme.
- After checking the admission requirements and registration documents, the Honours Commission ME decides whether the student is admissible to the Honours Programme Master ME. Review of the admission requirements is done based on the established figures in Osiris with the reference date, 15 February 2025. It is possible that the student will be invited for a personal interview to further explain their motivation.

HPM content

The Honours Programme Master starts in the second semester (February) of the first academic year of the MSc programme. It consists of – at least – 20 EC, *in addition* to the regular 120 EC MSc programme (or 180 EC in the case of MSc Technical Medicine). Courses which are already included in the MSc curriculum (Form 2) can therefore **not** be included in the Honours Programme.

The programme consists of a TUD organised interfaculty part (5 EC) and a ME faculty part (15 EC). In order to obtain the Honours Certificate, the Honours student must complete the programme during the nominal duration of the study, i.e. within the two years of the MSc programme (or 3 years in the case of MSc Technical Medicine).

TUD interfaculty programme (5 EC)

The interfaculty part of the programme consists of 5 EC and is organised centrally by the university. To fulfil these interfaculty credit requirements as part of the Honours Programme Master, students are required to pick one of the following courses:

- Technological Expertise in Public Debate (UD2010);
- Business Leadership for Engineers (UD2012);
- Materials in a Sustainable Society (IFHPM0010); Leadership Skills for Engineers (IFHPM0020).

More information on the HPM interfaculty courses can be found in the [Studyguide](#).

These courses are exclusively open to participants of the Honours Programme Master. They provide students with the unique opportunity to develop themselves beyond the borders of their faculty and their field of study. Inspiring professors and lecturers organise classes in which various themes will be approached from an inter- and/or multidisciplinary perspective.

For questions regarding the interfaculty programme, please contact HPD@tudelft.nl.

Faculty programme (15 EC)

The faculty part of the Honours Programme Master consists of 15 ECTS and is organised by the faculty ME. The student writes an HPM proposal in which the content of their individual HPM programme is defined. Before the start of the faculty programme, the HPM proposal is submitted to the Honours Committee ME for approval. Approval is given to proposals with a coherent and challenging study programme. The components must have sufficient academic depth in order to realise a substantial addition to the regular programme.

To achieve completion of the (minimum of) 15 EC, the HPM proposal may consist of:

1. Following master courses;
2. Through an internal or external research or design project of 15 ECTS, supervised by an academic supervisor from the Delft University of Technology;

3. A combination of master courses and a project (the minimum number of credits for a project/research assignment is 5 ECTS).

The academic TU supervisor does not have to be a full professor, but they must be a member of the scientific staff of the TUD. For questions regarding the faculty programme, please contact honourscommittee-ME@tudelft.nl.

It is possible to make changes during the programme, but these changes must first be approved by the Honours Committee ME. Students can highlight the changes in their HPM proposal and email the file to honourscommittee-ME@tudelft.nl.

TUD specialisation

The HPM-specialisation is a way to give shape to the faculty part of your Honours Programme Master. However, the contents of a specialisation are not organised by the faculty ME. There is a maximum amount of spots available. Therefore, students need to go through a selection procedure. You can only apply to a specialisation once you've been officially accepted to the Honours Programme Master ME.

At the moment, there is one specialisation available:

4TU.Responsible Sustainability Challenge

The 4TU.Responsible Sustainability Challenge provides an opportunity to work with students from other Dutch universities to solve real-life sustainability challenges. The technical universities involved are the University of Twente, Eindhoven University of Technology, and Delft University of Technology.

Some highlights of this specialisation:

- This project aims to approach the development and implementation of sustainable technology in a multidisciplinary manner, with an emphasis on energy, materials and ethics;
- Each group (multidisciplinary, 5-8 students) chooses a topic that is related to developments in technology aiming at increasing sustainability in society; topics in this project relate to the Green Deal of the European Union;
- Leadership skills: students formulate their own challenge and look for their own experts;
- External stakeholders adjust the challenge to the real-life casus, ensuring relevance to the here-and-now, non-academic context;
- Academic experts safeguard the quality, scope, and feasibility.

For more information, please visit the [website](#) or contact HPD@tudelft.nl.

Brightspace

After the student has been accepted for the HPM ME, they will be registered for two Brightspace pages, one faculty page and one interfaculty page. On [Faculty ME Honours Programme](#) the Honours Committee of the faculty ME shares information with both HPB and HPM students, for example regarding the mandatory progress meetings. The student will also be registered for the [Honours Programme Delft Masters](#) page, where information can be found concerning the central HP organisation of the TU Delft. They post updates on summer courses, interfaculty courses, or other activities and opportunities that may vary each year.

Assessment of courses, assignments, research or design projects

The *courses* will be assessed according to the learning objectives of these courses. Examination and learning objectives are drawn up by the responsible lecturer and can be found in the Studyguide.

For the Honours Programme Master, only courses at a Master's level are accepted. There is only one exception to this rule, which is when basic knowledge in a particular field of study is lacking. In that case, an additional Bachelor course might be approved.

Research or design projects must have an academic Master's level and are assessed by a TU Delft supervisor on the basis of previously agreed criteria and credits. The final level must at least be comparable to a MSc final project and take the learning outcomes of the Honours Programme Master into account. These learning outcomes can be found in the Appendix.

HPM Completion

Grades for TUD courses are entered in Osiris by the lecturers involved. Grades for projects are entered by the director of the Honours Programme ME. The student completes the grade registration form with their TUD supervisor, after which the student needs to send the form to honourscommittee-ME@tudelft.nl. Within approximately 5 working days, the form will be checked and grades will be uploaded. Grades obtained at institutes outside of the TU Delft can be submitted to the student administration (SPA-ME@tudelft.nl) by means of a certificate or certified copy of the grade/diploma.

The Honours Programme Master ME is finalised with a symposium in June of the second year, in which all Honours students give a short pitch on their work within the Honours Programme and present an academic poster. This is a public meeting to which fellow master students, friends and family, as well as third year bachelor students are invited.

After completing the credits of your Honours Programme Master ME, a registration form must be submitted to notify the Honours Committee ME. If the entire Master programme *and* the entire HPM ME is completed within two years (or three in the case of MSc TM), the Board of Examiners will award the Honours student, in addition to their Master's degree, the *Honours Programme Master Certificate*. It is not necessary to have an average of 8.0 or higher for the Master's and HPM programme.

For the successful completion of the Honours Programme Master ME, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. The final exit qualifications of the Honours Programme Delft, see Appendix;
2. The requirements set in article 32 / 32a of the RGBE;
3. Active participation and presence at all obligatory meetings.

In a limited number of cases, due to personal circumstances or through external force majeure, you can request an extension from the ME Examination Board.

HPM Timeline

During the Honours Programme, a number of meetings will be organised to discuss progress, possible bottlenecks and other experiences in the framework of the Honours Programme. The timeline below is indicative and intended for Master students who start the ME Honours Programme Master (HPM) in 2023-2024.

MSc YEAR 1 (2024-2025)				MSc YEAR 2 (2025-2026)			
Semester 1 (autumn/winter)		Semester 2 (spring/summer)		Semester 1 (autumn/winter)		Semester 2 (spring/summer)	
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	(HPM Information session for new students) ~November/ December	HPM MEETING 1 KICK OFF ~February/Mar ch		HPM MEETING 2 PROGRESS ~November		HPM MEETING 3 REFLECTION ~February/ March	HPM MEETING 4 FINAL SYMPOSIUM June

There is a mandatory attendance at all ME HPM meetings listed above. Each meeting is primarily aimed at sharing and reflecting knowledge and gained experience. There is also ample opportunity for discussion on general aspects of the Honours Programme and for questions.

- HPM meeting 1 Kick-off: The HPM programme kicks off with information about expectations and helps with a good start of the HPM programme.
- HPM meeting 2 Progress: The second meeting focuses on the HPM students sharing their chosen topics and progress so far with each other via interviews. We also consider the progress of the interfaculty courses.
- HPM meeting 3 Reflection: The third meeting focuses on reflection and collaboration through short presentations.
- HPM meeting 4 Final Symposium: This is the celebration and finalisation of the HPM programme.

Contact & Forms

For more information regarding the faculty part of the Honours Programme Master and the specific structure of the curriculum, please contact: honourscommittee-ME@tudelft.nl.

For more information regarding the interfaculty part of the Honours Programme Master, please contact: HPD@tudelft.nl.

Relevant information and forms for the Honours Programme ME can be found via the [student portal](#) of the faculty ME, headline *Honours Programme MSc*.

Appendix - Exit qualifications for the Honours Programme Master (HPM)

The Honours Programme Master (HPM) offers students the possibility of deepening, broadening, and enriching their knowledge in addition to their regular master's programme. The value of the honours programme for students is reflected by attaining the following exit qualifications. The TUD master programmes that offer the HPM aim for students to fully comply with the exit qualifications of their regular master's programme, as well as attaining at least eight out of the following eleven HPM exit qualifications, in accordance with the following division:

- I. "Scientific and intellectual development"; two out of three exit qualifications have been met;
- II. "Research and design capabilities"; one out of two exit qualifications have been met;
- III. "Communication"; two out of three exit qualifications have been met;
- IV. "Self-adjustment and reflection capabilities"; all three exit qualifications have been met.

I. Scientific and intellectual development with regard to the individual HPM programme

The student:

1. Is able to build a coherent structure within their HPM programme;
2. Possesses knowledge of and skills necessary for fact-finding, methods and technical practice, including model building within the relevant field of study. The student has the skills and attitude to apply these methods to the content of their HPM programme in a creative, innovative, and independent manner;
3. Is capable to analyse current scientific and societal consequences (economic, social, cultural, environmental) of new developments in relevant fields of study and is able to integrate these into their HPM programme.

II. Research and design capabilities

The student:

1. Is able to work on different abstraction levels and is capable of identifying and applying the appropriate abstraction level to their HPM programme;
2. Is able to contribute to the developments within their chosen field of (applied) science, within the content of their HPM programme.

III. Communication

The student:

1. Is able to formulate independent points of view based on their HPM programme and is capable of communicating them in a clear and concise manner;
2. Has contributed to the spreading of knowledge through activities geared towards scientific publications and/or speeches, popularising of science, education, or other forms of contribution to the popular debate;
3. Is able and possesses the appropriate attitude to draw other fields of study into their research or design process.

IV. Self-adjustment and reflection capabilities

The student:

1. Is able to formulate and argue the merits of their goals and outcomes of their HPM programme. The student is able to argue and judge their own growth potential by participating in the HPM programme;

2. Is able to identify new insights that might alternate the content of their programme and is able to adjust accordingly;
3. Is able to plan properly between requirements for the HPM programme, the regular MSc programme, and any additional requirements needed to complete the HPM programme. The student is able to incorporate the HPM successfully into their regular MSc programme.