FAQ postponement DS&AI

POSTPONEMENT

Why is the start of the new master DS&AI postponed?
The postponement of the new master DS&AI is due to two reasons. The first, and most important, reason is that the master has to be accredited by the NVAO before the TU/e can and may start the new Master program. Accreditation requires, among other things, a visitation by a panel. While NVAO and all other parties involved are working hard to have this panel visit take place as soon as possible, the originally planned dates for the panel visit had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 crisis. This postponement makes it impossible to guarantee that the master program will be accredited in time for the start of the new academic year. We are working hard with the NVAO to complete the accreditation visit as soon as possible.
In addition, many M&CSe lecturers are involved in the preparation of the new DS&AI master, the accreditation and its implementation. The sudden switch caused by Covid-19 to online and off campus education has slowed down the development of a number of new courses that are part of the new master program. Because the TU/e stands for high quality education, we cannot complete all the preparations as quickly as we originally planned.
Considering everything around Covid-19, we have revised our original plan. We now aim to start the new master program Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in September 2021 (academic year 2021-2022).

Can you give a definite date for the start of the master DS&AI?
The new master DS&AI will not have its accreditation before the start of the academic year 2020-2021, thus the master program will not start at/during the academic year 2020/2021. We are now working on completing the accreditation as soon as possible and – assuming the accreditation succeeds – plan to start the master in September 2021, i.e. academic year 2021-2022.

My planning was to start next September (2020) with the master DS&AI. That is not possible now. What do you recommend?
In preparation of DS&AI we already started updating several of the existing courses and already created some new courses in the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence domain. These courses begin with the course codes 2AM... in the course catalogue and are also part of the existing Data Science in Engineering (DSiE) track.
We are updating the program guide of DSiE (see below: ‘Studying DS&AI within DSiE-track) to explain how you can study most of the program trajectories and expertise areas of DS&AI within DSiE.

Will it be possible to also start in February 2022 for the new master?
Once accredited, the new master program will start in September 2021. We are currently exploring whether we can also allow students to start in February. Our current plans only allow one starting moment, i.e. always in September at the start of the academic year.

Is there a minimum number of students needed to start the master DS&AI in September 2021?
No. The start of the master program DS&AI does not depend on the number of student enrollments. Once the program is accredited, we will start in September 2021.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Will the admission requirements of the master DS&AI change?
We have no intention to change the admission requirements for DS&AI, that are described in the first FAQ. However, to achieve the necessary level of prior knowledge in Data Mining and Machine Learning, we advise everyone to take the course 2IIG0 Data Mining/Machine Learning. The definitive, detailed list of admission requirements can only be published after the program has been accredited.
Joint Bachelor Data Science students who take at least two of the following subjects as electives in the bachelor can be admitted to the new master’s program (with the remaining subjects as homologation subjects). Taking all subjects as electives allows admission without homologation subjects. Courses covering these subjects are also included in two coherent elective packages (Computer Science for Data Science, Data Modeling Foundations):

- Linear Algebra
- Logic and Set Theory
- Data Modeling and Databases
- Data Structures
- Data Mining and Machine Learning

Does this postponement mean that a pre-master will be available for this master from September 2020?

A pre-master program can only be offered after the program has been accredited, which means no pre-master program for DS&AI can be offered from September 2020. Students interested in studying Data Science and Artificial Intelligence can still enroll in the pre-master for Data Science in Engineering, which allows you to enroll in the Data Science in Engineering track until the beginning of summer 2021.

**STUDYING DS&AI WITHIN DSIE**

Will any of the DS&AI courses be offered next academic year? Can I choose these courses as electives?

Yes, all DS&AI courses that will be readily developed by September 2020 will also be offered as part of the DSiE track, either as core course or as stream elective. The diagram below shows how the DS&AI program trajectories embed into the DSiE track.

If I start next September with the track DSIE, can I (still) switch to the master DS&AI next year? How much study delay will this cause?

Switching from any existing master program (including the DSiE track) to DS&AI requires that you satisfy all admission requirements for DS&AI; see the first FAQ on the admission requirements and our current plans for enabling and supporting switching. The DS&AI master program has several mandatory core courses that will only be offered when the new master starts. Depending on your study program, this may cause a delay in studying of up to one year.

Is it worth waiting for the master DS&AI? Or should I choose the DSiE track? Or the new AIES track from the TU/e?

The DSiE track contains most of the subjects of the new master program DS&AI and you can follow most of the DS&AI trajectories. However, the DSiE track does not contain more specific and advanced subjects on Artificial Intelligence and the application of AI and Data Science in context. These will only be offered from
September 2021 onwards. If you are primarily interested in highly specialized AI subjects and their context, you should wait. You will also receive a different diploma after following the track DSiE than when following the master DS&AI, as explained in the former FAQ.

More information about the track AIES of the TU/e can be found here.

I don't want to wait for the DS&AI master, what can I do to find a new master as soon as possible?
- AI Engineering Systems track;
- Consult studielink.

What does this delay mean for the track DSiE? Will it last longer now? Or will it not be offered from next September?
The plans for the DSiE track do not change. We are still working on receiving accreditation for the new master program as soon as possible. The academic year after we receive the accreditation, students can no longer enroll in DSiE. Our current plans are that from September 2021 onwards, you can no longer enroll in DSiE. Any student who enrolls in DSiE before September 2021 will be able to complete their study program.

FUTURE PROGRAM

Will the curriculum of the master DS&AI stay the same?
Yes, the curriculum of the master DS&AI will be as we planned it to be, possibly with additional electives.

Will there be more stream electives since there is more time now?
Besides ensuring that we can offer all planned courses for DS&AI at the expected level of quality, we are also working on offering additional courses in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. We will inform about which additional courses can and will be offered as the course catalogue for the academic year 2021-2022 will be prepared.

If I start with the DSiE track now, will it be possible to get a double degree with DS&AI later?
Studying for a double degree with DSiE and DS&AI falls under the same rules as for all master programs of TU/e’s Graduate School. You will have to satisfy all core courses and elective courses from both programs, acquire sufficient ECTS from each program. Further, you will have to either write a separate master thesis in each program or a joint, larger thesis for both programs. Which option applies will be decided by the Examination Committees of both Master programs.