Choosing the right programme

Three-step process

Choosing the right study programme can be a daunting process. Luckily, there are three steps which can help you in this choosing process namely: inspiration, information and confirmation.

1. The first step entails deciding what you really like. Asking your parents, guardian or friends for help can be useful during this process. They can help by creating structure and assist you in making an overview of this process. Start with making a list of requirements.

Ask yourself concrete questions, such as “What do I like to do? What makes me happy?”. Write the answers down, for example “I want to solve problems” or “I love Maths”. Make them more specific: “I want to be an expert in data analytics” or “I want to develop games.” Asking yourself questions such as “What makes me procrastinate? What do I not see myself doing?” and “Which courses do I not like?” can also help with narrowing down all the available study programmes. It is also important to take your practical limits into account, such as the requirements, your budget, the language of the programme and the travel time to get there. Start with your practical limits and the things you do not like will help and from there work towards what you like in order to establish which study programmes are most suitable for you.

2. After the first step, inspiration, it is important to gather information. This can be done online, by attending a campus tour, visiting the university open days and by signing up for student-for-a-day. Come prepared: “What do I already know?” and “What do I want to know?” to make sure you receive the right information.

3. Inspiration and information will help you with the last step, namely confirming which programme is most suitable. You can make your final choice by listening to what really appeals to you, where do you feel most at home. Remember that all studies will incorporate things that you do not like, the right motivation and the right environment and people around you, will keep you going at times like this.

Why study CSE @TU Delft?

Studying Computer Science and Engineering at the TU Delft means that you will learn to tackle and solve problems at an analytical level from an engineering perspective. Questions such as: “Why has this been done in this way?”, “Is there a better way of doing it?”, and “Can I demonstrate that my current method is the optimal way?” will be answered and understood by applying theories. As a research university, TU Delft focuses on answering ‘why’ questions and requires you to plan and organize your study independently. Although all computer science programmes at research universities in the Netherlands share considerable overlap in courses, they can differ in their educational philosophy or engineering approach. The programme at TU Delft combines the scientific foundations of engineering with group assignments and extensive project work.

Whereas research universities teach students the underlying principles of programming languages, universities of applied sciences (HBO) have a more practical orientation and are more focused on learning and applying a range of widely used programming languages. In other words, universities of applied sciences focus more on answering the ‘how’ questions. Students who want to build, are practically oriented and prefer less self-study and more guidelines and structure are thus more suited to a university of applied sciences.

Today's ICT job market has a high demand for both types of graduates. Thus, it is important to choose the university and the programme that is most suitable to your character, interests and learning needs.
Curriculum
The curriculum of the first year at TU Delft entails quite a bit of mathematics. For this reason, it is important that you like maths and are reasonably good at it. If maths is not your strong suit, we recommend you to consider a university of applied sciences or to choose a different study programme at a research university and to consider taking a minor in the field of computer science.

The first year entails more practically oriented software courses where you will work in project groups and learn to program, for instance, Java. More abstract courses like mathematics and systems will teach you more about reasoning, structures, vectors and matrices. In the data courses you will learn more about programming, websites and databases. If you like to puzzle, solve problems in an analytical way and want to learn more than just programming then this is the right programme for you!

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The second year contains compulsory courses and allows you to choose between three so-called variants of 15 ECTS each, namely multimedia, systems or data. At the end of year 2, you will work in a small team with fellow students on a large software project, where you will develop software for an external stakeholder. In your final year, you can broaden or deepen your knowledge with a minor or go on exchange, choose three electives and finish the programme with the research project.

What typifies a TU Delft student?
The study programme is designed with a certain academic attitude in mind. The following skills and way of thinking characterize a TU Delft student:

- Analytical engineers with a critical mind-set
- Curious problem-solvers
- Open-minded team players
- Independent and pro-active learners

Programmes at the TU Delft are intense and require students to spend about 40 hours a week on their programme. This includes 10 hours of lectures, 12 hours of laboratory courses and projects and 18 hours of self-study. An emphasis is placed on independent study and personal responsibility. This means that you need to plan your work well, prepare properly for lectures and practical sessions and make every effort to obtain good results. Although lecturers and teaching assistants are there to guide you in the learning process, you will spend most of your time studying individually. Self-discipline and responsibility are thus essential skills, as it is your own responsibility to stay up to date with the material.

Matching & Selection Procedure
To ensure the quality of the bachelor degree programme Computer Science and Engineering at TU Delft, a Numerus Clausus (fixed capacity) has been introduced. For the academic year 2019 - 2020 this capacity is set at 500 new bachelor students. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2019. More information about the exact procedure can be found on the website and in the brochure which can be downloaded from there.

Admission requirements
You must register yourself in the Dutch national application system Studielink before January 15, 2019 in order to participate in the matching & selection procedure. Here you can find the admission requirements and what a complete application entails. Please note that it takes time to obtain a login for Studielink, to collect the required documents and to complete your application, so it important to start in time as all deadlines are fixed.
Binding Study Advice (BSA)

Admission to the programme means that you fulfilled the entry requirements. The Matching and Selection procedure attempts to make a good match between your capabilities and the requirements of the programme, but admission to the programme is no guarantee for success. To ensure that there is a fit between the student and the programme all Dutch universities are required by Dutch law to issue a Binding Study Advice (BSA). This BSA determines whether you may or may not continue with your program based on the amount of ECTS you obtained during your first year. At TU Delft this means that you have to obtain at least 45 to 60 ECTS in your first year. Students who obtain fewer than 45 ECTS will receive a negative BSA. This implies that your registration for the programme will be terminated and you will not be allowed to register for the same programme for the upcoming four years. In previous years the number of students who have been allowed to continue with the BSc CSE programme and received a positive BSA was between 60-75 %. On average about 67% of students have received a positive BSA (excluding the students who quit before the 1st of February).

Study duration

It is also important that you are aware of the consequences of not achieving the full 60 ECTS in your first year of study. Although achieving 45 ECTS allows you to continue your studies, it will most likely result in a study delay. Most students who receive 45 ECTS in the first year take four years or longer to obtain their bachelor degree.

Extracurricular activities

The introduction period consists of activities for the upcoming Computer Science & Engineering first year students in Mid-August and the OWee week, which is for all the upcoming TU students. During your studies, TU Delft offers a wide range of Sports & Culture activities to explore yourself and expand your playground. Christiaan Huijgens (CH) is the study association of Computer Science & Engineering and represents the interests of students and organises study-related activities. Students can also join a student association to get to know more people outside of their own study programme and take part in additional activities.

More information

BSc Computer Science & Engineering TU Delft
- Degree programme
- Student experiences
- Career options
- Practical matters and guidance
- FAQ

Enrolment or admission requirements
- Website
- FAQ
- Central Student Administration

Information for parents