Communication and Information Studies

Discourse and Communication Studies

uva.nl/ma-discourse-communication-studies
This unique one-and-a-half-year interdisciplinary programme combines discourse analysis and argumentation theory. It will provide you with a solid foundation for understanding language and its argumentative purposes. You will study verbal communication in genres such as parliamentary debate, political speeches, legal decisions, legislative debates, drug advertisements, doctor-patient consultations, mediations, negotiations and academic research papers. Moreover, you will be trained in analysing and evaluating the discourse in these genres using insights from discourse analysis, argumentation theory, rhetoric, genre theory and stylistics.
Career prospects

This Master's will equip you with the skills and insights necessary for any career involving the critical analysis, evaluation, and production of argumentative discourse. This includes evaluating and commenting on texts (e.g. as an MP or lawyer's assistant), writing persuasive texts and policy documents, and rewriting texts for presentation. Typical career options include: speech writer, communications specialist, debate trainer, journalist, editor. You can opt to continue your studies with the Research Master's in Argumentation, Rhetoric and Communication.

Argumentation and communication in health (6 ECTS)

In this course we will investigate the argumentative and stylistic properties of the medical consultation, health brochures and consumer medicine advertisement. How does the institutional context affect the type and structure of the argumentation and the verbal presentation of the information and argumentation? Institutional constraints that are characteristic for the medical domain are, for instance, the patient's right to informed consent, the ideals of patient centredness and shared doctor-patient decision making.
Entry requirements

The Dual Master’s in Discourse and Communication Studies is open for application to all students with a university Bachelor’s diploma in the:

- Humanities
- Social Sciences

The level of the Bachelor’s diploma from a foreign higher education institution must be equal to three years of Dutch university education. For more information, please check: uva.nl/ma-discourse-communication-studies > Application and admission