Admission and Enrolment Regulations for the master course in data science at the University of Münster dated 17 February 2026

Pursuant to Sections 2(4), 49(6) and 64(1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act – HG) in the version of the Higher Education Future Act of
16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 19 December 2024 (GV. NRW. p. 1222), as well as Section 10(6) of the Act on Admission to Higher Education in North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Admissions Act – HZG) of 29 October 2019, last amended by the Act of 3 November 2021 (GV. NRW. p. 1180), the University of Münster has issued the following regulations:

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1. Section: Admission to the master course in data science – General provisions

§ 1
Scope

These regulations govern admission to the master course in data science with the specialisations

- Mathematical and Computational Data Science,
- Data Science in Physics
- Data Science in Chemistry
- Pharmaceutical data science

at the University of Münster.

§ 2
Dates, Deadlines and Documents

(1) 1The admission and enrolment procedure takes place before the start of the winter or summer semester. 2The application for admission must be submitted to the Student Secretariat at the University of Münster. 3The deadlines for submitting the application are governed by the Regulation on the Allocation of Study Places in North Rhine-Westphalia (VergabeVO NRW) and the Regulations Governing Admission Matters at the University of Münster. 4Applications must be submitted via the University of Münster's online application portal. 5Applicants must submit or upload the following application documents across all specialisations:

1. Evidence of a first professional qualification in accordance with the following regulations. If a degree certificate is not yet available at the time of application, a provisional certificate must be submitted, which must include at least the grades for the first five semesters (at least 120 credit points). If the university does not issue a provisional certificate, a Transcript of Records will suffice for the time being. The final degree certificate must be presented upon enrolment in the event of admission.
2. Proof of foreign language proficiency in accordance with the following regulations.
3. Where applicable, evidence of sufficient German language proficiency in accordance with the following regulations.
4. Where applicable, further documents as evidence of the criteria specified in the regulations for the respective specialisations.

(2) 1The application for admission shall be rejected if it is not received by the deadline. 2The application may be rejected if the documents referred to in paragraph 1 or the following regulations are incomplete.

§ 3
Admission without a selection process

If the number of applicants who meet the approval requirements does not exceed the number of study places available under the admission restrictions, applicants eligible for admission to the respective specialisations shall be admitted without further examination.

§ 4
Selection Committee

(1) A joint selection committee comprising full-time members of the departments will be formed by the departmental councils of Departments 10, 11, 12 and 14 to determine the entry requirements and conduct the admissions procedure.

(2) 1The selection committee consists of

- Two representatives each from the group of academic staff specialising in the respective subject areas
- One representative from the group of academic staff in the respective specialisation areas.

2A deputy shall be elected for each member. 3The committee shall appoint a chair and a deputy chair from among its members who are university lecturers. 4The dean of studies of Department 10 shall issue the invitation to the first meeting and appoint a chairperson for the meeting until a committee chairperson has been elected. 5The term of office for members of the Selection Committee is one year. 6Re-election is permitted.

(3) 1The Selection Committee shall constitute a quorum if at least eight members, including the Chair or their Deputy, are present, provided that at least one academic staff member per specialisation or their respective Deputy is also present. 2In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote; in their absence, the Deputy shall have the casting vote.

(4) 1The meetings of the selection committee are not open to the public. 2The members of the selection committee are bound by professional secrecy.

(5) Minutes shall be taken of the Selection Committee’s deliberations, discussions and decisions.

§ 5
Determination of approval requirements

(1) 1The Selection Committee or a full-time member of Department 10 appointed by it shall determine, on the basis of the documents and certificates to be submitted with the application, whether the applicant meets the approval requirements in accordance with the regulations laid down for the respective specialisations. 2In cases of doubt, the relevant subject representatives must be consulted before a decision is made.

(2) If an applicant is deemed not to meet the approval requirements, the reasons must be documented.

2. Section: Admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Mathematical and Computational Data Science

§ 6
approval requirements

(1) 1In addition to the general requirements for enrolment, admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Mathematical and Computational Data Science requires the successful completion of a relevant degree programme with a standard duration of at least 6 semesters, leading to a Bachelor's degree or another professionally qualifying qualification (Diploma, state exam(ination), etc.). 2A degree programme relevant to the subject area within the meaning of sentence 1 is a degree programme in the following fields:

- Bachelor's in Computer Science
- Bachelor's in Mathematics
- Bachelor's in data science
- Bachelor's in Statistics

at a German or foreign higher education institution. 3A degree programme related to those listed in paragraph 1, sentence 2 (Computer Science, Mathematics, data science or Statistics) at a German or foreign higher education institution is also relevant, provided that it meets the requirements set out in paragraph 2. 4Degrees from universities outside the European Union are assessed for equivalence by the student office. 5In cases of doubt regarding the equivalence of degrees from countries outside the scope of the Basic Law, an expert opinion on the equivalence of the degrees is sought from the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

(2) For the specialisation: Mathematical and Computational Data Science in the data science degree programme, the following minimum requirements must have been met in the relevant Bachelor's programme in accordance with paragraph 1:

- At least 120 credit points must have been earned in the fields of mathematics, computer science, statistics or data science.
- Of these, at least 40 credit points must be demonstrated in the core foundational areas, of which 20 credit points must be in the mathematics areas of 'Analysis', 'Linear Algebra', 'Discrete Mathematics' or 'Numerical Methods', and a further 20 credit points in the statistics areas of 'Descriptive Statistics', 'Probability Theory' or 'Inferential Methods', or in the computer science areas of 'Algorithms', 'Data Structures', 'Programming/Software Engineering' or 'Theoretical Computer Science'.
- The remaining 80 credit points must be obtained from other relevant courses in mathematics, computer science, statistics or data science.

(3) 1A further requirement for admission to the master course in data science – specialisation: Mathematical and Computational Data Science is proof of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). 2Proof of sufficient English language proficiency may be provided by submitting a relevant certificate. 3Relevant in the sense of sentence 2 are, for example, TOEFL, IELTS, CAE tests or comparable evidence. 4Proof is not required for applicants whose native language is English, or who have already completed a Bachelor's degree programme conducted entirely in English.

(4) An applicant shall not be admitted to the master course in data science – Mathematical and Computational Data Science if they have definitively failed an examination in the master course in data science.

§ 7
Selection procedure

(1) Applicants will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The mark stated on the certificate in accordance with § 2(1), sentence 5, no. 1 is assigned a score of between 0 and 60.
2. Further qualifications relevant to the master course in data science – mathematical and computational data science are awarded up to 40 points. In doing so, at the selection committee's discretion, special prior qualifications, practical experience, and extracurricular achievements and qualifications that help determine subject-specific aptitude are awarded up to 40 points.

(2) The following scheme shall be used when awarding points in accordance with paragraph 1(1):

Grade	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
Point value	60	58	56	54	52	50	48	46	44	42	40

Grade	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Point value	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20

Grade	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0
Score	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0

(3) 1The scores referred to in paragraph 1 are added together. 2A ranking list is drawn up based on the scores thus determined.

(4) 1Applicants are admitted to the available places, starting with the highest score. 2In the event of a tie, the ranking is determined by drawing lots.

3. Section: Admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Data Science in Physics

§ 8
approval requirements

(1) 1In addition to the general requirements for enrolment, admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Data Science in Physics requires the successful completion of a relevant degree programme with a standard duration of at least 6 semesters, leading to a Bachelor's degree or another professionally qualifying qualification (Diplom, state exam(ination), etc.). 2A degree programme is considered relevant within the meaning of sentence 1 if it is in the following degree programmes

- Bachelor's degree programme in Physics

at a German or foreign higher education institution. [3]Also relevant is a degree programme in a subject related to paragraph 1, sentence 2 (e.g. Physics with specialised fields of study, a two-subject Bachelor's degree combining Physics and Mathematics, or another degree programme for teaching at grammar schools/comprehensive schools with this combination) at a German or foreign higher education institution, provided that it meets the requirements set out in paragraph 2. 4Degrees from universities outside the European Union shall be assessed for equivalence by the Student Registry. 5In cases of doubt regarding the equivalence of degrees from countries outside the scope of the Basic Law, an expert opinion on the equivalence of the degrees shall be obtained from the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

(2) For the specialisation: Data Science in Physics within the Data Science degree programme, the following minimum requirements must have been met in the relevant Bachelor's programme in accordance with paragraph 1:

- at least 30 credit points in the field of experimental physics
- at least 30 credit points in the field of theoretical physics
- at least 30 credit points in the area of expertise of Mathematical Foundations
- at least 20 credit points in the area of expertise for physics practicals

(3) 1A further requirement for admission to the master course in data science – specialising in data science in Physics is proof of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). 2Proof of sufficient English language proficiency may be provided by submitting a relevant certificate. 3Relevant certificates within the meaning of sentence 2 include, for example, TOEFL, IELTS, CAE tests or comparable evidence. 4Proof is not required for applicants whose native language is English, or who have already completed a Bachelor's degree programme conducted entirely in English. 5Applicants who have previously completed the Bachelor's degree programme in Geophysics or Physics at the University of Münster may also demonstrate their English language proficiency by providing a certificate confirming that their Bachelor's thesis was written in English and that the final presentation on the Bachelor's thesis, followed by a discussion, also took place in English.

(4) An applicant will not be admitted to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Data Science in Physics if they have definitively failed an examination in the master course in data science.

§ 9
Selection Procedure

(1) Applicants will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The mark stated in the certificate in accordance with § 2(1), sentence 5, no. 1 is assigned a score between 0 and 60.
2. Further qualifications relevant to the master course in data science – data science in Physics are awarded up to 15 points. In doing so, at the discretion of the selection committee
    a) completed vocational training or professional experience in a recognised vocational profession that helps to assess subject-specific aptitude will be awarded up to 5 points,

b) special prior training, practical experience, extracurricular achievements or extracurricular qualifications that help demonstrate subject-specific aptitude (e.g. work or research-related placements, academic publications and awards during school or university), with up to 10 points,

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(2) When awarding points in accordance with paragraph 1(1), the following scheme shall be used:

Grade	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
Point value	60	58	56	54	52	50	48	46	44	42	40

Grade	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Point value	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20

Grade	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0
Score	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0

(3) 1The scores referred to in paragraph 1 are added together. 2A ranking list is drawn up on the basis of the scores thus determined.

(4) 1Applicants are admitted to the available study places, starting with the highest score. 2In the event of a tie, the ranking is determined by drawing lots.

4. Section: Admission to the master course in data science – Focus: Data Science in Chemistry

§ 10
approval requirements

(1) 1In addition to the general requirements for enrolment, admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Data Science in Chemistry requires the successful completion of a relevant degree programme with a standard duration of at least 6 semesters, leading to a Bachelor's degree or another professionally qualifying qualification (Diplom, state exam(ination), etc.). 2A degree programme is considered relevant to the subject area within the meaning of sentence 1 if it

- in the Bachelor's degree programme in Chemistry

at a German or foreign university. 3A degree programme in a subject-related (Chemistry) degree programme at a German or foreign university is also relevant, provided that it meets the requirements set out in paragraph 2. 4Degrees from higher education institutions outside the European Union shall be assessed for equivalence by the student office. 5In cases of doubt regarding the equivalence of degrees outside the scope of the Basic Law, an expert opinion on the equivalence of the degrees shall be obtained from the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

(2) For the specialisation: Data Science in Chemistry within the Data Science degree programme, the following minimum requirements must have been met in the relevant Bachelor's programme in accordance with paragraph 1:

- at least 80 credit points in the field of Chemistry,
- at least 70 credit points in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics and computer science
- of the total 150 credit points mentioned above, at least 6 credit points must be from the field of quantum mechanics/Theoretical Chemistry and at least 5 credit points must be from the field of mathematics.

(3) 1A further requirement for admission to the master course in data science – specialisation: data science in chemistry is proof of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). 2Proof of sufficient English language proficiency may be provided by submitting a relevant certificate. 3Relevant in the sense of sentence 2 are, for example, TOEFL, IELTS, CAE tests or comparable evidence. 4Proof is not required for applicants whose native language is English, or who have already completed a Bachelor's degree programme conducted entirely in English. 5Applicants who have previously completed the Bachelor's degree programme in Chemistry at the University of Münster may also demonstrate their English language proficiency by providing a certificate confirming that their Bachelor's thesis was written in English and that the final presentation on the Bachelor's thesis, followed by a discussion, also took place in English.

(4) An applicant will not be admitted to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Data Science in Chemistry if they have definitively failed an examination in the master course in data science.

§ 11
Selection Procedure

(1) Applicants will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The mark stated in the certificate in accordance with § 2(1), sentence 5, no. 1 is assigned a score between 0 and 60.
2. Further qualifications relevant to the master course in data science – Specialisation: data science in chemistry are awarded up to 20 points. In doing so, at the discretion of the selection committee
   a) individual marks in quantum mechanics/Theoretical Chemistry with up to 10 points,
   b) individual grades in Mathematics with up to 10 points,

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(2) When awarding points in accordance with paragraph 1(1), the following scheme shall be used:

Grade	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
Point value	60	58	56	54	52	50	48	46	44	42	40

Grade	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Point value	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20

Grade	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0
Score	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0

(3) 1The scores referred to in paragraph 1 are added together. 2A ranking list is drawn up on the basis of the scores thus determined.

(4) 1Applicants are admitted to the available study places, starting with the highest score. 2In the event of a tie, the ranking is determined by drawing lots.

5. Section: Admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Pharmaceutical data science

§ 12
approval requirements

(1) 1In addition to the general requirements for enrolment, admission to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Pharmaceutical Data Science requires the successful completion of a relevant degree programme with a standard duration of at least 6 semesters, culminating in a Bachelor's degree or another professionally qualifying qualification (Diplom, state exam(ination), etc.). 2For the purposes of sentence 1, a relevant degree is a completed

- chemistry-oriented Bachelor's degree programme meeting the requirements listed below

at a German or foreign university. 3A degree programme in a subject area related to paragraph 1, sentence 2 (subject area of Chemistry) at a German or foreign university is also relevant, provided that it meets the requirements set out in paragraph 2. 4Degrees from higher education institutions outside the European Union shall be assessed for equivalence by the Student Secretariat. 5In cases of doubt regarding the equivalence of degrees outside the scope of the Basic Law, an expert opinion on the equivalence of the degrees shall be obtained from the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

(2) For the specialisation: Pharmaceutical Data Science in the data science degree programme, the following minimum requirements must be met in the relevant Bachelor's programme in accordance with paragraph 1:

- at least 9 ECTS credits in the field of organic Chemistry
- at least 5 ECTS credits in the field of mathematics

(3) 1For applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification at a German-speaking institution, a further approval requirement is proof of sufficient knowledge of the German language to enable active participation in the courses. 2Proof shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the DSH examination regulations of the University of Münster. 3Proof is not required for applicants whose native language is German.

(4) 1A further requirement for admission to the master course in data science – specialisation: Pharmaceutical Data Science is proof of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). 2Proof of

evidence of sufficient English language proficiency may be provided by submitting a relevant certificate. 3Relevant certificates within the meaning of sentence 2 include, for example, TOEFL, IELTS
, CAE tests or comparable evidence. 4Proof is not required for applicants whose native language is English, or who have already completed a Bachelor's degree programme conducted entirely in English.

(5) An applicant shall not be admitted to the master course in data science – Specialisation: Pharmaceutical Data Science if they have definitively failed an examination in the master course in data science.

§ 13
Selection procedure

(1) Applicants will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The mark stated on the certificate in accordance with § 2(1), sentence 5, no. 1 is assigned a score of between 0 and 60.
2. Further qualifications relevant to the master course in data science – pharmaceutical data science are awarded up to 40 points. In doing so, the selection committee shall, at its discretion, take into account

a) special prior training, practical experience, extracurricular achievements or extracurricular qualifications that help determine subject-specific aptitude are awarded up to 10 points,

b) work and research-related placements with up to 10 points,

c) and extracurricular courses relevant to the content of the degree programme with up to 10 points

d) and other relevant additional qualifications (e.g. academic publications and awards during school or university) may be awarded up to 10 points

. In cases of particularly outstanding achievement, up to 20 points may be awarded in individual cases for one or more of the above criteria, provided that the total score does not exceed 40.

(2) When awarding points in accordance with paragraph 1(1), the following scheme shall be used:

Grade	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
Point value	60	58	56	54	52	50	48	46	44	42	40

Grade	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Point value	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20

Grade	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0
Score	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0

(3) 1The scores referred to in paragraph 1 are added together. 2A ranking list is drawn up on the basis of the scores thus determined.

(4) 1Applicants are admitted to the available places, starting with the highest score. 2In the event of a tie, the ranking is determined by lot.

6. Section: Final Provisions

§ 14
Conclusion of the procedure

(1) 1If an applicant meets the approval requirements and is admitted to the Master's programme, the rector shall notify them of this and of the allocation of a study place immediately upon completion of the procedure. 2In the case of § 2(1), sentence 5, no. 1, the applicant shall be notified of their admission subject to the condition that the certificate is presented at the time of enrolment.

(2) 1If admission to the master course has been granted on the basis of a ranking list, the rector shall set a deadline for the applicant to submit a declaration as to whether they accept the study place. 2If the applicant declines the study place offered, it shall be allocated to the next-ranked candidate on the ranking list. 3If the applicant fails to submit the declaration referred to in sentence 1 within the acceptance period, this shall be deemed a refusal.

(3) 1If an applicant is not admitted to the course, the rector shall notify them of this and also provide information as to whether the approval requirements have been met. 2If the applicant has met the approval requirements, they shall also be informed of their position on the ranking list and the number of study places allocated. 3The rejection must be justified and accompanied by an instruction on your legal right to appeal.

(4) 1Enrolment at the University of Münster may only take place if the admission notice is submitted to the student office together with the application for enrolment within the specified time limit. 2In all other respects, the University of Münster's Enrolment Regulations, in their currently applicable version, shall apply.

§ 15
Fraud

(1) 1If an applicant has misled the admissions panel or submitted or uploaded false or forged documents during the admissions process, and this fact only comes to light after admission has been granted, the admission shall be revoked. 2Revocation is only possible within two years of the decision being announced.

(2) 1Adverse decisions must be communicated to the applicant without delay, accompanied by a statement of reasons and an instruction on your legal right to appeal. 2Before a decision is made, the applicant must be given the opportunity to be heard.

§ 16
Entry into force

These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices of the University of Münster. They shall apply for the first time to admission and enrolment in the winter semester 2026/2027.

Drawn up on the basis of the resolutions of the Faculty Councils of Faculty 10 – Mathematics and Computer Science (7 January 2026), Faculty 11 – Physics (4 February 2026), Faculty 12 – Chemistry and Pharmacy (15 January 2026) and Faculty 14 – Earth Sciences (17 December 2025) of the University of Münster. The above regulations are hereby promulgated.

It is noted that, pursuant to Section 12(5) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act – HG NRW), a breach of procedural or formal requirements of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia or of the university's regulations or other autonomous law may no longer be invoked one year after this announcement, unless

1. the regulations have not been duly published,
2. the rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the body adopting the regulations,
3. the procedural or formal defect has been previously raised with the university, specifying the legal provision that has been breached and the fact giving rise to the defect, or
4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of objections was not indicated in the public announcement of the regulations.

Münster, 17 February 2026

The rector

Prof. Dr Johannes Wessels