

EXTENDED MASTER ORGANIZATION STUDIES

2020 - 2021



Matching Day information for students

Matching Day Extended Master Organization Studies

On **May 14th, 2020** the Matching Day of the Extended Master Organization Studies program for the edition 2020-2021 will take place! This document provides all the information that you need to know to prepare yourself for the Matching Day.

Please note that participating in the Matching Day is not required for participating in the Extended Master! Likewise, participating in the Matching Day does not mean that you have applied for the Extended Master. The Matching Day provides a moment to get to know the Partner Organizations and their representatives better, but to apply for the Extended Master you need to submit your application package latest on **May 25th** as explained on the [Extended Master Organization Studies website](#).

Matching Day

The Matching day is the moment in which you can informally meet the Partner Organizations. Because of the current crisis, this will happen digitally. Each Partner Organization has their own digital meeting place, and you will meet with representatives of each Partner Organization by going from meeting to meeting – just like speed dating! You will be given a schedule that shows which organization you meet when.

Specifically, the time table is as follows:

14:45 - 15:00 time to login to the plenary meeting space

15:00 - 15:05 Kickoff

15:05 - 18:00 Speed dates

Preparation

You need to register for the Matching Day, which you can do by sending an email to the Secretariat of the Department of Organization Studies (secretariaatow@tilburguniversity.edu) indicating your presence. The deadline for registration is **May 7th**.

To prepare yourself for the matching day, we will upload a booklet containing the names and descriptions of all the partner organizations on the website of the Extended Master by May 1st. We further recommend you to check the websites of the specific Partner Organizations and look up the contact persons.

Notice that some organizations would like to know beforehand who's coming to the Matching Day. If you are willing to share your CV with the organizations beforehand, then please send your CV in PDF to the Coordinator of the Extended Master, Hans van Dijk (j.vandijk1@tilburguniversity.edu), by May 7th. We will share all CVs with the Partner Organizations. Think carefully about how to design your CV in order to stand out.

Tips & Tricks

By far the most important suggestion for you is to think carefully about what kind of organization would be the best **match** for you. Some organizations tend to be much more popular than others because they are well-known, large organizations. But familiarity is a poor basis for a (working) relationship. Think about celebrities: although they may look appealing and you may feel like you already know them, you

should really think twice before marrying them - if only because you may not be the best match for them ;-)

So think carefully about who you are, what you have to offer, and what you are looking for in your development. And based on that, try to find the organization that provides the best match.

For some this may be becoming part of a well-structured organization with clear rules and responsibilities; whereas for others it may be becoming part of a flexible organization where you have the freedom to create your own space.

For some, this may be becoming part of a large, complex organization where you can focus on a specific area of interest (i.e., become a specialist); whereas for others it may be becoming part of a small organization where you can be involved in many different areas (i.e., become a generalist).

For some, this may be having a supervisor who you interact with a lot and who helps and coaches you; whereas for others it may be being autonomous and working independently.

For some, this may be becoming part of a very formal organization; whereas for others it may be becoming part of a much more informal organization.

It would be best to first think about this before exploring the Partner Organizations. Take a moment and list for yourself who you are and what kind of work environment and experience would be best for you. Only after doing that, have a look at the company descriptions in the booklet and explore their webpages.

Because meeting in person (or digitally) is still one of the best ways to figure out if there is a match, during the Matching Day, we organize the information market such that you will talk with all Partner Organizations. Or even better: have the opportunity to listen to them. By listening to what they say and how they say it you will not only get an impression of what type of work you can do there, but you can also get an impression of the organizational climate and if that would really be a good match

Further, you may want to think about how you can stand out during the matching day. It will be the place where you will give a first impression, so think about how you can make a first impression that lasts and makes them remember you. *Prepare a pitch, dress in a way that describes you, be proactive, be friendly, show that you know what the organization stands for and has to offer...* these are a few examples of ways in which you can make a good first impression.

Think also carefully about what questions you are going to ask. You don't want to ask "What do you have to offer?" That makes you come across as unprepared. Questions about a topic for the master thesis may also be a bit premature given that February 2021 is still many months from now. A better question would be what their approach is to deciding a topic for the thesis: Will they give you a few options that you have to choose from, or are you at liberty to choose a topic by yourself? And will they be involved in it, or do they consider it to be "your thing"? Furthermore, you probably do want to ask what kind of projects you can work on, and if they are sufficiently challenging. So make sure you ask for examples! However, while doing that, keep in mind that you may want to know more about them, but they also want to know more about you. Try therefore to refrain from an interview-style of asking questions and instead try to engage in a conversation that is mutually informative.

The aftermath

We give you a bit more than one week to contemplate on what organizations you want to apply to. Whereas you may feel like you're competing with your fellow students for limited spots, we recommend you to talk and discuss with them as much as you can. Listen to their reasons and arguments to apply for some organizations, and ask them which organizations they think would best suit you. The choice that you will make will affect you for a full year, so you'd better make use of all the advice you can get!

Last but not least: Have fun! The Matching Day will be over before you know it, but may be the starting point for the rest of your career, so make sure that you savor each moment!

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F.A.Q.

I'm international. Can I participate?

Yes you can, but most organizations require you to speak Dutch. The number of organizations that you can choose from is therefore limited. We will indicate on the website and in the booklet which organizations are eligible for international students.

I cannot attend the Matching Day. Can I still participate in the Extended Master?

Yes you can! To participate in the Extended Master you need to sign up by sending your two applications by May 25th latest.

I am not sure if I will finish my Bachelor/PreMaster in time. Can I still participate?

You can only participate in the Extended Master when you are enrolled in the Master Organization Studies. Finishing your Bachelor/PreMaster is therefore a prerequisite. However, in case there is a chance of you finishing your Bachelor/PreMaster and being able to start the Master Organization Studies in September, then don't worry and just apply for the Extended Master. In case you are selected by a company in June or July but in the end for some reason are unable to start the Master Organization Studies, then that is unfortunate but there are no consequences for you. Just indicate it in your application interview, and then it is the risk of the organization in case they hire you.