

ELLIS Amsterdam MSc Honours Programme

ELLIS offers an honours programme for talented MSc students at the University of Amsterdam, allowing them to connect with leading researchers and top-tier academics in their field. To become an ELLIS honours student, you are expected to approach an [ELLIS member](#) at the University of Amsterdam to supervise you for a research project. With your Amsterdam supervisor, you will start a collaboration with an ELLIS member at an ELLIS partner institution outside of the Netherlands (host institution), and conduct your Msc thesis under their joint supervision. During your thesis project, you will spend (a minimum of) two weeks at the host institution¹, sponsored by the ELLIS Amsterdam honours programme. Students admitted to the ELLIS honours programme that finish the degree cum laude will be awarded an ELLIS Amsterdam MSc honours certificate.

What does the ELLIS Amsterdam honours programme offer?

The ELLIS Amsterdam MSc honours programme allows you to connect with excellent researchers in your field, and covers up to 4000 euro of expenses to visit your co-supervisor at an ELLIS partner institution outside of the Netherlands. Students that successfully finish the ELLIS honours programme will get the opportunity to present their MSc thesis work at an ELLIS workshop organised for ELLIS honours students and will be awarded an *ELLIS Amsterdam honours certificate* if they graduate cum laude.

Who can apply?

The ELLIS Amsterdam honours programme is open for excellent MSc students obtaining a degree in artificial intelligence, computer science, computational linguistics or related fields. Applications are open for students who are in their second or third semester, and have a grade point average of at least 8.0 and no single grade lower than 7.0. Students in their fourth semester that have already started their Msc thesis with an ELLIS member at the University of Amsterdam are eligible to participate in the ELLIS honours programme if:

- They can demonstrate that they have started their research with this member *before* starting their thesis, and
- have already established a connection with an external supervisor at a different ELLIS site, who has agreed to co-supervise their thesis project, and
- are still on track to graduate cum laude.

We encourage strong applications from women, people of color, LGBTQ people and members of other marginalised communities.

How can I apply?

To apply for the ELLIS Amsterdam honours programme, you should find an ELLIS member at the UvA to supervise you, and a second ELLIS member at a different ELLIS site outside of

¹ If COVID restrictions do not allow actual visit to your co-supervisor, also virtual visits are permitted.

the Netherlands to co-supervise you. After you have done that, you can apply for the programme by sending a filled out application form to ellisinfo-science@uva.nl, along with a one-page CV and a screenshot of your grades of your master (all grades of the first semester must be available). Below, you can find step-by-step instructions that walk you through the process.

Applications will be evaluated on the quality of the applicant as well as the suitability of the project and collaboration, and the contribution to diversity.

Step-by-step application instructions -- second or third semester

Step 1. Establish that you are eligible to apply for the ELLIS honours programme

To be admitted to the ELLIS honours programme, you should have finished all courses in your first semester, and you should have an average grade point average of at least 8.0 and no single grade below 7.0. Establish that you satisfy these constraints and take a screenshot of your grades that proves this. If you do not satisfy these constraints, you cannot apply to the programme.

Step 2. Identify a potential supervisor

Step two in the application process is to find a suitable supervisor. To do so, start by having a look at potential supervisors at the [people page](#) of the ELLIS Amsterdam website. All ELLIS members at the University of Amsterdam can serve as potential supervisors. To find out more about the research topics of the different researchers, check their website and publications, to which links are provided under their photo.

Step 3. Approach a potential supervisor

After you have identified a potential supervisor, you can approach this supervisor to ask them if they have the time and are interested in supervising you. We recommend you to send an email in which you briefly explain something about your research interests and why you are excited about working with this supervisor, and attach your CV and grades to this email. If you have the opportunity to first talk with your prospective supervisor in person, this may help you to capture their interest. If your prospective supervisor agrees to supervise you, you can move to step 4.

Step 4. Find a second supervisor

Now that you have found a supervisor at the UvA, your next step is to find a second supervisor at a different ELLIS institution abroad. You should find your second supervisor in consultation with your UvA supervisor. Your supervisor will likely have some suggestions, but you are free to suggest potential second supervisors yourself as well. A list of [all ELLIS members](#), which are eligible to be a second supervisor, can be found at the ellis.eu webpage.

Step 5. Write a research proposal

Together with your first and potentially also second supervisor, you can now write a brief research proposal of maximally 250 words, in which you describe the research that you will

conduct with them. Put the research proposal in the application form, and collect (digital) signatures of both your supervisors

Step 6. Submit your application

To submit your application, send an email to ellisinfo-science@uva.nl, containing the following items **as one merged pdf file**:

- The form, filled out
- A transcript with your grades so far in the MSc.
- A one-page CV

Step-by-step application instructions -- fourth semester

Step 1. Confirm that you are eligible to apply for the honours programme

In some cases, you can also apply for the ELLIS honours programme if you are already in your fourth semester. Before you apply, confirm that you meet the following criteria:

- You have a grade point average of at least 8.0 and no single grade lower than 7.0.
- You have conducted a research project with an ELLIS member at the University of Amsterdam.
- You have started (or are about to start) your Msc thesis project with the same supervisor.

If you satisfy these constraints, take a screenshot of all your grades until now in datanose. If you do not satisfy these constraints, you cannot apply for the ELLIS honours programme

Step 2. Find a second supervisor

To be admitted to the ELLIS honours programme, you should have a co-supervisor at a different ELLIS site. Before you start searching this supervisor, consult with your UvA supervisor and confirm that they are open to supporting your application. Your supervisor will likely have some suggestions, but you are free to suggest potential second supervisors yourself as well. A list of [all ELLIS members](#), which are eligible to be a second supervisor, can be found at the ellis.eu webpage.

Step 3. Write a research proposal

Together with your first and potentially also second supervisor, write a brief research proposal of maximally 250 words. This proposal can include the work you have already done in your research project, but should also outline what you are working on in your thesis. Put the research proposal in the application form, and collect (digital) signatures of both your supervisors.

Step 4. Submit your application

To submit your application, send an email to ellisinfo-science@uva.nl, containing the following items **as one merged pdf file**:

- The form, filled out
- A transcript with your grades so far in the MSc.
- A one-page CV

Step 5. Start to plan your visit

As you are already in your fourth semester, you should already start to plan your (virtual) visit to your supervisor.

What are the requirements for receiving the ELLIS Amsterdam Honours Programme Certificate?

Requirements to receive the certificate are:

- You were admitted to the ELLIS honours programme (see above);
- You have conducted a research project under supervision of an ELLIS member at the University of Amsterdam and can show that either by a grade in your grade list or by a publication (arxiv publications and submitted papers are also permitted);
- You have conducted your MSc thesis under joint supervision of an ELLIS member at the University of Amsterdam and another ELLIS member at an institution outside of the Netherlands;
- You have done a (virtual) research visit of at least two weeks to the partner institution of your co-supervisor;
- You graduated cum laude.