The Pre-Medical Program

Start your career in medicine at University College Roosevelt

www.ucr.nl
Are you thinking about starting a medical career but are also interested in other academic disciplines? University College Roosevelt’s Science Department has a special Pre-Medical Program. Besides general courses in the Life Sciences, such as Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, students are offered several courses with a specific focus on medical aspects, including Functional Anatomy, Infection and Immunity, Pharmacology and Mechanisms of Disease.

It is important to note that UCR’s Pre-Medical program is not designed as a specific training program in the medical profession. The Pre-Medical Program consists of a set of courses from the Biomedical and Life Sciences tracks. These two tracks are embedded in a Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum.

At UCR, students are offered a broad and rich academic background. Subjects such as Mathematics, Research Methods and Statistics and a second foreign language are required parts of the program. In other words, UCR is particularly looking for students whose interests go beyond the medical profession. If the thought of combining courses in Biomedical and Life Sciences with courses in Psychology, Ethics, Law or even Art History, Computer Science or Music appeals to you, UCR may be the right place for you to study!
The Pre-Medical Program consists of the following courses:

- SCI 131 Introduction to Life Science
- SCI 191 Introductory Science Laboratory
- SCI 226 Biochemistry
- SCI 231 Molecular and Cell Biology
- SCI 232 Functional Anatomy
- SCI 234 Human Physiology
- SCI 261 Mechanisms of Disease
- SCI 291 Life Science Laboratory (Recommended for SUMMA and AKO)
- SCI 332 Cellular and Molecular Physiology
- SCI 337 Pharmacology
- SCI 362 Infection and Immunity
- SCI 363 Molecular Pathology and Genetics
- SCI 369 Psychobiology

After graduating from the Pre-Medical Program at UCR, students will need to apply to medical master’s programs of their choice. Examples of programs that UCR Pre-Medical graduates have pursued are:

- Selective Utrecht Medical Master (SUMMA) – Utrecht University
- Drug Innovation – Utrecht University
- Infection and Immunity – Utrecht University
- Arts-Klinisch Onderzoeker program (AKO) – Maastricht University
- Clinical Molecular Science – Maastricht University
- Bio-pharmaceutical Sciences – Leiden University
- Biomedical Sciences – Leiden University
- Clinical and Molecular Neuroscience – University of Groningen
- Medicine – Durham University
- Ph.D. program – Sir William Dunns School of Pathology/Medical Sciences Division (Oxford University)
- Cambridge Graduate Course in Medicine – Cambridge University
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Research Ph.D. – University of Edinburgh
- Life Sciences – University of Edinburgh

It should be noted that acceptances at medical master’s programs are not guaranteed; admission usually depends on performance in entrance exams, interviews, letters of reference, etc. Over the past years, Pre-Medical students have completed the entrance tests for SUMMA and AKO, and one to two thirds have been accepted to these programs.

Interested?
Contact the program coordinator at info@ucr.nl, or call +31-(0)118-655500.
Student and Alumni profiles

Elena Stoyanova
When I started studying at University College Roosevelt I wanted to explore different life science sub-disciplines before making a decision in which field to continue. The Pre-Medical track offered me a solid background for a further research master program, something I was initially interested in. But it wasn’t until my second year that I also felt passionate about the medical subjects. Because of the clinical courses I decided to go for a semester abroad as an exchange student to see whether a medical master program was the right fit for me. I chose the University of Antwerp and I loved the experience: the lecturers, the clinics and the surgeries. It was a great but challenging opportunity for me, given that Dutch isn’t my native language. The highly motivational environment during my bachelor program gave me a great head start and personal insight for the future. A year later, I was admitted for the Selective Utrecht Medical Masters (SUMMA) from which I have graduated as a medical doctor and master of science. It was the career path I dreamed of.

Anneliene Jonker
Currently I am a fourth year Ph.D. student, studying Ewing’s sarcoma, at Institut Curie, Paris. At University College Roosevelt I finished several Pre-Med courses, as well as obtained solid bases in mathematics and anthropology. At UCR, I learned that I had a curious nature and a strong interest in moving medical research forward. For this reason I entered a biomedical science research master, continuing my research in rare tumours. This eventually led me to a Ph.D. program doing full time research. I am currently working on several projects which have interdisciplinarity as a common denominator. All of these projects combine cell biology, genetics, mathematics and biochemistry. UCR really did form me when it comes to taking on multidisciplinary projects and the broad background that UCR taught me serves me every day!

Bonnie van Wilgenburg
I currently hold a post-doc position at the Prof. Klenerman Laboratory in Oxford. During my degree at UCR I gained the knowledge I needed in order to start a Ph.D. degree in immunology and infection. The education, guidance and supervision provided by the lecturers at UCR are exceptional. Moreover, due to the interdisciplinary and international nature of UCR, I not only specialise in biomedical sciences, but also gained knowledge in other subjects and got to travel the world, benefiting my career as a researcher today.
In addition to following the courses offered by UCR, I completed various research internships in collaboration with other national and international research institutes. Firstly, at the Erasmus Medical Centre (Holland), in the group of Prof. Hoeijmakers, I studied microRNA’s and their role in cancer and DNA damage. Secondly, at the Scripps Research Institute (California) I worked in the lab of Dr. Morris to determine if there are short interfering RNAs (siRNAs) that can drive transcriptional gene silencing in HIV-1. Thirdly, during an internship at the Leiden University Medical Centre (Holland) in the group of Prof. Wiertz, I studied naturally occurring mutants of BNL2a. These research opportunities gave me sufficient practical lab experience in order to skip doing a master program, and rather start doing a Ph.D. straight away.

Eelleo Meijer
By the time I reached the final year of my secondary school, I realized that I wanted to get accepted to the Selective Utrecht Medical Master (SUMMA) and tailored a plan accordingly. Therefore, I applied for the Pre-Medical Program at University College Roosevelt and was accepted after my scheduled talk with the Dean. I chose all Pre-Medical and laboratory courses to be fully prepared for applying to SUMMA at the University Medical Center Utrecht. Subsequently, after graduating from UCR cum laude I was one of the students to successfully complete all application stages and get accepted to SUMMA.
The combination of UCR employing the American system, the Academic English courses, my cum laude UCR diploma and the wonderful help from UCR faculty in writing reference letters all got me to where I am now: I graduated from SUMMA and was accepted for a Ph.D. trajectory at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA.

Linda Olsthorn
UCR gave me the possibility to combine my interest in medicine with my interest in psychology and neuroscience. I follow the Pre-Medical Program in combination with the cognitive science track and some psychology. This combination at UCR taught me to have a broad approach towards problems and brain diseases. During the long break in the winter I did an internship at the Daniel den Hoed clinic organized by a professor from UCR, which was an amazing way to get some experience in the practical research field. Together with another student I analyzed the correlation between the flu, cancer patients and vaccination. The Pre-Medical Program prepares me for a research master in neurosciences, which I hope to do in the future. The Pre-Medical Program and UCR give me the perfect background for such a master.

Sjoerd Verschoor
I am currently a second year Pre-Medical student at University College Roosevelt. Initially I wanted to do a regular medical bachelor in The Netherlands, but unfortunately I did not get through the ‘numerus fixus’ procedure. As a solution for one year I came across UCR. After I had been shown around, I applied and was accepted. The first semester at UCR was very exciting and ignited a broader and more international interest. This made me decide to complete the full program rather than apply for a regular bachelor again. Besides the education offered by UCR, which I deem of high quality, I believe UCR is a great place because of all the additional activities it offers. Student associations provide numerous opportunities in your field of interest, and the long holidays are ideal for arranging helpful activities like internships. After UCR I am still not sure whether I want to do a medical master abroad or in The Netherlands, so I’m very glad UCR holds both doors open for me.