

FAQ

(Version 2026-01-07)

**Master of Science in Applied
Artificial Intelligence (MAAI)**

**Heilbronn University of
Applied Sciences**

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1. General Information about the Program

What is the MAAI program?

The *Master of Applied Artificial Intelligence (M.Sc.)* is an English-taught, interdisciplinary study program focusing on both practical and research-oriented applications of Artificial Intelligence. It is jointly offered by three faculties and forms part of the *School of Applied Artificial Intelligence (SAAI)*.

When does the program start?

The first intake will be in **Summer Semester 2026** (lectures begin in March 2026).

How long does the program take?

The standard period of study is **3 semesters (full-time)**, comprising a total of **90 ECTS credits**.

Is the program online?

No. The program is an **on-campus program** at Heilbronn University of Applied Sciences.

Digital elements may be included, but it is **not** a distance-learning program.

Further Information:

👉 <https://www.hs-heilbronn.de/en/applied-artificial-intelligence-master>

2. Application & Deadlines

When does the application period begin?

- **Summer semester:** from mid-November, application deadline January 15
- **Winter semester:** from mid-May, application deadline July 15

Please note: Only complete applications received before the deadline can be considered.

Why can't I see the MAAI program in the application portal yet?

The program will only appear in the portal once the application phase has officially started.

Where do I apply?

- Application Master HHN: <https://www.hs-heilbronn.de/de/bewerbung-master> – official portal
- International Degree-Seeking Students: <https://www.hs-heilbronn.de/en/international-degree-seeking-students>
- Admitted International Degree-Seeking Students: <https://www.hs-heilbronn.de/en/admitted-international-degree-seeking-students>

Which documents are required for the application?

- Bachelor's certificate & transcript of records
- Proof of English proficiency
- APS certificate (for applicants from China, Vietnam, India)
- Recognition of certificates (Studienkolleg Konstanz, via email)

Applicants with a **German bachelor's degree** do **not** need recognition via the Studienkolleg Konstanz.

Optional:

- Letter of motivation
- Letter of recommendation

Can I apply if my bachelor's degree is not yet completed?

Yes. You may apply with a **provisional certificate** or a **current transcript of records** (e.g., up to the 6th semester).

The final degree certificate must be submitted **by the time of enrollment**.

3. Number of Study Places

How many study places are available?

- The program is **restricted in admission**. Only a limited number of places are available per semester.

4. Admission Requirements

Is there a GPA cut-off (Numerus Clausus)?

No. The program does not have a fixed GPA limit, but a **minimum grade of 2.5 or better** (German grading system) is required.

What are the formal admission criteria?

- First university degree (Bachelor or equivalent) with **at least 210 ECTS**
- For 180 ECTS → admission **with conditions** possible (completion of up to 30 ECTS before registering for the master's thesis)

Subject relevance: minimum **50 ECTS** in the following areas:

- Mathematics

- Computer Science
- Artificial Intelligence
with

at least 10 ECTS per area.

Minimum grade: 2.5 or better (German grading system) or **ECTS grade B**

English proficiency:

Proof by one of the following certificates:

- IELTS \geq 6.0
- TOEFL iBT \geq 75
- Cambridge CAE \geq 170 / B2
- Oxford Test B2 (in all modules)

Certificates must not be older than **4 years** at the time of application.

Is a Medium of Instruction (MoI) certificate sufficient?

An MoI certificate **may be reviewed and possibly accepted** by the admission committee during the selection process.

This applies if the entire degree was completed **fully in English**.

However, **no binding pre-approval** can be given.

The **final decision** rests solely with the **admission committee** during the official selection process.

5. Consideration of Previous Master's Degrees

Does my existing master's degree count?

Formally, the **first qualifying degree** (bachelor's or equivalent) is decisive.

However, relevant modules from a subsequent master's program (e.g., Mathematics, Computer Science, AI) may be reviewed and **considered for subject compatibility**.

6. Missing ECTS / Completion of 30 Additional ECTS

What does "completion of 30 ECTS" mean?

If your degree comprises only **180 ECTS**, you may be admitted conditionally but must **complete the missing 30 ECTS** before registering your master's thesis.

This can be achieved through **additional university modules or recognized certificate courses**.

The **admission committee** decides on recognition **on a case-by-case basis**.

7. Recognition of Certificates / Studienkolleg Konstanz / APS

How are international certificates recognized?

All applicants with **international degrees** require recognition from the **Studienkolleg Konstanz**.

Recognition is granted via **email confirmation**, which is sufficient for the application and must be submitted along with your documents.

A postal certificate is **not required**.

Applicants with **German bachelor's degrees** or from **EU/EAA countries** do **not** need to submit recognition via the Studienkolleg Konstanz.

A **VPD from uni-assist** is **not automatically accepted**.

Difference between Uni-Assist (VPD procedure) and Studienkolleg Konstanz

Applicants holding a university degree obtained outside Germany must have their academic documents officially recognized as part of the application process.

At Heilbronn University, there are two equivalent options to obtain this recognition:

Uni-Assist (VPD procedure)

Uni-Assist e. V. is a nationwide service organization based in Berlin that checks the formal equivalence of international degrees on behalf of German universities.

After successful verification, applicants receive a VPD (pre-review documentation), which must be uploaded in the Heilbronn University online application portal together with the other required documents.

- Advantage: faster processing time (approx. 2–4 weeks)
- Disadvantage: processing fee (~ 75 €)
- Website: www.uni-assist.de

Important: Applications are not submitted via Uni-Assist.

Uni-Assist only issues the VPD; the actual application must always be completed through the HHN online portal.

2. Studienkolleg Konstanz (Center for International Students)

The Studienkolleg Konstanz is an official state institution of Baden-Württemberg responsible for the academic recognition of foreign certificates for universities within

the state.

The recognition process is free of charge, and applicants receive an email confirmation once the evaluation is completed, which must be included in the HHN application.

- Advantage: free of charge, officially recognized within Baden-Württemberg
- Disadvantage: longer processing time (approx. 6–10 weeks)
- Website: [Recognition Procedure – Studienkolleg Konstanz](#)

Both procedures are equally accepted.

Applicants may freely choose between the VPD procedure via Uni-Assist and the recognition process via Studienkolleg Konstanz.

Applicants from India, China, and Vietnam are additionally required to submit a valid APS certificate (Academic Evaluation Centre).

Additionally, applicants from **China, Vietnam, and India** must submit an **original APS certificate**.

Links and Information:

- Studienkolleg Konstanz – Recognition Procedure: <https://www.htwg-konstanz.de/en/academics/center-for-international-students-konstanz/recognition-of-certificates/procedure>
- Additional information: <https://www.htwg-konstanz.de/studium/studienkolleg-der-htwg-konstanz/zeugnisanerkennung/anerkennung>
- **Uni-Assist** Website: www.uni-assist.de

APS:

- APS China: <https://www.aps.org.cn/>
- APS Vietnam: <https://vietnam.diplo.de/vn-vi>
- APS India: <https://aps-india.de/>

8. Program Content & Structure

What study tracks are available?

- **Application:** practice-oriented AI application development
- **Research:** scientifically grounded research

Which specializations are possible?

- Health
- Digital Business
- Logistics
- Business Administration
- Engineering
- Software Engineering

How is the curriculum structured?

Total: **90 ECTS / 3 semesters**

Language of instruction and examination: **English**

An integrated internship semester is **not required**.

Practical relevance is achieved through projects and the master's thesis.

Study Track “Application”

STRUCTURE „APPLICATION“ TRACK

 mandatory
 elective

	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS
Sem 1/2	Methods and Practices		AI Profile		Domain Profile	„Application“ Project (10 ECTS over 2 semesters)
Sem 1/2	Elective Courses		AI Profile		Domain Profile	
Sem 3			Master Thesis			

- M1 – Methods and Practices: 10 ECTS (1st semester)
- M2 – AI Profile: 20 ECTS (10 each in 1st & 2nd semester; electives from Table X)
- M3 – Domain Profile: 10 ECTS (5 each in 1st & 2nd semester; at least one domain profile with ≥ 10 ECTS total; no double counting)
- M4a – Application Project (with colloquium): 10 ECTS (across 1st & 2nd semester)

- M5 – Elective Courses: 10 ECTS (2nd semester; electives from Tables X/Y/Z; possibly from other master's programs upon approval)
- M6 – Master Thesis (with colloquium): 30 ECTS (3rd semester)

Note: Via M5, a second domain profile (10 additional ECTS) can be developed. Domain profiles (Health, Digital Business, Logistics, Business Administration, Engineering, Software Engineering) and corresponding courses are detailed in the module handbook.

Study Track “Research”

STRUCTURE „RESEARCH“ TRACK

 mandatory
 elective

	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS
Sem 1/2	Methods and Practices		AI Profile			„Research“ Project (20 ECTS <u>over</u> 2 semesters)
Sem 1/2	Elective Courses		AI Profile			
Sem 3			Master Thesis			

- M1 – Methods and Practices: 10 ECTS (1st semester)
- M2 – AI Profile: 20 ECTS (10 each in 1st & 2nd semester; electives from Table X)
- M4b – Research Project (with colloquium): 20 ECTS (across 1st & 2nd semester; includes mandatory paper submission for peer review)
- M5 – Elective Courses: 10 ECTS (2nd semester; optional domain profile of 10 ECTS possible via M5)
- M6 – Master Thesis (with colloquium): 30 ECTS (3rd semester)

Domain profiles and course lists:

Detailed in the module handbook, including course overviews for M2 “AI Profile,” M3 “Domain Profile,” and M5 “Electives.”

Teaching formats include:

- Lectures with exercises
- Seminars with research discussions
- Group project work

- Labs, case studies, simulations
- Video feedback and expert lectures

9. Internationality & Mobility

Is a semester abroad possible?

Yes, in the 2nd or 3rd semester. The master's thesis can also be completed abroad.

Who provides support?

The **International Office** and the **faculty coordinators for international affairs**.

10. Career Perspectives & Further Development

What career fields are open to graduates?

- AI development and implementation
- Data science and machine learning
- Product management and consulting
- Research and doctoral studies

Is a PhD possible?

Yes. Many professors are eligible to supervise PhDs (e.g., via the *Baden-Württemberg Doctoral Association* or *Heidelberg University*).

How strong is the link to industry?

Excellent – through research projects, corporate collaborations, specialized AI labs, and computing resources.

11. Additional Application Documents

Are motivation letters, recommendation letters, GRE, work experience, or publications required?

No. They are **not mandatory** for admission.

They may be submitted voluntarily, and their consideration is at the **discretion of the admission committee**.

12. Funding & Scholarships

Which scholarships are available?

- Deutschlandstipendium
- DAAD programs
- Baden-Württemberg Scholarship
- PROMOS
- ...

Please note: Scholarship awards are made by the respective institutions or the International Office, not by the program itself.

More information:

<https://www.hs-heilbronn.de/en/scholarships>

What is the DAAD “Hilde Domin Program”?

A scholarship for students at risk who cannot study in their home country.

Nomination is exclusively through German universities.

A nomination does **not** replace an application for the master's program.

Further funding options for international students:

<https://www.daad.de/en/scholarships/>

13. Expectations for Applicants

What personal qualities are expected from applicants?

- **Independence:** Master's students must be able to independently research, understand, and use publicly available information.
- **Self-initiative** is a key competence.
Inquiries about information already available on the website demonstrate a lack of independence – a crucial skill for success in the program.

14. Practical Information

Visa & Residence

Do I need a student visa?

International applicants from non-EU countries require a valid visa.

Information is provided by the German embassy or consulate in your home country.

Health Insurance

Do I need to provide proof of German health insurance?

Yes. Proof of valid health insurance is mandatory for enrollment.

Semester Contribution & Tuition Fees

What fees apply?

- Semester contribution: approx. **€150–200 per semester** (varies)
- Tuition fees for non-EU students: currently **€1,500 per semester**
These costs are **in addition to** your living expenses.

Living Expenses

How high are average monthly expenses in Heilbronn?

Approximately **€900–1,000 per month** (including accommodation, insurance, food, and transport).

Accommodation

Is support provided for finding housing?

Yes. The International Office assists in arranging student accommodation.

Applications for student housing should be submitted **early**.

Useful Links:

- [Accommodation for international students](#)
- [Living in Germany – Visa, health insurance, expenses](#)
- [International Student Support & Checklist](#)

15. Legal Information

The final evaluation of all documents is made **exclusively by the admission committee** during the official application process.

Only the regulations stated in the **currently valid Study and Examination Regulations** and **Admission Statutes** are legally binding.

No liability is assumed for potential errors in this document.

The FAQ is subject to change **at any time and without prior notice**.

16. Useful Links for International Students

Application & Academic Recognition

- [General information on applying for a Master's programme](#)

- [Recognition of certificates – Studienkolleg Konstanz](#)

Tuition & Financing

- [Tuition fees for non-EU students](#)
- [Scholarships & financial aid](#)

Housing & Arrival

- [Accommodation for international students](#)
- [Living in Germany – Visa, health insurance, expenses](#)

Support Services

- [International Student Support & Checklist](#)
- [Orientation & counselling services](#)