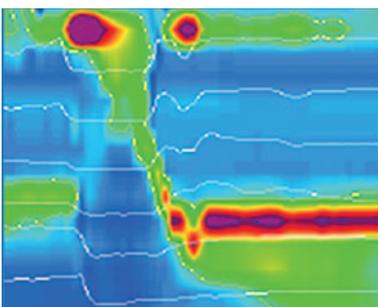


# ADVANCED MASTER OF DEGLUTOLOGY



As the prevalence of dysphagia increases as a result of improved survival rates following medical care as well as the ageing population worldwide, so does the demand for academic, medically-trained staff who can care for the needs of patients with swallowing disorders. Therefore, the Faculty of Medicine has established the Master of Deglutology; the first programme of its kind in the world. This advanced master's programme aims to train you as a competent professional in deglutology, the science of deglutition. The programme's focus combines theoretical depth with evidence-based training in the field of swallowing in the oral cavity, throat and oesophagus. You will be trained extensively in clinical diagnostic and therapeutic practice as well as research skills related to the emerging and quickly expanding field of deglutology.

## Interdisciplinary programme

This programme was developed in collaboration between KU Leuven Faculty of Medicine, University Hospitals Leuven and several international experts, bringing together complementary expertise from diverse domains. Today, dysphagia patients are cared for by a number of different medical and paramedical disciplines, but there is a clear lack of a specialist who successfully integrates the different aspects of care in the dysphagia patient. This lack comes at a high human as well as proven socio-economic cost. As a deglutologist, you will become this specialist through theoretical, evidence-based training in the interdisciplinary domain of deglutology - for both oropharyngeal and oesophageal dysphagia. You will receive an enhanced clinical training of diagnostic skills and therapeutic interventions at our JCI-accredited University Hospitals Leuven. In addition, you will be taught management skills and you participate in state-of-the-art research projects as part of the deglutology research group of the Department of Neurosciences, Experimental ORL and Translational Research Centre for Gastrointestinal Disease (TARGID) KU Leuven.

### DURATION

**1 year (full-time), 60 ECTS**  
**2 years (part-time) optional**

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

**1st semester:** end of September  
 → end of January (exams in January)

**2nd semester:** half of February  
 → end of June (exams in June)

From 2019-2020 onwards, lectures are scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays and occasionally during the evening.

[www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar](http://www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar)

### TUITION FEES

The tuition fee for the current academic year is €6000 for all students.

Tuition fees for future academic years can be higher as a result of indexation.

Please consult the website for the most recent information:

[www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees](http://www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees).

## International dimension

The Master of Deglutology attracts students from all over the world, which adds a valuable intercultural element to the experience. In addition, you will get the opportunity to conduct your master's thesis research in collaboration with world-renowned international experts who will also teach during the programme.

## Your profile

The programme is intended for candidates or professionals who hold a

1. Master's degree in medicine, speech pathology, dentistry, physiotherapy or occupational therapy. All other health-related master's degrees will be carefully considered and evaluated per individual request.
2. 4-year or 5-year university bachelor's degree in speech pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy or dentistry with access to higher degree education (e.g. honours programme providing access to PhD).

## Admission requirements

To be eligible for the Master of Deglutology, you must have obtained a degree from an accredited university programme as described above. Thorough knowledge of English is essential. Unless your mother tongue is English, you will be asked to submit a TOEFL or IELTS certificate. If you have already completed a higher education programme in English, your degree will be accepted as sufficient evidence of your English proficiency. Please visit our website for more details.



## Discover KU Leuven

Founded in 1425, KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe.

As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research and cutting-edge innovation.

## Programme

COURSE	ECTS
<b>RESEARCH</b>	
Science and Research Training in Deglutology	6
Master Thesis	15
<b>MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION</b>	
Management and Communication	3
<b>ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF DEGLUTITION</b>	
Anatomy, Physiology and Pathophysiology of Deglutition	6
Deglutition and its Disorders in the Paediatric Population	4
Deglutition and its Disorders in the Adult Population	6
<b>DIAGNOSTICS OF DEGLUTITION</b>	
Assessment of Deglutition	4
Clinical and Instrumental Diagnostic Skills	5
<b>TREATMENT OF DEGLUTITION</b>	
Dysphagia Treatment in the Paediatric and the Adult Population	3
<b>CLINICAL ELECTIVE</b>	
Clinical Elective in Deglutology	4
<b>ADVANCED RESEARCH TOPICS</b>	
Sidekicks in Deglutology	4

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult [www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmdegl](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmdegl)

## Application procedure

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You can submit your application via [www.kuleuven.be/application](http://www.kuleuven.be/application).

Students with a Flemish degree can consult [www.kuleuven.be/inschrijven](http://www.kuleuven.be/inschrijven).

## Career perspectives

As a deglutologist, you will be an immediately employable professional, able to care for patients of all ages presenting with dysphagia, whose swallowing may have been affected by a variety of underlying medical pathologies such as prematurity, cerebral palsy, stroke, head and neck cancer, neurodegenerative disease, upper gastrointestinal disorders etc.

Deglutologists find careers in the life sciences domain in the broadest sense, including health care, academia and industry. The growing need for deglutologists in medical care and science ensures a large variety of job opportunities in clinical and applied research.

## Contact

[www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmdegl](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmdegl)  
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