Learning, Cognition, and the Brain: From Theory to Educational Practice

International Master’s program Educational Studies
(specialization Master’s Degree program Education and Child Studies)

Leiden University, The Netherlands

One of the greatest societal challenges is to ensure that individuals acquire the basic skills necessary for success in school and everyday life. National and international reports show that many children leave school without adequate skills in reading, mathematics, and learning. These problems often persist into adulthood. In recent years, the cognitive sciences have provided important insights in these skills. The master’s program is designed for students interested in connecting cognitive sciences to educational practice. Students in the program gain a state-of-the-art understanding of the cognitive and neurological processes involved in successful reading, math, and learning—and of how the processes may fail and lead to problems. The program emphasizes the translation of these insights into practical applications in schools and other educational settings, as well as the role that teachers play in improving essential skills.

In addition to taking courses (see below), students engage in a practical internship and conduct empirical research, resulting in a master’s thesis. In the internship and thesis, some students elect to focus on practical application whereas others focus on theoretical issues. The master program is designed to be completed in one academic year.

The program consists of the following courses:

- Learning, cognition and the brain
- Practice of empirical research
- Development and evaluation of individual educational programs
- Mentoring and Teacher Learning
- Learning and Instruction

Individuals interested in the program can find more information on:
and http://www.brainandeducationlab.nl/students

Information on the admissions procedure is available on: http://en.mastersinleiden.nl/arrange