



We do cool stuff that matters,  
with data.

EngD Data Challenge Week – selection procedure

“ ‘Trust the process’ was the guiding principle from the first day of the EngD program. With a background in Electrical and Computer Engineering, I aspired to become a Data Scientist. The program provided me with the skills and knowledge to achieve this and offered unforgettable moments that I still cherish.

ELENA STAMATELOU  
Data Scientist, Freelance



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# What is a Data Challenge Week?

The JADS EngD program is industry-oriented and an alternative to the PhD trajectory. The **Data Challenge Week** is one way we reach out to industrial partners to tackle their real-life problems.

Our EngD trainees learn how to prepare a data science project, how to work effectively in a team, how to lead a team, and how to deliver business value. Data Challenge Weeks are also part of our admission procedure. Candidates who are accepted to join the Data Challenge Week work and learn together with our trainees.



An assessment for the applicants and an intense way of learning for the trainees of the program.

# When?

Data Challenge Weeks are organized twice a year:

1. In the month March/April for the intake in September;
2. In the month September/October for the intake in January.





A high pressure project in which both the process (how?) and the result (what?) count



# Organization

In a Data Challenge Week, six teams of six participants work on data sets from a host company; each team has a team leader, a senior student; each team is composed of applicants and students. An important aspect in the Data Challenge Week is the involvement of the trainees of the program in the preparation phase. The team leaders of the teams have the task to identify and specify themes from the provided data set, one theme per team. Each team focuses on the theme as distinguished by the team leader.

The goal of doing this is twofold. First, the team leaders get familiar with the full data set before the start of the Data Challenge Week. Second, they identify the themes, so that group work can be organized more efficiently. Third, identification of themes is a challenging task that is relevant in their future projects and jobs. The other trainees are prepared for their tasks as a member of the team as part of their professional development skill training.



Social event: meet and bond





## Meet current trainees

The Data Challenge Week is also a social event. During the week, **teams live in bungalows**, where they have to work, cook, eat, sleep, and socialize. The bungalows are located in a holiday park including enough possibilities for leisure and pleasure. The week starts with about 20 individual applicants who are selected by the program, and a group of 20 trainees of the program. They become one group that manages to create a social structure in the bungalow park and a working atmosphere, six teams accepting each other's roles.



## Schedule of a Data Challenge Week



## Schedule of such a week

The week starts on a Friday and ends the Friday thereafter. On the first Friday, in Marienburg, s' Hertogenbosch, the group leaders introduce the themes that they distinguished from the provided data set. From Friday afternoon till Wednesday morning the groups work in the bungalow park. They are visited, observed, and supported by the program manager, coach during these days. The final presentations, given by the applicants, take place at Landgoed De Biestheuvel where the industrial host, program management and other staff from JADS is present. Wednesday evening, there is a closing diner for all who contributed to the Data Challenge Week success.

Thursday and Friday are reserved for application interviews. They take place at the bungalow park on Thursday and at JADS on Friday. The application committee informs the applicant the week after the Data Challenge Week whether he/she is selected for the program. After accepting the job-offer, the official onboarding starts.

*For non-EU applicants it takes about three months to get a visa, resident and work permits.*



# Questions?

[www.jads.nl/engd](http://www.jads.nl/engd)

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Founders of JADS:

**TU/e** Technische Universiteit  
Eindhoven  
University of Technology

TILBURG UNIVERSITY

's-Hertogenbosch

Provincie Noord-Brabant

**JADS** Hieronimus  
Academy  
of Data Science



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