

Erasmus School of
Social and
Behavioural Sciences

Bachelor in Management of International Social Challenges

2026-2027

Looking beyond
borders

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Making Minds Matter



Introducing our study programme

eur.nl/en/essb/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges

Migration, climate change, pandemics, economic instability and international crime – these are all examples of international social challenges that local, national and international organisations in the public sector face and try to manage. In this bachelor's programme, you will learn how to research, analyse, and contribute to managing these challenges.

In this programme we focus on social challenges that are:

- Multidisciplinary: they have political, economic, legal and social aspects.
- Multi-level: they involve actors and networks at the international, national, regional, and local level.
- International: they surpass geographical and administrative borders.

The programme is diverse. You will take courses in, for example, public policy, political science, economics, international law and management. This will enable you to analyse social challenges from different perspectives and understand the various roles, perceptions and interests of involved actors. Research method courses will provide you with the skills and knowledge you need for researching international social challenges and their management.

The Management of International Social Challenges programme is also a truly international programme. It is taught exclusively in English to a diverse student body from all over the world.

In this programme, you not only look beyond borders in your studies, but also become part of an international network of peers.

In most courses, plenary lectures are combined with interactive sessions or tutorials. This means that in addition to the lectures, you, for example, participate in a simulation, attend a Q&A session, give a presentation, provide feedback to your peers, or discuss your research paper.

Career opportunities

The programme provides an excellent basis for an international career as a policy advisor, consultant, researcher, or civil servant at, for example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, European Parliament, or consultancy firms. Upon graduating, you will receive a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration. This degree will allow you to enrol in a master's programme in a related field at Erasmus University Rotterdam or elsewhere.

Admission and application

You are eligible to apply for this programme if you have obtained or will obtain a VWO diploma or its foreign equivalent. To be able to participate in the programme, a good command of English is essential. Therefore, you must prove your proficiency in English in your application. You must also report your academic performance and submit a CV and a motivation letter.

'MISOC will provide you with **the expertise and skills** needed to understand and manage the greatest social challenges of the 21st century. Yours will be a challenging but rewarding journey.'

Michal Onderco - Programme director



Curriculum*

Year 1			
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Global Challenges	International Law	Political Science	Public Policy
Sociology	Organisation & Management	Designing Social Research	Economics, Welfare & Distribution
Skills			
Year 2			
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Qualitative Methods	Policy Analysis	Global Development Issues	Allocation of Public Resources
Network Governance	Quantitative Methods	International Migration	Research Project
Year 3			
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Exchange/Minor /Internship	Global & European Governance	Institutions, Policy & Society	Research Project
	Political Philosophy & Democracy	People Management in Complex Organisations	

*The curriculum may be subject to change. No rights may be derived from this information.

Possibilities during your studies

Internship

An internship will bring you a lot of valuable knowledge and experience. It will allow you to experience managing social challenges up close and learn to apply the theory and skills you have learned in practice. In your third year, you can opt to intern at an international public sector organisation, such as embassies, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, European Parliament, or Doctors without Borders.

Studying abroad*

Studying abroad is a unique opportunity for personal development and getting to know other societies. It also allows you to compare different educational and academic cultures. We currently have 85 partner universities in 34 countries. We therefore encourage you to study outside the Netherlands in your third year.

*Kindly note that participation is subject to a selection process, as the number of available spots is limited.

Erasmus Honours Programme

Besides the regular programmes, EUR annually offers two exclusive programmes to talented bachelor students: the Erasmus Honours Programme and the ESSB Honours Class. The EUR Honours programme enables ambitious students to encounter fascinating and current themes from other fields of study in the Grand Challenges programme. Renowned scholars from several disciplines challenge honours students to look beyond the boundaries of their field. The ESSB Honours Class enables 75 ambitious students to gain experience conducting research under the supervision of ESSB faculty members.

Minors

You can also opt for a minor in your third year. Each year, Erasmus University Rotterdam offers almost 100 minors. This includes nearly 40 broadening minors and several deepening minors. Erasmus University Rotterdam also offers a range of joint, multidisciplinary minors with TU Delft and Leiden University, which allows you to experience what it is like to study at other universities in the Netherlands.



Life in the Netherlands and Rotterdam

You might know the Netherlands for its tulips, cheese and wooden shoes, but there's so much more to tell! The Netherlands has around 18 million inhabitants, but it's a small country. Yet, it has one of the most important and innovative economies worldwide. Many internationalists say the Netherlands is a well-organised country with open-minded people. Most of the country's 35,000 kilometres of bicycle paths are in the province of South Holland, where Rotterdam is located.



'MISOC has helped me develop a critical and more inclusive worldview, taught me the skills and offered me the tools I need to pursue my career ambitions in the **international community**.'

Abigail Place - Alumna Management of International Social Challenges

Studying in Rotterdam

Rotterdam, also nicknamed "World Port City" or the "Gateway to Europe", is a cosmopolitan city and hosts many multinational organisations. You might get to know your future employer during your studies.

Rotterdam's slogan is 'Make it happen'. Erasmus University Rotterdam is proud to be part of this city where people develop new and creative ideas every day.



BSc of Public
Administration

Around
130
students per year

31
different
nationalities
in 2024

Start in
September

100%
taught in English

Deadline for
application:
April 1

Exchange
opportunities

Chat with us!

Are you a prospective student and would you like to get in touch with us? Have a chat with one of our current students and/or our staff, via eur.nl/en/essb/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges/chat-our-students



Kina

Management of International Social Challenges
BSc

[Chat with Kina](#)

I COME FROM

Tokyo, Japan ●

PREVIOUS QUALIFICATION

Certificate of Completed Secondary Education
(Attestat)

ABOUT ME

Hi, I'm Kina and I am in my second year of MISOC!
After graduating hig...

[See more](#)

Contact

E: bachelor@essb.eur.nl

W: eur.nl/en/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges
and eur.nl/en/essb/contact

Curious about studying at EUR?

Go to eur.nl/en/essb and check out our (online) activities and events, such as the Bachelor Open Day or Student for a Day!

