

Erasmus School of
Social and
Behavioural Sciences

Master's in Public Administration & Sociology

2026-2027



Give direction to
change and
connect people and
organisations

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Making Minds Matter



Why a Master's Public Administration

eur.nl/en/essb/study-public-administration

When you follow a master's programme in Public Administration (MSc), you will learn to identify and analyse social issues and develop skills regarding advice on policy-relevant solutions. You will also look at governance issues from various perspectives, considering different interests within complex environments and building bridges to connect and enhance these visions. In our small-scale education, there is ample room to apply theories to practical situations and to develop your professional skills. You will be inspired by enthusiastic scholars who are leaders within their discipline. Public Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam was ranked #1 in the Shanghai Ranking of world universities in 2024.

Career opportunities Public Administration

After your master's degree in Public Administration, you, as an expert, are able to investigate complex problems at an academic level from different scientific

perspectives. You also know how to reflect on this and can develop and implement concrete solutions. This makes you very suitable to get started in board positions where you advise society or organise and execute the policy yourself. You will have to collaborate with various parties within and outside the public domain. After graduation, depending on your specialisation and your personal interests, you can start working for (semi-)authorities on policy development, change management, HRM and project management of large public projects in areas such as infrastructure. Examples of positions are policy officer, project employee or strategic advisor at municipalities, educational institutions and government advisory bodies. You can also start working as a trainee or junior advisor on issues in the design or improvement of organisations and management processes. You can also work at private research and consultancy firms that focus on the public sector.

Master's specialisations Public Administration

Digitalisation in Work and Society

Rapid advancements in technology, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and algorithms, change the organisation of work. This raises questions on the individual, organisational, and societal levels. This multidisciplinary master's programme provides you with various perspectives and tools to study digital technologies at work (building on insights from Psychology, Sociology, and Public Administration). The programme offers you both a theoretical and real-world understanding of the changing world of work, for example by going on fieldtrips to organisations and formulating policy advice.

Public Governance, Management and Policy (online master)

In this programme, participants acquire practice-oriented public administration knowledge and research skills. The intensive one-year programme consists of place- and time-independent lectures and place-independent, scheduled tutorials. Students are challenged to engage in online intensive projects and collaborative learning, making use of the socio-institutional diversity of the programme. They will spend a residential week in Rotterdam. The programme prepares students for careers in policy-making, consultancy, or public management.

Governance of Migration and Diversity – Public Administration

This one-year master's is a collaboration between Erasmus University Rotterdam (including the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague), Leiden University, and Delft University of Technology. This cooperation provides a unique combination of varied expertise and focuses on studying migration and diversity governance. The Public Administration track explores complex governance challenges, provides the skills to analyse policies systematically and develop advice on migration or diversity policies, and explores the role of media in migration and diversity governance.

Urban Governance of Inclusive Sustainable Cities

Cities are at the forefront of building inclusive, sustainable societies. They are fast-growing and face urgent challenges such as climate resilience, poverty, inequality, housing and segregation - demanding innovative and just solutions. This track equips you with the knowledge and skills to become competent urban change makers, able to design and manage strategies that make cities more equitable and liveable. This unique programme is offered jointly by the Department of Public Administration and Sociology and the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), combining academic excellence with practical expertise in urban development.

Erasmus University Rotterdam in numbers



Shanghai Ranking -

Global Ranking of Academic Subjects

Public Administration at Erasmus University was ranked #1 in the Shanghai Ranking of world universities in 2024

130+

Student nationalities



Master's programme

International Public Management and Public Policy

International Public Management and Public Policy

Public management and public policy are increasingly crafted at multiple levels: local, national, European, and global. This programme prepares future public management and policy professionals for an international environment. It covers advanced scientific concepts, theories, and tools to analyse multi-level governance. With a diverse international student group and internationally recognised academics, this programme prepares future leaders for national and international public service, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

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 internationals 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.



Master's programme

Societies in Crisis



Why study in the Netherlands?

Dutch education is known for its high quality, standards, and top-ranking positions. Degrees obtained in the Netherlands are internationally recognised. The Netherlands is also one of the top providers of English-taught courses. Our international classroom - a mix of international and Dutch students - is common across the university. The atmosphere in class is usually informal, and it is easy to speak to your professors directly. The Netherlands is known as easygoing, liberal and tolerant - ideal for students. Studies in the Netherlands are affordable and accessible for European and non-European students.

Societies in Crisis: Humanitarian Action and Policy Responses

Ready to make an impact where it is most needed? This one-year master's programme empowers future changemakers to tackle today's most urgent challenges: conflict, political instability, displacement, and climate-induced disasters. Explore how communities, governments and international actors respond to present and future humanitarian challenges. Learn to navigate international aid, analyse crisis systems, and craft sustainable recovery strategies. Taught by experts with policy experience and connected to global and local organisations, this programme gives you the skills to shape impactful solutions to the world's most urgent issues.



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.





Why a Master's in Sociology

eur.nl/en/essb/study-sociology

The master's specialisations in Sociology focus on understanding and dealing with current social issues and challenges. The 'Rotterdam Sociology' focuses on urgent social questions with public, political, policy-related, and administrative relevance. Our master's specialisations are rooted in the (inter)national professional field and connect scientific insights to a wide range of interventions and activities in practice. Our master's education is small-scale and offers students with diverse backgrounds ample room for specialisation. Students are inspired by enthusiastic lecturers who belong to the top of the discipline and maintain close ties with professional practice.

Career opportunities Sociology

After your master's in Sociology, you are able to approach social issues from various perspectives and, based on that, contribute to dealing with these issues. These competencies are very useful in positions in research and consultancy, public and political debate, social organisations, or policy and administration.

There is, for example, demand for critical and analytical sociologists in various positions within the government, social organisations, research institutes, or the business sector. Depending on your chosen master's specialisation and personal interests, you can, as a professional, for instance, work at local or (inter)national governments, semi-public or private institutions such as social work organisations, media companies, the police, housing corporations, welfare institutions, or project developers.

Strong student satisfaction

According to the National Student Survey, graduates of the master's programme in Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam are highly satisfied with their education. The programme received an average rating of 4.1 out of 5 stars. For example, in addition to the strong content, they rate the lecturers with 4.3 out of 5 stars and the contact and involvement from the faculty with 4.1 out of 5 stars.

Social Inequalities and Change

This specialisation prepares you to be a public sociologist who searches across sociological perspectives to understand social inequalities and possibilities for change around the world. We explore and integrate empirical and critical sociological perspectives on inequalities via the relationships among institutions (family, education, health care) and identities (race, class and gender). Building on this foundation, you will learn about possibilities for social change by citizens, through communities and citizen initiatives, and institutions, through NGOs, policy, and politics, readying you to address pressing societal challenges.

Power, Publics, and Engagement

Power works through capital, gender, and whiteness. It shapes and connects global warming, racism, transphobia, and capitalist exploitation far beyond conventional arenas of politics. This master's centre is on the ways people resist power by shaping public issues. It is based in sociology but has strong links to, amongst others, decolonial theory, black studies, political theory, science and technology studies, and queer and feminist theory. The programme provides you with the tools to understand and intervene in public issues.



Digitalisation in Work and Society

Rapid advancements in technology, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and algorithms, change the organisation of work. This raises questions on the individual, organisational, and societal levels. This multidisciplinary master's programme provides you with various perspectives and tools to study digital technologies at work (building on insights from Psychology, Sociology, and Public Administration). The programme offers you both a theoretical and real-world understanding of the changing world of work, for example by going on fieldtrips to organisations and formulating policy advice.

Governance of Migration and Diversity – Sociology

This one-year master's is a collaboration between Erasmus University Rotterdam (including the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague), Leiden University and Delft University of Technology. The interdisciplinary cooperation between these universities provides a unique combination of varied expertise to study the governance of migration and diversity. Throughout the Sociology track, students develop practical skills in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, and review and apply sociological theories on immigrant incorporation, the causes of international migration, and the relationship between globalisation and migration.

Research Master

Research Master Sociology of Culture, Media and the Arts

This two-year master's programme is specially designed for academically talented and driven students who have a keen interest in research in sociology, media studies, and arts and culture studies. During the programme, students combine social-scientific training and hands-on experience, develop their own research interests and prepare themselves for a PhD or a career in research, policy, or consultancy.

Full-time
master's

Start in
September

Duration:
1 year

Deadline:
1 May (non-EEA)
or 1 June (EEA)

Integration of
theory and practice

60 EC
per academic year

Degree: Master of
Science (MSc)



Contact

E: master@essb.eur.nl

W: eur.nl/en/essb/contact

Curious about studying at EUR?

Go to eur.nl/essb and check out our (online) activities, such as the Master Open Day or our Webinars!

Or chat with our students via
eur.nl/en/essb/chat-our-students

Why study a Master's Public Administration or Sociology in Rotterdam?

- The structure of the programmes allows students to put theory into practice.
- Public Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam was ranked #1 in the Shanghai Ranking of world universities in 2024.
- Intensive interaction between lecturers and students, small classes and accessible teachers.
- The programmes cover recent developments in the research field and use the most advanced research methods.
- High-quality education.

