



Master of Science Programme

Research in Public Administration and Organizational Science

Joint Program at Utrecht University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Free University Amsterdam, Tilburg University and Radboud University Nijmegen

Coordinators: Prof. A.J. Meijer & Prof. P. 't Hart

The Master's Programme Research in Public Administration and Organizational Science brings students state-of-the-art knowledge and insights in the field of governance in the public sector. Governance refers to collaborative efforts in the public sector to build prosperous democratic societies. This means that it is broader than only government: both traditional public policies and new policy networks are forms of governance. Studying governance in the public sector requires a thorough understanding of public administration, public institutions and public policy but also of the workings and management of public organizations.

Research universities in the Netherlands have a strong tradition in studying governance. Networked governance has been studied by researchers at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, good governance is a key topic at the Free University in Amsterdam, local governance has been extensively studied at Tilburg University, non-profit sector governance is a key theme at the Radboud University Nijmegen and Utrecht University is renowned for its research on the democratic accountability of governance and the professionalization of public management. This master program builds upon the combined expertise of these Dutch universities. Professors from these four universities guide students in their search for knowledge of the various aspects of governance.

The Master's Programme Research in Public Administration and Organizational Science builds upon two academic fields: Public Administration and Organizational Science. Both classical theories and state-of-the-art publications in these two fields are studied to give students a thorough understanding of these disciplines. A key premise in this master program is that these disciplines need to be connected to prepare students for the empirical analysis of governance in various settings. This means that students get excellent training in these two fields and are given ample opportunities to do specialized courses at the intersection of these two disciplines.

This Master's Programme prepares students for postgraduate research in academia and research-intensive roles within government, corporations, not-for profit organizations and consultancy firms. The programme equips students to design, conduct, report, communicate, tender for, evaluate and foster utilization of social science research on governance and public management. It offers a thorough introduction in a broad range of research methods, and the different philosophies of science and strategies of utilization underpinning them. It thus trains students in both quantitative and qualitative methods and the students learn to apply these methods through intense collaborations with top researchers from the five Dutch universities in this program. Our alumni have found PhD-positions at either a Dutch university or a university in another country, but also excellent jobs in think tanks, consultancy firms, strategy units and government organizations.

More information:

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