

Erasmus School of
Social and
Behavioural Sciences

Masters in Public Administration & Sociology

2025-2026

Give direction to
change and
connect people and
organisations

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Making Minds Matter



Why a Master Public Administration

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

When you follow a master programme in Public Administration (MSc) you will learn to identify and analyse social issues as well as develop skills regarding advice on policy-relevant solutions. You will also look at governance issues from various perspectives, taking different interests within complex environments into account and build 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 was ranked #4 in the Shanghai Ranking of world universities in 2023.

Career opportunities Public Administration

After your master 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 you can

develop and implement concrete solutions. This makes you very suitable to get started in board positions in which you give advice to the society or organise and implement the policy yourself. You will have to collaborate with various parties both within and outside the public domain. After graduation, depending on your specialisation and your personal interests, you can start working for (semi-) authorities on issues in the area of 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 are also able to start working as a trainee or junior advisor on issues in the field of 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 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 level. This multidisciplinary master 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 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 it focuses on studying migration and diversity governance. The Public Administration track explores complex governance challenges, provides the skills to systematically analyse policies and to 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 heart of transitions and innovations towards more sustainable and inclusive societies. They are key to finding answers to social, economic and environmental issues such as sustainability, poverty, inequality, housing, migration, social segregation and urban growth in a just way. With this master you will learn the skills to analyse and manage complex urban governance issues and to develop innovative and inclusive governance strategies. This unique programme is a collaboration between the Department of Public Administration and the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies.

Erasmus University Rotterdam in numbers



Shanghai Ranking -

Global Ranking of Academic Subjects

Public Administration at Erasmus University was ranked #4 in the Shanghai Ranking of world universities in 2023

130+

Student nationalities



Master 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 program prepares future professionals in public management and policy for an international environment. It covers advanced scientific concepts, theories, and tools to analyze 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 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 most 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.



Research Masters at ESSB



Why study in the Netherlands?

Dutch education is known for its high quality and 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. In class, the atmosphere is usually informal, and it is pretty easy to speak to our 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.

Research Master - Public Administration and Organisational Science

This two-year international master programme (jointly offered with three other Dutch universities) prepares you for a career as a researcher, either in academia or in research oriented functions in consultancies or public organisations. Courses on the major issues in public administration and organisational science are combined with application-oriented method courses.

Research Master Sociology of Culture, Media and the Arts

This two-year master 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.

Studying in Rotterdam

Rotterdam, also nicknamed "World Port City" or the "Gateway to Europe", is a cosmopolitan city and hosts many multi-national organisations. You might get to know your future employer during your studies, for example by doing an internship.

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





Master specialisations Sociology

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 level. This multidisciplinary master 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.

Why a Master Sociology

eur.nl/en/essb/study-sociology

A master programme in Sociology (MSc) focuses on pressing social problems and social phenomena. During a Master in Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam you will get insights in the latest sociological theories and associated disciplines. You will also learn how to apply social theories on the actual problems of contemporary society.

Our education is small-scale and you will be inspired by enthusiastic scholars who are leaders within their discipline.

Career opportunities Sociology

After your Master in Sociology, you are able to approach issues from different perspectives and, based on that, make well-considered decisions for possible solutions. These competencies are very useful for positions in policy making and advice. In addition, the programme devotes a lot of attention to the consequences of social changes for government policy.

There is a demand for policy-oriented sociologists in the government, non-profit organisations, research institutes and the business community.

Depending on your specialisation and personal interests you can end up in various positions focusing on the area of work, organisations or urban issues. You can, for example, work as a policy officer or advisor for governments, semi-public or private institutions such as the police, housing corporations, welfare institutions or project developers.

Other examples of positions are human resource managers or researchers at government institutions, advisory and research agencies or universities. In addition, as a sociologist you can opt for a career as a journalist or information officer with a focus on sociological issues.

Engaging Public Issues

This master focuses on how today's major issues, such as racism and climate change, become issues of shared concern through activist organising and social movements. We focus on their interconnections, based in sociology but with strong links to post- and decolonial studies, critical race theory, science & technology studies, queer and feminist theory, and cultural theory and anthropology. The programme provides you with the tools to navigate complex public issues, to develop your own engagement with them and to contribute to them.

Social Inequalities

This programme trains you to become an expert in the field of social inequality. You will examine various dimensions of inequality—such as wealth, race, gender, and spatial distribution—investigating the complex interplay among social structures, familial environments, and individual behaviors. This programme brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective on the origins and implications of social inequality, and sheds light on how social policies can reduce it. The theoretical breadth of the programme equips you with essential skills in critical analysis and methodology, preparing you to address these pressing societal challenges.

Governance of Migration and Diversity – Sociology

This one-year master is a collaboration between Erasmus University Rotterdam (including the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague), Leiden University and Delft University of Technology. The 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 sociological theories to examine the relationship between globalisation and migration.



Full-time
masters

Start in
September

Duration:
1 year

Deadline:
15 May (non-EEA)
or 17 June (EEA)

Integration of
theory and practice

60 EC
per academic year

Degree: Master of
Science (MSc)



Contact

M: 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 Public Administration or Sociology in Rotterdam?

- The structure of the programmes allows students to put theory into practice
- Public Administration at Erasmus University was ranked #4 in the Shanghai Ranking of world universities in 2023
- Intensive interaction between lecturers and students, small classes and accessible teachers
- The programmes deal with recent developments in the research field and use the most advanced research methods
- High quality education

