Comparative Politics, Administration and Society

A specialisation of the Master's programmes in Public Administration and Political Science
Nijmegen School of Management

Introduction
Economic financial crisis, environmental degradation and global poverty are just a few of the political challenges that require effective joint action by governments. But how can such action be organised, given the great political and administrative complexity of the international system? And how does international policy making affect national governments and public policies? The increasing complexity of modern governance in a globalised world means that it is essential to understand the relationship between politics and administration. The Master's specialisation Comparative Politics, Administration and Society (COMPASS) provides students with the skills not only to design effective solutions to a policy problem, but to also think about what will and what will not work in different types of political systems.

Why should you choose COMPASS in Nijmegen?
• The programme offers a unique combination of the theoretical foundations of Comparative Politics and the practical side of Public Administration
• Teaching takes place in a stimulating, collegial setting with small groups which provides ample opportunity for debate
• The staff has a wide range of expertise, integrating their latest research into their seminars
• Staff members are actively involved in advising government, societal and political organisations

The programme
This is a one-year Master's programme (60 ECs) and it is structured as follows:
• Five specialisation courses (30 ECs)
• Two elective courses/internship (12 ECs)
• Master's thesis (18 ECs)
Once you have graduated, you will be awarded a Master of Science degree (MSc) in Public Administration or Political Science, depending on which variant of the programme you choose.

change perspective

Maaike de Vries
Student of the specialisation Comparative Politics, Administration and Society

‘In this specialisation you learn how the government can design and implement policy on local, national, European or international level, and how it can implement policy and how political challenges affect this. One of the challenges discussed in this programme and currently frequently covered in the media is immigration. The discussions and literature offer you a basis for how to analyse this challenge and how to react effectively to it.’

Ruben Fokkema
Alumnus of the specialisation Comparative Politics, Administration and Society

‘Looking back I can say this Master’s specialisation not only provided a solid foundation when I applied for a traineeship at the European Commission, but also some months ago when I acquired the position as a recruiter at the oldest executive recruitment company in the Netherlands: Holtrop, Ravesloot & Partners.’
Admission requirements
You are required to have a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration or Political Science from a Dutch university, or an equivalent degree from a university outside the Netherlands (with sufficient coverage of research methods). You must also have sufficient proficiency in English. For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/cpa

Application deadlines
The programme starts on 1 September. The application deadline is 1 April for students from non-EU/EEA countries and 1 May for students from within the EU/EEA. Successful international applicants who apply before these dates will be guaranteed accommodation and support with the visa and residence permit application. If you apply after these dates, we will still consider your application and provide assistance where possible, but accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

How to apply?
Dutch students can apply via: www.studielink.nl.
International students can apply via: www.ru.nl/masters/application.

Best traditional university
Radboud University is the best traditional university in the Netherlands. This is the conclusion of the 2016 edition of the Dutch university information guide ‘Keuzegids Universiteiten’.

After reading all the information, are you interested and enthusiastic about the specialisation Comparative Politics, Administration and Society at Radboud University? Then apply now! We hope to see you in Nijmegen, the Netherlands!

Programme

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95 = course in Political Science variant of COMPASS
96 = course in the Public Administration variant of COMPASS, students in the Political Science variant select one of these two courses as an elective course

Changing perspective
This Master’s specialisation offers students a broad perspective concerning the way in which governments deal with contemporary problems. Students will learn that standardised solutions can be counter-productive because each country has its own unique context which needs to be taken into account when designing policy solutions. Within the programme, you can further specialise by choosing from a variety of elective courses offered at Radboud University or by doing an internship. Students may also incorporate a period of study abroad or a research internship abroad into their programme.

Career prospects
If you want to become a professional in government, COMPASS provides you with the tools needed for working in an ever changing environment and gives you an edge in an increasingly competitive job market. Once graduated, you will leave the programme with a firm knowledge of complex issues and current changes in governance and international politics, and the skills to provide clever solutions. The programme thus prepares you for senior positions in different organisations, for example the UN, the OECD and EU and public employers, such as local, regional and central government departments; think tanks, advisory bodies and consultancy firms.

More information
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