Economics, Behaviour and Policy

A specialisation of the Master's programme in Economics
Nijmegen School of Management

Introduction
How to design economic policy that really works? How to make the interventions and incentives behaviour-proof, to guarantee a positive impact on society? What tools can policy makers use to increase economic, societal and personal welfare? And how can we measure welfare? Economics, Behaviour and Policy (EBP) refines the mainstream economics approach of ‘incentives matter’ by addressing why certain incentives achieve their goal and others do not. In the process, insights from, amongst others, psychology, sociology, and philosophy will be incorporated. EBP offers courses that shape your understanding of how incentives and policy affect economic performance on the individual, institutional and macro level. You will be equipped with modern economic methods, building a critical attitude towards the application of economics for policy design, but also informed about a wide range of behavioural insights that economists need to make their interventions effective in practice.

Why should you choose Economics, Behaviour and Policy in Nijmegen?
• Modern and broad perspective on economic policy design
• Nudges, framing, defaults and more – behavioural insights for policy not as ready-to-use shortcuts but as tools backed by theory and tested by data and research
• Insights and methods relevant for applied research
• Small group teaching, close contact with professors and their research and an excellent reputation
• Learning by working on current economic policy issues
• Good career prospects in governmental or business sector

The programme
This is a one-year Master’s programme (60 ECs) with:
• Two courses on research methods and economics as a science (12 EC)
• Five specialisation courses (30 ECs)
• Master’s thesis (18 ECs)
Once you have graduated, you will be awarded a Master of Science degree (MSc) in Economics.

Programme

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Miguel Tellez Caballero, MSc
Mexico
Alumnus of the specialisation Economics, Behaviour and Policy

‘The courses focus on teaching the latest trends in economics, both theoretical and empirical. The lectures not only teach you the academic part but they also encourage you to be critical, analytical and proactive regarding economics policy issues.’
Changing perspective
- Trained to think independently and with an open mind
- Working with the newest techniques in applied research
- Broad perspective on contemporary issues relevant for economic policy

You will participate in a Master’s programme that will acquaint you with the most recent academic and practical developments in the field of Economics, Behaviour and Policy. By acquiring state-of-the-art knowledge and research techniques in applied policy research, you will be able to assess the relevance of academic research for your profession and working environment. But you will also acquire a broader perspective. Our programme includes relevant knowledge from related disciplines such as psychology and sociology, which will allow you to approach contemporary issues in Economics, Behaviour and Policy with an open mind. You will be trained to think independently and critically about the way in which you can apply behavioural insights from wide range of social sciences to economic policy and economic incentives and you will develop skills that will make a difference in a highly competitive labour market.

Career prospects
Employers are increasingly looking for expert economists who have a broad view on how to apply economic and behavioural insights to their organisations and policies. Having acquired knowledge on the latest economic methods and theories and a critical attitude regarding the application of economics and behavioural insights to policy issues, you will be well equipped for a career in national policy making organisations, international policy bodies as well as policy advisory, businesses and consultancy companies.

Admission requirements
You are required to have a Bachelor’s degree in Economics or a closely-related discipline from a research university with a sufficient number of courses on research methods, economics and/or broader range of social sciences (psychology, sociology). You must also have sufficient proficiency in English. For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/ebp.

In case your education background does not grant you direct admission to the Master’s programme, then you can enrol in a one-year pre-Master’s programme. For more information, please visit: www.ru.nl/pre-masters/economics.

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. We will consider EU/EEA applications until 1 July and provide assistance where possible, but accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

How to apply?
You can start your application by creating a request for enrolment in Studielink via: www.studielink.nl. The remaining steps depend on your previous education. For more information on the application procedure, be sure to visit: www.ru.nl/masters/ebp.

After reading all the information, we hope you are interested and enthusiastic about the specialisation Economics, Behaviour and Policy at Radboud University and that we may welcome you in Nijmegen soon. If you need any more information, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

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More information
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www.ru.nl/masters/ebp

Social media
F: Facebook.com/RadboudNSM
I: Instagram.com/RadboudNSM
T: Twitter.com/RadboudNSM
C: ru.nl/nsm/chat

Dr Jana Vyrastekova
Lecturer Behavioural Economics and Policy
‘We develop economic policy for the future, with behavioral insights. In my course on Behavioural Economics & Policy, I enjoy close contact with my students and their drive. I do not focus only on theory, my course has direct relevance for today’s policy or businesses. A big advantage is that the specialisation is not domain-specific: students learn the methods and tools needed for making and analysing economic policy with behavioural insights.’