Comparative Politics

A specialisation of the Master’s programme in Political Science
Nijmegen School of Management

Introduction
Is Europe witnessing a surge in populist sentiment? Is immigration a threat to democracy? Can we reform our democratic institutions so they are able to withstand these challenges? Do referenda do more harm than good? Does more citizen participation strengthen our democracy?
Contemporary governments face these and other political challenges in an increasingly globalised world. In the specialisation Comparative Politics (CP) you will examine the configuration of political power within countries, and you will analyse how and why political responses to contemporary challenges vary across countries. Our emphasis on both theory and empirical knowledge provides the tools to critically analyse contemporary problems facing democracies, both within and outside of Europe, and it will train you to assess the effects of proposed policy solutions.

Why should you choose Comparative Politics in Nijmegen?
• The programme is both analytical and practice oriented
• We teach in a stimulating, collegial and interactive setting of small groups
• The instructors are internationally recognised experts in the core themes of the programme
• Members of the staff are actively involved in advising governments and political organisations
• Comparative politics offers a challenging and fun environment
• Our programme is consistently ranked the best Political Science programme in the Netherlands

The programme
This is a one-year Master’s programme (60 ECs) and it is structured as follows:
• Four specialisation courses (36 ECs)
• Methodology and ethics of research courses (12 ECs)
• Elective course/internship (6 ECs)
• Master’s thesis (18 ECs)

Once you have graduated, you will be awarded a Master of Science degree (MSc) in Political Science.

Ruud van Druenen, MSc
Dutch Ministry of Finance
Alumnus of the specialisation Comparative Politics

‘What I liked most was the contact with the accessible, well-rounded, international staff who are all top scientists within their discipline. In my view, these dedicated teachers significantly contribute to the added value of Comparative Politics in Nijmegen.’
Changing perspective
The Master’s programme in Comparative Politics will broaden your perspective on politics and will provide new insights into configurations of political power around the world. Politics is much more than elections; it is also about grassroots mobilisation, mediatisation and conflicts over values.

Within the programme, you can further specialise by choosing from a variety of elective courses offered at Radboud University or by doing an internship. Electives can be taken within the Political Science Department and at other departments and universities. The Political Science Department offers two elective courses: Changes in World Politics: The Rise of the BRIC Countries and Gender Theories and Policy.

Career prospects
Our graduates have the skill that employers want: sound research and analytical skills, excellent written and oral communication skills, and expertise in working in teams and independently. These skills and knowledge will prepare you for positions in policy making, administration, and project management in the public and private sector, as well as in research settings. Our alumni have positions as policymakers in international organisations, political parties, government ministries, market authorities, the European Parliament and the European Commission. They also work as consultants for profit and non-profit organisations and as researchers at think- tanks and universities. They are also employed by banks and other financial institutions and by the media.

Admission requirements
You are required to have a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science or a related field, from a Dutch university, or an equivalent degree from a university outside the Netherlands. You must also have sufficient proficiency in English and sufficient knowledge of social science research methodology (quantitative and qualitative). For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/cp.

In case your educational 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/polsci.

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?
Your application procedure depends on your previous education. Dutch students can apply via: www.studielink.nl. International students can apply via: www.ru.nl/masters/application.

The best Political Science Master’s programme
Radboud University offers the best Political Science/Comparative Politics Master’s programme in the Netherlands. This is the conclusion of the 2017 edition (and the seven previous editions) of the Dutch magazine ‘Elsevier’ and the 2017 edition (and the four previous editions) of the Dutch information guide ‘Keuzegids Universiteiten’.

After reading all the information, we hope you are interested and enthusiastic about the specialisation Comparative Politics 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 using the contact information below.

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