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 our renowned 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?
• Our programme is consistently ranked the best Political Science programme in the Netherlands
• We teach in a stimulating, collegial and interactive setting of small groups
• The programme is both analytical and practice oriented
• 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

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
Ministry of Finance, the Hague
Since 2018, PhD candidate and lecturer at Radboud University

‘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.’

Programme

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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 the many elective courses offered by Radboud University or by doing an internship. The Political Science Department offers two elective courses: *Changes in World Politics: The Rise of the BRIC Countries and Gender, Conflict and International Institutions.*

Career prospects
Our programme links research skills to practical abilities, which emphasises the value of a good, research-based methodological and theoretical training for the job market. Therefore, 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, 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. 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/cp.

The best Political Science Master’s programme
Radboud University offers the best Political Science/Comparative Politics Master’s programme in the Netherlands and is officially rated as a Top Programme. This is the conclusion of the 2018 edition of the Dutch information guide *Keuzegids Masters* and the 2017 edition of the Dutch magazine *Elsevier*.

After reading all the information, we hope you are interested and enthusiastic about Comparative Politics at Radboud University and that we may welcome you soon!

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More information
Dutch students: study advisor
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International students: admission advisor
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www.ru.nl/masters/cp

Social media
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