Introduction
Political theory (PT) is the soul of political science: it is not about determining what the facts are but about determining what they mean and what should be done with them. We need political theory anywhere where power is used both covertly and openly, where policies are made and where choices are questioned and criticised. Our renowned Master's specialisation offers students a unique opportunity to learn to assess political values, aspirations and dreams in terms of their desirability and reasonability. You will also discover how political theoretical work can be introduced fruitfully in other relevant contexts. This will enable you to help civil initiatives and governmental institutions, not to mention the public at large by imagining and designing policies and ambitions that are both viable and defensible.

Why should you choose Political Theory in Nijmegen?
• Our programme is consistently ranked the best Political Science/Political Theory programme in the Netherlands
• Unique focus on the interplay of power and moral legitimacy in the most significant contexts of our times: the city, the multicultural society, and globalisation.
• Small group teaching in a stimulating, collegial setting
• Students and staff form a supportive community during and after teaching hours
• You are encouraged to critically reflect on the staff’s ongoing research, both during courses and as a member of the Nijmegen Political Philosophy Workshop
• As long as it is PT, any master thesis topic is negotiable
• We prepare you to become the conscience of real-world politics and policies

The programme
This is a one-year Master’s programme (60 ECs) with:
• Four specialisation courses (24 ECs)
• Two 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.

Laura Maas, MSc
Consultant at Adviestalent - Twynstra Gudde

‘In my current job, I notice how many people view situations or problems from a single perspective. Political Science, and Political Theory in specific, enabled me to view things from more than one angle and, for example, play the devil’s advocate. Adding a moral or political perspective, helps to see the bigger picture and make a more sensible and ethically defensible decision.’
Changing perspective

It is not possible to understand others without taking your own stand on an issue. You will only find out what others truly think when you challenge their arguments by developing and expressing your own. It is therefore crucial for political theorists to be able to express their views without reserve and be persuasive while remaining equally open to the views of others. Your views will change during the many free and uncensored debates you have with your fellow students and lecturers. And you, in turn, will change their views for the better. The willingness to listen will help you become one of tomorrow’s leaders.

Within the Master’s programme you can further specialise by choosing from a variety of elective courses offered at 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

We believe that to be a good policy advisor, manager, administrator, or activist, you need to have good analytic skills. Our focus on research is what is going to make your views be both valid and practical: both sides of the coin of politics are equally important to the political theorist. Thus, 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. Our graduates find employment in a variety of settings: in consulting, national and international diplomacy, within the EU institutions, as policy advisors, managers and leaders in local, regional and national government, as well as in business, media and think tanks.

Admission requirements

You are required to have a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from a Dutch university, or an equivalent degree from a university outside the Netherlands (with a sufficient coverage of research methods). You must also have sufficient proficiency in English. For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/pt.

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/pt.

The best Political Science Master’s programme

Radboud University offers the best Political Science Master’s programme in the Netherlands and 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 the specialisation Political Theory at Radboud University and that we may welcome you in Nijmegen soon!

This information is subject to change, therefore no rights can be derived from this content.