Radboud University Nijmegen

Radboud University Nijmegen is one of the leading academic institutions in the Netherlands. The Dutch Ministry of Education recently called Radboud University the top research university in the Netherlands. Renowned for its beautiful campus, modern buildings and state-of-the-art equipment, it has eight faculties and over 16,000 students enrolled in approximately 90 study programmes (40 Bachelor programmes and more than 50 Master programmes).

Nijmegen

The beautiful and lively city of Nijmegen was founded by the Romans (its original Latin name, Noviomagus, means New Market) and is the oldest city in the Netherlands. It is situated near the German border on the banks of the Waal river, a branch of the Rhine delta.

Info: [www.ru.nl/masters/eg](http://www.ru.nl/masters/eg)
Wealth is divided very unequally in this world. Both between and within nation states, income levels differ widely, with capital investments and labour markets thriving in some places, and largely bypassing or poorly performing in others. Economic geography studies these patterns and their effect on places. Drawing from mainstream as well as more alternative economic perspectives, it provides a wide range of answers to the question why place matters so much in economic development, and how the economic development of places can be encouraged. Economic geography has a long and rich tradition in human geography. It is a field that continues to be inspired by timely and indeed exciting themes like knowledge, innovation, mobility, flexibility and globalisation.

What you will study
In this Master's specialisation you will study the role of regions as locations for economic activities. Especially with increased competition an optimal interaction between economic activities and the local environment is essential. Think of flows of knowledge, the recruitment and training of employees, relations with suppliers, local governments and the role of environmental and social organisations. In this specialisation you will learn to analyse and understand local developments from a global perspective, focussing on both mainstream and alternative economic practices. You will learn a range of analytical techniques, which you can put in practice in the courses and your Master Thesis.

Studying Economic Geography at the Radboud University Nijmegen
You will acquire insight into the basic mechanisms that help to explain why places develop in such different ways across the world, while they are also globally connected. In Nijmegen, we focus especially on the social and institutional dimensions of the field, realising that economic geography is at its most interesting when it involves real people in real places. Economic activity is not just about firms and workers. The space economy is actively shaped and transformed by multinational corporations and local firms, by highly educated urban professionals and low-skilled illegal migrant workers, by men and women. These actors engage in mainstream economic activities such as entrepreneurship and wage work. Other actors challenge conventional accounts of capitalism as they draw our attention to the importance of volunteer work and community economics.

Policymakers, for their part, are confronted with the difficult question of how to safeguard economic security while coping with the locally specific problems caused by an ageing population. Should we welcome labour immigrants? Should we attract investments in knowledge and innovation by foreign-owned companies or venture capitalists when these are able to withdraw from local firms and leave behind places at a high pace? Studying these themes in Nijmegen, you will be guided by a team of enthusiastic economic geographers who are eager to share their latest research findings with you and involve you actively in the exploration of new research ideas.

Programme
The Economic Geography strand is organised around three basic courses. The course ‘Economic Geographies: Foundations, Critiques and Alternatives’ is a foundational course on key theories and concepts in economic geography. Due attention is paid to critical reflections on some of the more mainstream views and to alternative perspectives on the economic development of places. The course ‘Economy, Space and Culture in Nijmegen’ debates the latest developments in cultural and network perspectives and gives you a unique opportunity to conduct a practice oriented research into the economy and culture of Nijmegen. Research themes include major city events, community and neighbourhood initiatives, flagship business developments and urban lifestyles. The third course ‘Placemaking and Spatial Practice’, is of a more applied and policy oriented nature.

Furthermore you will choose two relevant elective courses for your master research. You will conduct your master thesis research in the framework of an internship as part of the programme. In this way you get a feeling of professional life in the field and enhance your chances on the job market.

Admission
The requirements for admission include either:
- a bachelor degree in Human Geography
- a bachelor degree in one of the disciplines of the Faculty of Management
- a bachelor degree in one of the disciplines of the Faculty of Social Sciences or
- another relevant bachelor degree

For more information please contact the study advisor.
More information can be found on the website www.ru.nl/masters/eg.

Photography: Tessa Verklaart (McDonalds & co) Jackie van der Walle (overloaded car), Erik van ‘t Hullenaar (students, Nijmegen shopping parade).