Conflict, Power and Politics

A specialisation of the Master’s programme in Political Science offered by the Centre for International Conflict Analysis & Management (CICAM) and the Department of Political Science | Nijmegen School of Management

Introduction
This Master’s specialisation offers students insights into the origins, causes, and the processes of conflict and conflict resolution. Recognising that contemporary conflicts cannot be understood without taking both domestic and international politics into account, the programme draws on comparative politics, international relations and conflict studies. Students critically explore themes such as the determinants of political violence and warfare; the links between ethnic violence, nationalism and war; how international regulations affect efforts to acquire peace; and which ethical dilemmas arise in such situations. This Master’s specialisation is offered in collaboration with the Centre for International Conflict Analysis & Management (CICAM).

Why should you choose Conflict, Power and Politics in Nijmegen?
• The programme is unique for the Netherlands in being taught by both political scientists and conflict specialists
• You can focus on a theme of your interest
• Teaching takes place in a stimulating, collegial and interactive setting of small groups
• The international staff has a wide range of expertise, is approachable, has strong links to policy and practice, and involves students in their research projects
• Our Master’s programme is consistently ranked as the best Political Science programme in the Netherlands

The programme
This is a one-year Master’s programme (60 ECs), structured as follows:
• Five specialisation courses (30 ECs)
• One course in research methodology (6 ECs)
• One elective course (6 ECs)
• Master’s thesis (18 ECs)

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

Maren Backbier
Student of the Master’s specialisation Conflict, Power and Politics

‘What I like most about the programme is that it connects political science with conflict analysis and conflict resolution. By combining classes of both disciplines in one specialisation you learn the role of politics in conflict and vice versa. Furthermore, the small classes provide the opportunity for discussion and interaction with the teacher.’
Changing perspective
Conflict, Power and Politics at Radboud University teaches you to go beyond the surface of daily news items and to disentangle deeper causes of conflict, study its consequences, and assess possible solutions. We challenge you to view and assess conflicts from the perspective of different stakeholders, while understanding the social, economic and political structures and institutions enabling or hindering these stakeholders in pursuing their objectives.

Career prospects
Students in this Master-track prepare for a career as academic, (inter)national policy or decision maker, or journalist. Students acquire skills for positions as policy makers in NGOs, media, international organisations, political parties, national ministries, or supranational institutions. They may also work as consultants for profit and non-profit organisations and as researchers at think tanks or universities. Our graduates obtain the skills that employers covet, such as sound research and analytical skills, excellent writing and oral communication skills, and experience in working in teams and working independently.

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 sufficient coverage of research methods). A substantial part of the courses in the Bachelor’s degree must be in Conflict Studies, International Relations or Political Science. You must also have sufficient proficiency in English. For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/cpp. You are required to have the necessary skills in qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

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 Master’s programme in the Netherlands. For the last seven years this has been the conclusion of the Dutch magazine ‘Elsevier’ and for the last five years of the Dutch information guide ‘Keuzegids Universiteiten’.

After reading all the information, we hope you are interested and enthusiastic about the specialisation Conflict, Power and 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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Dr Willemijn Verkoren
Associate professor of Conflict Studies

‘Conflicts are understood from a variety of theoretical perspectives, leading to much academic debate. Since our analysis of conflict strongly influences our preferred approach of dealing with it, in the course Conflict Theories we take an in-depth look at some of the key debates and their implications for policy and practice.’