

Master European Public Affairs

[Find another programme](#)

Master's Programme

Master European Public Affairs

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Perspectives on Europe

Full course description

In order to analyze and tackle today's problems that occur in a complex international environment, one needs to have a solid understanding of the rich political, historical, legal, economic, and cultural traditions of the European Union's member states. Thus "Perspectives on Europe" begins by refreshing students' knowledge of the EU institutions and decision-making procedures. The course then reviews the history and dynamics of European integration, and the theoretical approaches developed predominantly in political science to analyze the dynamics of integration. From the point of view of history, the course delves into the development of nation-states in Europe and nationalism. To complement this point of view, the rise of Euroskepticism will be discussed from the political science perspective. The legal perspective will enhance students' understanding of the European legal order and the European Court of Justice. From the point of view of economics, students will examine the formation and rationale for the common market, as well as the EU's current trade and development policy. The political science perspective will complement this with an inquiry into the development and current challenges for European welfare states. A professional curriculum vitae and sharp presentation skills are essential assets for EPA Master students. Thus for the skills training in this module students will work with an instructor from Maastricht University's Language Center. The instructor will offer tips on CV-writing and presentation skills and will provide individual feedback on students' practice group presentations and sample CVs.

Course objectives

This module sets out to lay a foundation for the further study during the course of the EPA Master. It introduces students to key issues in European integration from the perspective of political science, history, law, economics, and culture.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Recommended reading

The EPA Master in principle works with selected academic journal articles.

EPA4000

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

27 Oct 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Master European Public Affairs

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.U. Arnold](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Skills, Training(s), Work in subgroups, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Presentation, Final paper

Keywords:

Interdisciplinary, European integration

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Integrated skills track

Full course description

The Skills Track spans from September to April, and provides training on various professional and research skills related to academic communication (verbal and written), research design skills (formulation of research questions, basic design of an academic study, choice of methods), as well as working with (academic) sources. The Research Skills component of the Integrated Skills Track is designed to train students in the most important skills required to accomplish research projects in European Public Affairs, as well as to prepare for the drafting of the MA EPA final work - the internship thesis.

Course objectives

The main goal of the Integrated Skills Track is to equip the students with practical skills indispensable for the contemporary European Studies graduate such as presentation and writing skills, team-work and strategic communication. In addition, the course prepares the students for the drafting of their graduation project - the internship thesis.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

Blaikie, Norman. (2007). *Approaches to Social Enquiry: Advancing Knowledge*. 2nd ed., Cambridge: Polity

Grix, Jonathan. (2004). *The Foundations of Research*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Moses, J. and T. Knutsen (2007). *Ways of Knowing: Competing Methodologies in Social and Political Research*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

EPA4500

Period 1

Master European Public Affairs

4 Sep 2017

6 Apr 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E.J. Radulova - Ivanova](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Paper(s), Presentation(s), Research, Skills, Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Final paper

Keywords:

Research and writing skills, team work, personal effectiveness, communication and presentation skills

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Governance in the EU

Full course description

Governance in the EU takes a closer look at the dynamics of European integration. Today's European Union consists of twenty-eight Member States that have pooled sovereignty in certain areas and have delegated some authority to supranational institutions. Policy-making takes on different guises depending on the field in question, which has an impact on the ways in which the different actors engage with each other. The course examines this complex set of practices and procedures involved in governing the EU. The focus is on a broad range of topics related to traditional forms of policy-making as well as to new modes of governance such as the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and decision-making in the Union's CFSP. These topics are addressed during two workshops (on the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and the politics of treaty reform) and two seminars (on the internal market and EU policy processes). A practical insight is provided through a skills training in EU negotiations, a number of more specific exercises and a two-day trip to Brussels where we will visit some of Europe's most influential institutions. Governance in the EU will be concluded by a written exam.

Course objectives

At the end of the course students should understand decision-making in the EU, have an overview of the main EU policies and be acquainted with the main theories and concepts concerning European governance.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Recommended reading

The EPA Master in principle works with selected academic journal articles and book chapters.

EPA4002

Period 2

30 Oct 2017

22 Dec 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [L.R. Russo](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Skills, Training(s), Work in subgroups, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

Governance, policy process, economic policy, CFSP, negotiation skills

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Lobbying in the EU

Full course description

The third module of the Master in European Public Affairs deals with the phenomenon of lobbying in the system of European governance. In the theoretical part, students explore on a conceptual level the relationship between EU institutions and lobbying organizations, and learn to identify the main venues for lobby influence in the system. The practical part of the module deals with some of the most important skills, tools and methods needed to perform on the Brussels lobbying scene. Students explore policy papers and policy briefs as tools to communicate policy-relevant information and thus to influence decision making; get introduced to the basics of online communications, and particularly social media, in the practice of public affairs in the EU; and, finally, they learn how to develop and implement a comprehensive lobbying strategy in Brussels.

Course objectives

This module aims to familiarize students with the theoretical and practical ins and outs of lobbying in the EU and trains students in developing their own public affairs pitch.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Recommended reading

The EPA Master in principle works with selected academic journal articles.

EPA4001

Period 3

8 Jan 2018

2 Feb 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Skills, Training(s), Work in subgroups, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Assignment, Final paper

Keywords:

Lobbying, pitch, policy process

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Implementation and Evaluation of EU policy

Full course description

The central question in this last module is how and to what extent European policies are actually applied in practice; what happens at the “street level” with all policies coming from the EU? The first part of the module concentrates on the implementation phase. All member states have a different administrative organization, which has its impact on how interaction with the European level takes place. European integration only has a real impact on the street level when domestic capacities are in place to deal with the demands that come from ‘Brussels’. Member States need to be flexible in building, adapting or innovating their public sector capacities and systems in order to ‘cope’ with the EU. We will analyze how Member States differently deal with this. The second part of the module looks at European public policy by evaluating existing policies and programs. Professional policy evaluation takes place in the context of highly politicized processes of judgment and reckoning: What is a success and what is a failure? This seemingly simple question often proves difficult to answer, for both policy makers and evaluators. The course examines regulatory impact assessment and better regulation. It considers how we might theorise evaluation, and the ways in which it takes place at various parts of the policy cycle. It questions the extent to which evaluation influences policy redesign. In addition, consideration is given to the culture and politics of evaluation in the EU. The course takes a practical perspective and engages students in real-life cases.

Course objectives

The last module of the EPA Master aims to analyze the issue of evaluation and implementation of EU policy from both a theoretical and practical perspective, and aims to train students in conducting - and reporting upon - their own policy evaluation.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Recommended reading

The EPA Master in principle works with selected academic journal articles.

EPA4003

Period 4

5 Feb 2018

6 Apr 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [P.J. Stephenson](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Skills, Training(s), Work in subgroups, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Final paper, Assignment

Keywords:

implementation, evaluation, policy process, Writing skills

Master EPA Internship

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Internship report

Full course description

As the EPA master is practice-oriented and aims to prepare students as much as possible for a career in public administration or consultancy, the 12-week internship is a crucial part of the program. The host institution for this internship varies widely. The main aim of the internship is to provide students with actual work experience in the field. Examples of internships from previous years are: European Commission, Grayling Consultancy, PA Europe Consultancy, BusinessEurope, European Institute of Public Administration, American Chamber of Commerce to the EU, UN Office for Industrial Development, European Central Bank, Assistant to MEP, European Environment Bureau, Delegation of the European Commission to, amongst others, Thailand / Tanzania Belgian / German, etc., Credits for the internship are spread over three deliverables: 1) internship thesis, 2) internship work, and 3) internship report. The internship report refers to a report students draft that describes the work done during the internship, and that reflects upon the internship organization, the work conducted and provides a sample of the work done.

Course objectives

After the internship, MA EPA students 1. are able to relate theoretical knowledge to a real-world setting; 2. are able to apply/use the relevant knowledge and skills acquired during the MA EPA; 3. are able to develop and practice professional skills related to communication, organisation, team work; 4. have gained working experience, explored a potential career option and found out more about their personal skills and interests; 5. are able to establish professional contacts; 6. are able to work within a set organisational structure (hierarchy) with fixed working hours, work patterns, routines, etc.; 7. have enriched their CV to make them more competitive candidates on the job market; 8. have acquired the academic and personal skills to conduct and reflect upon professional skills in an ethical and socially responsible fashion.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Corequisites

- [Internship thesis](#)

Recommended reading

Not applicable

EPA4990

Period 5

9 Apr 2018

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Internship, practical experience

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Internship work

Full course description

As the EPA master is practice-oriented and aims to prepare students as much as possible for a career in public administration or consultancy, the 12-week internship is a crucial part of the program. The host institution for this internship varies widely. Students are expected to find their own internship, with the help of the faculty's office for internationalisation. The main aim of the internship is to provide students with actual work experience in the field. Examples of internships from previous years are: European Commission, Grayling Consultancy, PA Europe Consultancy, BusinessEurope, European Institute of Public Administration, American Chamber of Commerce to the EU, UN Office for Industrial Development, European Central Bank, Assistant to MEP, European Environment Bureau, Delegation of the European Commission to, amongst others, Thailand /

Course objectives

After the internship, MA EPA students 1. are able to relate theoretical knowledge to a real-world setting; 2. are able to apply/use the relevant knowledge and skills acquired during the MA EPA; 3. are able to develop and practice professional skills related to communication, organisation, team work; 4. have gained working experience, explored a potential career option and found out more about their personal skills and interests; 5. are able to establish professional contacts; 6. are able to work within a set organisational structure (hierarchy) with fixed working hours, work patterns, routines, etc.; 7. have enriched their CV to make them more competitive candidates on the job market; 8. have acquired the academic and personal skills to conduct and reflect upon professional skills in an ethical and socially responsible fashion.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Corequisites

- [Internship thesis](#)

Recommended reading

Not applicable

EPA4900

Period 5

9 Apr 2018

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

8.0

Instruction language:

English

Keywords:

Internship, practical experience

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Internship thesis

Full course description

As the EPA master is practice-oriented and aims to prepare students as much as possible for a career in public administration or consultancy, the 12-week internship is a crucial part of the program. The host institutions for this internship vary widely. The main aim of the internship is to provide students with actual work experience in the field. Examples of internships from previous years are: European Commission, Grayling Consultancy, PA Europe Consultancy, BusinessEurope, European Institute of Public Administration, American Chamber of Commerce to the EU, UN Office for Industrial Development, European Central Bank, Assistant to MEP, European Environment Bureau, Delegation of the European Commission to, amongst others, Thailand / Tanzania Belgian / German, etc., Credits for the internship are spread over three deliverables: 1) internship thesis, 2)

internship work, and 3) internship report. The internship thesis refers to a 9.000 word thesis in which students reflect upon the actual work done in the internship via academic research.

Course objectives

After the internship, MA EPA students 1. are able to relate theoretical knowledge to a real-world setting; 2. are able to apply/use the relevant knowledge and skills acquired during the MA EPA; 3. are able to develop and practice professional skills related to communication, organisation, team work; 4. have gained working experience, explored a potential career option and found out more about their personal skills and interests; 5. are able to establish professional contacts; 6. are able to work within a set organisational structure (hierarchy) with fixed working hours, work patterns, routines, etc.; 7. have enriched their CV to make them more competitive candidates on the job market; 8. have acquired the academic and personal skills to conduct and reflect upon professional skills in an ethical and socially responsible fashion.

Prerequisites

Only accessible for selected EPA students

Corequisites

- [Internship report](#)
- [Internship work](#)

Recommended reading

Not applicable

EPA4890

Period 5

9 Apr 2018

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

8.0

Instruction language:

English

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Internship, practical experience