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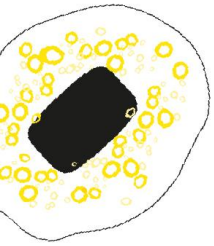
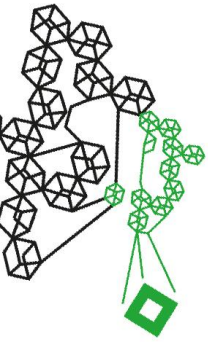


Programme-specific part of the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) 2025-2026

For the Master (of Science) programme

European Studies



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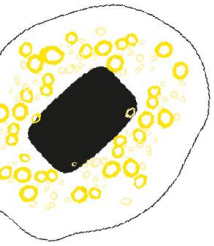

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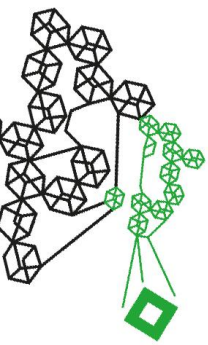
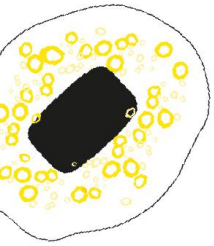




1. Introduction/General provisions

The Master of Science (MSc) programme in European Studies is a programme defined by the question of how the grand societal and technological challenges of our contemporary European and global context (including the Global South) are addressed by the European Union and/or global governance institutions. The programme educates students to acquire specialized academic knowledge and skills necessary to solve these grand societal and technological challenges (GSTCs) from a multi-actor perspective on European Studies (ES), on technology, and on European and global governance. The MSc programme empowers students to study these challenges—at the master's level—from the perspectives of European and global governance and European and global public policy.

1.1. Admission to the programme

The admission request for the programme is assessed by an admission committee that consists of the programme management. In addition to the general criteria, European Studies distinguishes two types of (inter)national education;

1. Research Universities (primarily responsible for research-oriented programs)
2. Universities (college) for professional education (prepares students particular for more practical professions)

The admission committee has specific requirements depending on the degree.

1. Dutch Degrees of Research Universities

a. A Bachelor's degree in European Studies or related awarded by a Dutch university

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in European Studies awarded by a Dutch university will be admitted to the program.

b. Another Bachelor's degree awarded by the University of Twente

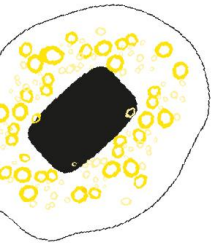
Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in a related field awarded by a Dutch research university will be admitted after completion of a 15 or 30 EC pre-Master's programme, to be decided by the admissions committee. The admissions committee determines whether or not a pre-Master is awarded and determines the content of the pre-Master's programme. The applicant must have successfully completed the entire pre-Master's programme within 12 months before being admitted to the Master's degree programme.

2. Degree by a Dutch college for higher professional education (HBO)

a. A Bachelor's degree in a related field awarded by a Dutch University (college) for higher professional education

Students with a Bachelor's degree in a related field awarded by a Dutch University (college) for higher professional education will be admitted if they have successfully completed the 30 EC pre-Master's programme within a period of twelve months. The admissions committee determines the content of the pre-Master's programme. All applicants will be judged on an individual basis.

The content of the pre-master programme is described on the Utwente website.



Students who have had a higher professional education (HBO) are assumed to be sufficiently proficient in the English language at the start of the Master's phase . It is the responsibility of the student to attain this level of English.

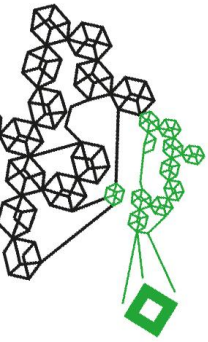
The following degrees are currently considered degrees in a related field:

- European Studies
- Bestuurskunde
- Commerciële economie
- Fiscale economie
- Rechten
- Hogere juridische opleiding
- Integrale veiligheidskunde
- International Business & Languages
- International Business Management
- International relations
- Management, Economie en Recht
- Politicologie
- Ruimtelijke ordening en planologie

b. Another Bachelor's degree awarded by a Dutch University (college) for higher professional education

Applicants with a degree in a non-related field are judged on an individual basis. The applicant must have successfully completed the entire pre-Master's programme within 12 months before being admitted to the Master's degree program.

3. Bachelor's degrees from a non-Dutch university



The admissions committee assesses international applicants with a Bachelor's degree awarded by a non-Dutch Research University or University (college) for higher professional education on an individual basis. The assessment of the applicant's skills is based on:

- a NUFFIC credential evaluation;
- A Bachelor's degree in a related field
- a letter of motivation;
- an academic IELTS overall band score of at least 6.5 (see also www.ielts.org) or a TOEFL internet-based (TOEFL-iBT) score of at least 90
- mathematics proficiency is at VWO level
- any additional information required by the admissions committee.

The assessment of all applicants' skills is based on academic background and the possibility for students to finish the Master programme within a year.

For more information we refer to our website https://www.utwente.nl/es/pre-master/

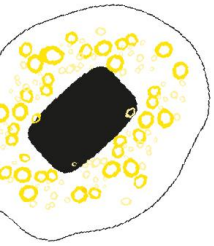
1.2. Language of the programme

The programme is offered in English, and the exams are taken in English. The report of the Master's project will be written and defended in English. Students are free to make a translation or summary in Dutch once this is necessary for the dissemination of the research results, but the final grade will be based on the original version in English.

1.3. Rights, duties and composition of the programme committee

In line with article 9.18 of the WHW, each programme has a programme committee, which has the duty to advise programme management on improving and safeguarding the quality of the programme. It has a right of consent regarding a number of topics in the Education and Examination Regulations (EER), e.g. the goals and intended learning outcomes of the programme in terms of knowledge, insight and skills that a student should have acquired at the end of the programme; where necessary the layout of practical exercises; the study load of the programme and its study units. In addition, the programme committee evaluates on a yearly basis the manner in wich the EER has been carried out and has the right to advise programme management and the dean – invited or uninvited – on all matters relating to the teaching in the programme.

The composition of the current programme committee can be found here:
https://www.utwente.nl/en/mst/intranet/



2. Contents and structure of the programme

2.1. Contents of the programme

The programme consists of three components:

1. A set of five obligatory courses of 5 EC each, see the table
2. An elective of 5 EC
3. A final (Master's) assignment of 25 EC and an accompanying methodology course of 5 EC.

The curriculum overview for the Master program includes the following categories:

Quarter / Subject code / Subject name / Study load in ECs / Exam format

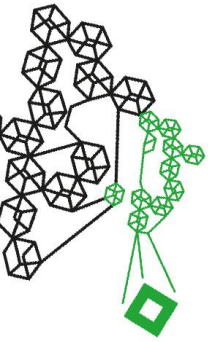
The student's work must be eligible for review. More specific details are available via OSIRIS and/or made known in a timely manner by the examiner on Canvas.

2.2. Structure of the programme

In table 1 is indicated the study load of the programme and every single educational unit (section 2e of article 7.13 of the WHW 7.13): see the column "EC" (1 EC = 28 hours). In addition the tables indicate the exam formats and prior knowledge requirements.

The test formats are defined as follows:

S	=	written exam;
PGI	=	practical exercise as a group; a written report of this exercise by group and (as far as possible) individual assessment of the manner in which the student has participated in the activities as a group;
PS	=	practical exercises and a written report of these practical exercises;
PSS	=	practical exercises or assignments, a written or oral report of these exercises or assignments, written exam. It is only allowed to participate in the exam if the practical exercises have been carried out and the report of these practical exercises has been assessed with a sufficient result.
PSM	=	like PSS, but in principal an oral exam;
BZS	=	supervised self study
BAM	=	in accordance with rules as set out in the regulations on the Master's assignment.



Further details can be found in OSIRIS and/or will be announced in time by the examiner.

For more information on the content of the educational units we refer to OSIRIS and Canvas.

Table 1: Msc in European Studies 2025-2026

Q	Course code	Name	EC	Exam Format
1	201800370	Comparative Public Governance	5	PSS
1	202400603	European Institutional Framework	5	PSS
1	202200252	International Political Economy	5	PSS
2	202200089	Governance & Technology beyond the Nation State	5	PSS
2	202200092	Global Public Policy	5	PSS
2	201500145	Academic Research	5	PSS
3		Elective	5	PSS
3+4	194128051	Master thesis	25	BAM

For the elective course, all courses of the Public Administration programme are allowed. For other courses, permission must be granted by programme management.

2.3. Study load

As seen in the table, the total study load of the programme is 60 EC, with six core courses of 5 EC each, an elective of 5 EC and a 25 EC Thesis.

2.4. Programme-specific characteristics

Coherence and didactical concept

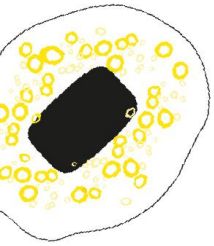
The Master's programme in European Studies has a clear structure with the central 1-year programme and an option to follow the two year double diploma programme (Twente/Münster). The didactic concept of the MSc- programme reflects the professional and academic master level by demanding high levels of autonomy and integration in both course work and thesis work.

High level of autonomy: The programme aims at increasing students' autonomy to the highest possible level. This is clear from the way acquired knowledge and skills in all courses are being tested: by means of practical exercises or assignments, oral or written reporting of findings and results, and a final written exam and/or essay. The final exam/essay is open to students only if all previous assignments have been completed satisfactorily.

High level of integration: The master European Studies is a training to perform research, but also a test of competences. The aim is that students demonstrate that they are able to integrate theoretical perspectives and research skills in an applied scientific context.

Content of practical exercises

A practical exercise is an academic unit or a component of an academic unit in which the emphasis is on the activity of the student, such as:



- preparing a literature review, paper or design project, thesis, article, or position paper, or delivering a public presentation;
- a design or research assignment, tests and experiments, practical exercises, skills practice;
- work placement, fieldwork or excursions;
- participation in other required learning activities aimed at achieving the desired skills.

Practical exercises are generally part of an academic unit for which there is a responsible examiner. The structure of the practical exercise(s) is described in general terms in OSIRIS, and in more detail on Canvas at the start of the programme.

Master's assignment

The Master's assignment (or Master's project or Master's thesis) is not supervised by a single responsible instructor; instead, a Master's committee is assembled for each assignment. The Master's committee for the Double Diploma of the University of Twente and the Universität Münster consists of lecturers from both universities

The Master's project is an individual project, and is evaluated on an individual basis. The Master's project tests the student's competence in the integrated application of the knowledge, comprehension and skills covered in the study units. The Examination Board prescribes an evaluation checklist to help ensure the quality of the evaluation. Further information on the Master's assignment can be found in the Master's thesis manual, which can be consulted through Canvas

2.5. Honours programme

For excellent students the University of Twente offers different extra-curricular Master's honours programmes of 15 EC. Each of these programs has a distinctive profile, which allows the student to develop himself in one of the roles of organizer, designer, researcher or negotiator. These programmes are:

- Change Leaders
- Great Negotiators
- Research Honours
- 4TU. Responsible Sustainability Challenge.

More information about these programs and the corresponding selection procedure can be found at the UT honours programmes website www.utwente.nl/honours.

2.6. Elective options

The structure of having an elective, the option to combine with the double degree with Münster and the opportunity of choosing a Master's Thesis subject yourself, means there are plenty of opportunities to make individual choices. Should students wish to defer from the programme as stated in table 1, programme management will advise the student after which the Examination Board decides.

2.7. Double degrees and internationalization

The research that is the basis of the master's programme is (almost) always international. Students are invited to write their Master's Thesis on these internationally relevant subjects. This includes the possibility to do the research abroad.

Students can also choose the two year master's programme offered by the University of Twente (The Netherlands) and the Universität Münster (Germany) under the title *Comparative Public Governance*. This programme leads to a double diploma. In this case students follow additional relevant courses offered by the Universität Münster from the second semester (the German 'Summer Semester') on. More information can be found on www.utwente.nl/master/cpg.

For these students, it is allowed to shift their elective to another quartile when deemed useful. It is also possible to shift academic research to their second year when deemed useful. A useful scenario can be to find an elective in Q2 instead of Academic Research, and to follow Academic Research just before their thesis in the second year. Academic research is programmed in Q2 and Q4.

2.8. Pre-master's programme

Students that are not directly admitted to the programme may get an individual admission decision with a pre-Master's programme. After successfully completion of this programme within a period of twelve months they are accepted for the master. The admissions committee determines the content of the pre-Master's programme. All applicants will be judged on an individual basis. Technically the pre-Master's programme falls under the bachelor. When no specific rules for the pre-Master's programme are stated, the bachelor rules as found for the bachelor Management, Society and technology are valid.

3. Programme objectives and Intended Learning Outcomes

3.1. Programme objectives

In this Master programme you will study changes in global governance. We will look at the changing role of states, the emergence of non-state actors and the increasingly dense network of international institutions. Thus, we will not only assess how states operate in an international context, but also how private actors and other stakeholders claim a role in global and EU rule-making. Technology empowers private actors first and foremost and creates opportunities for them to act internationally in a globalized economy and society. How do states and international institutions react to and shape these new transnational ties and interdependencies? Have states lost control to private actors? Are they constrained by international institutions? Or have they reacted to both in ways that make them stronger in new ways?

And, all of this takes place in the context of a world that is confronted with different challenges, ranging from security to human rights, from the environment to financial regulation, and from labour and education to trade, rules are made by international organizations and impact on both the EU and its member states. You will actively research how we can 'govern' this increasing complexity and contribute to dealing with global challenges.

3.2. Intended learning outcomes

The MSc European Studies programme educates students to acquire three major learning outcomes:

1. Knowledgebase of the field of European Studies

Graduates have mastered interdisciplinary knowledge and skills at an advanced level in the field of European Studies. Graduates:

- 1.1 have academic knowledge of the key disciplines in European Studies such as international and European law and politics, and the governance of social and economic policies.
- 1.2 are able to identify, discuss, and review state of the art theories, models, and results of research in the fields of European Studies.
- 1.3 are able to identify, discuss, and review applications of research in a relevant domain, such as security, welfare and health, science and technology and sustainability.

2. Social Scientific research and design competences in European Studies

Graduates have research and design competences at an advanced level in the field of European Studies. Graduates are largely independently able to…

- 2.1 identify, (re)define, and analyse global societal challenges from a theoretical framework on the basis of policy, governance and regulatory perspectives.
- 2.2 incorporate knowledge from relevant other domains, including technology.
- 2.3 Carry out all aspects of an advanced-level social scientific study in the field of European Studies. They are able to:
  - formulate a scientific research question and consistent sub-questions;
  - formulate testable hypotheses that are logically derived from an appropriate theoretical framework;
  - develop a feasible research design and carry out a research, using appropriate methods and techniques of the social sciences for data collection and -analysis;

- interpret and evaluate the results of their analysis. They reflect on the results of their completed research, including a well-reasoned opinion in the case of missing or incomplete data;
- indicate and (ex-ante) evaluate the theoretical, practical, and ethical implications of the research for the field of European Studies and provide recommendations for further research.

2.4 Using scientific knowledge and models, in such a way that graduates are able to design a solution to, or develop an advice about, a societal challenge on the basis of policy, governance, and regulatory perspectives.

- They use a systematic design approach, creative skills, and—if applicable—technology.
- They take into account (the organization of) the implementation of their design.
- They reflect on the ethical, political, and societal implications of the solution.

3. Academic and professional skills

Graduates have general academic and professional skills at an advanced level they can employ for the benefit of their future career. Graduates…

3.1 have academic reasoning skills, they are able to apply modes of reasoning (including deduction, induction, and analogy) and exchange and justify arguments in a critical, open, and constructive way.

3.2 are able to critically reflect on, and form an opinion on, the work and professional actions of themselves and others. Students are able to give constructive feedback (advice) and receive and make use of feedback (advice) from others to improve their actions, work (processes) and products.

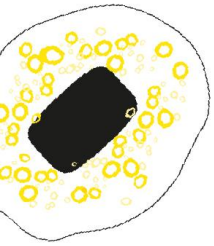
3.3 are able to effectively communicate in the English language about the research and designs of themselves and others, both verbally (speaking in public, debates, discussions) and in writing (papers, reports, posters) in an academic and professional environment—taking into account the appropriate norms and conventions, as well as characteristics of the target group or audience.

3.4 are able to effectively and efficiently collaborate with others, both in an academic and professional environment.

3.5 are able to use the results of their work to advise a commissioning party in a convincing and goal-oriented way.

3.6 are able to spot gaps in their knowledge and know the ways to revise and extend their knowledge in a goal-oriented way. They are able to use their information-, media-, and ICT-skills.

The ILO's have an academic orientation, as demonstrated by academic reflection in the knowledge base, social science research- and problem-solving competences and specialized competences in interdisciplinary work. The intended learning outcomes specify that students can carry out their thesis work at an advanced level and largely independently, stressing the master's level of the ILO's.



4. Assessment/examination

4.1. Final examination

The programme has one examination, the Master's examination at the end of the year. The Master's examination is deemed to have been successfully completed if the exams of the units of study, including the Master's thesis, have been taken successfully.

4.2. Assessment format interim examinations/tests

A unit of study is completed with an exam. An exam can comprise one of the following formats:

- a written exam
- an oral exam
- a series of tests
- the assessment of practical exercises as meant in art. 1 (Glossary)
- a combination of the above

For the thesis the end grade as given in consent by both supervisors, will follow the rules of rounded grades as stated for study units. This means a sufficient grade for the thesis is a 6.0; 6.5; 7.0; 7.5; 8.0; 8.5; 9.0; 9.5 or a 10.0.

4.3. Maximum number of attempts for tests/interim examinations

Each course will have either one resit or one repair possibility for tests within the academic year

In general for each written test a re-sit is planned:

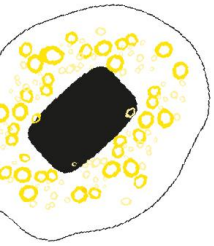
- A resit is a second opportunity for the written test;
- Re-sits within a course are open to all participating students.
- For students who did not participate in the test itself, the re-sit is the only option to pass the related test in this academic year
- The resit is scheduled in the next quartile, unless specified differently by the teacher.

In general for each graded assignment or paper that has a big impact on the end grade of the course a repair or delayed deadline is planned.

Repairs for assignments or papers are open to all students:

- highest grade possible for the repair is 7.0
- For students who did not participate in the first possibility the repair session is the only option to pass the related test in this academic year.

The maximum grade is there to make sure students do not gain an advantage compared to other students that delivered sufficient work in time. Personal circumstances recognized by the teacher and/or study adviser can give reasons to not apply the maximum repair grade rule.



4.4. Prerequisites / required sequence of interim examinations

There are no prior knowledge prerequisites in the MSc other than being admitted to the programme.

For courses of European Studies the following is valid:

- Bachelor students who would like to take a master course can submit a motivated request no later than 4 weeks before the start of course, containing a study progress overview from Osiris and a description of how the student meets the course's prerequisites.
- Master students from the following master programmes from the University of Twente meet the general prerequisites: BIT, BA, CEM, COM, CME, EST, EEM, PA, HS, IEM, PSY, RM, SET.

4.5. Examination board

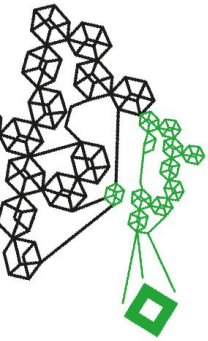
The examination board is the body that determines in an objective and expert manner whether a student meets the conditions set under the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) concerning the knowledge, insight and skills required to obtain a degree. Members of the examination board are appointed by the dean of the faculty.

More information, including the most up-to-date composition of the examination board can be found at its website: examination boards BMS. Alle information for students, examiners and educational support staff about the examination boards of BMS is published there, including their Rules and Guidelines, and the procedures and conditions for submitting a request.

4.6. Transitional arrangements

- There are no changes to the study programme
- We have added paragraph 4.8: Confidentiaility of theses.

4.7. Graduation with distinction



If upon sitting the Master's examination, the student has given evidence of exceptional capability, 'cum laude' ('with distinction') will be recorded on the degree certificate. A student is considered to have exceptional capability if the following three conditions are met.

The student:

1. fulfils all requirements for the study within two years;
2. has a weighted average grade of at least 8.0 over all numerical graded courses (without the thesis) and no courses with a grade of '6.0'
3. has a Master thesis grade of '9.0' or higher.

The first requirement may be extended to 'within three years' if the student successfully took part in the Double Degree programme Comparative Public Governance.
In exceptional cases, the examination board may grant the designation of 'cum laude' if the criteria mentioned above have not been fully met. Refer to the rules and regulations of the examination board for further information.

4.8. Confidentiality of theses

A thesis can only be marked as confidential if and only if programme management agrees to that. Two options are available:

1. The author name is confidential in the sense that it is not in the interest of the author to be associated with the thesis. The solution is in this case to anonymize the thesis.
2. The content of the thesis itself is confidential, e.g. in case of using / compiling or concluding to information that is seen by the organisation that is studied as (commercially) disadvantageous if it is made public.

Ad 1: The main reasons for this have to do with safety concerns. As an example: The author cannot travel to the country that is subject of the thesis anymore if the authors name is known to the regime. Or the author may have safety concerns elsewhere because of the information in the thesis.
Ad 2: Confidentiality can be honoured for a maximum of 24 months if immediate publication may damage the organisation that is studied.

Should a question of confidentiality rise, it is up to the programme management to weigh the scientific publication against the direct interest of the author and/or organisation. The weighing follows the following general rules:

1. A thesis is public, or can be public after non-essential editing of people and/or organisation names
2. If necessary, a thesis may have an anonymized author
3. If nothing else is possible, a thesis may be confidential, but only for a limited amount of time, standard 24 months. After this time, it will be published.

Students asking for confidentiality may send a motivated request to boz-mst@utwente.nl.