



# Public Safety Governance

Public safety is considered to be one of the major problems in Western societies today. The public attention devoted to problems of safety and security and the pressure they put on government and administration make it inevitable that these problems also receive special attention in academic programmes addressing governance. Problems of safety and security are of a very specific nature. The government agencies addressing these kinds of problems require substantial specialised knowledge, which fits into the general competencies of a Master's degree in Public Administration. The Public Safety Governance track pays special attention to subjects that offer insight and academic knowledge in the core of (governing) public safety.

## Programme structure

Public Safety Governance is one of the tracks within the Public Administration Master's degree programme. The master Public Administration of the University of Twente generated an overwhelmingly positive response from an international review committee of authoritative public administration specialists, the European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA). This committee concluded that the PA master's programme is leading at both the national and international level.

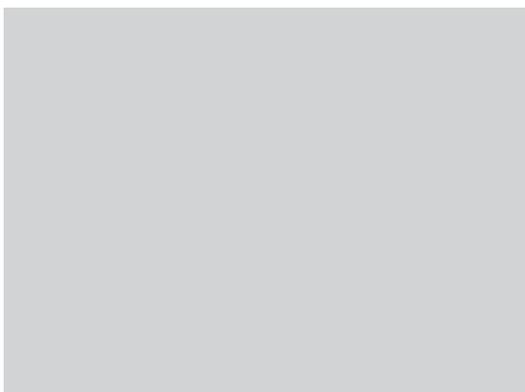
The one-year programme is divided into four quarters. The first quarter comprises a general introduction to the basic disciplines of public administration. The second quarter focuses specifically on the issue of safety and its governance. The third and fourth quarters will be devoted primarily to the master's thesis. The programme represents a total of 60 European Credits (EC).

The first quarter aims to give you a general overview of public administration at the master's level. This is done by means of three core (i.e. completed by students of all tracks) courses, viz. *Comparative Public Governance*, *Styles of Policy Research and Advice* and *Public Management*.

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Several aspects of the management of public safety institutions are quite similar to those of other public institutions. On the one hand, a great deal of research based on general literature of organizational theory (including such theories as the streetlevel bureaucracies and human service organizations) has been conducted by or on behalf of public safety institutions. On the other hand, however, safety management has many highly specific characteristics. For this reason, the second quarter involves two courses providing you with in-depth knowledge of safety and security problems (viz. *Public Safety Analysis* and *Theory of Public Safety Governance*) and one practical course (viz. *Practice-Oriented Work in Public Safety*).

In completing this track, you will make extensive use of the results of research recently conducted by the Institute for Social Safety Studies (IPIT). This knowledge centre of the University of Twente has an international reputation in the field of academic research.

### Master's thesis

The third and fourth quarters will be devoted primarily to the 25 EC master's thesis. A master's thesis consists of a research project on a high theoretical level, concentrating on a subject related to the governance of safety. You may write your thesis about a topic of your own choice. In order to prepare you for this period, you will have to follow a special course in methodology, which is also offered for the other tracks (5 EC).

### Labour market

The career opportunities of Public Safety Governance graduates are promising, despite the impact of public spending cuts. The great majority of graduates find work developing public safety policy for (in order of importance) municipalities, ministries and provincial authorities. Once the exclusive domain of the larger cities, smaller municipalities are now also focusing on public safety policy. In addition, the police force is a major employer. Some graduates work for a regional police force, conducting research and developing policy, while others opt for a career as police officers. Graduates also work for research and consultancy firms and in the field of education, for instance at institutes of higher professional education. A limited number of graduates pursue an academic career. As you will be awarded a master's degree in Public Administration, you need not be concerned that completing this track will limit your job opportunities to work in the field of Public Safety Governance.

### Additional information

The Public Administration (PA) Master's degree programme is a dynamic programme. Regularly consult our website [www.graduate.utwente.nl](http://www.graduate.utwente.nl) for the latest developments.

The website also presents information on such aspects as: tracks, courses, admission requirements and registration. For more track-specific information you can also visit [www.ipit.nl](http://www.ipit.nl).

If you have further questions regarding this track or the PA Master's degree programme, please contact the PA programme information desk by e-mail at [master@utwente.nl](mailto:master@utwente.nl) or by phone on +31 (0)53 489 5489.

European Association for  
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