



**University of Twente**  
Enschede - The Netherlands

**Master of Science Programme**

# Environment, Spatial Quality and Sustainability

The Environmental, Spatial Quality and Sustainability (or simply 'Sustainability') track deals with the various aspects of policies and strategies aiming to promote a more sustainable society. As sustainability requires mutual adjustment of and collaboration between public and private actors and NGOs, a Master's degree programme in Public Administration is an obvious choice. In addition to relevant theories, the practical operation of policies and strategies is also addressed. In order to meet the growing demand for managers in the field of public/private environmental and spatial management, the track aims to prepare future government, business and NGO decision-makers to analyze and act in an environmentally pro-active way.

It takes a great deal of personal knowledge and skills to manage such processes in a pro-active, effective and efficient manner, while balancing socio-economic, spatial and environmental interests. Courses (drawing from such disciplines as policy analysis, law and economics), practical assignments and thesis research all contribute to the knowledge and skills. In terms of research, this track has close ties with the University of Twente's Institute for Governance Studies (IGS) spearhead programme Institutional Change in the Public Sector and the Centre for Clean Technology and Environmental Policy (CSTM).

## **Programme structure**

Sustainability is one of the tracks within the Public Administration Master's degree programme. The Master's degree programme 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 degree programme is leading at both the national and international level. The oneyear programme is divided into four quarters. The first quarter comprises an introduction to the basic disciplines of public administration. Two of the courses during the quarter are already oriented towards the track's main focus. The second quarter focuses on sustainability. The third and fourth quarters will be devoted primarily to the

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master's thesis. The programme represents a total of 60 European Credits (EC).

The first three-courses quarter covers the whole of public administration. During this quarter, you will complete the following courses: Environmental Law in Europe, Styles of Policy Analysis and Regional Economics. Although Styles of Policy Analysis is completed by students of other tracks as well, thematic specialisation is possible. The second quarter consists of two courses providing in-depth knowledge of sustainability problems, viz. Environmental Policy and Spatial Planning, Environmental Governance and Law. The Public Administration programme offers a practical course as well, viz. Practice-oriented Work in Corporate Social Responsibility. Each course comprises 5 EC. Below, an overview of the complete Sustainability programme:

#### **Core part [15 EC]:**

- Environmental Law in Europe
- Styles of Policy Analysis
- Regional Economics

#### **Track-specific part [15 EC]:**

- Environmental Policy
- Spatial Planning, Environmental Governance and Law
- Practice-oriented Work in Corporate Social Responsibility

#### **Integrative part [30 EC]:**

- Methodology
- Master's thesis [25 EC]

#### **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 sustainability. You may write your thesis about a topic of your own choice. In order to facilitate the decision-making process, you are offered a 'list of topics' selected in mutual consultation between student and staff. All teachers of the relevant courses are available to serve as a master's thesis-supervisor. The thesis is written 'in-house'. You will form one or more groups that monitor each other's thesis progress. A member of the academic staff will supervise each of the groups. In addition, special classes will be given concerning the literature that is relevant to the selected topics. 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 labour market for Public Administration specialists in

environmental and spatial management is generally good. In the Netherlands, the combination of a lower influx into environmental management education programmes in recent years and a continuous governmental effort to increase environmental safety (to prevent disasters like the firework explosion that ravaged the UT's home city Enschede in 2000) and sustainable development in general, have even created a clear shortage of such experts. The practitioners' journal 'Milieumanagement' that keeps track of the environment job market speaks of a shortage of hundreds of well-educated people. There are increasingly good job opportunities in other countries as well. As you will be awarded a master's degree in Public Administration, completing this track will not limit your job opportunities to work in the field of Sustainability.

#### **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 information about the track ESQS you can also contact Prof. dr. Hans Bressers, [j.t.a.bressers@utwente.nl](mailto:j.t.a.bressers@utwente.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.

