



Public Governance

Public Governance in modern Western societies has witnessed important changes. Whereas traditionally public governance was seen very much as a state monopoly, it is now increasingly an enterprise that involves three worlds of governance: viz. state, market and civil society. By consequence, the nature of public governance appears to have changed. This change implies the relevance of multi-agency working, public-private partnerships, civic engagement and policy networks in which actors from the three worlds of governance have to coordinate their activities. These changes that go hand in hand with broader political (Europeanization), economic (globalization) and social (emancipation of citizens, immigration) change raise a whole set of challenges, both in intellectual terms (new questions) and in practical terms (developing new approaches to policy-making and public management)

This master track is aimed at developing students with both the analytical and the problem solving skills necessary for a career in the world of public governance, and therefore has three general aims:

- to provide a thorough understanding of the institutional arrangements and the decision-making processes in the multi-actor and multi-level networks that are characteristic of modern systems of governance and the skills to think systematically about the solution of the problems of these systems in terms of democratic legitimacy and effectiveness.
- to develop an understanding of policy-making processes (how and why do policies differ?) and to produce knowledge that is useful in the context of strategic decision-making and evaluation in the three worlds of governance.
- to provide an understanding of the organizational and management problems faced by the public sector and to think systematically about the merits of public management strategies aimed at improving the performance of organisations that are active in the public domain.

IMPROVE YOUR POSITION

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THE MASTER DEGREES
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Programme structure

Public Governance is one of the tracks within the Public Administration Master's degree programme. The one-year programme is divided into four quarters. The first quarter is devoted to the key themes in the field of public administration. The second quarter comprises an in-depth analysis of theories and issues in public 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).

During the first quarter, you follow three compulsory generic courses covering the main themes in modern public administration (i.e. governance, policy and management), viz. Comparative Public Governance, Styles of Policy Analysis and Public Management. Although these are core (i.e. completed by students of all tracks) courses, thematic specialisation is possible. The courses completed during the second quarter, e.g. Multilevel Governance, Public Governance and Legitimacy or Public Sector Reform provide you with in-depth knowledge of public governance issues. The Public Administration programme also includes a practical training of academic skills in the Practice-oriented Work module. Each course comprises 5 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 where you can prove your theoretical and methodological skills in analysing an interesting problem in public governance.

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. The thesis is written 'in-house', although the research problem is often times defined in close contact with practitioners. 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 joint course in social science methodology (5 EC).

Career prospects

This track provides academic training for a very wide range of professional careers in both public and private organisations that are engaged in the provision and production of public and quasi-public goods and services, as well as the formulation of public policies. Graduates have excellent career prospects at all levels – local, regional, national and international.

Additional information

The Public Administration (PA) Master's degree programme is a dynamic programme. Regularly consult our website www.graduate.utwente.nl for the latest developments. The website also presents information on such aspects as: tracks, courses, admission requirements and registration.

If you have specific 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 or by phone on +31 (0)53 489 5489.

