

Erasmus School of  
Social and  
Behavioural Sciences

# Bachelor in Management of International Social Challenges

2024-2025

Looking beyond  
borders

**Erasmus University Rotterdam**  
Making Minds Matter

*Erasmus*

# Introducing our study programme

[eur.nl/en/essb/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges](https://eur.nl/en/essb/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges)

**M**igration, climate change, pandemics, economic instability and international crime – these are all examples of international social challenges that local, national and international organisations in the public sector face and try to manage. In this bachelor programme, you will learn how to research, analyse, and contribute to managing these challenges.

In this programme we focus on social challenges that are:

- Multi-disciplinary: they have political, economic, legal and social aspects;
- Multi-level: they involve actors and networks at the international, national, regional and local level.
- International: they surpass geographical and administrative borders.

The programme is diverse. You will take courses in for example public policy, political science, economics, international law and management. This will enable you to analyse social challenges from different perspectives and understand the various roles, perceptions and interests of involved actors. Research method courses will provide you with the skills and knowledge you need for researching international social challenges and their management.

The Management of International Social Challenges programme is also a truly international programme. It is taught exclusively in English to a diverse student body from all over the world.

In this programme, you do not only look beyond borders in your studies, but also become part of an international network of peers.

In most courses plenary lectures are combined with interactive sessions or tutorials. This means that in addition to the lectures, you for example participate in a simulation, attend a Q&A session, give a presentation, provide feedback to your peers, or discuss your research paper.

## Career opportunities

The programme provides you with an excellent basis for an international career as a policy advisor, consultant, researcher, or civil servant at for example the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The United Nations, European Parliament, or consultancy firms. Upon graduating you will receive a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration. This degree will allow you to enrol in a master's programme in a related field at Erasmus University Rotterdam or elsewhere.

## Admission and application

You are eligible to apply for this programme if you have obtained or will obtain a vwo diploma or its foreign equivalent. To be able to participate in the programme, a good command of English is essential. You therefore have to prove your proficiency in English in your application. In the application you also have to report your academic performance, and submit a C.V. and letter of motivation.

'MISOC will provide you with **the expertise and skills** needed to understand and manage the greatest social challenges of the 21st century. Yours will be a challenging but rewarding journey.'

Michal Onderco - Programme director



### Curriculum

Year 1	
Block 1	Block 2
Global Challenges	International Law
Sociology	Organisation & Management
Block 3	Block 4
Designing Social Research	Public Policy
Political Science	Economics

*The curriculum may be subject to change. No rights may be derived from this information.*



'MISOC has helped me develop a critical and more inclusive worldview, taught me the skills and offered me the tools I need to pursue my career ambitions in the **international community**.'

Abigail Place - Student Management of International Social Challenges

# Possibilities during your studies

## Studying abroad

Studying abroad is a unique opportunity for personal development and getting to know other societies. It also allows you to compare different educational and academic cultures. We currently have 84 partner universities in 33 countries. We therefore encourage you to study outside the Netherlands in your third year.

## Minors

You can also opt for a minor in your third year. Each year, Erasmus University Rotterdam offers almost 100 minors. This includes nearly 40 broadening minors and several deepening minors. The Erasmus University also offers a range of joint, multidisciplinary minors together with TU Delft and Leiden University, which allows you to experience what it is like to study at other universities in the Netherlands.

## Internship

An internship will bring you a lot of valuable knowledge and experiences. It will allow you to experience managing social challenges up close and learn to apply the theory and skills you have learned in practice. In your third year you can therefore opt to do an internship at an international public sector organisation, such as embassies, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, The United Nations, European Parliament, or Doctors without Borders.

## Erasmus Honours Programme

Besides the regular programmes, the EUR annually offers two exclusive programmes to talented bachelor students: the Erasmus Honours Programme and the ESSB Honours Class. The EUR Honours programme enables excellent students to encounter fascinating and current themes from other fields of study in the Grand Challenges programme. Renowned scholars from several disciplines challenge honours students to look beyond the boundaries of their own field. The ESSB Honours Class enables 75 excellent students from the ESSB faculty to, amongst others, gain experience with conducting academic research under supervision of an ESSB faculty member.

## Life in the Netherlands and Rotterdam

You might know the Netherlands for its tulips, cheese and wooden shoes, but there's so much more to tell! The Netherlands has around 17 million inhabitants, but it's a small country. Yet, it has one of the most important and most innovative economies worldwide. Many internationals say the Netherlands is a well-organised country with open-minded people. Most of the country's 35,000 kilometres of bicycle paths are in the province of South Holland, where Rotterdam is located. And nice to know: in the Netherlands you don't have to speak Dutch. Most people will switch to English for you.



## Why study in the Netherlands?

Dutch education is known for its high quality and standards, and top-ranking positions. Degrees obtained in the Netherlands are internationally recognised. The Netherlands is also one of the top providers of English-taught courses. Our international classroom - a mix of international and Dutch students - is common across the university. In class, the atmosphere is usually informal, and it is pretty easy to speak to our professors directly. The Netherlands is known as easygoing, liberal and tolerant - ideal for students. Studies in the Netherlands are affordable and accessible, for European and non-European students.

## Studying in Rotterdam

Rotterdam, also nicknamed "World Port City" or the "Gateway to Europe", is a cosmopolitan city and hosts many multi-national organisations. You might get to know your future employer during your studies, for example by doing an internship.

Rotterdam's slogan is 'Make it happen'. Erasmus University is proud to be part of this city where people develop new and creative ideas every day.



BSc of Public  
Administration

Around  
**160**  
students per year

**39**  
different  
nationalities  
in 2021

Start in  
september

**100%**  
taught in English

Deadline for  
application:  
April 1

**64%**  
international  
students in 2021

Exchange  
opportunities

## Chat with us!

Are you a prospective student and would you like to get in touch with us? Have a chat with one of our current students and/or our staff, via [eur.nl/en/essb/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges/chat-our-students-and-staff](https://eur.nl/en/essb/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges/chat-our-students-and-staff)



**Zofia**

Management of International Social Challenges  
BSc

[Chat with Zofia](#)

I COME FROM  
Olsztyn, Polska

PREVIOUS QUALIFICATION  
Matura

ABOUT ME

Hi! I'm Zofia, I come from Poland and I am currently a 2nd year MISOC ...

[See more](#)

## Contact

M: [bachelor@essb.eur.nl](mailto:bachelor@essb.eur.nl)

W: [eur.nl/en/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges](https://eur.nl/en/bachelor/management-international-social-challenges)  
and [eur.nl/en/essb/contact](https://eur.nl/en/essb/contact)

## Curious about studying at EUR?

Go to [eur.nl/en/essb](https://eur.nl/en/essb) and check out our (online) activities and events, such as the Bachelor Open Day or Student for a Day!

