

Master of Political Science

2024-2025



Become a **specialist**
in political decision-making!



University
of Antwerp

| Let's shape the future

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The 'skills lab' seminar gave me the opportunity to develop real-life skills in the field of political science.

In brief

Political decisions give direction to society. But how are political decisions made? The Master of Political Science provides you with specialist, in-depth knowledge of **decision-making in politics**. Besides the acquisition of theoretical and analytical insight, you will also practise core skills involved in political decision-making, such as **argumentation, negotiation and lobbying**.

In detail

The Master of Political Science aims to improve your understanding of political decision-making from **different perspectives**. In this programme we explore:

- How and why **citizens** participate in politics. Who participates and who does not?
- How elected **politicians** translate their political preferences into political action.
- What impact **policy professionals** such as political advisors, consultants or civil servants can have on policy decisions.
- How **institutions** constrain and enable the potential for political cooperation.

To understand political decision-making, you should be able to adopt these four (sometimes very different) perspectives. After all, elected politicians make binding decisions for society, but the participation of citizens is the bedrock of legitimate decision-making. In our Master's programme we train/develop experts who are able to **understand, explain and influence outcomes of decision-making** in a rapidly evolving political context.

An international profile

Do you have the ambition to work in an international context? An active command of English, including knowledge of international political jargon, is necessary. The entire Master's programme is taught in English and prepares you to access a professional environment in which English plays an increasingly important role.

The English programme also offers an international community where you come in contact with diverse, comparative perspectives on politics.



Programme structure

The Master of Political Science does not exclusively aim at the acquisition of theoretical and analytical insights. You will also practise some of the core skills involved in political decision-making, such as **argumentation, negotiation and lobbying**.

Besides the mandatory courses you can **tailor your programme to your personal interests**. The political science cluster has a variety of courses on issues in national and international politics. The interdisciplinary cluster allows you to broaden your view on politics.

The expertise you gain in this Master's programme culminates in the **Master's thesis**. A successful thesis demonstrates that you are able to explore a complex political subject independently in a scientific manner.



The study programme offers opportunities to experience 'real-life politics'

Johannes ten Hoer

Curriculum

Core courses:

Perspective on Politics	ECTS credits 12
Citizens	3
Politicians	3
Policy Professionals	3
Institutions	3

Skills Lab ECTS credits 3

Research Design and Methods	ECTS credits 12
Research Design Seminar	6
Research Methods Two seminars to be chosen from a list of 5 seminars (consult www.uantwerpen.be/master-political-science)	6

Elective courses:

Political Science Cluster	ECTS credits 18
3 electives to be chosen from a list of 12, out of which 1 elective can be replaced by 1 from a list of 4 from the Interdisciplinary cluster (consult www.uantwerpen.be/master-political-science)	

Master's thesis ECTS credits 15

Total ECTS credits 60

Job opportunities

The Master's programme will prepare you for a **career in politics, policymaking, public affairs, research, consultancy or the media**. You will be needed in positions that require you to analyse policymaking and to guide and influence decision-making.

After finishing your Master's programme **you might find yourself:**

- Monitoring, analysing and acting on key policy developments taking place in Europe as a **public affairs manager**
- Starting a career as a **politician**, right in the epicentre of politics
- Identifying threats and opportunities emerging from new policies as a **researcher**
- Using your strong understanding of the European and international institutional landscape as a **diplomat** or **lobbyist**
- Cutting down a 30-page political article in an academic journal to 800 words in the newspaper as a (political) **journalist**

Orientation year

International students can choose to look for work opportunities in Belgium after completing their studies. You can apply for an orientation year and extend your stay in Belgium by 12 months. Guidance and administrative assistance with this process is available through the university.



Whether your calling is in or outside the academic world, this Master's programme will equip you with the necessary analytical and practical skills to tackle key contemporary issues.

Shirley Kempeneer

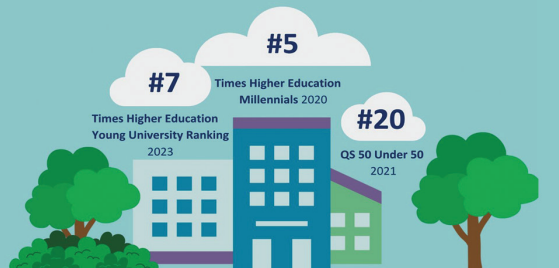
Why choose UAntwerp

Our university is located in the **city of Antwerp**, in the heart of Belgium and Europe. The port of Antwerp is one of the biggest in the world. The city of Antwerp is not just an ancient medieval and baroque city, full of history. It is also a bustling metropolis with a vibrant social scene, impressive architecture and cultural contrasts. Over 170 nationalities live here, more than in New York! This cosmopolitan vibe is also reflected at the University of Antwerp.

First-rate research and education make the University of Antwerp a wonderful place to study and to work. We foster the nexus between research and education. Internationalisation is key to our mission. It is no coincidence that the University of Antwerp is a partner in a highly promising European University Network, the Young Universities for the Future of Europe www.YUFE.eu.

As home away from home to over **20,000 students**, the University of Antwerp prides itself on operating on a human scale. Our faculty and staff will welcome you into top-notch infrastructure on one of our four campuses. While you're here you are also invited to enjoy our vibrant cultural programme, sports facilities and many student services.

The University of Antwerp scores extremely well in Young University Rankings



Testimonial

After finishing my political science B.A. in Hungary, I was looking for an English-language programme in the same field. Mainly I was considering the universities of the Netherlands and Belgium and I was glad to be admitted to the Political Science programme of the University of Antwerp. I was looking forward to beginning my studies and exploring both the impressive campus and the wider surrounding of Antwerp.

I liked that we had a balanced mixture of compulsory and elective courses as well as theoretical and practical ones. During the programme we had the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the various perspectives of political actors, to gain a solid methodological basis and to apply the theories we learnt. One of my most memorable courses was the 'Interest Groups' class, which provided me with a sound knowledge about lobbying and several challenging tasks to put the terms and techniques I read about into practice. I found it also extremely valuable that the professors encouraged students to interact and cooperate, which enabled me to experience what it is like to work in an international group. I learnt a lot from these occasions in terms of improving my communication techniques and workload management.

Currently I work as a policy analyst and so far, I have made an excellent use of the briefing and drafting skills I acquired during the programme. My everyday tasks also demand a fair amount of teamwork, which I could get used to in Antwerp. Based on my positive experiences I encourage future master students interested in political science to choose this programme.

Ervin Bejan



Admission criteria

All information about the admission requirements and application procedure can be found on www.uantwerpen.be/admission.

An overview of the academic Bachelor's or Master's degrees from higher education institutions in Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg, which give direct access to the Master of Political Science can be found on the programme's website www.uantwerpen.be/political-science-admission.

If you have a Bachelor's or Master's degree from a higher education institution outside Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg, you need to submit an online application via Mobility Online, before you can enrol.

Important: In order to be admitted directly to the programme, a background in social science research methods is essential.

Admission with a preparatory or bridging programme

Students who do not meet the direct admission requirements can start a bridging programme or a preparatory programme, if approved by the Board of Admission. The preparatory and the bridging programme will help you develop any programme-specific knowledge and (research) skills that were not addressed in your prior studies. Once you have successfully completed the programme, you will receive a certificate that gives you permission to enrol in the Master of Political Science at the University of Antwerp.



The Master of Political Science has provided me with valuable knowledge and skills that I can directly apply to my professional life. Furthermore, I appreciate the international character of the programme as diversity in the workplace is mirrored in diversity in the classroom.

Nicole Germay

Since the programme is taught in English, candidates with a prior degree issued outside Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg are required to demonstrate their proficiency in English. They can do so in two ways:

— Either by submitting a **language certificate** showing their TOEFL, IELTS or ITACE results (the level required can be checked on www.uantwerpen.be/admission)

— Or by submitting **proof** they have studied at least one academic year (or 60 ECTS credits) in an English-language Bachelor's or Master's programme.

Please note that the Board of Admission may still ask for additional proof of proficiency in English.



Application procedure

Candidates with a Bachelor's or Master's degree from a higher education institution in Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg can enrol directly into the programme, provided that they meet the specific admission requirements.

Candidates who have a Bachelor's or Master's degree of another country or who need a student visa must submit an online application through the **Mobility Online** tool.

Applications for the academic year 2024-2025 can be started in Mobility Online as from 9 November 2023 onwards.

Application deadlines

To submit an application through Mobility Online

For non-EEA * nationals and for students who need to apply for a visa: **before 1 March 2024**

For EEA nationals: **before 1 June 2024**

Enrolment deadline

4 October 2024

Enrolments start on 1 July 2024.

The academic year 2024-2025 starts on Monday 23 September 2024.

* **EEA** = European Economic Area

Member states:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

ECTS credits

The University of Antwerp applies the '**European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System**' (ECTS) in all its degree programmes.

A full-time one-year study programme amounts to **60 ECTS credits** (about 30 ECTS credits per semester). One ECTS credit stands for 25 to 30 hours of work including contact hours, preparatory work, study and assessment.



Quick facts

Level

Master

Language

English

Credits

60 ECTS credits

Number of years

1

Tuition fee per year *

EUR 1092.10 for EEA nationals

EUR 5800 for non-EEA nationals

Campus

Stadscampus

Faculty

Social Sciences

More information

[www.uantwerpen.be/
master-political-science](http://www.uantwerpen.be/master-political-science)



* subject to yearly revision

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