

Master of Applied Economic Sciences: Economic Policy

2025-2026

Shape the future of
economics in
the **heart of Europe**.



University
of Antwerp

| Let's shape the future

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As an international student, you get a lot of support from the university. The work that is put into each student's personal development is amazing.

Kamelia

In brief

Ready to make an impact? As the world is challenged by climate change, inequality and financial & healthcare crises, the need for skilled economic policymakers has never been greater. With the one-year Master's of Economic Policy, you can become that expert.

And the best part? You'll be studying right in the heart of Europe, just a 45-minute train ride away from the headquarters of NATO, the European Commission, and much more. So not only will you be getting a world-class education, but you'll also have countless opportunities to network and gain real-world experience.

As an international student, you will be part of an inclusive, multi-accredited university that scores well in academic rankings, and is praised for its high value for money.

In detail

Through our programme, you'll gain a **deeper understanding** of the consequences of economic policies and learn to evaluate different policy options using cutting-edge economic theory and research methods. With this knowledge, you'll be ready to tackle the challenges of the future.

Besides the compulsory courses, you can choose one of two modules that allows you to tailor the programme according to your interests:

Public Policy:

This module focuses on public policies in various sectors, such as industrial organisation, labour, environment, health, inequality and education. The module covers both efficiency and equity issues.

Macroeconomic Policy and Financial Markets:

This module focuses on monetary policy, public finance, financial intermediation and regulation, and financial econometrics.

Master's thesis

The Master's thesis is the **crowning piece** of the academic Master's curriculum. You demonstrate your in-depth knowledge of the foundations, the theory and the empirical methodologies underpinning the Economic Policy programme.

Innovative business city

As a student in Antwerp, you find yourself in one of the most innovative business cities in Europe. The city was rewarded for its business-friendliness, connectivity and economic potential. And for good reason! The city is home to Europe's second biggest port, the global diamond trade, a large chemical and oil cluster, thriving fashion industry, and much more. Because of its central location, you can easily travel from Antwerp to other European cities like Amsterdam, Paris or Berlin.



Rankings and accreditations

The faculty's AACSB, EQUIS and EFMD programme accreditations illustrate our high-quality teaching and research, placing us among a select group of global leaders in business education.

The University of Antwerp is ranked 88th in the 2023 Financial Times European Business Schools ranking.

Double degree with Maastricht University

The University of Antwerp and Maastricht University have joined forces in a unique double degree. This gives you the opportunity to study in two countries and obtain two Master's degrees in the field of economic sciences in just two years. Both universities contribute to your academic and professional development in their own way and with their own strengths. This unique combination of soft and hard skills will make you more competitive in the job market and will transform you into a responsible, global-minded citizen. If you would like to learn more, please visit the programme's website www.uantwerpen.be/en/study/programmes/all-programmes/economic-policy/about-the-programme/double-degree/ or contact master.fbe@uantwerpen.be.

Programme structure

Deciding to **study abroad** is a big step. If there is one thing we can guarantee, it is that you won't just be a number at the Faculty of Business and Economics. Our professors and staff are at your service to help you with any questions you may have. We promise to do everything we can to make you feel right at home in our international classroom.

In the lectures you **not only get a thorough theoretical basis**, but attention is also paid to empirical applications; there are ample opportunities to apply the theory in specific case studies. Several professors also play an important role within companies and national and international institutions, so that they can bridge the gap between theory and practice. The programme builds on the latest academic insights and up-to-date research methods, it provides evidence-based policy analyses as well as the ability to design policy solutions for a complex and continuously changing environment.



Learning outcomes

Your Master of Applied Economic Sciences: Economic Policy will kickstart your (international) career, as you will have obtained indispensable and highly valuable skills. **At the end of the year, you will:**

- a** possess thorough knowledge of **econometric methods**, recent scientific developments in micro and macro-economic theory and welfare economics, as well as in the discipline-specific programme components;
- b** be able to collect, critically process and interpret the relevant **academic literature** and other scientific sources;
- c** be able to **formulate research questions**, set up research design and collect empirical data in a scientific manner. You will have the ability to critically evaluate the results of scientific research and translate them into realistic policy recommendations;
- d** be able to work **efficiently** and **effectively** in multicultural and/or international teams.



One of the first things that attracted me to the Master of Economic Policy is the rigorous nature of the curriculum, which I believe equips you with the necessary skills to pursue a career as an economist. The programme has a strong research component, which for me, aligned with the career path that I had envisioned for myself. And the programme certainly delivers on it.

All in all, I am very happy that I chose this programme for my postgraduate studies, and I believe that the comprehensive and diverse nature of the programme has allowed me to develop the necessary skills to tackle today's job market.

Pawani, India



Curriculum

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Compulsory courses | ECTS credits 24 |
| Applied Econometrics | 6 |
| Applied Welfare Economics | 6 |
| Research Methods in Economics | 6 |
| Macroeconomic Policy | 6 |

1 (compulsory) Module **ECTS credits 21**
 Within each module, students can replace one course of up to 6 ECTS credits by **a course from the other module**, an internship and/or a selection of summer schools and blended intensive programmes. Please consult our website for the full list.

| | |
|---|---|
| Module 1: | |
| Macroeconomic Policy and Financial Markets | |
| Financial Econometrics | 3 |
| Financial Intermediation and Regulation | 6 |
| Monetary Economics | 6 |
| Public Finance | 6 |

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Module 2: | |
| Public Policy | |
| Economic Analysis of Inequality with Capita Selecta | 6 |
| Health Economics | 3 |
| Industrial Organisation | 6 |
| Labour Economics | 6 |
| Master's thesis | ECTS credits 15 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Total | ECTS credits 60 |
|--------------|------------------------|

Job opportunities

With this programme you will be **fully prepared** to take your first steps towards the job market. During your studies, you will be in frequent contact with the business world through guest lectures, corporate visits, a Shape Your Career track and job fairs. Students and alumni get **unlimited access** to the Career Center, our go-to platform for vacancies, internships and career-related events from hundreds of national and international companies and institutions.

As part of our **international classroom**, you will be shaped into a global student and citizen. Over the past few years, we have had graduates from over 21 different countries. Our alumni work all over the world. Almost 90% found a job within 6 months after graduation. This also reflects in our university ranking 168th in the Times Higher Global University Employability Ranking 2022.



At the University of Antwerp, you will make lots of friends from all over the world. I went to events organised by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), who are a big help to international students.

Zeynep, Turkey

With an Economic Policy degree, you are prepared for roles that require you to analyse aspects of economic policy and to guide and influence economic policy decision-making. You can become a consultant, economist or project manager and work for prestigious national and international organisations like the European Commission, KPMG, Greenpeace and The World Bank. You can start your own company or enrol for a PhD and pursue an academic career.

Orientation year

On average, we see that 1 in 3 international students stay in Belgium to work after obtaining a degree.

Non-European students studying abroad in Belgium can make use of the orientation year. This gives them 12 months to find work or start a company in Belgium, following the completion of their studies.

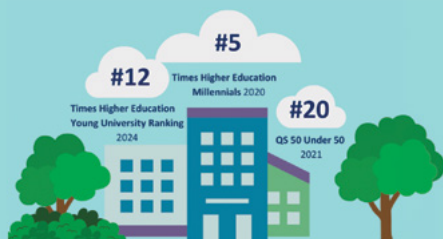
Why choose UAntwerp

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. 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. English is widely spoken in Antwerp, though if you learn Dutch during your stay here you will become a local in no time.

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 completing a Bachelor's degree in Economics in Prague, I wanted to specialise in policy making and started looking into international Master's degrees. I decided to apply for the Master of Economic Policy at the University of Antwerp because it offered an excellent value for money and the courses really appealed to me. And as it turned out, the Master of Economic Policy was a perfect fit. It is a challenging year but that is a good thing in my opinion. The programme really prepares you for the future. I want to put my acquired skills and knowledge into practice, working for an NGO.

Student-teacher relationship

The professors put a lot of emphasis on the quality of teaching, you can tell they are experts in their fields. I found the interaction with the academic staff and the professors very positive. During the first classes, it became clear that they had an open door policy. The student-teacher relationship is important here.

Belgian fries

When I just moved to Antwerp, it was interesting to see that people eat fries as a complete meal. I was used to fries being a snack, or a side dish at most. But Belgians often have fries for dinner, and they take their fries culture very seriously. And rightfully so, it is acknowledged as world heritage by UNESCO. Since I've been here, I've gone to a fries shop myself a couple of times, so I guess I'm fully integrated now.

Sailaja, India



As an international student, you will never be just a number at our faculty. We take great pride in our personal approach. We will do everything we can to fulfil our mission, and that is shaping diamonds. Shaping new generations of competent graduates into critical-thinking researchers, executives, entrepreneurs and policy makers, with an independent mind, ethical awareness and global mindset. You will receive high-quality education in management and economics, with a focus on sustainability and internationalisation. We hope to welcome you soon, here in Antwerp.

Prof. Koen Vandenbempt

Admission criteria

Applicants should hold a **university-level** Bachelor's degree in Economics, Economic Policy, or equivalent. This degree should be academic, as opposed to a technical or professional degree. When starting the Master's programme, students should provide evidence of an intermediate competence in microeconomics and macroeconomics and proof of a background in introductory econometrics.

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, ITACE or Cambridge English test result (the level required can be checked on: www.uantwerpen.be/admission)
- Students with a degree from the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are exempt from providing a language certificate.

Unless exempted, applicants should **include** a GMAT, GMAT Focus Edition or GRE test result in their application:

- GMAT exam with a minimum score of 565 or higher and minimum score of 82 on quantitative reasoning.
- GRE with a minimum score of 160 on quantitative reasoning and a minimum score of 152 on verbal reasoning.

Alternatively, students can submit a **GRE with a minimum score of 160** on quantitative reasoning + 152 on verbal reasoning.

Depending on where you obtained your bachelor's degree, you may be exempt from submitting a GMAT/GRE test result. Please consult our website for the full list of exemptions

Students who are **still completing their Bachelor's degree** are also encouraged to apply. Applicants that are enrolled in their final year should submit a copy of an original and signed letter from their college or university confirming that they are expected to complete the programme at the end of the current academic year.



The programme will equip you with both theoretical and applied skills, while Antwerp's excellent location will allow you to easily reach the rest of the world with your newly acquired economic policy knowledge.

Prof. Dr. Sunčica Vujić

Application procedure

If you have a Bachelor's or Master's degree from a higher education institution in Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg and you don't need a visa, you can apply through a simplified online form on:

www.uantwerpen.be/economic-policy

Candidates who do not fulfil this condition or who need the student visa must submit an online application through the **Mobility Online** tool. Application files for the academic year 2025-2026 can be uploaded in Mobility Online as from early November 2024 onwards.

Application deadlines

To submit an application through Mobility Online

For non-EEA * nationals and for students who need a visa: **before 1 March 2025**

For EEA nationals: **before 1 June 2025**

* **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

Enrolment deadline

Early October

Enrolments start on 1 July 2025.

The academic year 2025-2026 starts on
Monday 22 September 2025.

ECTS credits

The University of Antwerp applies the '**European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System**' (ECTS) in all its degree programmes. All study programmes are measured in terms of ECTS credits.

A full-time one-year study programme amounts to **60 ECTS credits** (30 ECTS credits per semester), which implies a student workload of about 1500 to 1800 hours. 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 1157 for EEA nationals

EUR 5800 for non-EEA nationals

Campus

Stadscampus

Faculty

Business and Economics

More information

[www.uantwerpen.be/
economic-policy](http://www.uantwerpen.be/economic-policy)



* subject to yearly revision

Contact

Master of Applied Economic Sciences: Economic Policy

Kim Van Overvelt, Programme manager
master.fbe@uantwerp.be

International Students Office

internationalstudents@uantwerp.be

T.: +32 3 265 31 89

www.uantwerp.be

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This brochure was published in September 2024.
As all information is subject to change,
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