



International
Institute of
Social Studies

Inspiring development, transforming the future

Development Studies 2025-2026
MA and PhD Programmes

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Make it happen.





MA in Development Studies

The objective of the ISS MA programme is to educate aspiring early- and mid-career professionals in critical Development Studies.

The programme prepares students to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural context.

The MA in Development Studies attracts students from all over the world. The diversity of the student body is also reflected in their academic background, years of work experience and work fields.

Majors

- Agrarian, Food and Environmental Studies
- Economics of Development
- Governance and Development Policy
- Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies: Social Justice Perspectives
- Social Policy for Development
- Governance of Migration and Diversity track

While studying at ISS, there is a possibility to specialize further in the following fields:

- Conflict and Peace Studies
- Decoloniality and Degrowth
- Econometric Analysis of Development Policies
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Governance of Local Development and Humanitarian Crises
- International Political Economy and Development
- Public Policy and Management
- Women and Gender Studies

In addition to the specializations, we also offer (partial or full) courses on children and youth, climate change, human rights and research methods.

For more information:
www.iss.nl/ma



Scholarship information



Programme information

Duration	15.5 months, full-time
Dates	September 2025 – December 2026
Tuition fee	€ 19,950
Early Bird Discount	10% of tuition fees (iss.ebd.nl)
Location	The Hague, the Netherlands
Application deadline	1 July 2025
Programme contact	study@iss.nl

Erasmus Mundus MA in Public Policy (Mundus MAPP)

Mundus MAPP is an internationally recognized two-year Master programme in Public Policy. It offers an interdisciplinary curriculum delivered by four outstanding European university institutes: the Central European University (CEU) in Vienna, ISS in The Hague, the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) and the University of York (UoY). The first year is spent either at ISS or CEU while the second year is spent either at the UoY or IBEI.



Programme information

Duration	2 years
Dates	September 2025 – August 2027
Tuition Fee	€ 26,000 (in total)
Academic Requirements and Application	www.mundusmapp.org
Admission Contact	mundusmapp@ceu.edu

Joint teaching programmes

ISS offers joint programmes with academic partners all over the world.



**UNIVERSITAS
INDONESIA**
Veritas, Probitas, Iustitia | Est. 1849



PhD Programme

ISS offers a four-year PhD programme leading to Erasmus University Rotterdam's internationally recognized doctoral degree. Since the inception of the PhD programme in the 1980s, ISS has awarded over 250 PhD degrees.

All PhD researchers are embedded in one of these four research groups:



**An international
peer review
committee rated
ISS research as
excellent and
world leading in
societal relevance.**



**Civic
Innovation**



**Development
Economics**



**Governance,
Law and
Social Justice**



**Political
Ecology**



For more information:
www.iss.nl/en/research/phd-programme

'ISS is very demanding when it comes to critical thinking and reflexivity, but ISS also provides a caring and compassionate community that is difficult to find elsewhere'

Tamara Soukotta, PhD graduate 2023
(Indonesia)



Founded in 1952, the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) is one of the world's leading centres of higher education and research in development studies. The ISS is part of Erasmus University Rotterdam and is based in The Hague, the 'International City of Peace and Justice'. ISS has staff from approximately 25 nationalities and hosts MA students and PhD researchers from around 55 countries.



Your pathway to global success

- 1.** No application fee for our programmes
- 2.** Visa application assistance for incoming students
- 3.** Exclusive ISS scholarships that can be combined with the Early Bird Discount
- 4.** Guaranteed housing for all students
- 5.** All programmes are taught in English
- 6.** Six majors within the MA in Development Studies programme, with options for specialization
- 7.** Diverse international perspectives with over 55 nationalities represented among students and staff
- 8.** Easily accessible academic staff
- 9.** Student airport pick-up service
- 10.** Access to the ISS alumni network, with over 20,000 members and growing

Facts and figures



Teaching Staff
25+
countries

All English

taught programmes

One of the
top
universities
in Development Studies in the
Netherlands and Europe

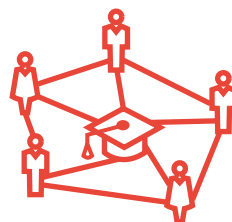


20 minutes to
famous Scheveningen beach



The Hague

'the best city in the world to live
and one of the best university
cities in the world' (*Times Higher
Education and Numbeo, 2023*)








Alumni network of
20,000
professionals

International Institute of Social Studies

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