



Joint PhD Programme in Economics & Governance

United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social
Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG)



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Joint PhD Programme in Economics & Governance

Programme Summary

Our PhD programme is a multidisciplinary programme offered by the United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and its School of Governance at Maastricht University (UM).

The programme provides advanced training in the knowledge and skills most relevant to the economics of technology and innovation, and to governance, social protection and public policy analysis. Built around core courses for all fellows, the programme also offers specialized courses in governance, public policy and the economics of technology.

During the first year, fellows complete basic compulsory training conducted by leading scholars in our institute. These courses are taught in Maastricht and spread across two semesters. The programme has two specializations, and in both cases the PhD is obtained at and accredited by Maastricht University.

Our programme trains fellows to become scholars and practitioners in the fields of governance and the economics of technology. The focus of both the training and research aspects is on making systems economically, financially and socially more sustainable.

A core objective is to create a critical mass of researchers specialized in governance, social protection and social policy, innovation, technology and development, who in turn are able to become leading researchers in the field and to provide advice based on sound results. Our Joint PhD in Economics & Governance is a four-year Maastricht-based programme starting on 1 September each year. It is taught entirely in English. Maastricht University awards the doctoral degree upon successful defence of the thesis.

The Host Institute

Together UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance form a research and training institute of United Nations University (UNU). The institute is also part of Maastricht University, based in the south of the Netherlands.

The institute's research mission is to provide new insights into the economic, social and political aspects of growth and development in local and international contexts. Its research and training programmes address a broad range of questions including the economics of technology and innovation, multi-level governance, intellectual property protection, social protection policy, knowledge creation and diffusion, and migration.

Researchers at UNU-MERIT are internationally recognized for their contributions to the understanding of the economic, political, social and philosophical foundations of the processes of technical change. The School of Governance has a history of project implementation for various international institutions including the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO and national governments, focusing on social policy and migration developments.

The institute also participates in research projects for international organizations, governments, businesses, and foundations throughout the world. Beyond working with and for other UN bodies, the institute has a long history of conducting applied research for organizations such as the European Commission, the International Development Research Centre, and numerous national governments.



The Programme

Our PhD programme provides advanced training in the knowledge and skills relevant not only to basic research in a variety of fields linked to economics, technology and governance, but also to policy analysis including policy design, policy monitoring and policy evaluation.

PhD fellows follow individualized plans that outline the requirements for completion of the programme. These plans take into account their research interests and their educational and professional backgrounds. They are agreed upon with the programme committee at the start of the course and with the supervisory team in subsequent years of the programme.

Training Programme

During the first year, fellows complete a basic compulsory training programme conducted by members of our faculty. The courses are spread across two semesters and taught in Maastricht.

The first semester consists of a course programme to be taken by all fellows. In the second semester, we offer two specializations, both leading to a PhD at Maastricht University. Fellows select their individual course programmes based on background knowledge, need and interest.

Calendar 2013-2014

26 August	Quantitative Methods & Micro-economics			
9 September	Introduction Week			
9 September - 28 October	Poverty, Migration & Social Protection	Economic Growth & Socio-economic Development	Innovation & Growth in the Global Economy	Introduction to PhD Research
29 October - 13 December	Governance & Human Development	Evaluation of Programmes & Policies	Economics of Networks	Research Topic & Proposal Development
13 December - 5 January	Winter Break			
6 January - 30 March	Specialization Courses			



Quantitative Methods & Micro-economics

Modern economic theory often relies on quantitative methods. As a result, a certain knowledge of mathematics is required to fully understand the concepts used by economists and utilized for policy analysis and evaluation. The main purpose of this course is thus to provide the students with some of the most important principles of economics, while putting a strong emphasis on the quantitative methods underlying them.

PhD Research Proposal Track

The track has three objectives. First, fellows will be introduced briefly to PhD research. Second, this track will familiarize fellows with the different research themes and methodologies used in the institute, while introducing them to researchers at the institute. Third, fellows will be supported to develop their own PhD proposal, to be presented at a pitching session in November.

Poverty, Migration & Social Protection

In this course, fellows will get an overview of three separate but interrelated subjects: poverty, migration and social protection. During the first two weeks of the course, fellows will learn about the different concepts of poverty and ways it can be measured.

From a purely welfarist perspective, poverty is understood as a lack of income to make ends meet. It starts from the presumption that individual utility determines well-being and that well-being is expressed in the level of income (or consumption). The welfarist approach assumes that households have preferences, expressed in what they consume, and that this choice gives them the highest utility they can possibly achieve. The non-welfarist point of view claims that the focus on money neglects other aspects that are equally important for well-being, such as the fulfilment of basic needs, access to social services, command over commodities, or the capabilities to function. From this starting point we will embark on a discussion comparing traditional “monetary” poverty with other approaches such as multidimensional poverty, compare absolute and relative poverty and then move on to the policy relevance of measuring poverty.

The second part of the course will provide an introduction to the quickly evolving field of migration studies. In the first week we will get a general overview of migration studies, covering definitions, trends in stocks

and flows, theories of migration and why people move, and understanding linkages between migration and development. In the second week we specifically look at the linkages between migration and poverty in more depth with a case study approach. Migration can be one effective way of reducing poverty and enhancing human development. This will be two weeks of a teaser into migration studies. Finally, during week five and six the course will turn to social protection as a means to effectively reduce poverty.

While migration can be considered an informal social protection strategy, social protection policies provided by governments offer formal, publicly financed protection to poor and vulnerable households and individuals. We start by discussing the context and rationale of social protection and the various design issues which may play a role for the effectiveness of such policies.

Measuring the effectiveness of social protection policies is high on the agenda of governments and donors alike. Methods range from relatively simple benefit incidence analysis to randomized experiments. Finally, the course concludes with a discussion of the political economy of social protection, offering a potential avenue for more research in the field.

Economic Growth & Socio-economic Development

This course focuses on the empirical analysis of technological progress, economic growth and socio-economic development in developing countries. The aim of the course is to analyse the position of developing countries in the global economy with regard to technology, industrial development and overall levels of socio-economic development. Thus, it brings into focus critical issues including international diffusion of technology, technology gaps, absorptive capacities, catching up and leapfrogging, and changes in developmental outcomes such as health and education.

The course opens with two sessions on long run-trends in economic development and industrialization as a (potential) engine of growth and the emergence of manufacturing in developing countries since 1950. This is followed by two sessions focusing on the measurement and analysis of productivity and technological change in manufacturing. We proceed with a session on country case studies of industrial development and sessions devoted to topics including health, education and institutions.

Course Descriptions

Economics of Networks

In recent decades, social network analysis has become one of the dominant approaches in the analysis of technical change, innovation and diffusion. Virtually unseen three decades ago, papers using network analysis now appear in every journal concerned with innovation and development.

We see this in the theory of network formation and performance, strategic alliances and industry networks, networks for micro-finance, trust networks among traders in developing countries, networks of inventors and patents, citation networks in science, and many more.

This course explores the role of networks in innovation and development. We start with an introduction to the concepts of social network analysis: how to describe networks, what are the statistical measures of network properties, what does each measure, and what are its properties.

We discuss the nature of network analyses of the economy, in particular as it pertains to knowledge. Social networks provide the infrastructure over which knowledge is diffused. Why is this the case, and how does it work? We are particularly interested in the relationship between network architecture or structure and performance. In the context both of Europe and of developing countries, policymakers are interested in knowledge diffusion, and in Europe especially, have explicitly network-based policy programmes to support it.

What types of networks should policy aim to produce with these programmes in order to achieve its goals? This is a major question that is addressed. All networks change as time passes and agents form and break links with each other. How does this happen? What types of networks will emerge and be efficient? All of these questions are addressed.

The techniques used in the literature to examine them include formal theory, simulation, and empirical studies of existing networks. The empirical examples to be studied are drawn from a broad selection, including knowledge networks in both developed and developing regions.

Innovation & Growth in the Global Economy

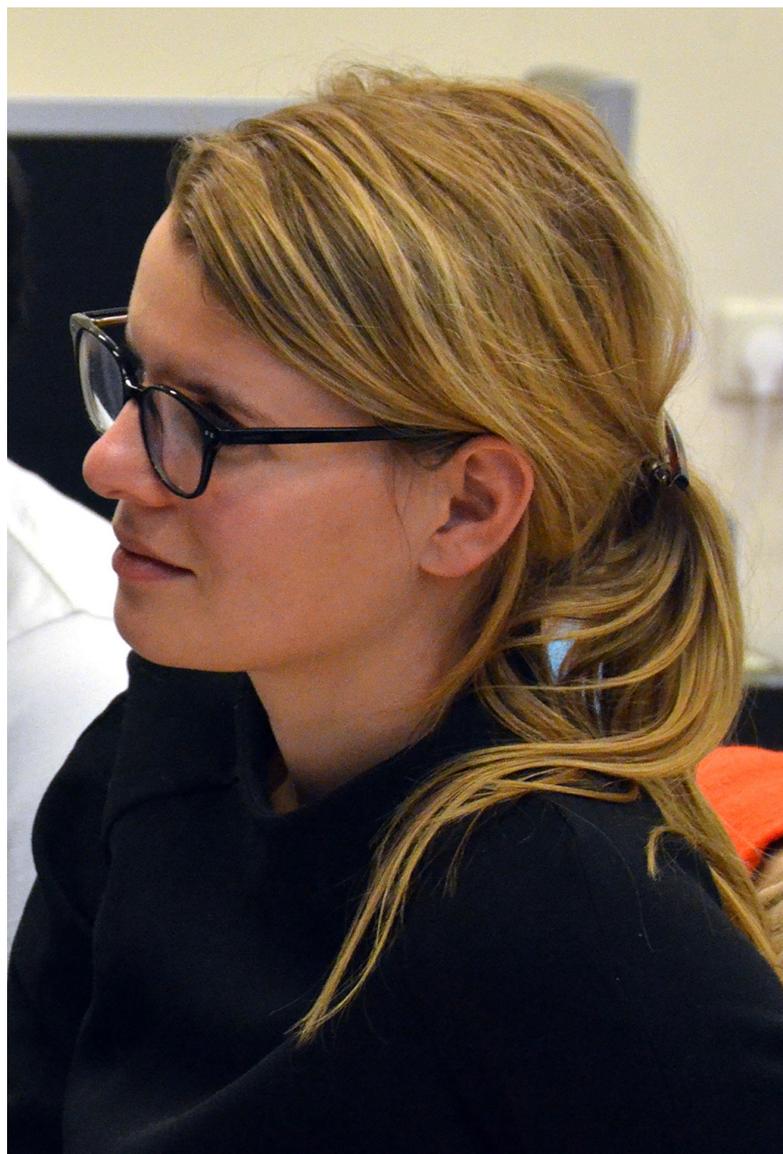
This course covers topics including the global economy, basics of economic growth, capital flows, knowledge and uneven development, endogenous growth, growth in Asia and Latin-America, endogenous and divergent growth, globalization, economic crisis and growth, growth in an open economy, perspectives on dynamic economic theory, and alternative and equivalent growth models.

Governance & Human Development

This is an introductory course on governance and human development research in political science and public policy. Its structure is twofold.

The first part of the course gives an overview of the most significant theoretical approaches to studying governance. It starts by surveying the variety of understandings of governance in theory and practice and discusses the implications this poses for research. It then explores the key theoretical perspectives on governance, including multi-level and democratic governance.

The second part of the course examines a more specific aspect of governance and explores the relationship between good (or bad) governance, human development and citizenship rights.



Course Descriptions

It questions if good governance is a prerequisite for enforcing citizenship rights or, conversely, if promotion and protection of these rights lead to improved governance and ultimately to greater human development.

The course explores how (and if) governance could indeed be reformed to contribute to the increasing enforcement and protection of rights and the pursuit of development, and how this is hindered with the existence of corruption.

Evaluation of Programmes & Policies

This evaluation for development programmes is at the core of the current debate of governance and policies. How to design an evaluation protocol? How do we evaluate the impact of interventions? How interventions can affect household welfare, alleviate poverty, improve firms' performance etc?

These issues are the focus of a huge and rapidly growing literature in economics and econometrics. This module will introduce the econometrics of evaluation, case studies and empirical applications to the field of development economics.

Second Term Elective Courses

The second term consists of a variety of elective courses. A menu of courses is offered from which students select approximately four which fit with their research interests. The menu changes from year to year, but a representative list of courses is below.

1. Economics and Econometrics of Innovation
2. Capabilities and Institutions
3. Evolutionary Perspectives on Technology and Economics
4. An Introduction to Conflict Research
5. Social Policy Monitoring
6. Migration
7. Innovation Indicators and Policy
8. Policy Modelling
9. Millennium Development Goals (and their successor goals): Tool or token of global social governance?

The Dissertation

At the end of the first nine months, fellows present a research proposal and a detailed research plan for the remaining part of the programme. In defining their research topics, fellows are guided by the teaching staff of the institute.

Supervision throughout the project is ensured by a specific team of senior researchers who provide the required expertise to guide and oversee research. In years 2, 3 and 4 fellows conduct their research and write their dissertations.

The programme is full-time and based in Maastricht. However, as many fellows do empirical research based on other countries, they often spend time abroad doing field work.

"Diversity, respect, support and sharing."

I started my PhD at the School of Governance in 2011. One of the reasons for choosing this programme was its innovative design, which encourages different ideas and for people to get together. The educational programme, being broad and supportive, created the perfect framework for development of my thoughts and ideas. As a trained lawyer, the programme gave me skills in the areas of Public Policy and Economic Development, and I gained a lot of research tools needed for my work now, which I had not mastered before. My own research idea, a multidisciplinary blend of public policy and law, thus perfectly matched this programme. Important as well, being from Argentina, the institute felt like a home. All my classmates were from abroad, and this invaluable multicultural community of fellows is stimulating, and creates an enriching environment based on diversity, respect, support and sharing.

Julieta Marotta, PhD fellow cohort 2011



Teaching Methods

Courses are offered in a dynamic setting: the programme uses interactive learning, including workshops, lectures and discussion sessions. Each teacher in the programme offers a mode of instruction suitable for the course, and each course is examined in an appropriate manner.

Language

The language of instruction for the programme is English. For fellows who are non-native English-speakers, the programme's English curriculum strengthens their command of the language and prepares them for international careers.

Skills Trainings

During the programme, fellows can participate in skills trainings that build their research and analytical skills. These include research methodology and applications, as well as the technical skills required for:

- Research (including software skills)
- Research project implementation and publication
- Communication and presentation of findings
- Application of research findings to government policy.

Research Activities

UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance organize a range of activities designed to stimulate academic debate, disseminate research findings, and facilitate knowledge sharing among researchers and policymakers.

The institute hosts regular workshops and training courses as part of their research and policy analysis programmes. For more details, please visit our calendar of events.

The institute also hosts occasional workshops, which fellows are invited to attend. For example, 'Metech' is a seminar series in which fellows from UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance help other fellows in an informal manner, sharing research-based software and particular research methodologies that might be useful in their academic lives.

Research Community

As participants of the PhD programme, fellows are fully integrated into the research community of UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance .

The community includes in-house PhD fellows and academic staff, as well as 'Dual Career' PhD fellows (who study alongside their full-time jobs). Please see page 11 for more details on this additional programme.

Brochures

Our latest brochure can be downloaded from our website, or sent to you directly via post or email. Please contact:

Ms Eveline in de Braek

Tel: +31 43 388 4449

Email: phdprogramme@merit.unu.edu



International Profile

We leverage the academic resources of the UNU, Maastricht University and our strong international network. Experts from universities and international organizations come from around the world to share their expertise with fellows by teaching courses and giving workshops and lectures.

The institute's large international network also provides internship possibilities for our students and fellows. About 80 per cent of our fellows and researchers at UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance come from outside the Netherlands, hailing from over 55 countries around the world.

This diversity results in a stimulating blend of country-specific knowledge and individual experience. In seminars and in the classroom, fellows are exposed to many different views and ways of approaching ideas and topics.

Key Lecturers

The programme draws scholars from various disciplines, from leading institutes around the world, as well as practitioners from policy oriented organizations. They share a willingness to train young researchers and to contribute to current research or to initiate new research. The faculty of the PhD programme comprises:

- Prof. Dr. Anthony Arundel, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Théophile Azomahou, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Robin Cowan, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Sebastian Dellepiane, University of Strathclyde, Scotland
- Dr. Franziska Gassmann, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Micheline Goedhuys, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Mulu Gebreeyesus, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Lutz Krebs, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Mindel van de Laar, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Pierre Mohnen, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Eleonora Nillesen, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Cathal O' Donoghue, Teagasc Rural Economy Research Centre, Carlow, Ireland
- Prof. Dr. Shyama V. Ramani, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Gerald Silverberg, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Tatiana Skripka, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Adam Szirmai, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Nyasha Tirivayi, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Bart Verspagen, UM / UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Adriaan van Zon, UM / UNU-MERIT

Student Profile

We admit fellows from a variety of backgrounds to participate in the programme. We are looking for people with a Master's degree and strong academic records, professional and / or volunteer experience, affiliation with academic research, and a special interest in public policy, economics, innovation and development.

Career Prospects

Our programme gives fellows the skills to function as professionals in many challenging environments. Our PhD fellows typically go on to work as:

- Academics
- Government staff
- Political analysts
- Policy specialists
- Politicians.

Many of our alumni work for NGOs, the EU, and various other international organizations. Others pursue careers in the private sector.



Practical Information

Admissions

When choosing a PhD programme, applicants need to know whether their diplomas qualify them for the PhD programme of their choice. Below are our current admissions requirements:

- A Master's degree from a relevant academic field, including: economics, international relations, political science, law, social sciences, business administration, health sciences or public health
- Basic knowledge of mathematics and statistics, measured by reviewing the content and level of previous studies and/or working experience
- Basic knowledge of economics, social sciences, political science and/or law, measured by reviewing the content and level of previous studies and/or working experience
- Proficiency in English, with a minimum level of 600 PBT / 240 CBT / 100 IBT for the TOEFL or 7.0 for the IELTS (native English speakers and fellows who received Bachelor's or Master's in English are exempt). Maastricht University's TOEFL code is 7102.

Applying

In addition to filling in the online application form, applicants must submit the following:

- Certified copies of certificates and grades and an explanation of the grading system
- Proof of English proficiency
- A motivation letter of 400 - 500 words
- Three letters of recommendation (in English only) by current or former professors or employers
- A one-page essay indicating the topic of research interest or one-page research proposal
- A curriculum vitae / résumé
- Full information about present study and/or job.

Deadline: 31 January 2014. For more information, please go to: <http://www.merit.unu.edu/phd/index.php>

Tuition Fees

The following tuition fees are applicable to those enrolled in the PhD programme for the 2014-2015 academic year:

First year: €7000*
Subsequent years: €2500*

The tuition fee includes all programme related costs. This excludes books, specific research costs, travel costs, accommodation, and visa or residence permit costs.

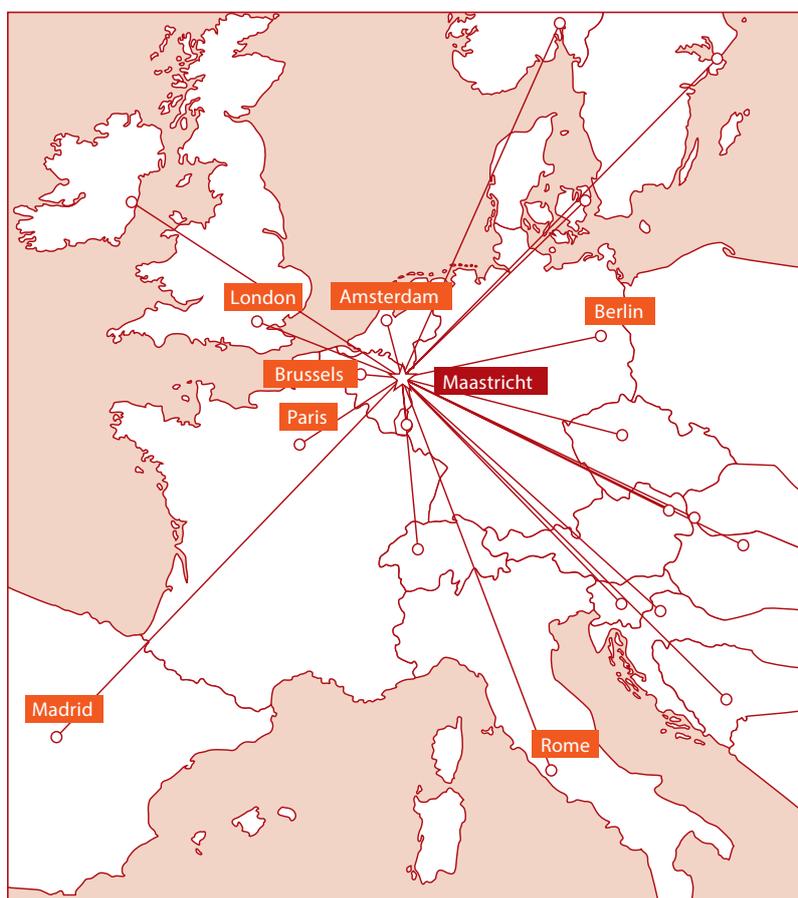
* No rights may be derived from the fees published here.

Scholarships

Each year we distribute a limited number of scholarships among the accepted fellows. However, we encourage students to apply for other scholarships and sources of funding. For more information please visit the scholarship pages of the university website. More details on grants and scholarships can be found at www.grantfinder.nl

Fellows who do not receive a scholarship from UNU, or from another funding agency, will be asked for proof of sufficient funding before being accepted on to the programme. The basic cost of living in Maastricht is around 1000 euros per month, detailed in the table below. As part of the acceptance requirement, fellows are asked to prove how they will fund their 48 months in the programme. Please do not include this proof in the application; we contact candidates directly for this information.

Average Monthly Living Costs (in euros)	
Housing (student room)	500
Meals	400
Insurance	40
Facilities (copy cards and office expenditures)	20
Text books	40
Total	1000



Part-time PhD Programme

Part-time PhD (GPAC²)

In addition to the full-time PhD programme, UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance offer a part-time Dual Career Training Programme (GPAC²).

The programme has two specializations: one in Governance and Policy Analysis, and another in the Economics of Technology, Innovation and Development (see more below).

The programme meets the needs and availability of researchers with full-time or part-time jobs, allowing them to combine their careers with obtaining a PhD.

Key lecturers are leading scholars in the field of policy analysis and related areas such as governance, risk management, sustainable development, social protection, and the economics of technology and innovation. GPAC² is taught in English and consists of a common first year of training, followed by yearly workshops.

Employment a Prerequisite

The GPAC² training programme differs from a regular PhD programme. Although fellows participate in the training with the objective of obtaining a PhD, they are not considered regular PhD fellows.

Employment is a prerequisite to be eligible for the training programme. GPAC² participants are either self-employed or employed by business or the public sector and therefore have their own source of income.

UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance will not employ a GPAC² participant nor pay a salary or scholarship for either participating in the programme or conducting research. GPAC² fellows will be enrolled as training participants and not as employees of the university.

In order to graduate, GPAC² fellows have to submit a manuscript and fulfill conditions equal to standards that are required for the full-time PhD programme participants. This means the fellows have to comply with the regulation governing the attainment of doctoral degrees.

At the beginning of the programme fellows will receive more information about coursework, research and programme procedures. After successfully finishing the training programme and submitting a PhD proposal, fellows will have and/or receive:

- A certificate confirming participation in and completion of the training programme
- A number of articles submitted, accepted and/or published in refereed scientific journals
- A PhD thesis in printed book format
- A PhD degree, upon successful submission and defence of the dissertation.

For more details, please contact us on:

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www.merit.unu.edu/training

Based in Europe, focused on the world. Maastricht University is a stimulating environment. Where research and teaching are complementary. Where innovation is our focus. Where talent can flourish. A truly student oriented research university.

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