With a demanding full-time job and a four-year old son, the GPAC² provides me with the needed flexibility to pursue my academic ambitions.

Michal Kazimierczak, 2014 GPAC² Cohort

The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and social Research institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) is a joint research and training institute of United Nations University and Maastricht University, based in the south of the Netherlands. The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) founded in 2004, prepares professionals and researchers for policy analysis, risk assessment, policy design, policy monitoring, policy evaluation and methods and techniques of policy research. In 2011, the two institutes joined forces, creating a leading research environment covering all aspects of governance in domestic and global organisations, from risk assessment to policy analysis, design and evaluation.
GPAC² Part-time PhD Programme

Do you want to combine a PhD degree with your full-time job? The GPAC² programme offers courses, seminars and workshops in the stimulating research community of UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance.

The Dual Career Training Programme to obtain a PhD in Governance and Policy Analysis (GPAC²) meets the needs and availability of researchers with full- or part-time jobs, allowing them to combine their careers with obtaining a PhD. The programme provides advanced training in the theory and skills crucial to policy analysis and design. Our lecturers are leading scholars in the field of policy analysis and related areas such as governance, risk management, sustainable development and social protection.

Student profile
We seek fellows with advanced degrees, strong academic records, professional and/or volunteer experience, an affinity with academic research, and a special interest in policy analysis. Participants have external work responsibilities, leaving them less time for PhD research. Ideally, the candidate’s employer offers support by allocating time and allowing the candidate to incorporate their studies into their work (by providing data, support, related assignments and the like).

Programme information
The programme covers five key elements:
1. A basic training programme in year one, provided in Maastricht. There are three visiting periods, each of two weeks; course modules are compulsory and are assessed by tutors;
2. A personal training programme guarantees flexibility according to skills, qualifications and work obligations. Two modules of one week per year are taken with senior fellows;
3. Online modules are provided in governance and political science, statistics, mathematics, and economics;
4. Yearly workshops and research conferences aim to assist research progress and to integrate fellows in the research community;
5. Personal supervision and monitoring takes place throughout the programme.

Admission requirements
• A Master’s from a relevant academic field;
• Basic grasp of mathematics and statistics;
• Basic knowledge of economics, social sciences, political science and/or law;
• Proficiency in English: at least 600 PBT, 100 IBT or 240 CBT (TOEFL) or 7.0 (IELTS);
• Approval from your employer to join the course.

Tuition fees & scholarships
We do not offer scholarships or tuition waivers for this programme. However, we do help fellows to apply for external scholarships, for example with recommendations and proofs of enrolment, after they have been accepted on the programme.

Application & information
The application deadline is 1 October each year. See the website for more details.

I decided to apply to the GPAC² programme because it combines flexibility with high standards and rigorous academic research.

Fernanda Soares, 2014 GPAC² Cohort