



# Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP)

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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## Introduction

The Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP) is designed for government officials with experience in the field of migration and asylum. It is also open to other practitioners and students interested in the management of migration and asylum policies. Running for three months entirely online on a full-time basis, the course uses a range of teaching and evaluation methods including lectures and virtual interactive sessions with participants. Special attention is paid to hands-on practical exercises, notably via the Problem Based Learning (PBL) method.

The MMDP aims to develop theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills such as articulation and presenting; how to write briefs, policy notes and memoranda; how to formulate evidence-based policy; and how to work in a group and deal with conflicting interests. Also on the agenda are online seminars devoted to health, education and institutions, as well as scenario building sessions focusing on country case studies. In the scenario building sessions, participants create migration scenarios for their own countries, which have proven to be of great help when forming policy. Overall the course will equip participants with a range of new skills and insights, as well as practical and virtual interactive experiences of how to apply the latest knowledge in the field of migration management.

## The Host Institute

UNU-MERIT and MGSOG form a research and training institute of United Nations University. The institute is also part of Maastricht University, based in southeast 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, national and international governance, intellectual property protection, social protection policy, knowledge creation and diffusion, and migration.

Researchers at UNU-MERIT are internationally recognised for their contributions to the understanding of the economic, political, social and philosophical foundations of the processes of technical change. MGSOG 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 organisations, 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 organisations such as the European Commission, the International Development Research Centre, and numerous national governments.

## Course Structure

This MMDP is made up of three main courses: i. Migration Management and Protection, ii. Migration & Development, and iii. Migration Policy.

Each of the three main courses are deliberately broken down into four one-week blocks, making the learning process both structured and digestible. To ensure the quality of the programme there are 40 hours per week – including contact hours and self-preparation - with special attention paid to interactive exercises and online practical workshops (see p.5 for more details of our Problem-Based Learning approach).



# Programme & Course Descriptions

The online course familiarises participants with a range of tools, while ensuring they are effectively monitored by means of various evaluation methods. These include brief written assignments, papers, presentations, oral evaluations, group participation and online group work. A mix of useful information about the study period is available online for participants to access before, during and for up to a year after the course. For more details, please see the MMDP website. The agenda also includes guest speaker participation from across Europe including: Dutch Ministries in The Hague, EU institutions in Brussels, UN and other intergovernmental agencies in Geneva.

## Course Objectives

The course has three overarching objectives:

- Understand different types of migrants and migration experiences, and analyse how different legal channels of migration affect fulfillment of basic human rights for migrants;
- Anticipate how different forms of mobility affect the development trajectories and outcomes of migrants and the communities and countries from which they leave and into which they enter;
- Analyse, deconstruct, and reimagine the design of migration-related policies to support better-informed, more holistic migration management.

### i. Migration Management and Protection

The first aspects covered in this course are migration definitions, concepts and statistics. Also on the agenda are the main international conventions relevant to the management and protection of migrants. The course begins with an introduction to migration studies which includes an overview of data, flows, and types of migrants, as well as the various kinds of organisations working in migration management and protection.

Also covered are the major legal frameworks relating to migration, including the Migration for Employment Convention 1949; the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol; and the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Participants hear about the relevance to migration of core UN texts, including the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1991 Convention on the Rights of the Child; as well as the 2000 UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially of Women and Children. A further focus is put on Dutch Migration Management and Protection, covering a range of issues from asylum to employment to return. The learning objectives of this course are achieved through a blend of online lectures and virtual interactive sessions, as well as guest presentations from the Dutch Ministries and various organizations working in the field of migration.

### ii. Migration & Development

How migration fits into the development debate is the main focus of this course. This relates to the size and directions of international migration, the causes and motivations for migration, and the overall relationship between migration and development. The course also considers the effects of migration at the macro, meso and micro levels in various sending and receiving countries.

Further themes within the migration and development module include remittances, labour migration (brain drain, circular migration/brain gain, role of the diaspora, return migration), sustainable return and reintegration, and the social consequences of migration. The course goals will be met through a mix of online seminars and virtual interactive exchanges as well as a guest speakers from international organizations.

### iii. Migration Policy

This course aims to increase participants' knowledge of EU policies on asylum and migration, especially the external dimension. This relates to major dialogues and instruments for development with third countries and regions. In parallel, the course covers the various policy options available for migration management and the development of origin countries. Overall this course examines a broad range of issues, including comparative immigration, emigration and integration policies of sending and receiving countries; as well as diaspora engagement policies.

A major practical focus will involve designing policies for migration and development, diaspora engagement, immigration, and emigration. Policy models include the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM); the Rabat and Prague-processes; and the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Their corresponding action-plans and overall policy coherence will also be studied. The learning objectives of the course will be attained through a range of online lessons and online seminars as well as guest speaker participation from Brussels.





## Problem-Based Learning (PBL)

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) puts participants at the core of the learning process, allowing them to gain knowledge in the context of complex, multifaceted and realistic problems. The goals of PBL are to help participants develop flexible knowledge, effective problem-solving skills, self-directed learning, effective collaboration skills and intrinsic motivation. Working in groups, participants identify what they already know, what they need to know, and how and where to access new information that may lead to resolution of the problem. The role of the tutor is that of a learning facilitator who provides appropriate structure, support and modelling of the process, while monitoring the learning. This approach works particularly well for participants who have both academic and working experience. It has yielded some of the best results with mid-level career professions, including in several training programmes conducted by our institute with UNICEF staff. Besides online lectures, PBL sessions, group work sessions and other virtual interactive settings, we offer online symposia, access to institute seminars and a scenario building workshop in the third course. In the scenario building workshop, participants create migration scenarios for their own countries, which can be of great help when forming policy.

## Hands-on Online Learning

At the end of the diploma programme, participants will have acquired knowledge and skills relating to:

- the most important international conventions/protocols which are of importance for national legislation with regard to border-control, entrance(access), asylum, residence, deportation, and readmission;
- the foreign asylum and migration policy of the EU (global approach to migration and mobility) and of the Dutch priorities in the field of asylum and international migration;
- legal frameworks surrounding migration;
- the mandate and decision-making of inter-state organisations such as, UNHCR and IOM within the field of refugees and migration;
- aspects of migration management which are clearly needed to make migration a positive aspect of development;
- the links between migration and development;
- the most important themes and visions of receiving and sending countries within the international debate on migration and development within the framework of the UN and the Global Forum on Migration and Development;
- how to implement the knowledge gained, how to develop written policy analysis and recommendations, and how to use the new skills and insights in a narrative discussion in the form of role plays;
- problem analysis; writing briefs, policy notes and memoranda; creating well-informed evidence-based policy; presentation skills, articulation skills, ability to work in a group and to deal with conflicting interests; and scenario building;
- how to formulate evidence-based migration policy.

## Digital Learning Environment

The University of Maastricht (UM) digital learning environment, also known as Canvas, is an integrated part of teaching curricula, study programmes and external training programmes. The UM Canvas is used by thousands of participants every year and has a practical user-friendly manual. Participants in the online diploma programme will receive an e-mail upon enrollment to the programme with their access codes, a user-manual in PDF, and a user instruction movie. MGSOG will provide a short introduction session on Canvas once participants have started the online course.

The UM virtual learning environment provides access to:

- course materials, including schedules, presentations, lecture recordings; collaborative learning facilities; a discussion forum; document sharing; blogs, wikis and social bookmarking;
- e-library facilities, including electronic books, articles and journals;
- participant desktop, with access to software such as Endnote, SPSS, Stata and Microsoft Office;
- on-screen tutorials, e.g. how to analyse immigration data using STATA;
- video conferencing;
- podcasts;
- alumni section.



# Assessment & Admissions

After completing the MMDP programme, alumni can stay connected for at least one year through the digital learning environment. This provides an alumni section including a blog, access to new UNU-MERIT publications, the online UNU-MERIT migration seminars and YouTube channel. Alumni will also receive regular updates through e-newsletters and can stay connected through the UNU-MERIT and MGSOG Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

## Continuous Assessment

Participants are asked to combine new knowledge gained with prior work experience in online problem-based learning sessions and group discussions. They are therefore able to apply their insights to case studies and problem-based exercises. Educational progress will also be tested in the form of online presentations and written assignments such as comparative policy briefs and strategic policy papers. Participants are monitored every week to make sure they do not fall behind.

## Diploma

After completing the courses in the online diploma programme, including all assignments and tests, participants will obtain a diploma in Migration Management. The official diploma will state the obtained ECTS points, as recognised within the Dutch and European system. It will also include the total obtained CEU points, which are recognised by the US system. Overall, the diploma will provide participants with 18 ECTS equivalent and 48 CEU points.

## Admissions

Applications are welcomed from professionals and civil servants working in the area of migration management. Applications are accepted from 13 May 2021; the **application deadline is 13 June 2021 at 23:59hrs CEST**.

Eligible applicants for participation in the online MMDP programme must fulfill the following criteria:

- Fluency in spoken and written **English**
- Hold a minimum **Bachelor's** university degree
- Have a **reliable and fast internet** connection throughout the entirety of the online course
- Assure for themselves a **reliable electricity supply** throughout the entirety of the online course
- Applicants must be confident in **computer skills** to follow an online education programme

To apply to the MMDP, please do so via our online platform: [www.merit.unu.edu/mmdp/application/oPu7tREsXO0gHv-L.php](http://www.merit.unu.edu/mmdp/application/oPu7tREsXO0gHv-L.php). Please note that in the online application platform you will be required to upload ALL 8 of the following documents – applications that are missing any of these documents will not be considered:

- A **recent CV** explicitly outlining work experience in the field of asylum and migration (in English);
- A **passport** copy ;
- A portrait style **photograph**;

- A proof of **proficiency in English** (IELTS / TOEFL);
- Two **reference letters**, from current or former employers and/or professors (in English)
- Copies of **degree(s) and transcripts**;
- A **motivation letter** which clearly explains why you chose this programme and which convinces the Board of Admissions that you will complete the programme successfully;
- If seeking a scholarship, a **letter from your employer** confirming that employment will be retained throughout the duration of the online programme and that you are not expected to attend to your job function during the duration of the programme.

## Course Dates & Fees

The course begins on 20 September 2021 and ends on 10 December 2021, and is entirely online. The tuition fee is €4500.

## Scholarships

Scholarships for the MMDP programme are available for government officials who work in the field of migration and/or asylum in specific eligible countries.

For **scholarships funded by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ)**, eligible applicants must work for a partner institution of GIZ in one of the following countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Indonesia, Vietnam, Kosovo, Serbia, India, Colombia, Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Albania, Georgia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Senegal, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Only a limited number of scholarships are available and are granted based on merit. Scholarships cover the costs of the programme, including tuition fee and course materials. While professionals or employees of international organisations may apply for and participate in the programme, scholarships are only available for government officials. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must provide evidence that they have been working in the government of an eligible country in the field of migration and asylum.

## Practical Information

As the MMDP will be **delivered entirely online**, the practical requirements for participants of the programme are to have stable and reliable internet connection as well as electricity/power supply. In order to focus on the programme and develop the skills that will be taught throughout the three-month duration of the courses, we highly recommend that participants allocate a quiet and private space from where they can connect to the online education portal every day. Due to the nature of the programme, it will require the **full-time commitment from participants**. This means that participants will not be able to attend to work duties for the three-month duration of the programme. Participants must attend ALL courses every day and complete the assignments in order to be awarded the Diploma for the programme.

The contact hours of teaching will be from Monday to Friday. **Successful applicants for the MMDP will be notified no later than 30 June 2021** if they have been selected to participate in the programme.





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