# Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP)

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

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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 on a full-time basis, the course uses a range of teaching and evaluation methods including lectures and 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 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 interactive experiences of how to apply the latest knowledge in the field of migration management.

# The Host Institute

UNU-MERIT is a research and training institute of United Nations University. The institute is also part of Maastricht University, based in the 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. UNU-MERIT 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 is 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 practical workshops (see p.5 for more details of our Problem-Based Learning approach).

The 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 interactive 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 page. The agenda also includes field trips across Europe including a tour of Dutch Ministries in The Hague, of EU institutions in Brussels, and 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 fulfilment 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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 lectures, PBL sessions, group work sessions and other interactive settings, we offer online symposia, educational trips, 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.

## 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 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. UNU-MERIT Graduate School will provide a short introduction session on Canvas once participants have arrived in the Netherlands.

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.

## Hands-on 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.

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 Graduate School Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

## Continuous Assessment

Participants are asked to combine new knowledge gained with prior work experience in 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 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 diploma programme, including all assignments and tests, participants will obtain a Diploma in Migration Management.

## Admissions

Applications are welcomed from professionals and civil servants who are working in the area of migration management. **Applications are now being accepted** and the **application deadline is 27th October 2023 at 23:59 hrs CET**.

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

- Fluency in spoken and written English

- Hold a minimum Bachelor's university degree

- Applicants must be confident in computer skills to follow an education programme

- Work as government officials in the field of migration and/or asylum in one of the eligible countries (see Scholarships section for list of countries)
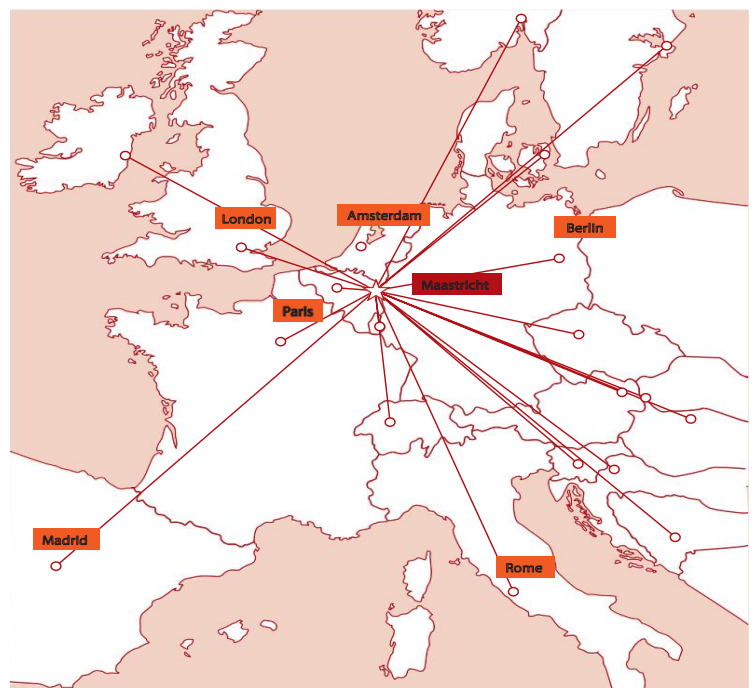
To apply to the MMDP, prospective participants need to submit their application via our online platform: https://application.merit.unu.edu/mmdp/application/form.php

Please note that in the online application platform prospective participants will be required to upload the following documents:

- A recent CV explicitly outlining work experience in the field of asylum and/or migration;

- A passport copy and a passport-size picture;

- Two reference letters, from current or former employers and/ or professors;

- A portrait style photograph

- A proof of proficiency in English (IELTS / TOEFL);

- Copies of degree(s) and transcripts;

- A motivation letter which clearly explains why the applicant chose this programme and which convinces the Board of Admissions that he or she will complete the programme successfully;

- Evidence that applicant is working in the government of an eligible country in the field of migration and asylum.

- A support letter from the applicant's employer stating that the applicant is entitled to focus their time entirely on MMDP and will not be expected to carry out their work duties for the duration of the MMDP, and that employment will be retained throughout the duration of the programme including his/her salary. **Note that without this letter, the application for scholarship will not be considered.**

## Course Dates

The Programme runs from **2 April 2024 until 21 June 2024** and takes place in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

# Facilities & Accommodation

## Scholarships

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

For scholarships funded by the European Union through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), eligible countries are those in the EU Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership, Africa, Western Balkans and South Asia.

Only a limited number of scholarships are available and are granted based on merit. Scholarships cover all the costs of the programme, including travel to the Netherlands, accommodation during the programme, tuition fees, and course materials. 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. Participants must obtain support from their employers in the form of a letter from the employer stating that the participant will remain a paid employee of their government throughout the duration of the programme and will continue to receive their salary as per their contractual agreement.

**Successful applicants for the MMDP will be notified by mid-November 2023** that they have been selected to participate in the programme.

*The candidate selection will be finalised by mid-November 2023.* ***After acceptance of the scholarship, any participant that withdraws for reasons other than force-majeure will be liable to reimburse all the costs incurred by the University in relation to their participation.*** *Cancellation due to force majeure such as contracting Covid-19 or denial of exit/entry by government authorities due to Covid19 restrictions will not be liable for reimbursement.*

## Facilities

Courses will be provided in lecture rooms. Computers, copy machines and scanners are available across the university buildings and library.

All participants will be provided with a UM card, giving access to the university library. The university library provides:

- a variety of rooms for individual and group work, with or without computers;
- more than 1300 ergonomic study areas, many equipped with computers;
- a wireless network and laptop outlets;
- a collection of course books put together by tutors (not on loan but permanently available as a reference collection);
- special collections such as audiovisual material.

The UM card also provides access to UM sports facilities (where a small payment is required) and the 'Studium Generale' which offers a programme of cultural activities. Course accommodation and the library are located in the city centre of Maastricht, which includes small sandwich bars, supermarkets and restaurants.

## Accommodation

Participants will be facilitated to stay in the city of Maastricht for the duration of the entire programme. Accommodation shall also be provided during the various field trips, which will take place during the programme.

## Practical Information

The MMDP runs on a full-time basis with an estimated 40 learning hours per week. Participants must attend ALL courses every day and complete the assignments in time in order to be awarded the Diploma for the programme.

The contact hours of teaching will be approximately four hours per day from Monday to Friday. In addition, participants will need to spend four hours per day on assignments and study materials that will be allocated to them by their tutor. Therefore, participants will be expected to focus 100% of their time on MMDP and cannot spend any time on their job/work duties.

# www.merit.unu.edu

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 participant-oriented research university.

## Contact Information

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