



PhD Programme on Innovation, Economics and Governance for Development

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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Programme Summary

Our multidisciplinary PhD programme is 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 specialised courses in governance, public policy and the economics of technology.

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 specialised 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 PhD Programme on Innovation, Economics and Governance for Development (IEGD) 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.

During the first year fellows complete basic compulsory training to lay a foundation for their future research. The second semester involves elective courses which engage fellows in the topics in the topics in which the institute specialises. These courses vary from year to year depending on the interest of the fellows and faculty. The first year ends by writing a thesis proposal, which is presented to the institute at the end of the academic year. Successful completion of the first year is followed by dissertation research and writing. Dissertation topics fit into any of the institute's seven research themes:

1. The Economics of Knowledge and Innovation
2. Poverty, Public Policy and Inclusive Innovation
3. Economic Development, Innovation, Governance and Institutions
4. Sustainable Development, Innovation and Societal Transitions
5. Innovation Systems Indicators and Policy
6. Migration and Development
7. ICT-enabled Innovation and Societal Transformations

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 recognised 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 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.



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 individualised 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 specialisations, both leading to a PhD at Maastricht University. Fellows select their individual course programmes based on background knowledge, need and interest.

Calendar 2017-18 (NB, exact dates may change)

1 September	Introduction Week and Quantitative Methods and Micro-economics			
5 September - 28 October	Human Development, Inequality and Poverty	Economic Growth and Socio-economic Development	Economics of Innovation and Development	PhD Research Proposal track
31 October - 16 December	Political Economy: Political - Institutional Aspects of Development	Evaluation of Programmes and Policies	Economics of Networks, Innovation and Knowledge	PhD Research Proposal track
19 December - 6 January	Winter Break			
16 January - 31 March	Specialisation Courses			



Quantitative Methods and Micro-economics

Modern economic theory often relies heavily on quantitative methods. As a result, a certain knowledge of mathematics is required to fully understand the concepts used by economists. The main purpose of this course is thus to provide fellows 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. Firstly, fellows will be introduced briefly to the requirements needed to obtain a PhD in our institute. Secondly, this track will familiarise fellows with the different research themes and methodologies used in the institute, and introduce them to researchers in the institute. Thirdly, fellows will be supported to take first steps into research, by defining their own interest, in order to develop their own PhD proposal, that will be presented in research “speed dates” in October / November. The track is completed with cohort proposal discussion weeks in January, literature review writing and proposal writing support in January-April, and a final version proposal presentation in June.

Human Development, Inequality and Poverty

The concept of human development grew out of global dialogues on the links between economic growth and development during the second half of the 20th Century. The UNDP Human Development Reports, which began in 1990, introduced a new approach for advancing the human development agenda, and furthered the discussions on how to achieve global human development. A consistent finding had always been that countries where the levels of inequality and poverty are relatively high also exhibit low values of human development, even though neoclassical economics has for the most part argued that increases in income levels through positive economic growth would result in higher levels of development and contribute to the reduction of poverty.

The first part of the course gives an overview of the most significant theoretical perspectives in Human Development research. It starts by surveying the variety of understandings of Human Development in theory and practice and discusses the implications this poses for research. It begins by examining how many scholars started in the 1960s criticising the welfarist approach, and the GDP economic growth argument, and that how in the 1970s and 1980s the development debate started putting greater

emphasis on employment, followed by redistribution with growth, and then whether people had their basic needs met. This has all led to the emergence of the human development approach, which is about expanding people’s freedoms, rather than the development of the economy. The central argument thus becomes how the human development approach focuses on redistributive justice and creating fair opportunities and choices for all people. This part of the course will push students to consider how these ideas come together in the pursuit of human development.

We will then move on to discuss inequality and poverty in more detail. As the first part shows, there is a distinction between equality of opportunity and equality of outcomes. High levels of inequality are detrimental to human development as they limit economic and social mobility which are essential for sustainable poverty reduction. In this part of the course we will further explore the role of poverty and inequality for human development and economic growth. In this context it is also important to understand how household well-being can be operationalised and measured. We will start from a purely welfarist perspective, where 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 non-welfarist point of view claims that the focus on money neglects other aspects that are equally important for well-being, such as the fulfillment of basic needs, access to social services, command over commodities, or the capabilities to function. As such we will get back to the starting point in order to understand how progress in human development can be assessed.

Economic Growth and 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 discussion some critical issues such as 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 industrialisation 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 such as health, education and institutions.

Course Descriptions

Economics of Networks, Innovation and Knowledge

The goal of this course is to introduce fellows to the field of network analysis. Modelling economic activity using social network analysis tools can be very useful in furthering understanding of a wide variety of phenomena. Our interest will be largely in how network analysis is useful in understanding innovation and knowledge creation and diffusion. As such we see (social) networks as the infrastructure over which knowledge flows. We seek to understand how different actors in an innovation system interact, and how those interactions can be analysed with network tools and concepts.

We begin with a general introduction to social network analysis, laying out the basic concepts. The bulk of the course uses these concepts to look at various issues of innovation and development. We look at different network structures and how they might be good or bad for encouraging innovation; we look at models of network formation, starting with the basic building block of links between pairs of actors.

The course presents both theoretical and empirical results. Finally, in the last sessions we examine various topics specific to development or developing countries. Precisely which topics we look at are determined by the interests of the fellows in the class.

Economics of Innovation and Development

The objective of this class is to help fellows understand the role of innovation in economic development in both high income as well as middle and low income countries. In economics, the classic works on innovation deal for the most part with developed countries. Similarly, most textbooks on development economics only include growth theory and / or the measurement of increase in factor productivity to incorporate the impact of innovation. Therefore, to reach the course objective, selected seminal works in the microeconomics of innovation will be studied and examined against the real experiences of a variety of countries.

The choice of topics has been dictated by the essential targets of development as given by the Millennium Development Goals, now transformed into the Sustainable Development Goals. By studying a variety of topics that are being actively debated by policymakers, firms and civil society, the course is designed to help fellows transition from course work to research.

Political Economy: Political-Institutional Aspects of Development

Political institutions influence the policies aimed at improving the quality of human life in contemporary societies. Political institutions and socio-economic development are interdependent: Development policies are shaped by multiple political factors in contemporary complex governance systems, and the political choices of development policies affect different socio-economic areas. Therefore, it is of crucial importance to understand how development areas are governed and what factors shape the development and the evolution of specific sectors and public policies.

This course scrutinises some fundamental political dimensions that shape the relationship between the political-institutional and development spheres. The discussion is organised around three large themes affecting the development dynamics: actors and structures in governance systems; the motivations of actors; and the transnational transformation processes. The study of these three themes is constituted around a complementary set of concepts and approaches defining contemporary academic thinking about political aspects of development policies worldwide and employed in political practice. More specifically, we will discuss the use of concepts such as power, institutions, state, globalisation, democratisation, crisis, security and justice in the context of development studies worldwide. Given their different understandings, these conceptual elements require a critical engagement for the purpose of fruitful theorising. Therefore, an in-depth discussion of conceptual controversies underpinning contemporary thinking about social, political and economic phenomena is the key condition for productive and creative theorising of the role of political aspects in development, protection of rights and the pursuit of development, and how this is hindered with the existence of corruption.



Evaluation of Programmes and Policies

The evaluation of development programmes is at the core of the current debate of governance and public policies. While evaluation is something that in principle is taking place in many locations and under many circumstances, it is still not a straightforward activity. Many questions must be addressed in the design and execution of an evaluation of any programme or policy. In the course we will address several of these questions:

- How to design an evaluation protocol?
- How do we evaluate the impact of interventions?
- How can interventions 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 course will address these issues from a variety of methodological approaches: 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 fellows select approximately four which fit with their research interests. The menu changes from year to year, but a representative list of courses can be found below:

1. Economics and Econometrics of Innovation
2. Evolutionary Perspectives on Technology and Economics
3. An Introduction to Conflict Research
4. Social Policy Monitoring
5. Migration
6. Innovation Indicators and Policy
7. Policy Modelling
8. Sustainable Development Goals
9. Behavioural Experiments
10. Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries

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 fellowship. In defining their topics, they are guided by the staff of the institute, the teaching staff and partners of the research network.

Supervision during the entire project will be given by a specific team of senior researchers who can provide the required expertise to guide and oversee the research. During the following years, fellows will research and write their dissertation.

The programme is full-time and based in Maastricht, and students treat Maastricht as their home base for the duration of the project. However, many research topics of central interest to the institute involve issues relevant to regions outside Europe: Africa, Asia and Latin America in particular. Consequently, many students do empirical research based on other countries, and so 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.

Julietta Marotta, PhD fellow cohort 2011



Teaching and Research

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 training courses to 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 organise 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

Fellows of the PhD programme will be fully integrated into the research community of UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance.

The community includes regular PhD fellows, academic staff and the numerous visiting scholars of the partner universities.

Brochures

Our latest brochure can be downloaded from our website, or sent 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 organisations 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 more than 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 brings together scholars with various disciplinary backgrounds from leading institutes across the world and practitioners from policy-oriented organisations in order to initiate new research, contribute to current research and train young researchers.

The faculty of the PhD programme comprises:

- Prof. Anthony Arundel, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Theophile Azomahou, Maastricht University
- Dr. Michal Natorksi, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Robin Cowan, Maastricht University
- Dr. Sebastian Dellepiane, Research Fellow, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Dr. Neil Foster-McGregor, UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Franziska Gassmann, Maastricht University
- Prof. Fred Gault, UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Micheline Goedhuys, UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Hein de Haas, Maastricht University
- Dr. Maty Konte, UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Khalid Koser, Maastricht University
- Dr. Lutz Krebs, Maastricht University
- Dr. Mindel van de Laar, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Pierre Mohnen, Maastricht University
- Dr. Lonneke Nillesen, UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Zina Nimeh, Maastricht University
- Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Shyama V. Ramani, Maastricht University
- Dr. Melissa Siegel, Maastricht University
- Prof. Ronald Skeldon, Maastricht University
- Gerald Silverbeg, UNU-MERIT
- Dr. Tatiana Skripka, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Adam Szirmai, Maastricht University
- Dr. Nyasha Tirivayi, UNU-MERIT
- Prof. Dr. Bart Verspagen, Maastricht University

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

Many of our alumni now work for NGOs, research institutes such as the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI), as well as international organisations including the European Union, United Nations and World Bank.



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: 15 February 2018. For more information, please go to: <http://www.merit.unu.edu/training/iegd>

Tuition Fees

The following tuition fees are applicable to those enrolled in the PhD programme for the 2017-2018 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.

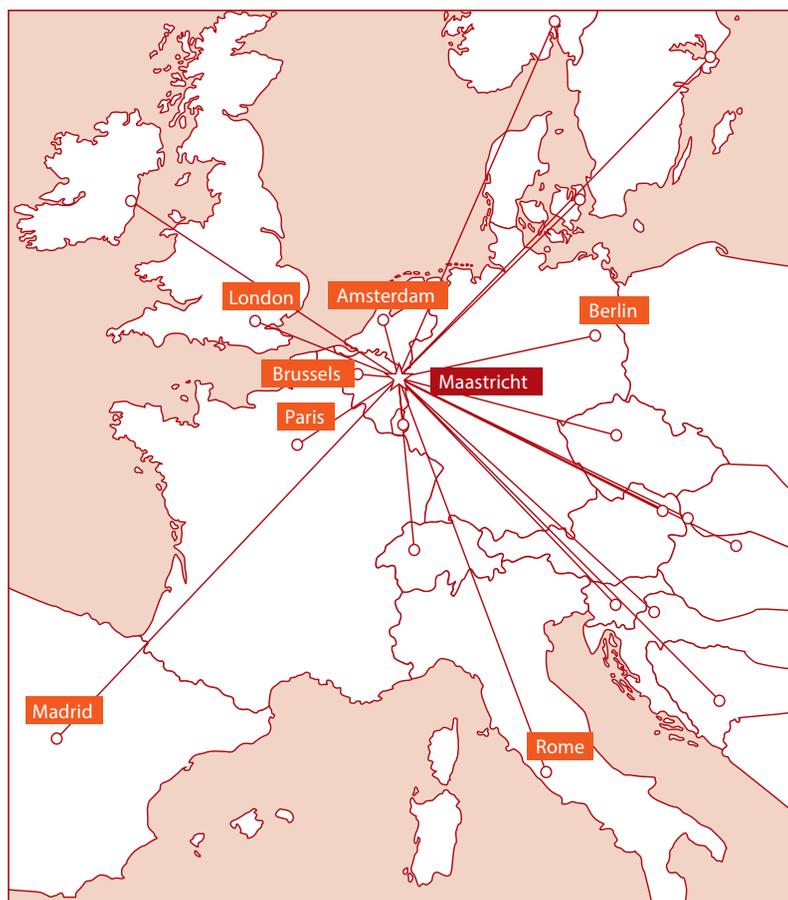
* No rights may be derived from the fees published here.

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: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/find-a-scholarship>

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.

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 specialisations: one in Governance & Policy Analysis, and another in the Economics of Technology, Innovation & Development.

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, social protection, the economics of technology and innovation, sustainable development, and migration. GPAC² is taught in English and consists of three workshops (each lasting two weeks) in the first year, and two workshops (each lasting one week) in the subsequent years.

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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