

Prospectus

**MSc Philosophy, Politics and Economics
and**

DDM Political Philosophy and PPE

2025-2026

Faculty of Philosophy
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Opening hours for *students*

Monday to Friday 08.30 - 17.30.

Opening hours for *staff*

Monday to Thursday 07.30 - 21.30.

Friday 07.30 - 20.00.

Course schedules

The course schedules can be found at <https://roosters.rug.nl>.

1 Master Philosophy, Politics and Economics

1.1 Practical information

All practical information on the academic year, course enrolment, schedules, tuition fees, housing etc. is available in the Study Guide of Philosophy 2025-2026 and on the Student Portal at <https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/>. For international students there's the Handbook for international students which is available on the Student Portal.

The Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) and other information for students can be found on the Study Info tab in the Student Portal under Student Regulations.

1.2 Aims and objectives of the Philosophy Politics and Economics programme

The world today faces many complex problems and challenges. These challenges can be met most effectively by collaborative efforts within an interdisciplinary approach. Philosophical, political and economic dimensions of today's problems are fundamentally interconnected and must be studied in a unified way.

The goal of the programme is to impart to students the knowledge, insight, and skills in the field of PPE that will thoroughly prepare them for careers in organizations as diverse as national or international public administrations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, private businesses and banks, think tanks and research institutions. The programme equips students with the necessary attitudes, insights and skills to allow them to combine the knowledge and understanding from Philosophy, Politics and Economics with a creative and solution-focused approach to complex problems. Students will learn to review the political and economic complexities of organizational structures and theories on concepts like democracy, political power, collective decision-making, social deliberation and economic growth. In the PPE programme, critical reflection and applicability go hand in hand.

1.3 Learning outcomes of the PPE programme

The general vision and objectives described above generate a number of qualifications that have to be attained by the graduates of the programme (see Appendix 1). The learning outcomes of the programme are presented within the framework of the Dublin descriptors. The learning outcomes are in line with international standards and comparable to the learning outcomes of other PPE Master's degree programmes.

Knowledge and understanding

This first set of learning outcomes focuses on the students' acquirement of advanced knowledge and understanding of key concepts, theories, conceptual and formal methods of the field of PPE, as well as their history. This knowledge and understanding builds upon, extends and enhances a level of knowledge typically associated with a Bachelor's

degree programme. Students have reached a level that provides a basis for originality in developing and applying ideas within a research context.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The second set of learning outcomes focuses on providing students with the skills needed to apply their knowledge and understanding. Students use insights from PPE to analyze, for example, conceptual and normative assumptions of arguments, to probe political legitimacy and power in decision-making and to assess how to implement policies efficiently and equitably.

Communication

Graduates are able to clearly communicate results, as well as the background knowledge and insights that have produced these results, to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. They are able to report on research in an academically standard way both orally and in writing and present opinions clearly to an audience of both colleagues and non-specialists. Graduates possess strong oral and written skills in English.

Learning skills

Graduates have acquired learning skills that allow them to further develop themselves in an autonomous and self-directed fashion. They have the ability to perform in the labor market, to conduct work of high academic quality within the appropriate work environment and to function in a group in a subject-related work environment. They are able to independently integrate new knowledge and understanding from the field of PPE into existing expertise in the context of continuous learning. Moreover, they have the ability to plan and implement activities independently, to learn effectively, to organize the time available and to keep deadlines.

Attitudes

Graduates have developed a critical, independent, creative, pro-active and resourceful attitude and will approach research with scientific and methodological rigour. Graduates are able to work together in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural settings and are able to work with deadlines and with feedback. Graduates have developed an academic attitude that demonstrates academic integrity.

1.4 The PPE programme

The one-year Master consists of nine modules of 5 ECTS each and a 15 ECTS Master's (thesis course unit and) thesis. Three of these nine modules constitute the academic core of the programme: History of PPE, Theories of PPE, and Methods of PPE and the two PPE Policy Seminars. Four electives and the Master's thesis complete the programme. Details of the course units can be found in Appendix 2, PPE core course units. The numbering in the table corresponds to the numbering in that chapter.

	<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>
<i>Academic core</i>	History of PPE (5 ECTS) 1	Methods of PPE (5 ECTS) 3		
	Theories of PPE (5 ECTS) 2			
		Policy Seminar 1 (5 ECTS) 4	Policy Seminar 2 (5 ECTS) 5	
<i>Electives</i>	Elective 1 (5 ECTS)	Elective 2 (5 ECTS)	Electives 3 and 4 (2 x 5 ECTS)	
<i>Thesis</i>			MA thesis course and thesis (15 ECTS) 6	

PPE Core Modules

In the module History of PPE students learn to understand and critically reflect on the main historical traditions relevant to PPE. This course unit provides an in-depth reading of some key texts from the ‘long’ history of PPE. We will look at some highly influential thinkers who have shaped current ideas and debates. Themes include Aristotle’s ideas on political naturalism, Machiavelli on forms of government and ‘Realpolitik’, Hobbes’ political philosophy and Hume’s critique, Adam Smith’s groundbreaking work on economics, Marx and Marxism, Ricardo’s and Mill’s ideas on capital and labor, and Keynes and Von Hayek on macro-economics and “social engineering”. In this way we hope to deepen our understanding of some key debates in the 19th and 20th centuries about politics and governance, economic growth, structural and social change, capital and labor, uncertainty and private property, the state and democracy.

In the Theories of PPE module students learn to develop an interdisciplinary perspective on liberal democracy and learn to be able to apply these to contemporary problems using insights from economics, political science and philosophy. Liberal democracies are characterized by political institutions such as the state, citizenship and elections and by economic institutions including property, money and the market. This course unit examines what institutions are as well as how they should be structured in order to secure liberal values such as equality, freedom and autonomy. To this end, it employs insights from philosophy, political science and economics.

In the Methods of PPE module students gain insight in a number of key methods in PPE research and are able to critically assess these methods and apply them judiciously in a variety of domains of application. The course unit places a number of important research tools into the PPE context: decision theory, statistics, causal analysis, social

choice theory, impact analysis and causal modeling. The course unit focuses on evidence-based policy making, and thereby on various aspects of individual and collective decision making, and on epistemic considerations about the social sciences that inform policy.

Policy Seminars

The aim of these modules is to give students the opportunity to apply PPE methods and theories to concrete policy issues, deepening their understanding of the tools from decision theory, game theory, social choice and public choice theory to design models of particular policy issues, as they will collect, combine and analyze background data as well as retrieve and interpret relevant social scientific research using, among other things, methods from behavioral economics and political science that they have encountered in the other modules. In addition, students will study policy issues in terms of rationality, utility, efficiency, fairness, productivity, collective action, etc.

The first PPE Seminar focusses on the role of beliefs and other cognitive attitudes of citizens, consumers, organizations, etc. This may include research in economics on 'motivated belief', testimonial injustice, epistemic virtues, etc. Applications will partly be decided on the basis of events that make headlines during the course unit of the module. The second PPE Seminar focusses on two policy issues in depth, namely economic inequality and democracy. The aim is to understand relevant social and economic phenomena empirically, apply the normative and conceptual tools learned in previous classes and to discuss policy proposals aimed at tackling inequality or improving democratic institutions. In the final third, students present policy reports on related policy issues.

Electives

The electives provide students with the opportunity to explore PPE topics of their choice. Students can choose course units from a list of electives especially designed for the PPE programme, in which philosophical, political and economic perspectives are combined. They enable the students to deepen and/or broaden their knowledge of particular multidisciplinary PPE topics and areas of their interest. Students can also choose disciplinary electives from a predetermined list of master course units offered by the participating faculties or select their own electives, in consultation with the programme coordinator (Andreas Schmidt) and the study advisor (Janine Weeting). These can be course units on philosophy, political theory or economics or other course units relevant to PPE. For some course units outside the Faculty of Philosophy department there can be specific entry requirements. Please check before enrolling if you meet these requirements.

Overview of PPE core course units and electives

PPE core course units (40 ECTS)

Qrt.	Course units	ECTS
1	History of PPE	5
1	Theories of PPE	5
2	Methods of PPE	5
2	PPE Policy Seminar 1	5
3	PPE Policy Seminar 2	5
4	Master's thesis course unit and thesis	15

Electives (20 ECTS)

Qrt.	Course units	Code	ECTS
1	Environmental psychology	PS	5
1	Theories of networks and sustainable cooperation	SOC	5
1	States, Markets and Power	FI	5
1	Philosophy of Climate Change	FI	5
1	Political Psychology	FI	5
1	Religion, Conflict and Globalization	TH	5
1	Social Phenomenology	FI	5
1	Kant and Kantian Moral Theory	FI	5
1	Business Ethics	EC	5
1	Emerging Markets (MSc)	EC	5
1	International Banking and Finance	EC	5
1	Emerging Markets	EC	5
1	Geographical and Urban Economics	Spatial Science	5
1	Social Impact Assessment	Spatial Science	5
1	City Matters	Spatial Science	5
1	Critical Approaches to Cultural Heritage and Identity	CF	5
1	On the move: People(s), cultures, and religions	TH	5
1 & 2	RS: Energy, Security and Climate Change	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Europe and China	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Multinational Corporations	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Politics of Natural Resources	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Politics of Violent Conflict	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Race, Class, Gender Intersectionality	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Russia in Global Politics	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: The European Union in the Media	IR	10
1 & 2	RS III: Dimensions of Citizenship	IR	10
1 & 2	RS: Populist Politics and Governments in Contemporary Europe	IR	10
2	Philosophy and Science: Social Dimensions of Knowledge	FI	5

2	Arguing about Taste	FI	5
2	Theory of Monetary Policy	EC	5
2	World Economy in Historical Perspective	EC	5
2	Religion, Gender & Sexuality: from Politics to Everyday life	TH	5
2	Network methods for policy research	SOC	5
2	Revitalising Neighbourhoods	Spatial Science	5
2	Power and Leadership	PS	5
2	The Politics of the Body	FI	5
2	Trade, Environment and Growth	EC	5
2	Global Finance and Growth	EC	5
3	Business and Human Rights	FI	5
3	Marx and Contemporary Political Phil.	FI	5
3	Monetary Policy, Strategy and Operations	EC	5
3	Energy Transition and Innovation	EC	5
3	Financial Management for Multinationals	EC	5
3	Economic Geography: Theory & Practice	Spatial Science	5
3	Fin. & Econ. Org. of Healthcare Markets	EC	5
3	Global Transformations, Local Impacts	Spatial Science	5
3	Moral Psychology	FI	5
3	Comparative Corporate Governance	EC	5
3	Country Studies	EC	5
3 & 4	RS: Contemporary China and IPE	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: China and the Global South	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: Ethics and Global Political Economy	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: IPE of Global Financial Markets	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: Forced Migration, Security and Human Rights	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: Conflict Management in Eur. Borderlands	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: Conflict, Security and Development	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: Environment, Geopolitics & Human	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: Medical Humanitarianism in Global Politics	IR	10
3 & 4	RS: The Science and Politics of Food-Systems in the Anthropocene	IR	10
4	Inclusive Finance	EC	5
4	Advanced Metaethics	FI	5
4	Fallacies	FI	5

Electives are offered by: the PPE programme, the Master programs of Philosophy (FI), of Economics and Business (EC), of Psychology (PS), Sociology (SOC), Spatial Sciences (SS), Campus Fryslân (CF), Theology and Religious Studies (TH) and International relations (IR). This list of electives is not comprehensive. Students may also choose other electives.

Detailed information on the (core and elective) course units can be found in the online course catalogue OCASYS: <https://ocasys.rug.nl/2025-2026/catalog/programme/69321>.

Registering for course units

Progress WWW is the official internet application for enrolment for course units and exams and for the registration of study results. You find ProgressWWW by going to <https://progresswww.nl/rug/>, or by logging in to My University. You use your student number and password to log in to Progress WWW.

This is how you register for modules in ProgressWWW:

If necessary, click 'Switch to English Language'

Log in with your student number and password

Click 'enroling' at the top

Select the faculty on the left

Click on the right phase: Master

Now a list of available course units appears

Check the box of the course units you want to take and click on 'enrol'.

Please register for the course unit well before the start of the course unit. The periods during which students can register are set annually by the Faculty. In principle, fulltime students can register for up to 35 ECTS per semester. If you want to register for a course unit in the first quarter and you are not yet able to do so, or if you have other questions concerning course registration, please contact the study advisor, Janine Weeting at fil-study-advisor@rug.nl.

To de-register for a course unit, you check the box of a module in your course unit overview on the right side of the screen and click 'deregister'. Your enrolment/deregistration will be confirmed by e-mail to your student e-mail account.

If you have any difficulties enrolling for one or more course units, please contact the study advisor, Janine Weeting, at fil-study-advisor@rug.nl.

Research Orientation

Over the course of quarters 1 to 3, students attend a minimum of three research talks (lectures/ other activities/ ESPF colloquia) organised by the Centre for PPE in Groningen, so as to get an impression of how cutting-edge PPE research can be conducted, presented, and discussed. A list of the (at least) three research talks attended is to be submitted at the start of the Master's thesis course unit (see below), where students will reflect on possible research topics for their PPE thesis.

In exceptional circumstances when a student cannot attend any of the research talks organised by the Centre for PPE in Groningen, students can substitute those lectures with alternative PPE-related lectures elsewhere in person or online, in which case they submit the list with those alternatives and short descriptions of the content of these lectures (together not more than one page).

Master's thesis course unit and thesis

The Master's thesis course unit and thesis are compulsory and conclude the Master's degree programme. In the Master's thesis, students demonstrate their ability to carry out research independently in the field of PPE and to produce a written report on their research. They show that they possess sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of PPE to take part in an academic discussion and make a contribution to the discipline. Students show they are able to formulate and delimit a problem and that they can gather, study, evaluate and structure relevant material as well as choose and substantiate a suitable research method and formulate a clear and systematic argument. Students demonstrate their ability to draw conclusions from their own research; to apply bibliographical skills and to communicate orally as well as in writing on the various aspects of the thesis.

The thesis course unit is offered in both Semester I and Semester II. Please note that each edition of the thesis course unit will be prepared in an obligatory meeting that takes place about two weeks after the start of the semester. In order not to miss any announcement about this meeting, it is important to timely register for the Master's thesis course unit.

The student takes the initiative with regard to the Master's thesis by seeking contact with a lecturer as the prospective first supervisor. This can be

a) a lecturer in the Philosophy Faculty or b) a lecturer from one of the participating faculties (Philosophy, Business and Economics, Behavioral Sciences, etc.):

a) If the student chooses a supervisor who is a member of the Philosophy Faculty, they do not need, and cannot have, a second supervisor. In this case, an additional assessor from within the Philosophy Faculty will be assigned at the end.

b) If the student chooses a supervisor from outside the Philosophy Faculty, they should contact the programme coordinator (Andreas Schmidt) and study advisor (Janine Weeting) for approval before starting the thesis. The student must also approach a second supervisor who is a staff member of the Philosophy Faculty. The role of the second supervisor is more limited compared with that of the first; they help with the formal requirements of the thesis and attend fewer supervision sessions. The second supervisor will also act as additional assessor; no additional assessor will be assigned at the end.

In both cases, the student submits a thesis proposal (setting out the subject, approach and sources) to the supervisor(s) for approval. Once the proposal has been approved by the supervisor(s), the student and supervisor(s) draw up a supervision plan. Once the thesis has been approved by the supervisor, the additional assessor assesses the thesis and grades it as either 'Acceptable' or 'Unacceptable'. When the additional

assessor has given his or her approval, the examination can be requested and the thesis discussion (between the student and both the supervisor and additional assessor) can be organized. The strict deadline for submitting the thesis is at the end of the fourth quarter. Students are advised to start early in thinking about a thesis topic and approaching supervisors, particularly if they would like to work with a supervisor from a faculty other than Philosophy.

A detailed description of the Master's thesis regulations and procedures can be found in the Master's Thesis Protocol, available on the Study Info tab on the Student Portal: <http://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/>.

We strongly urge students to read the detailed instructions for the Master's thesis in the Assessment Plan early on.

1.5 Focus Area Sustainable Society

The PPE Master's programme offers students the possibility of specialisation in the so-called "Focus Area Sustainable Society". PPE-Students receive an annotation "Focus Area Sustainable Society" on their diploma supplement, if they have met the following requirements:

- Successful completion of at least two electives related to sustainable society;
- They write their Master's thesis on a topic related to this focus area;
- Students have to proactively get in touch with the PPE programme coordinator with a list of their relevant electives and the title and abstract of their thesis. The decision about suitable electives and thesis topics lies with the programme coordinator, on behalf of the Board of Examiners of the Faculty.

1.6 Double Degree programme in Political Philosophy and PPE

Students who wish to gain an interdisciplinary perspective to better understand how to address major societal changes can combine this PPE perspective with research in political philosophy.

At the University of Groningen (UG), the selective one-year Master's in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) will equip you with the central theoretical and methodological tools from PPE to understand complex problems and assess proposals to address them. For example, you will delve into theories of democracy, rational choice, evidence-based policy, social justice, inequality and economic growth, and apply theoretical insights to concrete policy problems.

At the Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona (UPF), you will work with international experts in political philosophy and take course units that lay a solid foundation in political philosophy as well as course units to sharpen your own research

specialization. At the end of the double-degree programme, you will write a thesis jointly supervised by researchers from both UPF and the UG. It is possible to have your first year in Groningen and your second year in Barcelona or the other way around.

Students can either start their first year at the UG or at UPF Barcelona. The here mentioned start date applies to the first year at UG. For information on the Double Degree programme, entry requirements and application procedure see <https://www.rug.nl/masters/ddm-political-philosophy-and-ppe/> for information on the start date at UPF Barcelona see [https://www.upf.edu/\(...\)politiques-i-socials](https://www.upf.edu/(...)politiques-i-socials).

For more details of the DDM Political Philosophy and PPE, see Chapter 2, pp. 13-19.

2 DDM Political Philosophy and PPE

Double Degree programme in Political Philosophy and PPE offered by University of Groningen and Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona.

This study guide contains:

1. A general description
2. The curriculum
3. Clarifications on practical matters
4. Application and admission

2.1 General description

Students who wish to gain an interdisciplinary perspective to better understand how to address major societal changes but also deepen their knowledge in Political Philosophy can combine their PPE education with research in political philosophy.

At the University of Groningen (UG), the selective one-year Master's in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) will equip you with the central theoretical and methodological tools from PPE to understand complex problems and assess proposals to address them. For example, you will delve into theories of democracy, rational choice, evidence-based policy, social justice, inequality and economic growth, and apply theoretical insights to concrete policy problems.

At the Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona (UPF), you will work with international experts in political philosophy and take courses that lay a solid foundation in political philosophy as well as courses to sharpen your own research specialization. At the end of the double-degree programme, you will write a thesis jointly supervised by researchers from both UPF and the UG. It is possible to have your first year in Groningen and your second year in Barcelona or the other way around.

2.2 Curriculum

- **Option A:** First year in Groningen, second year in Barcelona
- **Option B:** First year in Barcelona, second year in Groningen.

OPTION A: First year Groningen (UG), second year Barcelona (UPF):

Year 1 at UG (*For details of the PPE programme, including a list of electives, see Chapter 1, pp. 3-12*)

Quarter 1:

	ECTS	Quarter
Theories of PPE	5	1st
History of PPE	5	1st
Elective 1	5	1st

Quarter 2:

	ECTS	Quarter
Methods of PPE	5	2nd
PPE Policy Seminar 1	5	2nd
Elective 2	5	2nd

Quarter 3:

	ECTS	Quarter
PPE Policy Seminar 2	5	3rd
Elective 3	5	3rd
Elective 4	5	3rd

Quarter 4:

Unlike non-DDM PPE students, you do not write your thesis in the fourth quarter. Instead, you should use quarter 4 to take additional electives.

Year 2 at UPF

Module 1.	ECTS	Term
THEORY AND METHODOLOGY (15 ECTS) (Compulsory courses)		
31940 Main Themes and Research Methods in Political Philosophy	5	1st
31436 Modern Political Philosophy	5	1st
31437 Contemporary Political Philosophy	5	2nd
32477 Master Thesis Writing Seminar	1	1st

Students can make individual requests to the degree coordinator at UPF to either drop Main Themes and Research Methods in Political Philosophy or to replace it with an elective.

Module 2.	ECTS	Term
OPTIONAL COURSES IN POLITICAL THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY (Choose 3 courses)		
31440 Distributive Justice Today	5	1st
31941 Art and Politics	5	1st
31897 Global Ethics	5	2nd
32257 Political Theory in the 21st Century. Block course.	5	3rd
32878 Power, Rationality and Society	5	2nd

Module 3. OPTIONAL COURSES IN PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (Choose 10 ECTS. Note that NOT all courses are 5 ECTS and that schedules may overlap for they depend on other Faculties)	ECTS	Term
32698 Political Ecology (Key Issues in Critical Environmental Politics)	5	2nd
32476 Politics and Gender	5	2nd
32264 Social Psychological Approaches to Society and the Individual	5	2nd
32258 Democracy and Political Liberalism: Theoretical and Institutional Features	5	2nd
31439 Nationalism Today	5	2nd
32260 Federalism and Federations	5	1st
32103 Global Law, Justice and Democracy	4	2nd
31904 International Relations	4	1st
31905 Temas Avanzados en Filosofía	5	1st
32262 Current Research on Diverse Democracies	5	3rd
32256 Health and Inequality	5	1st

Module 4. FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (19 ECTS)	ECTS	Term
32478 Master Final Thesis	19	3rd

OPTION B: First year in Barcelona (UPF), second year in Groningen (UG):

Year 1 at UPF

Module 1. THEORY AND METHODOLOGY (15 ECTS) (Compulsory courses)	ECTS	Term
31940 Main Themes and Research Methods in Political Philosophy	5	1st
31436 Modern Political Philosophy	5	1st
31437 Contemporary Political Philosophy	5	2nd
32477 Master Thesis Writing Seminar	1	1st

Module 2. OPTIONAL COURSES IN POLITICAL THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY (Choose 3 courses)	ECTS	Term
31440 Distributive Justice Today	5	1st
31941 Art and Politics	5	1st

31897 Global Ethics	5	2nd
32257 Political Theory in the 21st Century. Block course.	5	3rd
32878 Power, Rationality and Society	5	2nd

Module 3. OPTIONAL COURSES IN PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (Choose 10 ECTS. Note that NOT all courses are 5 ECTS and that schedules may overlap for they depend on other Faculties)	ECTS	Term
32698 Political Ecology (Key Issues in Critical Environmental Politics)	5	2nd
32476 Politics and Gender	5	2nd
32264 Social Psychological Approaches to Society and the Individual	5	2nd
32258 Democracy and Political Liberalism: Theoretical and Institutional Features	5	2nd
31439 Nationalism Today	5	2nd
32260 Federalism and Federations	5	1st
32103 Global Law, Justice and Democracy	4	2nd
31904 International Relations	4	1st
31905 Temas Avanzados en Filosofía	5	1st
32262 Current Research on Diverse Democracies	5	3rd
32256 Health and Inequality	5	1st

Year 2 at UG (For details of the PPE programme, including a list of electives, see Chapter 1, pp. 3-12)

Quarter 1:

	ECTS	Quarter
Theories of PPE	5	1st
History of PPE	5	1st
Elective 1	5	1st

Students can make individual requests to the degree coordinator at UG to drop either Theories of PPE or History of PPE (but not both) or to replace one or both with electives.

Quarter 2:

	ECTS	Quarter
Methods of PPE	5	2nd
PPE Policy Seminar 1	5	2nd
Elective 2	5	2nd

Quarter 3:

	ECTS	Quarter
PPE Policy Seminar 2	5	3rd
Elective 3	5	3rd
Elective 4	5	3rd

Quarter 4:

Master's thesis & thesis course (15 ECTS)

The Master's thesis has to be submitted at both institutions and counts for 20 ECTS at UPF (19 ECTS for the Thesis proper plus 1 credit for the preparatory Research and MA Thesis Seminar) and for 15 ECTS at UG.

2.3 Clarifications on practical matters

Thesis

DDM students write their thesis in the final term (at UG or UPF, whichever applies).

- The thesis must be supervised by one supervisor in the place where students currently study and one supervisor from the other partner university. So, for example, if you study in Groningen, for your final year, then your first supervisor will be from Groningen and your second supervisor from Barcelona. If students write their thesis while they are in Barcelona, the supervisor from Groningen should typically be from the Philosophy Faculty (there can be reasons for exceptions).
- The thesis must be written according to the formal requirements of the university where the student is currently studying.
- If the student is studying in Barcelona for their final term, they must still for one month (usually August) enrol in Groningen for obtaining their diploma. For this one month, the student needs to pay tuition fees (usually 1/12 of the total amount). Please get in touch timely with the admission officer at UG if you have any questions about the enrolment (fil-admissions@rug.nl).

Having courses accredited

In the above curriculum description, you see which courses you can drop or replace with an elective. Note that if you wish to do so, please contact the degree coordinator in the respective university before the start of the programme (UG: Michael Schwan, ppe@rug.nl; UPF: Camil Ungureanu, camil.ungureanu@upf.edu).

2.4 Application and admission

Each academic year, 10 places will be available in the DDM programme (five at the UG, and five at UPF). You will be enrolled and pay the tuition fee for one full academic year at your first university, and the next academic year you will be enrolled and pay the tuition fees at the other university. Please note that in case your first university is UG, you need to enrol for one additional month at UG at the end of your DDM programme, in order to obtain your diploma.

Applying for your first year

To apply for the first year of the DDM at the UG, you can follow the same application instructions as for a regular Master's programme and apply to the MSc Philosophy, Politics and Economics in Studielink. Please mention in your motivation letter that you want to pursue the DDM. If you have a non-Dutch previous education, you can also indicate your DDM interest when submitting your application in the Progress Portal. Detailed information on the DDM starting dates, entry requirements and application procedure can be found on the programme page: [rug.nl/masters/ddm-political-philosophy-and-ppe/](https://www.rug.nl/masters/ddm-political-philosophy-and-ppe/)

For more information on applying for the first year of the DDM at UPF, you can visit: <https://www.upf.edu/web/filosofiapolitica/double-degree-political-philosophy>. Information for international students can be found under "practical information", and application details are listed under "Access & Admission". Please be aware that you may be asked to pay a deposit when you enrol at UPF, which will then be deducted from your tuition fees.

If you are already enrolled at the UG as a one-year MSc PPE student, it is also still possible to apply for the second year of the DDM at UPF during the academic year (as long as there are still spots available).

Applying for your second year at UPF

In order to be registered for your second year at UPF, you will need to put in an application to the MA Political Philosophy at UPF. UPF has multiple application *calls*. In order to ensure timely processing, you need to apply during Application Call 1 between November and January, so your placement can be confirmed by February. Please check the exact deadlines on: [upf.edu/web/masters/calendari-de-preinscripcio](https://www.upf.edu/web/masters/calendari-de-preinscripcio).

After you have finished your thesis in your second year in UPF, you will have to re-enrol at the UG for the month of August to receive your degree. Please contact fil-admissions@rug.nl if you have any questions.

Applying for your second year at the UG

In order to be registered for your second year at the UG, you will have to submit an application to the MSc PPE via Studielink before 1 May 2025. Second-year DDM students with a non-Dutch previous qualification are exempt from paying the application fee, but do still need to submit their application through the Progress Portal. Please inform the admissions liaison by email at fil-admissions@rug.nl once you have submitted your application.

Contact

- Contact person at UPF for academic matters: Camil Ungureanu; camil.ungureanu@upf.edu
- Contact person at UPF for admissions and other administrative matters: Blanca Ribera de Madariaga; blanca.ribera@upf.edu
- Contact person and PPE programme coordinator at UG: Michael Schwan; ppe@rug.nl or m.p.schwan@rug.nl
- Contact person at UG for academic matters: Janine Weeting; fil-study-advisor@rug.nl
- Contact person at UG for admissions and other administrative matters: Sjoukje Ettema; fil-admissions@rug.nl.

Appendix 1 Learning outcomes of the MSc in PPE

Knowledge and understanding

Graduates of the programme have:

1. advanced knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and theories of the field of PPE, including rationality, utility, efficiency, equality, and fairness;
2. advanced knowledge and understanding of the main historical traditions in and predecessors of PPE ideas about (neo)liberalism, capitalism, Marxism, other forms of socialism, and Keynesianism;
3. advanced knowledge and understanding of the conceptual and formal methods of PPE, including game theory, and evidence-based policy.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates of the programme are able to:

4. identify appropriate concepts, theories and methods for complex problem-solving tasks;
5. gather and organise information and evaluate its relevance to the case at hand;
6. interpret, analyse and make sensible use of the information;
7. process information in organised, structured argumentation;
8. use insights from PPE to analyse conceptual and normative assumptions of arguments;
9. use insights from PPE to probe political legitimacy and power in decision-making;
10. use insights from PPE to implement policies efficiently and equitably;
11. use insights from PPE in public policy making.

Making Judgements

Graduates of the programme are able to:

12. apply the conceptual, formal, quantitative and qualitative methods of PPE to concrete policy questions;
13. to design a feasible research question that is relevant to the policy issue at hand;
14. to collect background information and data necessary to address the research question;
15. design a model for the policy issue at hand, and combine and analyse data using the main PPE methods.
16. take into account the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their own knowledge and judgements.

Communication

Graduates of the programme:

17. are able to report on research in English in an academically sound way both orally and in written form;
18. are able to present opinions clearly to an audience of both colleagues and non-specialists;

Learning skills

Graduates of the programme have:

19. the ability to independently integrate new knowledge and understanding from the field of PPE into existing expertise as part of continuous learning;
20. the ability to read and comprehend English at a level such that an academic debate in that language can be followed;
21. the ability to participate in the labour market, to conduct work of academic quality and to apply academic research to policy-related matters within the appropriate working environment;
22. the ability to plan and implement activities independently, to learn effectively, to organise the time available and to keep deadlines.

Appendix 2 Description of the PPE core course units

1. History of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Course code	FI174PPEH
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the course the student have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advanced knowledge and understanding of some key moments in the history of European PPE <p>Upon completion of the course the student are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain and critically reflect on some key moments in the history of European PPE • explain and critically reflect on the views of major philosophers including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Smith and Marx, as well as more modern authors such as Keynes and Hayek. • critically compare the contributions of these traditions and authors on debates concerning issues such as capital, class, consumption, democracy, equality, government, information, growth, justice, labour, market, money, paternalism, political authority, private property, society, taxation, trade, value, voting, wages, wealth • report on research in an academically sound way both orally and in written form
Description	<p>While the name of ‘PPE’ dates back to the early 20th century, the combined study of philosophical, political and economic questions is at least as old as Plato and Aristotle, and today’s PPE research frequently refers to these historical predecessors. Without aiming at providing an exhaustive historical survey, this course focuses on some key texts from the long history of PPE in Europe. We will look at some highly influential thinkers who have shaped current ideas and debates. Themes include Machiavelli on forms of government and ‘Realpolitik’, Hobbes’ political philosophy and contract theory, Locke’s political philosophy and colonialism, Adam Smith’s groundbreaking work on economics, Marx and Marxism, Ricardo’s and Mill’s ideas on capital and labor, and Keynes and Von Hayek on macro-economics and “social engineering”. In this way we hope to deepen our understanding of some key debates in the 19th and 20th centuries about politics and governance, economic growth, structural and social change, capital and labour, uncertainty and private property, the state and democracy.</p>
Coordinator	prof dr L.W. (Lodi) Nauta (L.W.Nauta@rug.nl); prof L.M. (Lisa) Herzog (L.M.Herzog@rug.nl)
Lecturer	prof dr L.W. (Lodi) Nauta (L.W.Nauta@rug.nl); prof L.M. (Lisa) Herzog (L.M.Herzog@rug.nl)

Level(s)	Master
Period	Semester 1a
ECTS	5 EC
Literature	Texts will be made accessible via Brightspace
Language	English
Teaching method	Lecture and discussion (combined)

2. Theories of PPE

Course code	FI184PPET
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To acquire knowledge about the state, the market and the community. 2. To acquire knowledge about theories of justice, identity and autonomy. 3. To be able to integrate perspectives from P, P and E.
Description	<p>Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) provides an integral perspective on social institutions and societal challenges. It focuses on how the major institutions of society – the state and the market – actually work and how they should work. The first premise of this course is that society is a venture for cooperation (politics and economics); the second that it consists of free and equal persons who are entitled to equal concern and respect (philosophy). These premises raise questions about justice and autonomy that form the core of this course. What requirements do procedural and distributive justice entail for the state? Does justice extend to the market and if so how? And is justice merely a matter of formal structure, or does it also concern informal social contexts? Insofar as autonomy is concerned, the question is whether and what respect for persons entails concerning people's autonomy and their identities. Should the state be neutral with respect to questions of religion and identity and, if so, what does this imply for groups such as the LGBTQ community and immigrants?</p>
Coordinator	prof dr F.A. (Frank) Hindriks (F.A.Hindriks@rug.nl)
Lecturer	prof dr F.A. (Frank) Hindriks (F.A.Hindriks@rug.nl)
Level(s)	Master
Period	Semester 1a

ECTS	5 EC
Literature	See syllabus
Language	English
Teaching method	Lecture;Discussion
Assessment	Essay
Prerequisites	Restricted to PPE master students

3. Methods of Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Course code	FI174PPEM
Learning outcomes	Students gain insight in key methods in PPE research. They are able to critically assess these methods and apply them judiciously in a variety of domains of application.
Description	The course covers research tools for decision-making and interpreting evidence for the purposes of public policy. It covers causal modeling and impact assessment, as well as a range of decision-theoretic techniques and methods for dealing with uncertainty in scientific evidence.
Coordinator	prof L. (Leah) Henderson (L.Henderson@rug.nl)
Lecturer	prof L. (Leah) Henderson (L.Henderson@rug.nl)
Level(s)	Master
Period	Semester 1b
ECTS	5 EC
Literature	A list of readings will be made available
Language	English
Teaching method	Lecture
Assessment	Final written in AJ-Hal

4. PPE Policy Seminar 1

Course code	FI174SEMP1
Learning outcomes	Knowledge and understanding

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop advanced understanding of concepts, theories, historical traditions, and empirical and normative instruments from PPE • gain insight into sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals
	<p>Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilize PPE instruments to identify and analyze challenges related to sustainable development • craft and defend policy proposals that integrate normative, philosophical, political, empirical, and economic considerations regarding sustainable development
	<p>Judgement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage in the critical analysis and evaluation of policy issues pertaining to sustainable development
	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectively convey policy proposals through oral and written communication
	<p>Learning Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approach sustainable development policy-making with sensitivity and understanding, both independently and as part of a team
Description	<p>The objective of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to apply normative and social scientific methods and theories to real-world policy issues. Through highly interactive sessions, students will deepen their understanding of relevant policy tools and develop models to address specific challenges, with a particular focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Applying a hands-on approach, the course encourages students to collect, integrate, and analyze background information while drawing upon existing research from previous coursework as well as new sources from PPE. By immersing themselves in practical policy exercises, students gain insight into the complexity of important contemporary societal challenges, including diverse normative and legal landscapes.</p> <p>Through collaborative and individual efforts, students will design policy reports on topics of their choice, which in the past have ranged from healthcare and education policy to climate change and sustainable marketing.</p>
Coordinator	prof dr B.P. (Boudewijn) de Bruin (B.P.de.Bruin@rug.nl)
Lecturer	prof dr B.P. (Boudewijn) de Bruin (B.P.de.Bruin@rug.nl)
Level(s)	Master
Period	Semester 1b
ECTS	5 EC

Literature	To be announced (on Brightspace), free
Language	English
Teaching method	Lecture
Assessment	Paper;Written assignment;Exam;Presentation

5. PPE Policy Seminar 2

Course code	FI174SEMP2
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the course, the student is able to apply the key concepts and theories of PPE to concrete policy questions; connect these concepts and theories with the main qualitative and quantitative methods of PPE; identify appropriate concepts, theories and methods for complex problem-solving tasks; gather and organise information and evaluate its relevance to the case at hand; interpret, analyse and make sensible use of the information; process information in organised, structured argumentation; use insights from PPE to analyse conceptual and normative assumptions of arguments; present relevant information in an accessible and analytically rigorous manner in a policy report.</p> <p>The topics will be economic inequality and democracy. At the end of the seminar, students will have gained significant knowledge of empirical issues around inequality and democracy and a good understanding of potential promises and shortcomings of policy proposals meant to tackle inequality or improve democratic institutions.</p>
Description	<p>In the policy seminars students get the opportunity to apply the theories they learn in Methods of PPE but particularly in Theories of PPE to a concrete policy issue at hand, making use of the key methods and theories with which they have been acquainted in semester Ia and Ib. In this policy seminar, we will focus on two policy issues in depth, namely economic inequality and democracy. The aim is to understand relevant social and economic phenomena empirically, apply the normative and conceptual tools learned in previous classes and to discuss policy proposals aimed at tackling inequality or improving democratic institutions. In the final third, students present policy reports on related policy issues.</p>
Coordinator	prof A.T. (Andreas) Schmidt (A.T.Schmidt@rug.nl)
Lecturer	prof A.T. (Andreas) Schmidt (A.T.Schmidt@rug.nl)
Level(s)	Master
Period	Semester 2a

ECTS	5 EC
Literature	A reading list will be made available. All readings are available online.
Language	English
Teaching method	The course combines lectures with seminars. Students are expected to prepare for both and to participate actively in the seminars.
Assessment	<p>Policy report (Students are examined based on one paper they write at the end of the course.)</p> <p>Students also have to give a presentation, but the presentation is not graded, but it has to be good enough, otherwise students cannot pass the course.</p>
Prerequisites	<p>The course is for PPE students only.</p> <p>Previous courses taken at that point: Theories of PPE, Methods of PPE, PPE Policy Seminar 1</p>

6. Master's Thesis PPE

Course code	FI174S15
Learning outcomes	<p>In the Master's thesis, students demonstrate their ability to carry out research independently in the field of PPE and to produce a written report on their research. They show that they possess sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of PPE to take part in an academic discussion and make a contribution to the discipline.</p> <p>Students show they are able to formulate and delimit a problem, and that they can gather, study, evaluate and structure relevant material as well as choose and substantiate a suitable research method and formulate a clear and systematic argument. Students demonstrate their ability to draw conclusions from their own research; to apply bibliographical skills and to communicate orally as well as in writing on the various aspects of the thesis.</p>
Coordinator	Y. (Yorick) Karseboom MA (Y.Karseboom@rug.nl)
Lecturer	Y. (Yorick) Karseboom MA (Y.Karseboom@rug.nl)
Level(s)	Master
Period	Semester 2
ECTS	15 EC

Language	English
Remarks	<p>Please note that the Thesis Course will be prepared in an obligatory meeting, that takes place about two weeks after the start of the semester. The Thesis Course is also offered in Semester I.</p> <p>In order not to miss any announcement about this meeting, it is important to timely enroll for the master's thesis course of your choice of quarter 1 / quarter 3. The main writing process takes place in the second and fourth quarter.</p>