



**Maastricht Centre  
for European Law**

## MCEL master thesis project 2024-2025

### Migration Law and Governance

The **MCEL master thesis project 'Migration Law and Governance'** brings together **highly motivated students** and **expert staff members** of the Maastricht Centre for European Law (MCEL), as well as other relevant staff of the Law Faculty and external speakers.

Migration is a politically salient issue. Not only is migration present in media headlines and political discussions, in recent years there have been significant developments in its legislation and governance. Most prominently, last May the EU co-legislators agreed on a complete overhaul of the Union's *acquis* on migration, asylum, and integrated border management (a set of measures that have become known together as the New Pact on Migration and Asylum). At the same time, the EU is increasingly streamlining migration management in its broader external relations and diplomacy. These developments raise interesting and pressing legal questions. By focussing on 'Migration Law and Governance' this year's MCEL master thesis project provides you with the opportunity to engage with these important legal and societal developments. Within the project you can write a thesis on a wide variety of issues. For example, topics could cover, but are not limited to:

- Interplay between key EU constitutional principles and asylum, migration, and integrated border management policies;
- Interplay between EU asylum and migration law and policy with international refugee and human rights law;
- Policy implementation and administrative governance in asylum, migration, and integrated border management policies;
- Interplay between EU and national regulation of migration, asylum, and integrated border management;
- Labour migration regulation;
- Temporary protection regimes;
- Solidarity and fair-sharing;
- Digital borders (e.g., databases, use of AI tools);
- Environmentally induced displacement;
- Human trafficking and migrant smuggling;

- EU agencies' role in the management of migration;
- Accountability in migration;

## Are you eager to write about Migration Law and Governance? Then apply for the MCEL master thesis project!

### Your benefits:

You will write your own thesis but be part of an **inspiring research community** and work closely together with other fellow students as well as **MCEL members**. You will meet and get the opportunity to discuss with both internal and external experts and access additional seminars helping you develop your project. You will also become an MCEL student member and be welcome at MCEL's **monthly research seminars**, as well as **the events organised by the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Migration Law and Governance**. In addition to the master thesis ECTS, you will get a **certificate** that will enrich your CV. Finally, after their completion and evaluation, selected theses will be published in the form of **Jean Monnet/MCEL working papers** to increase the scientific and social impact of your work.

### Application:

You can apply to participate in this project by submitting your **application**, which must consist of:

- Your personal information (name and student number, as well as 150-word maximum bio note)
- A mention of which master programme you are in;
- An indication of which area you wish to write your Master thesis in (this does not have to be a specific topic yet).

Applications must be submitted before **15 October 2024** to:

[mcel@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:mcel@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Please use the subject 'MCEL thesis project' for your email.

For further information, please contact Sarah Tas or Felix Peerboom (email: [sarah.tas@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:sarah.tas@maastrichtuniversity.nl), [f.peerboom@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:f.peerboom@maastrichtuniversity.nl) )