Maastricht University

Center for European Studies

Open Enrolment Programmes

Course Advice

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Open Enrolment Programmes: course advice

Welcome to the Center for European Studies! We are looking forward to welcoming you to Maastricht, the Netherlands. Before you arrive, your programme coordinator at CES is going to advise you regarding your course selection and help you register for courses. This guide will help you understand the way that the academic system at Maastricht University is organised so that you can make informed decisions and sign up for the right courses.

CES offers five Open Enrolment Programmes (OEPs):

- Business & Economics in Europe (BEiE)
- Humanities & Social Sciences in Europe (HSSE)
- Politics, Law & International Relations in Europe (PLIRE)
- Psychology & Neuroscience in Europe (PNE)
- Science & Health in Europe (SHiE)

If you follow the link to the programme you signed up for, you will find a Courses & Curriculum tab on the page that links to an overview of all the courses you can choose from.

What's different?

Let's start with the way that the system in Maastricht might be different from what you're used to back home.

1. There is no add/drop period once courses have started;
2. There is no auditing a class;
3. Final class schedules are published a week or so before classes start (and even then can still be subject to change);
4. Registration deadlines for classes are months in advance, and cannot be amended after.

Luckily, you have a very experienced CES coordinator ready to tackle these challenges with you during the course advising (enrolment) process.

Course advising at CES: some basic guidelines

What does this mean for the course advising process? There are a few rules to keep in mind:

- Deadlines are important and not controlled by CES. *If you miss a registration deadline, we might not be able to get you into the class of your choice.*
- Make course registration a priority during the coming weeks. *Please keep an eye on your email, respond promptly and set up a Zoom appointment as soon as possible.*
- Make sure you get into the right class and get your courses approved at your home university or college. *We ask all students to confirm that they will get credit for each class they sign up for. We also send out course manuals/descriptions to make double sure that the course is suitable.*
- Resits usually take place after the end of the programme and often require students to be in Maastricht in person. Hence, they are not necessarily an option for CES students.
- If you are struggling throughout a course please feel free to reach out to your programme coordinator in due time so they can support you in finding the right resources.

Due to university guidelines, once you are registered for a course and the deadline has passed, we have very limited opportunities to make changes.

Programme structure

Each semester is 18 weeks long and starts with an extensive two-week introduction, followed by two 'block periods' of classes of typically 8 weeks each:

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun
Period/Block 1	Period/Block 2	Period/Block 4	Period/Block 5

*Check the official academic calendar as dates may vary

Credits

The number of credits awarded per course varies widely per department, from 1 ECTS credit to 12 ECTS credits. Students can earn a minimum of 24 and maximum of 32 ECTS credits per semester. In each half of the semester students can take an average of 12 and a maximum of 18 ECTS credits (for example by taking two classes of 5-6.5 ECTS credits at the same time, or one class of 12 ECTS credits).
NB: The number of credits you need depends on your home university or college.

What's the education system like at UM?

Most Faculties/Schools use Problem-based learning (PBL), a small-scale educational system (max. 15 students per group), in which students take an active role in their own learning process: discussing and solving cases, giving presentations, etc. The role of the professor (tutor) is that of a guide or mentor, who oversees the learning process, but tries to interfere as little as possible. Because classes are so small, there is a lot of emphasis on participation and attendance.

You will receive an introduction to PBL during your orientation week to help familiarize yourself with the method. We also recommend exploring 'The Problem-based learning preparatory website' or watching this video:

What can you expect regarding class hours?

A class consists of tutorial meetings (small group meetings in which cases are discussed), lectures and sometimes skills trainings. It depends on the Faculty or School which activities are mandatory, but it is safe to say that attendance plays an important part and meeting the minimum number of class hours is a prerequisite for passing each course.

Classes typically meet 2-3 times a week. The number of total class hours per course varies from 4-8 hours per week; for every hour in class students are expected to spend 2-3 hours on study. 40 hours a week is considered a normal workload (class time and self-study time).

Where to find an overview of courses?

Courses are published on the CES website under each programme. At least half the selected courses need to belong to one of your programme's majors.

The Electives section provides an overview of all courses available through CES. These courses are taught across various departments (referred to as "Faculties" or "Schools") at Maastricht University. CES has pre-selected these courses from the entire range of offerings for exchange students at the university, based on criteria such as course relevance, average grades, passing rates, and feedback from previous students.

So... how do you know which course is taught at which department?

In the course overview on our website, you can tell by the **course code** at which department a course is taught. The **period** refers to the semester (Fall=1,2; Spring=4,5).

What is each Faculty or School like?

In the overview below, you can find a short characterisation of each department or school. Keep in mind that each Faculty or School has its own set of rules and deadlines.

Center for European Studies (CES)

Course code: Varies according to your programme
Credits per class: 6.0–9.0 ECTS credits

CES classes typically include a field trip and bring in local expertise to illustrate the regional and European context. Classes are offered mainly to CES students only, so you will usually be in class with other non-EU students (often students from the US). Classes are worth 6.0 ECTS credits but can be expanded to 9.0 ECTS by writing an extra paper (Independent Study Project or ISP). CES classes are easy to combine with classes at most other Faculties, Schools or Departments.

Overview of CES classes

CES courses offered in period 1 and 4

IMPORTANT: Core Courses

CES students are required to choose **at least one** CES class related to their programme in Maastricht, this is called a Core Course. They are free to choose one in either period of the semester, or both.

If you've come across an interesting Core Course in another CES programme, talk to your course coordinator to explore the possibility of taking it as an Elective.

Programme	Code	Course Title	Period
BEiE	BUS2002	The New Psychology of Leadership	1 & 4
	BUS3001	Economics of European Integration: Challenges, Policies and Practices in the European Business Environment	2 & 5
	BUS3009	Marketing, it's all about creating value	1 & 4
	FIN2001	Applied Financial Theory	2 & 5
PLIRE	POL3002	Law and Politics: Current Topics in the European Union	1 & 4
	POL3009	Europe in Crisis: Quo Vadis Europa?	2 & 5
HSSE	ART2002	Dutch Art History	1, 2, 4,5
	SUS2001	Sustainable Development	1 & 4
	LIT2002	Roaring Twenties, Nazi Terrors and the Cold War: European Experiences reflected in Literature	1 & 4
PNE	POS2001	Positive Psychology	1 & 4
	EUH2003	Social Psychology and Health	2 & 5
	PNE2007	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience	2 & 5

SHiE	EUH2002	European Public Health in a Globalising World: Introducing Policy, Research and Practice	1 & 4
	AID2001	Deconstructing AI	2 & 5
	PHI2002	Medical Ethics	2 & 5
ALL*	DUT1006	Dutch culture and Identity	1, 2, 4, 5
	DUT1003	Dutch Language (semester long)	1, 2, 4, 5
	DUT1004	Dutch Language (one period)	1 & 4

***Course open to all students**

- Credits per class: 1.5 - 3.0 ECTS credits

CES also offers courses that helps students discover the language, history and culture of the Netherlands. These are semester long course (period 1 + 2 or period 4 + 5).

Language Centre

Course code: depends on Language
Credits per class: 1.5 or 3 ECTS credits

In order to meet overseas requirements or to get to the necessary number of credits required by your home university or college, you might need to take an additional language course at the University Language Centre. Most students select Dutch, because it is required by their home university. You have several options: 1.5 credits or 3.0 credit classes that can be taken per block or for the entire semester.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS)

Course code: ACU, EUS, MCD, MES, MGD, MGT, DSO
Credits per class: 5.0–12.0 ECTS credits

FASoS classes can mainly be divided into European Studies classes (EUS classes), which examine all aspects of the European Union (political, IR, sociological, etc.) and in Arts and Culture classes (ACU classes), which have a sociology /history/
culture/ philosophy angle. More recently FASoS added a new Bachelor in Digital Society (DSO classes). MCD, MES, MGD and MGT classes are only offered in the fall semester – they belong to minor programmes and should ideally be taken in chronological order. FASoS classes are usually worth 9-12 ECTS credits.

University College Maastricht (UCM)

Course code: COR, HUM, SSC, SCI, SKI (skills)
Credits per class: 5.0 ECTS credits (2.5 ECTS credits for skills)

UCM is Maastricht University's honours liberal arts and sciences college and home to a body of highly motivated students. UCM classes are taught by professors from different disciplines, faculties and schools, so it is possible to take a variety of classes (for example health, psychology, literature, economics, sociology, history and art). Classes are typically worth 5.0 ECTS credits, but the workload is demanding.

The minimum GPA requirement for UCM is 3.3 (at all other departments it is 3.0). UCM's academic calendar differs slightly from the rest of UM, which means that one of the main concerns during course advising will be to find suitable classes and avoid scheduling overlap. The UCM registration deadline is the earliest so all students who want to take classes at UCM should talk to their CES advisor as soon as possible.

NB: In the Spring semester classes at this faculty start one week earlier than the other faculties.

Faculty of Law (FoL)

Course code: CRI, IER, LAW, MET, PRI, PUB
Credits per class: 6.0–12.0 ECTS credits

Law classes at the Faculty of Law are bachelor-level law classes. The classes on offer have been pre-selected for CES students who might not have a strong background in law/legal studies. That said, it is important to realize that these classes are demanding and require students to study law texts in detail. Classes typically meet once or twice a week, but require extensive self-study. Classes are typically worth 6.0 ECTS credits.

School of Business and Economics (SBE)

Course code: EBC
Credits per class: 6.5 ECTS credits

SBE has a wide range of courses ranging from accounting to international business and from economics to marketing. SBE has a so-called Triple Crown accreditation, a distinction awarded to less than 1% of the Business schools in the world. Classes use student facilitations or classic PBL (depending on the class). Classes are worth 6.5 ECTS credits. For more information regarding SBE classes (including general timeslots and evaluations) please visit this website.
NB: In the Spring semester classes at this faculty run one week longer than at the other faculties.

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (FHML)

Course code: BGZ, BBS, BMZ, EPH, GGZ, GZW, PGZ
Credits per class: 9.0-12.0 ECTS credits

Classes at FHML often include skills trainings ('practicals'), so they typically have more contact hours than some other classes. That is why it might be hard to combine them with classes not taught at FHML. They can be divided into European Public Health classes (EPH) and other disciplines offered at the Health faculty, such as Health Sciences GZW) or Biology and Health (BGZ). All the courses are part of a track; you can usually only take the second course of a track if you also take the preceding course within the same track

Department of Advanced Computing Sciences (DACS)

Course code: KEN
Credits per class: 4.0 ECTS credits

DACS classes are heavily math, AI and computer science oriented (with an emphasis on software, programming, algorithms and logic). DACS students typically take 3 classes of 4.0 ECTS credits each at the same time and the instructional format is project-oriented, instead of classic PBL.
NB: In the Spring semester classes at DACS start one week earlier than the other faculties.

Maastricht Science Programme (MSP)

Course code: BIO, CHE, MAT PHY, NEU, INT
Credits per class: 5.0 ECTS credits

The MSP is part of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, set up along similar lines as UCM. The focus however, lies on 5 disciplines: biology, chemistry, math, physics, neuroscience and interdisciplinary courses. Courses are either taught in the PBL style or in Research-Based Learning (RBL).
NB: In the spring semester classes at MSP start one week earlier than the other faculties.

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN)

Course code: IPN/PSY
Credits per class: 5.0-6.0 ECTS credits

FPN classes also often include skills trainings ('practicals') for which attendance is mandatory. Students taking classes at FPN are required to participate in the FPN orientation programme, which includes an extensive PBL preparation. Classes at FPN can have an alternating schedule, meeting twice a week (Mon, Fri) in week one, and meeting once a week (Wed) in week two, etc. with practical sessions sometimes in between. This means that combining FPN classes with classes taught at other departments can be tricky scheduling-wise, so we often recommend a CES class to go alongside.

Course advising steps

Selecting the right courses that fit into your degree programme and meet your credit requirements as well as your personal interests is an important part of your preparation to study abroad with CES. Your CES programme coordinator functions as your academic advisor abroad and will assist you in this process by assessing your eligibility, providing you with more information on schedules and workload and by sending you course syllabi ('course manuals') upon request.

For the course selection process to go smoothly and to make sure that you are signed up for the courses of your choice in time for each Maastricht University's departmental registration deadline, please complete the following steps in a timely manner:

Your next steps:

- Please ensure that we have a list of the courses you are currently taking if not already listed on the transcript that we have received;
- Please provide any additional information on your reasons for choosing certain courses as this will enable us to help you find the best possible academic match for you at Maastricht University;
- Please answer emails as soon as possible in order to meet the necessary registration requirements.
- Your CES course advisor will give you more information on (frame) schedules as soon as they become available and will also send you course manuals/descriptions to make sure the courses are suited.

Please note that detailed course schedules are only published 1-2 weeks before the start of classes.

Academic Accommodations

Students with academic accommodations need to inform their course coordinator as early as possible. The course coordinator will then provide information on how to apply for the necessary accommodations and connect with the Disability Support Office.

After you have selected courses with your CES advisor…

You need to talk to your academic advisor back home to make sure that you actually get credit for the classes you signed up for. We require all students to fill out a CES course approval form. If you make any changes later on, we will ask you to have a new version signed and approved. Keep in mind that any changes after the registration deadline are difficult and in most cases impossible to make. They are therefore considered on a case-by-case basis and for academic reasons only. Please do not make any travel plans until your CES coordinator confirms your final class schedule.

So… ready to go?
Talk to you soon!

CES Open Enrolment Programme contacts
General OEP semester email address: ces-semester@maastrichtuniversity.nl