

International
Institute of
Social Studies



Development Studies

2023-2024 PhD Programme and MA Programmes

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Making Minds Matter



Welcome

The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) is a renowned institute for Development Studies. The ISS is part of Erasmus University Rotterdam and is based in The Hague, the 'International City of Peace and Justice'.

All our education programmes foster engaged, interdisciplinary and critical analyses of issues and ideas concerning development, social justice and change in the world. Are you interested in exploring and connecting both theory and practice? Are you interested in multicultural exchange and building a global network? If so, ISS is a great place for your studies!

Please check out the ISS website for information on our education programmes, our research, conferences and events, and for highlights of the experiences of both current and former students.

It would be a pleasure to welcome you to ISS.



Karin Arts (Deputy Rector for Educational Affairs) and **Arjun Bedi** (Deputy Rector for Research).

Facts and Figures:



Alumni network of
14,000
professionals



All
English
taught programmes



Teaching Staff
25+
countries

'Located in The Hague: one of the best university cities in the world'

(Times Higher Education)

1st

in the European Union
for Development
Studies (QS Top
Universities)

1st

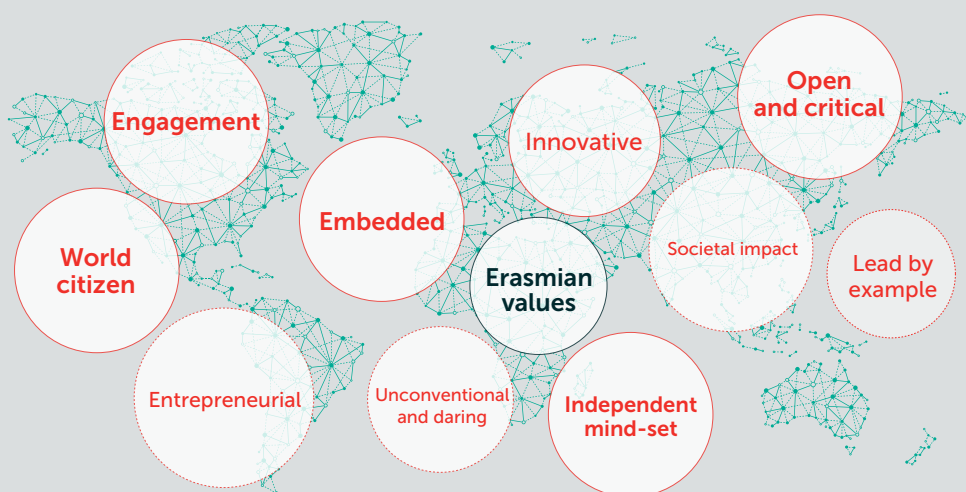
in the Netherlands
for Development
Studies (QS Top
Universities)

12th

in the world
for Development
Studies (QS Top
Universities)

About the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

ISS is a postgraduate school of critical policy-oriented social science, focussing on development issues. We offer high quality education, interdisciplinary research (including a large PhD programme) and advisory and project work. Co-creation characterizes many of our engagement activities. Founded in 1952, ISS is one of the world's leading centres of higher education and research in development studies. Since 2009, the Institute has been part of Erasmus University Rotterdam, while it remains based in The Hague. ISS has staff from approximately 25 nationalities and on average hosts MA students and PhD researchers from around 55 countries.



"The specialized courses ISS has to offer and the diverse backgrounds of both the staff and your fellow peers is why I choose ISS. In addition, you will be studying in The Hague, the capital of justice and peace! That is one way to engage in a theory-meets-practice."



Gabriela Anderson (South Africa)

Relevant and engaged research in social sciences with an impact

Our high quality and societally relevant research, teaching and engagement activities aim to inform best practices in development studies and to promote social justice and equity around the world.

We nurture the co-creation of excellence, and the sharing of knowledge and best practices. By bringing people, organizations, ideas and insights together in a multi-disciplinary setting, ISS develops, fosters and promotes critical thinking, and conducts excellent and innovative research in response to society's needs. We constantly look for ways to bridge theory and practice and to combine rigorous academic research with societal relevance. These combinations have the potential to drive action at every level of society.

This is also visible in ISS teaching programmes – where students from different backgrounds learn not only theory and content but also situate that knowledge in the different social, economic, political and cultural contexts of different countries.

An international peer review committee rated ISS-research as excellent and world leading in societal relevance.

PhD Programme

ISS offers a four-year PhD programme leading to the internationally recognized Erasmus Doctorate Degree. Since the inception of the programme in the 1980s, ISS has awarded over 250 PhD degrees.

Embedded in ISS Research

All PhD researchers find an intellectual home in the ISS research programme, Global Development and Social Justice. ISS research is organized in four research groups:

- Civic Innovation
- Development Economics
- Governance, Law and Social Justice
- Political Ecology

Application

Applicants are required to submit scans of required documents and a research proposal of approximately 5,000 words incorporating:

- a motivation statement
- references and bibliography

- a statement of the research issue, setting out the temporal, geographic and conceptual boundaries of the work
- the potential contribution of the research to theory and/or policy-making
- a brief review of the theoretical background and the main analytical approaches to be followed
- a specification of the expected methods of data collection and processing

Please consult the website for detailed information: www.iss.nl/phd

Erasmus Mundus MA in Public Policy programme (Mundus MAPP)

The Mundus MAPP programme offers a two year joint degree in public policy. The programme is offered by a consortium of four partners: the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (ISS, the Netherlands), the Central European University (CEU, Austria), the University of York (UK) and the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI, Spain).

The first year is spent either at ISS or CEU while the second year is spent either at the University of York or IBEI.

The overall objective of the programme aims to provide scholarly education for future academic and policy leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors. It details how a systematic understanding of political institutions,

processes and public policies operates and interacts from the global political economy through to national and local levels. The ISS tracks are characterized by their focus on problem situating approaches to public policy. The ISS-IBEI track centres around Political Economy and Development, while the ISS-York track revolves around Governance and Development.

Programme information

Duration	2 years
Dates	September 2023 – August 2025
Tuition Fee	€ 22,000 (in total)
Language	English
Location of Programme	The Hague (first year) and either Barcelona or York (second year)
Academic Requirements and Application	www.mundusmapp.org
Application Deadline	Please check the Mundus MAPP website
Credits	120 ECTS
Admission Contact	mundusmapp@ceu.edu

MA in Development Studies

The mission of the ISS MA programme is to educate aspiring early- and mid-career students in Development Studies; to make them more competent professionals, citizens and change agents who are able to work effectively on issues relating to global development, equity and social justice, or to prepare them for further academic studies (notably a PhD) in the broad field of Development Studies.

The programme provides academic training to students at Master level in compliance with international standards. Guiding students through a coherent process of academic learning and skills training, with a strong focus on research, contributes to their individual growth and academic development as well as their capacity to act as knowledgeable drivers of change for sustainable development and social transformation.

Each year, the MA in Development Studies attracts students from some 55 countries. The diversity of the student body is also reflected in terms of

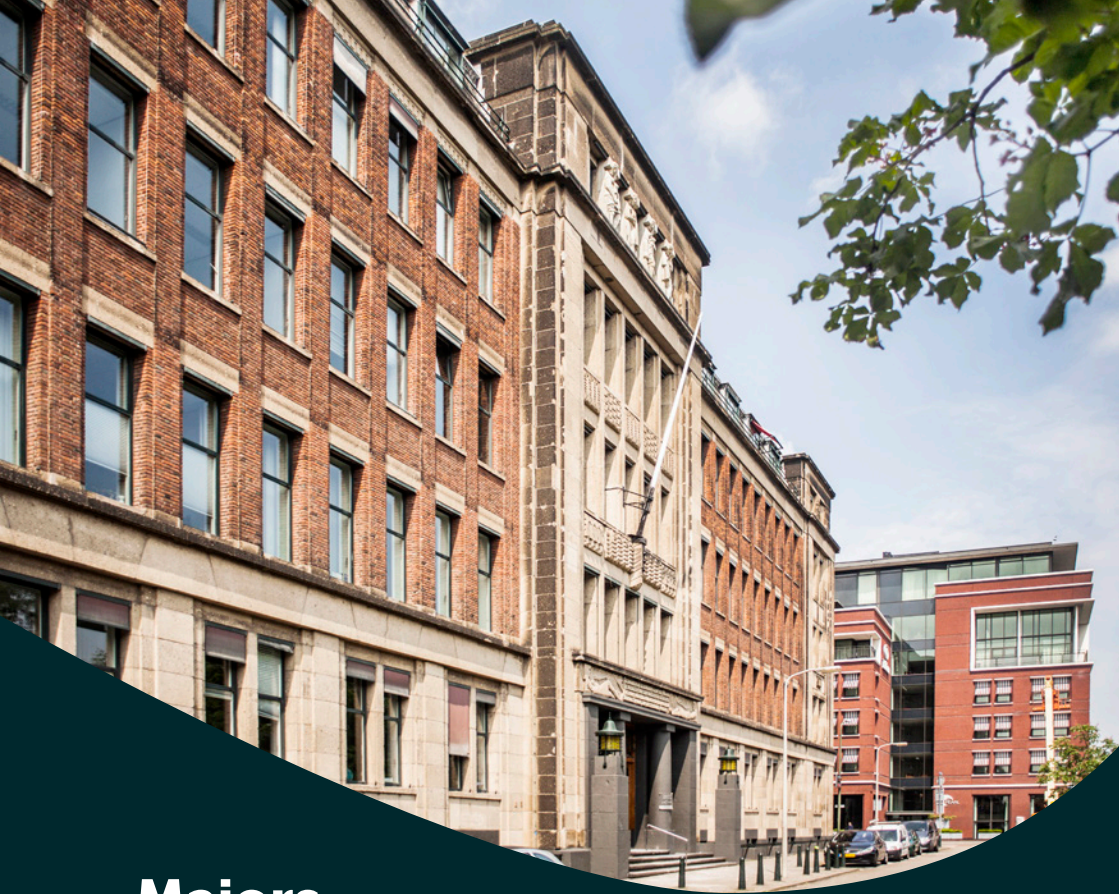
academic background, years of work experience and work fields. The MA in Development Studies provides coherence and structure and at the same time sufficient flexibility for such a diverse student body. The programme prepares students to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural context.

As an alternative to spending the full 15.5 months in The Hague, it is possible to do the one-year coursework at ISS and then work on the research paper at home with remote supervision.

Programme information

Duration	15.5 months, full-time
Dates	September 2023 – December 2024
Tuition fee	€ 17,500 Early Bird Discount – www.iss.nl/ebd
Language	English
Location	The Hague, the Netherlands
Application deadline	1 July 2023
Programme contact	study@iss.nl www.iss.nl/ma
Admission contact	admission@iss.nl





Majors

Applicants for the MA Programme in Development Studies are required to select one of the following Majors at enrolment:

- Agrarian, Food and Environmental Studies
- Economics of Development
- Governance and Development Policy
- Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies: Social Justice Perspectives
- Social Policy for Development
- Governance, Migration and Diversity track

During your studies at ISS, there is a possibility to specialize further in the following fields:

- Conflict and Peace Studies
- Econometric Analysis of Development Policies
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Human Rights
- International Political Economy and Development
- Local Development Strategies
- Public Policy and Management
- Women and Gender Studies

*** Specializations offered are subject to change**



"My focus is on conflict and social justice perspectives. I am personally interested to learn more about poverty, inequality and conflict resolution."

Livia Sa dos Santos Souza (Brazil)

Agrarian, Food and Environmental Studies (AFES)

This Major offers critical perspectives and tools for understanding and confronting the impacts of global capitalist (mal)development on the rural world and on ecosystems at different levels. AFES focuses on the social, political and economic dynamics of agrarian and environmental change and uses an interdisciplinary approach that combines political economy, political ecology, agrarian studies, gender studies and anthropology. AFES addresses several key contemporary issues related to land, labor, water, and resource users; the politics of climate change and ecological degradation; ownership and conflicts; rural poverty and social exclusion; food sovereignty, feminist epistemologies and environmental justice; as well as community economies and degrowth.



www.iss.nl/afes

Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies: Social Justice Perspectives (SJP)

When power and worldviews start to shift dramatically, advancing social justice can prove both complex and contradictory. Whether in Latin America, Africa, Asia or Europe, justice, the rule of law, peace and equal rights may be promised, whilst injustices, violence and vulnerability continue to shape many people's daily lives, often in exclusionary ways. As climate change exposes inequalities in the adverse effects of pandemics, displacement and disasters, it becomes apparent that 'development' can be an undesirable choice. Alongside protecting fundamental rights to development, social and political expression, participation, economic and epistemic justice, peace and dignity, it is vital to engage in various forms of social action to prevent the worsening of structural inequalities and exclusion along lines of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, religion, class, nationality and age.



www.iss.nl/sjp

Social Policy for Development (SPD)

This Major provides students with an interdisciplinary training in the analysis of social provisioning and social protection within development. It pays particular attention to their gendered and generational dimensions, to the role of diverse actors and forces (from households to multinational organizations), and to various debates regarding the role of social policy in development. Students interrogate some of the most pressing issues in the world today, such as persistent poverty, rising inequality, unequal access to health care and education, high levels of (youth) unemployment, insecure informal employment, social provisioning for mobile and marginalized populations, and persistent gender gaps in social provisioning.



www.iss.nl/spd

Governance and Development Policy (GDP)

This Major provides students with insights and skills relevant to understanding and affecting governance processes at national, sub- and supranational levels. It addresses the processes and problems of governance, policy, and local economic development, and how these work out in the everyday realities of people. It combines a thorough theoretical understanding with a practical, policy-oriented approach, with attention to concrete governance and policy dimensions such as the role of actors in democracy and public-private-community partnerships and the need for capacity and adequate planning systems.



www.iss.nl/gdp

Economics of Development (ECD)

This Major provides students with, on the one hand, the theoretical knowledge, policy awareness and necessary analytical techniques to tackle many of the key issues relating to economic development and, on the other hand, a practical awareness of many recent and past successful development experiences. The Major integrates macroeconomic issues with underlying microeconomic processes, emphasizing the importance of both the global economic environment and domestic institutions, regulatory frameworks and socioeconomic groups.



www.iss.nl/ecd

Governance, Migration and Diversity Track (GMD)

Migration and social diversity are key factors in the transformations of societies across the globe. These factors play a key role in almost any policy domain, at many levels and in many types of organizations: in education, health, housing and labour; in intergovernmental organizations, national governments and regional grouping; in businesses, research institutes and non-governmental organizations; at local and neighbourhood levels of governance. Through our cooperation and partnership with various faculties at Leiden University, Delft University of Technology and Erasmus University Rotterdam, the GMD track provides students an interdisciplinary approach to current issues related to migration and diversity and contributes to knowledge production in the context of development from various, critical perspectives.



www.iss.nl/gmd



Joint teaching programmes

ISS offers joint programmes with academic partners all over the world. In some programmes, students take part of the programme at ISS in The Hague and part elsewhere. In others, ISS staff travel to the partner institute to contribute to teaching the programme. For more information about these programmes, please visit the ISS website.








Admission criteria and scholarship information

For information on the admission criteria for one of our programmes and to view the available scholarships that are provided by ISS, please visit: www.iss.nl/admissions

Living Costs

Below is a rough estimate of the living costs of an average student at ISS.

	Estimated total monthly expenses	€ 970 per month (including accommodation)
	Accommodation	€ 350 - € 600 per month
	Textbooks Reading material are electronically available at ISS	€ 0
	Phone costs	€ 10 - € 30 per month
	Groceries	€ 80 - € 100 per week

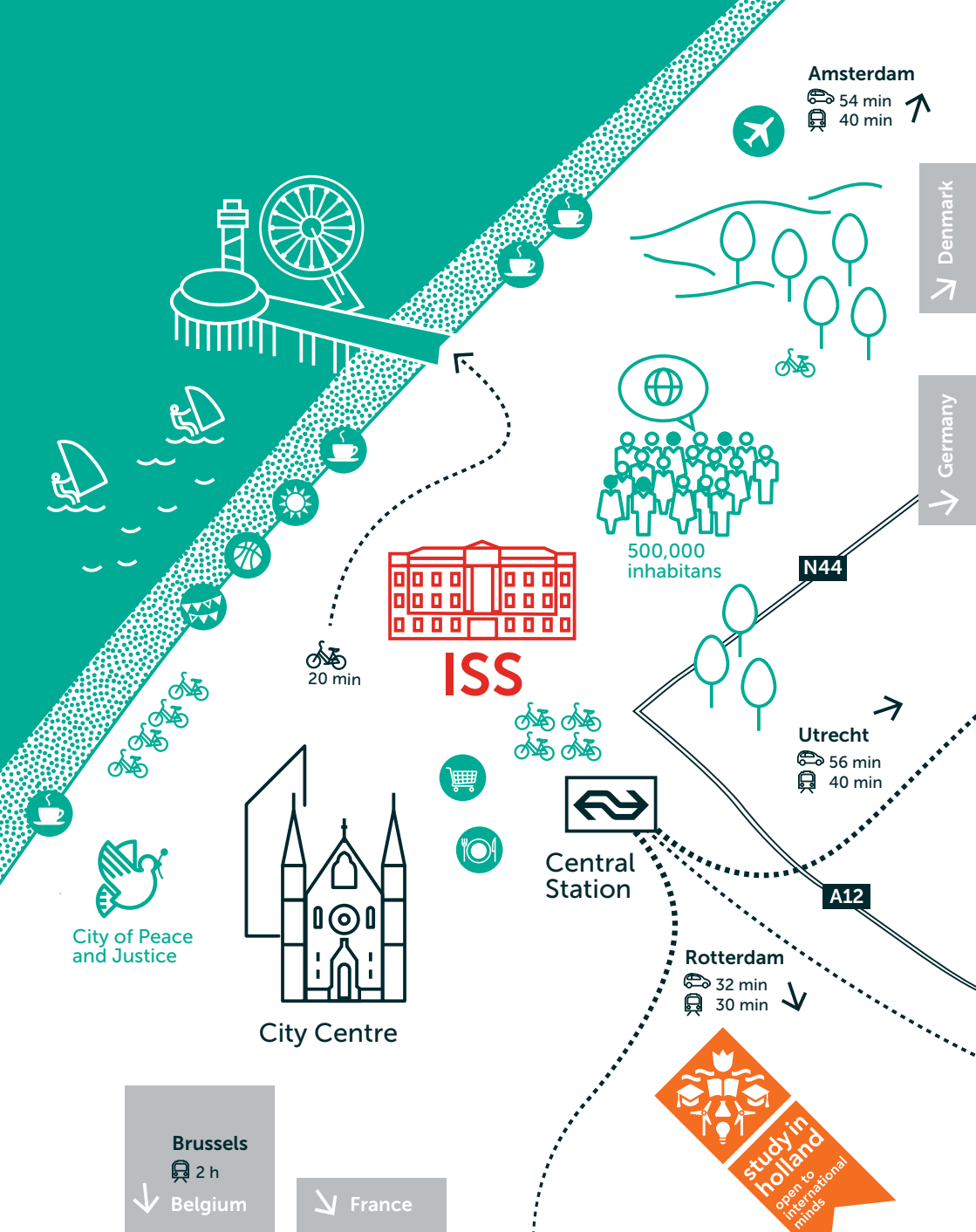
ISS Accommodation

If you are interested in staying in one of the ISS accommodations, please visit our website for further information.



"I gained a lot of new perspectives and ideas about my professional and academic goals. It has reinvigorated my passion for academia as a transformational opportunity."

Daniel Robert Soucy (USA)



International Institute of Social Studies

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 instagram.com/iss_erasmus

Colophon

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