Undergraduate Foundation Programme
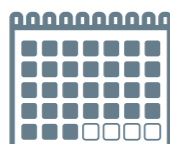
Social Sciences

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Programme Details

Who is this programme designed for?

This programme is designed to prepare international students, who have completed senior secondary education, for entry to undergraduate studies at the top universities across the Netherlands.

The Undergraduate Foundation Programme (UFP) is set at level 3.

How long will I study for?

This programme lasts one academic year (nine months). The year is divided into three terms of approximately 10 weeks. On average, you will undertake between 19 and (up to) 25 hours of classroom-based study per week.

Please note: Minimum and maximum hours are estimated, hours may vary depending on the student's academic and English level and may be adjusted throughout their course.

English Language forms up to six hours of your timetable, is compulsory for students who are below the required level for progression, and will be integrated into the teaching of academic subjects as well as being taught separately if you need additional support. Students who are at or above the required English level for progression are likely to follow a reduced timetable.

You will be expected to timetable self-study hours in addition to the classroom-based hours.

What will I study?

This programme includes English and three academic subject modules. English will be integrated into the teaching of academic subjects, as well as being taught separately if you need additional support to develop your English language.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed at regular intervals throughout the programme to ensure you are making the progress required to successfully complete the programme.

Final assessments for each module will be spread across the academic year.

Assessment methodologies are aligned to those that will be experienced in the University environment, and include project work, essays, presentations and unseen examinations.

Economics for Social Sciences Module

This module introduces you to the basic principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics. Topics in Term 1 will include demand and supply models and introduce the notion of equilibrium, elasticities and their use, government intervention in markets, market failure, and basic principles of behavioural economics, and game theory and its applications to businesses' price strategies. Term 2 will focus on economic welfare and living standards, poverty and economic development, the aggregate equilibrium model, fiscal and monetary policies, international trade, and the basic principles of finance, and apply these theories on case studies.

Learning Objectives

01
Demonstrate understanding of microeconomics and basic game theory

1. Apply basic principles of microeconomics to a case study

2. Explore the forms of government intervention in markets through taxation and price controls and analyse their implications

3. Apply basic principles of game theory in a 2x2 setup

02
Explore the reasons of market failure and investigate corrections

1. Explore the causes of market failure

2. Investigate private, public, and private-public corrections to market failure situations

3. Discuss corrections specific to environmental externalities

03
Apply principles of macroeconomics and demonstrate understanding of economic growth, living standards and social welfare

1. Apply principles of macroeconomics to a case study

2. Explore economic growth, living standards, and social welfare

3. Evaluate the correlation between economic performance and standards of living

4. Identify and use indicators for economic performance, living standards and quality of life

04
Examine the influence of international trade on economies around the world

1. Explore the impact of trade in the market of an importing/exporting country

2. Discuss reasons for trade protectionism and explore its implications for a country

05
Apply the aggregate equilibrium model and discuss economic policy implemented by governments and Central Banks

1. Recognise the components of aggregate demand (AD), short-run aggregate supply (SRAS), and long-run aggregate supply (SRAS) and identify shifts of the macroeconomic equilibrium

2. Explore how demand and supply side policies can be used to correct economic shocks

3. Compare the views of Keynesian and classical economists on the effectiveness of demand and supply side policies

4. Analyse the effectiveness of demand and supply side policies and compare them with market-autocorrection mechanisms

International Relations

This module introduces you to the environmental, social and economic impacts of globalisation whilst considering political and legal aspects that arise from international relations. It is divided into three terms, with each term touching upon different themes in International Relations. Each theme is interconnected and builds upon knowledge of the myriad of themes that arise from a diverse field of study. On completion of the module, you will have an interdisciplinary approach to international relations and global challenges and will be able to engage in critical thinking and reasoning.

Topics list

1. History and the rise of International Relations

2. States and legitimacy

3. Global governance

4. Conflict in a globalising world

5. Law and behaviour between and within states

6. Media and democracy

7. Development and sustainability

8. Climate change

9. Media

Learning Objectives

01
Understand and apply the basic principles of theories of international relations

1. Define the main theories of international relations

2. Apply international relation theories to a real-world case study

3. Critically analyse the value of a theory in relation to a case study

02
Critically evaluate several concepts in relation to theory, policy and current events

1. Define core elements of key subject or topic specific theories and policy

2. Apply theories of international relations to concepts and current events

3. Compare and contrast theoretical approaches and opinions to chosen concepts

4. Critically evaluate identified concepts based on the evidence presented

5. Analyse efficacy of policy in relation its' procedural outcomes

03
Undertake independent research using academic sources to support critical evaluation

1. Evidence relevant academic research carried out to support their work

2. Produce a well-structured research paper with clear evaluation to support your argument

3. Demonstrate proficient use of Harvard-style referencing (subject to progression university)

04
Present information effectively in both writing and speaking to meet audience needs

1. Produce an effective and informative PowerPoint presentation

2. Demonstrate the necessary skills to deliver a professional presentation to an audience

3. Engage with an audience to explore subject matter in more detail

Mathematics for Economics and Finance

The aim of the module is to enable you to develop a strong foundation of mathematical skills and modelling, with specific relation to the fields of Economics and Finance. You will cover pre-calculus, calculus and descriptive statistics and probabilities, using a variety of techniques and methods to solve given problems. It gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to real life contexts and prepares you for future undergraduate studies across multiple disciplines.

Topics list

Core Mathematics:

1. Algebra and its applications

2. Functions and graphs

3. Lines, parabolas and systems

4. Exponential and logarithmic functions

5. Limits and continuity

6. Differentiation

7. Integration

8. Curve sketching

Statistics:

9. Descriptive statistics

10. Probabilities

11. Discrete and continuous random variables

Learning Objectives

01
Recall and use mathematical notation, rules and definitions

1. Use mathematical language and notation accurately

2. Recall and use rules and formulae

3. Understand that mathematical expressions can often be written in more than one form

02
Know a range of mathematical and statistical methods and be able to communicate solutions effectively

1. Demonstrate a sound understanding of mathematical and statistical methods outlined in the module content

2. Use logical reasoning and precise statements to create and present mathematical arguments

3. Use appropriate diagrams and sketches to create and present mathematical arguments

4. Present steps of the method clearly within answers

03
Select and apply the correct technique(s) to solve any given problem, drawing conclusions and explaining reasoning

1. Interpret mathematical language to understand problem requirements

2. Demonstrate the use of judgement for appropriate tools and techniques to solve any given problem

3. Show understanding of coherence and progression in maths by connecting methods from different topics within the problem solution

4. Assess the validity of answers and reject solutions based on constraints

5. Offer explanations for or interpretations of solutions

04
Apply knowledge and understanding to solve problems involving subject contexts

1. Convert problems written in contexts into mathematical processes

2. Offer explanations for, or interpretations of, solutions in the context of the original problem

Resources and reading list

Economics for Social Sciences

- Mankiw, N. G. and Taylor, M. P. (2023). *Economics*. 6th edn. Cengage Learning EMEA

International Relations

- Heywood, A. (2014). *Global Politics*. 2nd edn. London: Palgrave.

- Jackson, R. and Sorensen, G. (2016). *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches.* 6th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Baylis, J., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (2011). *The Globalization of World Politics.* 5th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mathematics for Economics and Finance

- Haeussler, E.F., Paul, R.S. and Wood, R.J. (2018). *Introductory Mathematical Analysis: For Business, Economics and the Life and Social Sciences.* 14th edn. London: Pearson.

Example Timetable

Please note this is an example timetable and will vary for every student. Students should anticipate lessons starting earlier than 9am or later than 5pm. Students will be expected to allocate self study and revision hours within their timetable which will be given at the start of the academic term.

	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
Mon	English	English		Lunch	Mathematics for Economics and Finance	Mathematics for Economics and Finance	Economics for Social Sciences	Economics for Social Sciences
Tues	Personal tutorial	International Relations	International Relations	Lunch	English	English		
Wed		English	English	Lunch	Mathematics for Economics and Finance	Mathematics for Economics and Finance	Economics for Social Sciences	Economics for Social Sciences
Thur		International Relations	International Relations	Lunch	Mathematics for Economics and Finance	Mathematics for Economics and Finance		
Fri	Economics for Social Sciences	Economics for Social Sciences		Lunch	International Relations	International Relations		

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