

Law and Society: Governance and Global Development MSc

Master

This interdisciplinary master brings together law and social sciences to explore the real-world impact of legal systems in practice.

Using empirical legal research methods, you will examine contemporary social and legal challenges—from inequality to climate change—and critically examine how law is made, enforced, and contested.

With its global outlook and social justice focus, it offers a unique approach you won't find in traditional law programmes.

Why this Master?

Law in action: Gain a holistic perspective on how law shapes society. Explore fields from criminal justice to environmental regulation, and examine the institutions, actors, and social forces that influence law in practice.

Transnational perspective: Combine insights from the Global North and South within a diverse international community.

Career skills: Master practical tools such as empirical research, policy analysis, and report writing for diverse professional paths.

Facts and figures



Degree
Master of
Science



Language
English



City
The Hague/
Leiden



CROHO
60770



Duration
1 year



Mode of study
Full-time



Start
September



Universiteit
Leiden



Course overview

Semester I		Semester II	
Foundations of Law and Society	10 EC	Thesis Proposal	5 EC
Legal Pluralism in the Global South and the Global North	5 EC	Researching Law in Society	5 EC
Lawmaking, Society and Politics	5 EC	Choice of two out of four electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Challenges of Globalization, Migration, and Cross-Border Mobility• Regulation and Compliance• Mobilizing Rights and Social Justice• Current Issues in Law and Society	10 EC
The Rule of Man in the Rule of Law	5 EC	Thesis	10 EC
Disputing Deconstructed	5 EC		



Useful tool for (social) change

Is the law a useful tool for (social) change? That depends. In this unique master we will explore the functioning and the dysfunctioning of the law in the real world.

Maartje van der Woude • Professor

Career perspectives

The Master Law & Society was initiated in response to a labour market demand: for students trained in an interdisciplinary, socio-legal approach to law, with an in-depth understanding of the formation and functioning of law.

Students that have left the program have pursued careers in:

- Intergovernmental organisations;
- Governmental positions such as Rijkstraineer;
- Non-governmental organisations in the Netherlands and abroad;
- National and European Union civil services;
- Academia;
- Lobby and consultancy firms;
- Small, medium and large-sized firms.



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