

## Executive Master in Governance & Development Policy

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### 1. Introduction

In a constantly changing world, development has become one of the major issues of the 21st century. This is why we believe that a specialised course must be devoted to it. The programme's overall aims to study development issues from the points of view of both the emerging countries and industrialised societies. The *Executive Master in Governance & Development Policy* tackles topics of growing importance, such as the impact of climate change, energy or migration issues on development.

Climate change summits are introducing new global development issues. The economic development of emerging countries and the growing shortage of traditional energy resources call for a reappraisal of the development models of industrialised countries. **Economic "globalisation" is followed by increased awareness of the globalisation of environmental issues and sustainable development.** In addition to this, the failure of the current model of international aid applied to sub-Saharan Africa and the challenge of IMF monetary policies casts doubt on the western vision of development which has been imposed on these regions. Therefore a study of various development models according to geographical criteria is a crucial key to understanding these issues.

#### 2. Curriculum

The aim of the *Executive Master in Governance & Development Policy* is the acquisition of a practical, critical and holistic understanding of development issues by taking an **interdisciplinary approach enhanced by a comparative analysis of the various development models.** This programme includes **10 thematic and geographical modules** and is organised into two parts. The first semester, focuses on the "**Foundation**" is made up of five thematic modules entitled: "**Economics of Development**", "**Political governance**", "**Economic Resources & Development (including Energy)**", "**Environment and development**", and "**Population Growth, disparities & Migration**". The second semester is dedicated to "**Development experiences**" according to geographical zones such as "**Russia and Central Asia: beyond transition**", "**Middle East & North Africa**", "**South and East Asia: the new epicentre of Global Economy**", "**Latin America: making up for lost time**" and "**Sub-Saharan Africa: from basket case to Development**". Each module ends with a specific seminar.

The program is **designed for professionals** who would like to acquire specific skills and knowledge which will help them get a comprehensive understanding of development and governance issues. This objective is pursued through lectures, discussions and self-study from the reading & online materials available. The course is made up of **60 credits ECTS: 30 credits for class attendance and online courses + 30 credits for student workload, learning outcomes and contact hours.**

The classes are conducted in English and held in Brussels on **Saturday afternoons (from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm)**. In addition to the 4 hours/week delivered in the auditorium, the **classes are complemented by online courses (e-learning courses) that count for at least 4 hours/week**. The recordings of the live courses, as well as the recordings of the online courses are available on the e-learning platform (see e-community).

### **3. The Faculty**

The high quality of the programme depends above all on its participating faculty. **CERIS** has developed an extensive network of contacts with **renowned scholars drawn from leading academic and research institutions and with key experts from international organisations**. This pooling of resources provides a high-profile professorial corps which few institutions could provide on their own. Every year, the programme is supported by thirty experts from such academic institutions as the London School of Economics and Political Science, the School of Oriental & African Studies, the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, the Institute of Social Studies - The Hague, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Graduate institute of International and Development studies of Geneva.

Among those who are lecturing at CERIS for a number of years, we are able to name:

**Howard Nicholas** (Erasmus University - Rotterdam, ISS – Den Haag) - **David Sogge** (Harvard & Princeton Universities, Transnational Institute – Amsterdam) - **Medhi Shafaeddin** (Former Head, Macroeconomics and Development Policy branch UNCTAD; University of Neuchâtel) - **Mushtaq Khan** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Alexander Fischer** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Simona Vittorini** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Amelia Hadfield** (University of Kent) - **Flavio Valente** (General Secretary of Foodfirst Information & Action Network - Heidelberg) - **Peter Mollinga** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Andrew Fischer** (Erasmus University - Rotterdam, ISS - Den Haag) - **Theodore Trefon** (Royal Museum for Central Africa - Tervueren) - **Murat Arsel** (Erasmus University - Rotterdam, ISS – Den Haag) - **Robert Falkner** (London School of Economics & Political Science - LSE) - **Neil Robinson** (University of Limerick) - **Anastasia Nesvetailova** (CITY, University of London) - **Daniela Gabor** (University of Western England - UWE - Business school) - **David Cobham** (University of Edinburgh) - **Hassan Hakimian** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Matthew McCartney** (Oxford University) - **Anne Booth** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Peter Ferdinand** (University of Warwick) - **Stephanie Blankenburg** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Afredo Saad-Filho** (School of Oriental & African Studies – SOAS, London) - **Elliot Green** (London School of Economics & Political Science - LSE) - **Daniel Large** (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS, Central European University - Budapest) - **Richard Caplan** (Oxford university, Linacre College).

## Fall-Winter Term – FOUNDATIONS

### ***Module 1 Economics of development***

Economic Globalization & Development  
The Governance & the Global Economy  
Multilateral and bilateral aid  
International trading system  
International financial system  
Introduction to the Geoeconomy

**Seminar 1** : Questioning the models of International aid

### ***Module 2 Political governance***

Law and Governance in the Developing world  
Theory and practice of political development  
Clientelism & Corruption in Developing Countries  
State building, democracy building and electoral management.  
The development challenges of poverty, inequality and insecurity

**Seminar 2** : Democracy Building & Good Governance

### ***Module 3 Primary Resources & Development***

Geopolitics of energy  
Water and Development  
Food Security  
Mineral resources

**Seminar 3** : Land Grabbing & Land Concentration

### ***Module 4 Environment and development***

Natural Resource Governance & Development  
Global Climate Change & Environment Policy  
Climate change and its impact on development

**Seminar 4** : Sustainable Development

### ***Module 5 Population Growth, disparities and Migration***

International & Regional migrations  
Migration & International Law  
Refugees & Human rights protection  
Poverty, inequality  
The EU & Migrant Crisis

**Seminar 5** : Development Strategies in Comparative Perspective

## Winter-Spring Term - DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

### ***Module 6 Russia and Central Asia: beyond transition***

Russia: the Petrostate & the global crisis.

Putinism & political economy of Russia

Political Economy of Central Asia

Central Asia in Global Politics

**Seminar 6** : Central Asia: Resources, Environment & Development

### ***Module 7 Middle East & North Africa : Islam, oil and economic development***

Oil and economic development : a political economy approach

The political economy of Middle East Development

**Seminar 7** : Arab Uprising, Islam, Terrorism & Development

### ***Module 8 South and East Asia: the new epicentre of the global economy?***

How and in which way did these economies grow so fast and what are the lessons?

The State & the market: lessons from India – India's economic Success.

Will China's economic success continue and will it become the dominant world economic power?

Trade and Development : South & East Asia Experience

Four Asian Tiger & Economies of the Tiger Clubs

**Seminar 8** : Economic Cooperation & Development in Asia

### ***Module 9 Latin America: making up for lost time***

The changing political economy of Latin America Development

The political economy of Brazilian Development

Regional Integration in LAC

Latin America & China

**Seminar 9** : Latin America & Caribbean Environment & Development

### ***Module 10 Sub – Saharan Africa: from basket case to Development?***

The flowering of sub-Saharan African economies

Africa's Socio-Economic performance & Prospects

Making (some) sense of China-Africa Relations

Autopsy of a failed State : the Case of RDC

**Seminar 10** : African Development Challenges & Growth Opportunities

#### **4. Teaching system**

The program, based on empirical methods, aims to relate conceptual and theoretical frameworks to the contemporary realities of development policy and policies. This objective is pursued through lectures, discussions, seminars in small groups, presentations by participants and self-study from the reading and on-line materials available.

Lectures are delivered in English. Lectures are always followed by a discussion with the guest speaker. Seminars complement the lectures, providing course participants with an opportunity to discuss the critical issues presented in the lectures. In addition optional visits or study trips are organised during the year.

Self study is vital to this course. The modules are supported by **Background Readings** and by **Audio/Video Recordings downloadable from the Moodle e-learning platform** (e-community). The Textbooks consist of a selection of recent and authoritative academic publications on the topics and a bibliography which is updated every year. The textbooks are no longer printed but are downloadable from the e-campus or e-community. Participants are provided with the textbooks to pursue a more in-depth study in preparation for the end of course **oral exam**.

The **e-community is an essential teaching tool**. Here, participants can download the course outlines & handouts prepared by the lecturers, the Proceedings (or course synopses) and Background reading or indeed any other printed document. **Access to audio/video recordings** of the lectures forms a crucial part of the course materials. In addition, participants have access to a virtual library for research purposes and coursework. Finally, participants are also invited to visit the **CERIS Facebook or YouTube page**<sup>1</sup>, where they will find interviews with the lecturers on issues of related interest for the MA course and which aim to stimulate **interaction with the course participants**.

#### **4.1. The Certificate**

**The Executive Masters (60 Credits) are issued by CERIS & the Université libre de Bruxelles - ULB and are agreed by ARES (Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur)** which is the federation higher education institutions in Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation). The jury of the Executive Masters program delivers a **Certificate Level 7 EQF / European Qualification Framework** (European Union Certificate Framework). Participants should be aware that this Postgraduate Certificate is not the equivalent of a Graduate Certificate, Bologna-type Master (120 ECTS).

**EQF Level 7 Knowledge:** Highly specialised knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of work or study, as the basis for original thinking and/or research. Critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface between different fields.

**EQF Level 7 Skills :** specialised problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields.

**EQF Level 7 Responsibility and autonomy :** manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches; take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of team.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/eLearningCERIS>

## **4.2. How to qualify**

In order to qualify for the *Executive master in Governance & Development policy* successfully, participants are required to participate in all 10 teaching modules of the programme (**30 ECTS**), write two Seminar essays, produce a dissertation or Master thesis and pass an oral examination (**30 ECTS**).

The **Seminar essay** is a dissertation of 3,000 words. Participants are expected to react from their own perspective and to discuss one of the issues presented during the seminars.

The **Master thesis** is a piece of work that all course participants have to produce in order to qualify for the Executive Master in Governance and Development Policy. The thesis can be written in either English or French. It should address a specific question related to development policy issues and an initial proposal must be submitted by each student to the academic supervisor for approval. The thesis should have the form and style of a scientific article.

It should demonstrate that it has taken into account most of the existing work on the subject and make a contribution to the knowledge in the area. Its length should be around 15.000 and 20.000 words. Each participant will be assigned a supervisor and will be expected to be in regular contact with the latter during his or her research. Once submitted, the thesis will be assessed by the supervisor and at least one external examiner. CERIS reserves the right to publish the outstanding dissertations on its website ([www.ceris.be](http://www.ceris.be)).

The **Final examination** is an oral assessment of the candidate's understanding of governance & development policy issues. Candidates sit the “major oral” in English or in French, in front of a panel of at least two professors. They are asked questions on their thesis as well as any current issue in development policy and are required to demonstrate their understanding of the deeper causes of current problems and their capacity to analyse complex issues.

The exams are organized during the **last week of June and October**. If this opportunity is not used, it is still possible to sit the exam **in late January, late June or late October of the following academic year**.

A **re enrolment fee** of **2000 €** will be charged for re-registration. However, in case of **non consecutive re registration** (if the re registration occurs after an interruption of more than one year) the fee will be of **€ 2.500**. No one may sit the same examination more than twice.

The **final grade** is calculated as follows: 40% of marks for the thesis - 40% of marks for the oral examination - 20% of marks for the seminar essays.

A combined average mark of more than 55% is required for the certificate to be awarded. The grading system is as follows: Satisfecit (55-64), Cum Laude (65-74); Magna Cum Laude (75-84); Summa Cum Laude (85 or more).

## **5. Admission and fees**

Prospective applicants must hold a relevant university degree and several years of professional experience. As a matter of principle, admission requires either a Bologna master's degree or an equivalent diploma delivered after four years of university studies (240 ETCS). A bachelor's degree might be accepted, if combined with a relevant professional background. In addition, applicants should demonstrate an excellent command of English.

Given the large number of annual applications, only candidates fulfilling these criteria will be considered. Interested candidates are required to submit the application form, along with copies of their university degrees and detailed curriculum vitae, to the CERIS main office in Brussels. An electronic version should be sent by e-mail to [info@ceris.be](mailto:info@ceris.be)

There are two intakes a year:

**October intake:** Most participants attend the programme from October to May; closing date for applications is October 31. **February intake:** It is also possible to attend the course from February to January; the closing date for applications is 28 February. Participants are nonetheless encouraged to apply early, as only a limited number are accepted each academic year.

The **tuition fees** for attending the programme are € 4.500 for the whole course. There are no additional costs. Fees are payable installmentally. A first instalment of € **2.000**, called **booking fees**, needs to be paid after receipt of the admission letter. Booking fees are part of the tuition fees. The fees' balance ought to be paid at the latest, by **December 1st (October intake)** or **May 1st (February intake)**. Please note that CERIS doesn't offer scholarships or fee waivers. A **discount** is offered to groups of at least 3 applicants working in the same organization or company. Prospective candidates might also benefit from an "early birds rate", if applications are submitted before August 31st (October intake) or December 31st (February intake). **Discounts are not cumulative.** Future tuition rate is subject to change and CERIS reserves the right to determine tuition rate differential between EU residents and non-EU residents status.

### **5.1. Cancellation policy.**

Once you confirm your registration for the October or February intake, a deposit of € 2.000 is required. **The deposit is non refundable / non transferable.**

In case of visa refusal, the applicant has the possibility to re apply for the following academic term or to shift to the distance learning program. Payment of fees' balance will be required prior to the activation of e-learning facilities.

## **6. Online study : Online access to course facilities**

The *Executive master in Governance & Development Policy* may be taken entirely online. Using a personal login, participants have access to the courses through the **Moodle e-learning platform** (e-Community)<sup>2</sup>. The **e-community is the essential teaching tool** for online participants. Here, they can download the course outlines & handouts prepared by the lecturers, the Proceedings (or course synopses) and Background reading or indeed any other printed document. **Access to audio/video recordings** of the lectures forms a crucial part of the course materials. In addition, it enables to use a virtual library for research purposes and coursework.

Online participants are assisted by an **academic tutor** who provides them with the teaching framework and necessary guidance. They keep in regular contact by e-mail or by Skype. In addition, a **thesis supervisor** will be assigned according to the candidate's research project.

Online participants are not necessarily bound by the October/February intake. It is possible to start the program the **first working day of every month** (except in July or in August). Payment of the fees is requested prior to the activation of the access code to the e-campus.

### **Distance-learning Programme:**

To be awarded the *Executive Master in Governance & development policy*, the online course participants are required to write two seminar essays, produce an original dissertation or Master thesis on a subject of their choice, previously approved by the core faculty and pass an oral examination. Online participants will take the oral exam by using the facilities of a computer assisted video conference, without having to travel to Brussels (Skype system).

### **Additional Information**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ceris.be/moodle/>