

# Picking the right

Your pathway forward

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Deciding what the *right* specialisation is for yourself might be the **scariest and biggest** decision you make during your **bachelor's degree**.

Use the **knowledge** of *the ones that came before you* to ensure you pick the right one



Specialisation

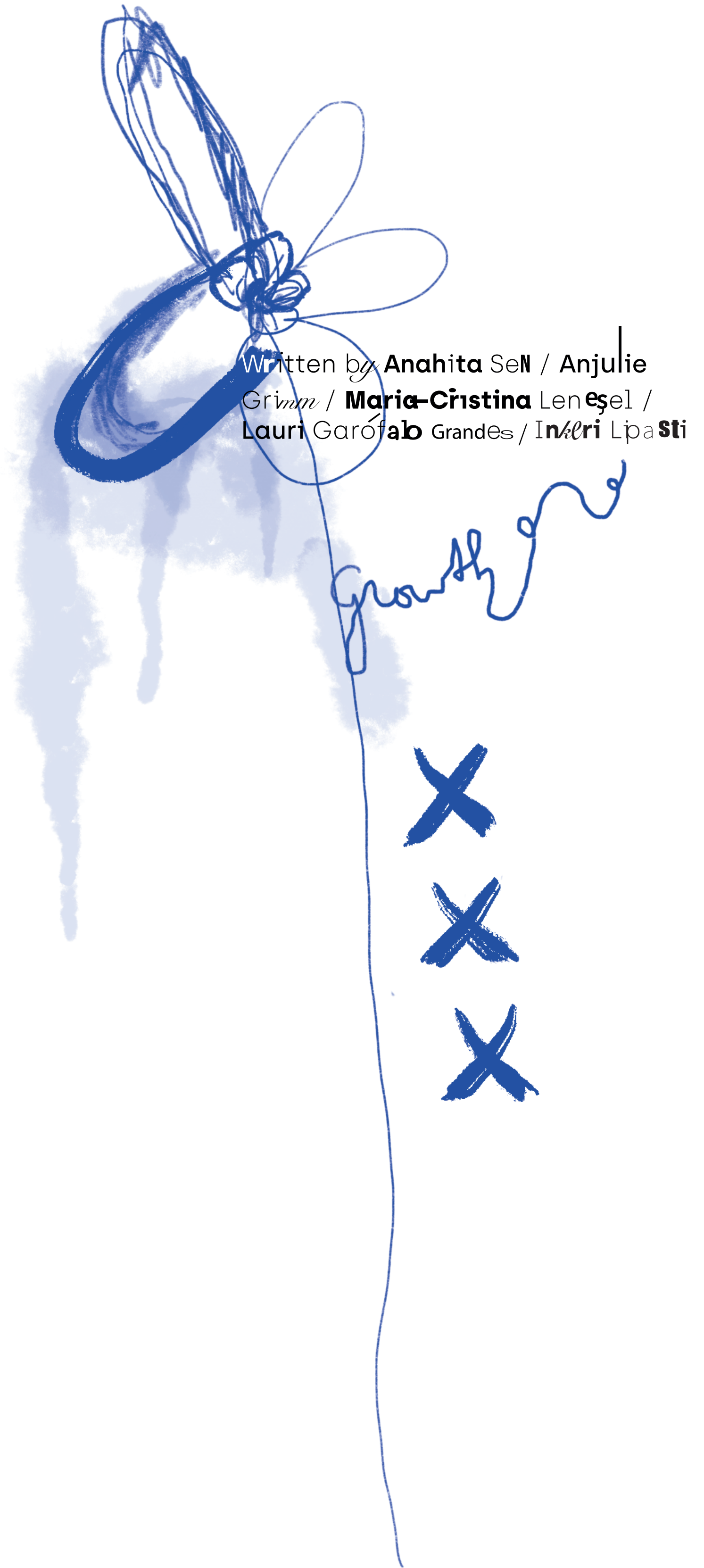
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Editted by **Daemon Ortega**  
Designed by *Dédé* **Kruisman**





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# Welcoming message

As a party consisting of university students, 020 understands that making key decisions regarding your study takes extensive time and effort. We also recognise that due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunities offered by the University of Amsterdam to facilitate these choices are now extremely confined. This holds especially true for the students who will enter their third academic year and start specialising soon.

It is precisely for this reason that 020 decided to establish Project Major. Aside from our informative events around specialisation options, Project Major involves a series of booklets for the specialisations of some of the largest studies at the university. The booklets are written by students that are currently enrolled at the University of Amsterdam in the specialisation that they are writing about.

In this booklet, you can find general information about the specialisation options for PPLE, starting with a description of personal interests that align well with the content of the specialisation. Moreover, we provide information about the content and structure of the courses,

their means of assessment, third year courses, as well as opportunities for your electives. Lastly, we describe the possible career opportunities and academic paths taken by students after graduating.

Our goal with these booklets is to fill the information gap created by the pandemic, and help students make a decision that benefits them the most. We sincerely hope that this booklet will give you the tools and means necessary to help you make the right decision!

All the best,

**The 020** *team*



## Personal and Academic Interests

The Politics specialisation explores the social power dynamics behind different stakeholders, varying from the state all the way to organisations and individuals. If you are interested in current affairs and excited to learn how we can use political processes as a tool to analyse how global challenges arise and can be resolved, the Politics specialisation might be the right choice for you.

One of the main themes explored in the course are political processes, such as democratisation in a 21st-century context. Moreover, following this track gives you deeper insights into how states are formed, how political conflicts arise, how they can be resolved, and how political solutions can be used to overcome global crises.

## The Specialisation

The object of the Politics specialisation is to apply theoretical skills to analyse political affairs in the context of the real world. After following the course, you should have relevant tools to evaluate political relations in the past, the status quo, or events still yet to happen.

Concerned with finding political solutions to prevailing global challenges, the specialisation has a clear problem-focused orientation. Be it global warming, the migration crisis, or discriminatory violence, the track offers you a way to scrutinise various global challenges through a political lens.

The problem approach present throughout the courses of the specialisation relies strongly on three pillars: [1] modern international relations, [2] the challenges and opportunities of democracy, and [3] public policy and governance. The course dives into the latter by investigating institutions of modernity and finding political solutions beyond the state. More specifically, students learn about top-down and bottom-up approaches that can be used to achieve modern political solutions.

The structure of the specialisation is laid out in the table below. The standard blue grids show the remaining courses mandatory for all PPLE students, not specific to the specialisation. However, the more interesting insights from the table can be found from looking at the light blue grids, which indicate the man-



datory courses specific to the specialisation.

In total, there are eight mandatory courses, out of which four take place in the second academic year, and four in the third academic year. The specialisation starts off in the second year with “International Politics and International Relations”, and “Introduction to Public Policy”. Furthermore, students can further explore their specific areas of interest through two elective courses during the third year, shown in a teal colour. The courses marked with dark blue stand for a research project.

Year 2		
Semester 3	International Politics and International Relations	Introduction to Public Policy
	Law, Justice and Morality II	Economics, Markets and Organisations II
Semester 4	Democracies and Democratisation	Conflict and Cooperation in Global Politics
	Skills and Research Methods for Political Science	Politics, Power and Governance II
Year 3		
Semester 5	Authority, Accountability and Legitimacy	Transnational Governance
	Political Economy	Elective
Semester 6	Decision Making II	Political Behaviour
	Research Lab	Thesis

Grading

When it comes to grading, the vast majority of assessed coursework within the Politics specialisation consists of written assignments. For most courses, you have to write a policy proposal or a research paper. Policy proposals are written documents that tackle a challenge by reviewing possible policy alternatives, and presenting the aims/objectives of these policies. After weighing up the policy alternatives, your proposal should conclude with a policy recommendation based on your evaluation. On the other hand, research papers most often come in the form of past literature reviews, where students write an academic paper based on articles and research published by academic scholars in the field. In the rare case where a course has an exam, it also tends to be accompanied by at least one written assignment. The weight of the final grade ranges from 40–70% for the essays, depending on whether they substitute for the final exam or not.

Additionally, it is common for the courses to have smaller group projects, presentations, or other written assignments as a part of your evaluation.



For some courses, active participation in course discussions could boost your final grade. Where general courses of PPLE can have a midterm exam in the middle of a block, specialisation-specific courses often do not. There can be smaller projects, however, that are assessed with a weight varying from 5 to 30% respectively. As a general rule, you need to get a grade of at least 5.5 from the final assessment to pass the course, be it a final exam or an essay.

Third-Year Courses

As seen in the chart above, there are four mandatory courses for the third year, namely "Authority, Accountability, and Legitimacy", "Transnational Governance", "Political Economy", and "Political Behaviour". In addition to these courses, you have to follow two elective courses in the first semester of the third year, with a study load of 6 ECT each. The chart below shows the selection of the general electives offered by PPLE. However, your electives do not have to be strictly from this list, as long as there is a connection to the subject area and you meet the entry requirements. Additionally, elective courses from outside the programme have to be accepted by the examinations board.

Free-choice electives: PPLE General				12
> Morality of Markets				6
> The Politics of Tragedy: Politics, Psychology and Society in Tragic Drama				6
> Internship PPLE				6
> Political Economy in the Global South				6
> Skills and Techniques for Trials and Oral Advocacy				6
> Amsterdam Law Trials for PPLE Competitors				3

After two general courses for all PPLE students, the majority of the second semester is dedicated to writing your Bachelor's thesis. The topics are introduced only shortly before the writing process starts. Having specialised in Politics, your thesis must provide an interdisciplinary perspective from two out of the four PPLE disciplines, one of which must be your specialisation, which in this case is Politics.

Popular Career Paths

Students specialising in Politics face a broad scope of opportunities when it comes to career paths. Possible directions that you can take after the Politics track range from jobs in international organisations or government positions, to journalism and think tanks for private companies.

Before entering the working sphere, many students decide to continue their academic path and pursue a Master's degree. In fact, alumni that specialised



in Politics from UvA PPLe have proceeded to follow a research Masters in Social Sciences in a variety of universities all around the world. Unsurprisingly, some popular academic degrees after completing Politics in PPLe include programmes such as MSc in Political Science, International Relations, Public Policy and Governance, or Conflict Resolution. On the other hand, it is common to take a gap year to relax, explore your personal interests, or gain more work experience.



# Psychology

## Personal and Academic Interests

Students with a strong interest in the behaviour and interaction of individuals and groups flourish in the Psychology specialisation. However, the specialisation could also cater to someone with a broader interest towards all of the PPLE disciplines.

The topics covered within the disciplines of law, political science, and economics tie beautifully together in the Psychology track. Hence, the specialisation attracts students who are interested in the psychological mechanisms involved in all domains of the human-constructed world. Throughout the courses, you develop insights into how humans interact, function, and express themselves. Key topics of the course, such as conflict resolution and the interaction between groups and individuals, can be linked to all disciplines within the PPLE spectrum. Furthermore, the skills and knowledge acquired in the specialisation can easily be applied to the other disciplines within the bachelor, be it writing essays, policy-making, or mastering debates.

## The Specialisation

The Psychology specialisation starts in the second year of the bachelor, and sets off with the course "Fundamentals of Psychology". The six mandatory courses to follow are "Group Processes", "Emotions", "Statistical Psychology Research", "Motivation and Cognition", "Psychology of Religion" and "Cultural Psychology". The structure of the specialisation is laid out in the table below, where the mandatory courses specific to the specialisation are shown in light blue. The grids in regular blue indicate the mandatory courses for all PPLE students. The placement of electives is shown in teal, while the dark blue grids stand for a research project.

Year 2			
Semester 3	Fundamentals of Psychology	Group Processes	Integrative seminar III: Security
	Law, Justice and Morality II	Economics, Markets and Organisations II	
Semester 4	Emotions	Motivation and Cognition	Integrative seminar IV: Societal Challenges
	Skills and Research Methods for Psychology	Politics, Power and Governance II	
Year 3			
Semester 5	Psychology of Religion	Political Psychology	Elective
	Cultural Psychology	Elective	
Semester 6	Decision Making II	Self, Identity and Personality	Thesis
	Research Lab	Thesis	

Courses within the specialisation place heavier focus on social psychology rather than clinical psychology. The latter is sometimes included to aid the understanding of certain phenomena, but it is not tested or required as a part of assignments. The track covers interesting areas of social psychology, including the interaction of individuals and groups, and the psychological mechanisms attributed to culture. Moreover, the theory looks into the psychology of how conflicts arise and how they can be solved from a psychological perspective.

The courses "Motivation and Cognition" and "Emotions" help you understand the people around you. Interestingly, the content might even alter your perception of yourself as you develop a deeper understanding of psychological phenomena, such as the mechanisms of motivation. The courses can offer tools to stay motivated and channel your emotions, both being skills that can be found especially helpful during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Psychology specialisation offers a lot of autonomy when it comes to

exploring individual topics of interest. This freedom arises from how the various course assignments are organised; most often, students can pick a research topic on somewhat loose terms. Thus, within the boundaries of the topics and theory that are being covered on the course, there is room to investigate niche areas. To give an example, I have written research papers on "Measuring Jealousy in Dogs" and "Exorcism as a Treatment for Dissociative Identity Disorder".

Finally, to gain more freedom to choose what courses to do and when, there is a possibility to add a fourth year to your study programme. Note that this will cost you an extra year of tuition.

## Grading

Written research papers take up 40 to 60 percent of the assessment for every course within the Psychology track. Most often, these come in the form of past literature reviews. This means that you write a research paper based on formerly published scholarly articles and academic studies. The remaining part of grading consists of exams, quizzes, presentations, or reflections on the



readings, depending on each course. Additionally, while having midterms in the form of exams is rare, most courses do have an end-term exam. Though as an exception, the courses of Group Processes, Motivation and Cognition, and Psychology of Religion have no exams but instead they use another means of assessment.

Courses with no end-term exam may have three to four smaller quizzes spread throughout the course. While the grading of the courses places heavy emphasis on written assignments, the literature is easy to read, and thoroughly interesting. Overall, the fundamental theories of the course and the studies relevant to the research papers are all covered in the course literature. Therefore, reading the papers is definitely worth the time and effort

### Third-Year Courses

With regard to the third year of your study, there are four mandatory courses targeted for the Psychology specialisation: Psychology of Religion, and Political Psychology in Block 1, Cultural Psychology in Block 2, and Self, Identity and Personality in Block 5.

In addition, students following any track have to follow two courses mandatory for all students of PPLE, including the final Decision Making II course that all students do together.

♥ Free-choice electives: PPLE General	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	12
➤ Morality of Markets	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ The Politics of Tragedy: Politics, Psychology and Society in Tragic Drama	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Internship PPLE	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Political Economy in the Global South	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Skills and Techniques for Trials and Oral Advocacy	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Amsterdam Law Trials for PPLE Competitors	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	3

In addition to eight mandatory courses specific to the specialisation, students of the Psychology specialisation can choose their remaining courses out of various electives. The electives are done during the second block of the third year, and contain a study load of 6 credits each. PPLE offers diverse and interesting options for specialisation electives, such as "The Politics of Tragedy", a course that is also accepted as an elective for the Psychology track. All of the elective options offered by PPLE are shown in the figure above. Note that the electives do not fundamentally have to be classified as psychology electives. However, there has to be a link to psychology to be accepted as an elective for the specialisation.

Furthermore, all of the electives chosen outside of the options offered by PPLE have to be accepted by the Examinations Board. Courses that are not checked for approval will have to be redone in the next academic year, so you should plan ahead which electives to choose and make the necessary requests on time.

Taking electives can also earn you credits for a specific line of education after completing your Bachelor's degree. For instance, some Psychology-specialised students take electives that give them credits in clinical psychology to pursue Masters courses that require these credits.

Lastly, students write their Bachelor's thesis during the last two blocks of the third year. The Psychology thesis has specific themes that vary each year, but these are found only shortly before the writing process starts. In general, the thesis will be an interdisciplinary research on two out of four PPLE disciplines, one of which must be your own specialisation.

### **Popular Career Paths**

The Psychology specialisation opens the door for a diversity of career opportunities. Most students choose to continue to a Master's programme after graduating, and it is often seen as a natural next step to continue one's studies in the field of Psychology. A common misconception of students graduating from PPLE is that they cannot pursue a Master's degree in clinical psychology. However, graduating with the Psychology specialisation does fulfill the entry criteria to certain Master's programmes in clinical psychology.

On the other hand, it is not uncommon for students of the Psychology specialisation to choose a Master's degree that is a continuation of the PPLE Bachelor as a whole. Examples of such programmes are a Master's in European Studies, Governance of Sustainability, Conflict and peace studies, as well as Development and Health.





## Personal and Academic Interests

The archetype of a Law specialisation student is someone passionate about global events, and up to date on recent legislation developments in the Western world. If you share similar interests, specialising in Law could be a viable option for you. Furthermore, instead of having a fixed passion for a specific field of law, it is good to be open to learn about the discipline in all of its domains.

The specialisation draws a distinction between studying the letter of the law and the philosophy of law. As opposed to the letter of the law, which refers to the literal meaning of the laws, the track mainly focuses on the philosophy of law. Think of the distinction between asking "why is law?" instead of "what is law?" Therefore, students in the specialisation should find the idea of legal philosophy intriguing.

Within the PPLE Law courses, you are rarely taught the individual laws of a country such as "Netherlands 16.32 CW is the law applicable to murder", and instead are focusing on the broader lines such as: "In civil law countries like the Netherlands, murder is X, while in common law countries like the UK,

murder is Y". The legal codes and articles will not be spoon-fed in the track but it is still expected from you to look up the specific legal details. Indeed, successful law students must be willing to take the extra step and conduct the required research themselves. Simply put, if you are determined and willing to put in the academically challenging work, you will be able to thrive in the Law specialisation.

## The Specialisation

The Law specialisation covers all the main areas of law, ranging from constitutional to criminal law. The content touches briefly upon the history of law, but the main focus is in the present, particularly on current developments in the field. To tie the specialisation back to the other PPLE disciplines, the courses explore the political contexts that give birth to law. Furthermore, the discussion expands to how Politics, Psychology, and Economics impact law and its formation.

Besides providing a general focus on all main areas of law, the specialisation makes an attempt to teach law beyond the boundaries of any specific country.

However, there are a few countries whose laws are taken under closer scrutiny. Usually these are chosen to be the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, or Germany. Nevertheless, these choices could vary from year to year. The choice of these specific countries sprouts from the fact that they each represent a different legal system.

Year 2		
Semester 3	History of Legal Theory	Comparative Constitutional Law
	Law, Justice and Morality II	Economics, Markets and Organisations II
Semester 4	Principles of European Contract Law	Public International Law
	Skills and Research Methods for Law	Politics, Power and Governance II
Year 3		
Semester 5	Comparative Administrative Law	European Union Law
	Comparative European Tort Law	Elective
Semester 6	Decision Making II	Comparative Criminal Law
	Research Lab	Thesis

The table above presents the course outline for the specialisation. The focus of the mandatory specialisation-specific courses, marked in light blue, is on the understanding of the law. The courses in regular blue mark general courses that need to be followed by all PPLE students. The squares in teal show the placement of electives, and the darkest blue stands

for a research project. While the content of the specialisation-specific courses is reasonably fixed, students can get creative in finding their own examples to defend their arguments. On that note, as the specialisation does not teach a lot of individual case law, students are free to research their own cases and articles and use these to support their essays.

In the second year, the specialisation-specific courses are accompanied by the third and fourth Integrative Seminar. These courses are a disjoint selection of tutorials placed under a singular theme, such as security. You can choose a workgroup from a wide range of topics. Accordingly, your experiences of the course as well as the grade you receive from these are strictly bound to your choice of topic, as well as your tutor. The tutorials in these courses offer a nice balance between the technicality of most courses within the specialisation. Furthermore, they offer some out-of-the-box aspects to the subject area, which makes them enjoyable to follow. For instance, I followed a tutorial with a dance, yoga, and meditation class.

Finally, following the Law specialisation gives a special opportunity for Dutch-



speaking students to enroll in a fourth year track called “Civiel Effect”. This track will make them eligible for Dutch LLM (Law Master’s) programmes. For further details, see the section “Popular Career Paths”.

Grading

Most courses within the Law specialisation have an end-term exam that worth 40–70% of the final grade. The remaining weight consists of smaller projects, usually a presentation and several small essays. For instance, the very first course in the specialisation, “History of Legal Theory”, has weekly essays of around 1000 words that students have to submit. There could also be fewer essays with higher weights on the final grade.

Third-Year Courses

Four out of the eight mandatory courses specific to the specialisation will be taken in the third year. These are “Comparative Administrative Law”, “European Union Law”, “Comparative European Tort Law”, and “Comparative Criminal Law”.

Free-choice electives: PPLE General	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	12
> Morality of Markets	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
> The Politics of Tragedy: Politics, Psychology and Society in Tragic Drama	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
> Internship PPLE	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
> Political Economy in the Global South	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
> Skills and Techniques for Trials and Oral Advocacy	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
> Amsterdam Law Trials for PPLE Competitors	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	3

Additionally, you will choose two electives to follow during the first semester of the third year, each worth 6 ETC. These electives can be chosen from a range of options offered by PPLE, which are shown in the figure above. Alternatively, you could opt for courses from other faculties and specialisations as long as there is an observable link to your study. However, the course must not be an introductory course, and the relevance to PPLE has to be confirmed by the Examinations Board. However, the Board is quite relaxed about choosing electives outside the scope of PPLE, as long as you are able to argue a connection to your specialisation. If you wish to make the elective block a little bit easier for yourself, you could choose to take the elective courses earlier in your studies, alongside regular courses. However, you should consult the study advisers regarding this and make sure that the workload will not exceed what you can handle.

A majority of the last semester is dedicated to writing your thesis.

A majority of the last semester is dedicated to writing your thesis. The Bachelor's thesis for Law consists of 12 pre-determined interdisciplinary themes that you can choose from. The thesis is your opportunity to show your understanding of the main objective of the track: the place of Law in society, how it arose, why, and what its impact is. Your individual thesis topic can range anywhere within these themes, as long as it touches upon two PPLE disciplines, one of them being your own specialisation. Besides that, only the sky is your limit!

### **Popular Career Paths**

As briefly mentioned before, the UvA Faculty of Law offers an abridged Bachelor's programme for Dutch-speaking PPLE Law specialisation alumni. To put it simply, students can opt for a fourth-year track called "Civiel Effect". Graduating PPLE with a Civiel Effect will also earn you a diploma in Dutch Law, which makes you eligible for Dutch LLM [Law Master's] programmes at the Amsterdam Law School. However, students must be fluent in Dutch to be able to follow this track. Consult your study advisors about the specific requirements to enrol in the Civiel Effect.

Most Dutch students in PPLE Law go for the Civiel Effect, which gives them similar career opportunities in the Dutch legal field as faced by traditional Dutch Law graduates. The options involve—but are not limited to—a career as a lawyer, a notary, or a judge. The majority of the students that graduate from the Law track do not continue to Civiel Effect, but instead enrol in other Law-related Master's degrees upon graduation. The most popular alternatives lie within the scope of international law, such as a Master's degree in either International Criminal Law, Human Rights, or International Public Law.

Finally, while it is common to continue with a Master's programme, some choose to enter the working world upon graduation. PPLE Law alumni have found their way into internships at multinational companies in Amsterdam to amass experience and gain valuable contacts. Thereafter many get employed by various NGOs, often related to human rights work.



# Economics

## Personal and Academic Interests

If you are interested in understanding the deeper meaning behind the phenomena that we read in big newspaper headlines every day, the Economics track could be a great fit for you. Theory on how economic agents from firms and households interact, to how policy changes shape the everyday lives of individuals, are covered within the specialisation. The courses offer you the opportunity to see the world from the perspective of an economist.

The topics covered in the Economics specialisation are closely intertwined with other PPLE disciplines. This statement holds true for Politics because of the implications that good governance has in building a strong economy. On the other hand, the discipline of behavioural economics touched upon in the Microeconomics course has close applications to Psychology.

The courses within the specialisation provide an understanding of the reasoning behind monetary and fiscal policies, what drives consumption, and how investment and financial institutions work. The theory covered in the majority of the courses is quite technical.

Mathematical skills are required in almost all courses. Hence it is not too much to say that being good with number-crunching is a personal advantage if you're considering the Economics track.

## The Specialisation

The main objective of the Economics specialisation is to familiarise students with fundamental economic theory and concepts. When taking the various courses in the track, you will gain important insights to the building blocks of economic thinking. Mandatory courses range from more technical topics, such as "Mathematics and Statistics", to subjects more applicable to the real world. Other courses, such as "Accounting", "Finance", and "Marketing Management" will introduce you to a variety of tools that are utilised every day in the management of big corporations, or the head of governmental authorities.

Because of their technicalities and use of mathematical models, most students find "Intermediate Macroeconomics", "Statistics for Econometric Analysis" and "Econometrics Analysis" the most challenging courses of the specialisation. For the majority of the study blocks, the course structure successfully pairs

these challenging courses with ones that require less effort in terms of study time or difficulty. This is convenient because you have more time to focus on the challenging topics, while the overall workload will not be too much to handle.

Year 2		
Semester 3	Mathematics	Accounting
	Law, Justice and Morality II	Economics, Markets and Organisations II
Semester 4	Finance	Statistics for Econometric Analysis
	Intermediate Macroeconomics	Politics, Power and Governance II
Year 3		
Semester 5	Economics of Money and Banking	Intermediate Microeconomics
	Econometric Analysis	Elective
Semester 6	Decision Making II	Marketing Management
	Research Lab	Thesis

### Grading

For better or for worse, students in the Economics specialisation write fewer essays compared to other PPLE tracks. This is because most mandatory courses have examination-based assessment, under which your grade is generated based on a mid-term and a final exam. However, some courses also have weekly assignments or an individual presentation. These extra assignments will give you the opportunity to show your

learning in ways other than taking an exam. Hence, they are a great way to boost your final grade. Lastly, the majority of the assessment is individual-based, and therefore contains few group assignments.

### Third-Year Courses

There are two mandatory courses that all PPLE students need to follow in their third year: "Decision Making II" and "Research Lab". The former will give you the general skills and tools for writing your thesis. In addition to this, Economics has four mandatory courses for the third year: "Econometric Analysis", "Economics of Money and Banking", "Microeconomics", and "Marketing Management".

Beyond mandatory courses, taking electives is a great way of exploring personal areas of interest and complementing your mandatory studies. You can choose two electives (6 ECT each) for the first semester of the third year, and you should reserve good time to plan your choice. The table below shows the list of general electives offered by PPLE. There is a possibility to take electives in other faculties or universities, but the registration is different for every department and sometimes enrolment in these courses works on a first-come, first-



serve basis. Additionally, electives have to be approved by the Examinations Board.

♥ Free-choice electives: PPLE General	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	12
➤ Morality of Markets	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ The Politics of Tragedy: Politics, Psychology and Society in Tragic Drama	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Internship PPLE	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Political Economy in the Global South	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
➤ Skills and Techniques for Trials and Oral Advocacy	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6
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If you are in luck, taking electives can also inspire the topic of your thesis, or give direction for the right Master's degree to pursue after graduating. I would advise you to look at Master programmes during the summer before starting your second year. In that way you have the advantage of choosing the electives that you might need to fulfill the requirements of that programme. Moreover, electives provide a great opportunity to revisit the other disciplines of PPLE in case you are uncertain about the direction of your career path. For instance, some interesting options for an elective are "The Politics of Commodity Dependence in Latin America: Oil, Mining and Drugs", "Circular Economy", "Development Economics", or "System Change – how crises change the way we structure the world".

In the second semester of the third year, students write their Bachelor's thesis. Unfortunately, the themes for the thesis are not found until shortly before the writing process starts. However, in general there are four topics to choose from.

One of them is an open track, where you can freely choose a topic. Your thesis topic has to touch upon two of the four PPLE disciplines, one of them being your own specialisation. The topics offered are reasonably broad, so there is definitely room to choose your own approach when it comes to writing the thesis.

Popular Career Paths

While some students choose to continue their academic career in the field of economics, some choose related paths such as Physics, Data Science, or Marketing. Common choices of Master's degrees are in Finance, Economics, or in Business Administration. A degree in economics can take you far and wide, as a multitude of employment opportunities are open in consultancies, private firms, government positions, or NGOs. After the third year, some choose to study for an extra year to acquire more credits, while others want to take some time off.

# Concluding remarks

020 hopes that this booklet has fulfilled its intended purpose in simplifying the decision-making between the various PLLE specialisations. When in doubt, you may consult your study advisers or tutors regarding any further questions.

As both a political party and student-run organisation, we truly believe in a more pragmatic and in-depth approach to picking the right specialisation. Above that, we hope that we are one day able to push this initiative through the University councils, shifting the responsibility of creating such booklets to the university itself.

However, as fellow students, we will fill this gap until that moment. Because a crucial decision like the one you are about to make should be made with the utmost care.

020 is constantly looking for new members to strengthen its fight to better the lives of our fellow students. Therefore, if you want to join one of our other teams, make sure to send us a message via Instagram [@020.nl] or through our website [www.0-2-0.nl].

If you have any feedback or comments on this particular booklet, please reach out to us on our Instagram! To get to know us better, check out our website.

Right now we need unity, progressive ideals that aren't afraid to look at history, and pragmatic policies rooted in science that get the job done, while leaving no one behind.

Sincerely,

Your 020 Team.



Vote for **all students**.  
Vote for **Amsterdam**.  
Vote for **020**.

From the **31st** of **May**  
to the **4th** of **June**.

Guest **writers**:

**Anahita** Sen [politics]

**Anjulie** Grimm [psychology]

**Maria-Cristina** Leneşel [law]

**Lauri** Garófalo Grandes [economics]

020 **writer**: **Inkeri** Lipasti

020 **editor**: **Daemon** Ortega

020 **designer**: **Dédé** Kruisman