

The background of the page is a photograph of students in a classroom. A woman in the foreground is wearing glasses and looking down at a document. Other students are visible in the background, some writing. The image is partially covered by diagonal blue and white geometric overlays.

SPECIALIZED MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

INTERNATIONAL TRAININGS

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01. GOAL

The goal of Specialized master in International and Development Economics (SMIDE) is to train present and future actors of development to be able to devise realistic and original policy reforms and programs based on a sound economic analysis and well adjusted to the social and political context of a country.

At the end of their training, graduates are in a position to:

- » design and implement innovative programmes of economics and human development;
- » understand and assess the models and methods used by international organizations; foreign governments and consultants in development assistance and international economic relations;
- » play an educational role, by clarifying to local decision-makers and to the general public the rationale and usefulness of economic reforms in their local context.

At the end of their training, graduates will also be able to:

- » communicate clearly and persuasively both in English (written and oral) as well as in graphical form
- » manage a project, integrate and work within a team, and exercise leadership

02. PROGRAMME CONTENT

The academic year begins with the "Concepts and Methods" class - a review of the basic concepts in economics and quantitative methods. The programme is then organized around two main themes. The first axis studies poverty and institutional structures required for effective functioning of a market economy in the context of developing countries. The second axis analyzes macroeconomic and trade policies that promote economic growth and macroeconomic stability in a context of poor countries, emphasizing their effects on the well-being of local people.

Each axis comprises five to six learning activities. Each learning activity includes 30 hours. Moreover, the programme comprises a personnel project that each student has to develop under the guidance of a professor and a teaching assistant. The table below summarizes the learning activities of the programme.

LEARNING UNITS AND SUBJECTS	PROFESSOR	UNIVERSITY	HOURS	CREDITS	SPECIFIC CREDITS
Refreshing courses					
Concepts and Methods		UNamur	75	(5)	(5)
» Quantitative Methods	<i>J. Jesionek</i>				
» Macroeconomics	<i>J. Jesionek</i>				
» Microeconomics	<i>S. Weynants</i>				
» Econometrics	<i>S. Weynants</i>				
Personal Project	<i>R. Houssa (coordinator)</i>	UNamur	60	16	16

LEARNING UNITS AND SUBJECTS	PROFESSOR	UNIVERSITY	HOURS	CREDITS	SPECIFIC CREDITS
Development and Institutions					
Development and institutions	<i>G. Cassan</i>	UNamur	30	4	
Economic growth and international development	<i>D. de la Croix</i>	UCLouvain	30	4	4
Population, environment and governance	<i>J.-M. Baland</i>	UNamur	30	4	
Poverty and livelihood strategies	<i>C. Guirkingier</i>	UNamur	30	4	
Evaluation of public interventions	<i>C. Guirkingier</i>	UNamur	30	4	4
Seminar in Development: International Migration	<i>F. Mariani</i>	UCLouvain	30	4	4
Macroeconomics and trade policies					
Fluctuations and development	<i>R. Houssa</i>	UNamur	30	4	4
Macro-finance and development	<i>Y. Rychalovska</i>	UNamur	30	4	4
Trade and development: Specialization and diversification	<i>A. De Crombrugghe</i>	UNamur	30	4	4
Economic integration and trade	<i>L. Trimarchi</i>	UNamur	30	4	4
Seminar in development and macro-economic policies	<i>M. Van Overbeke</i>	UCLouvain	30	4	4
TOTAL				60 (+5)	48 (+5)

03. ADMISSION

The programme is open to students with a great interest in economic policy making in developing countries and international organizations that deal with issues in development.

- » International applicants must have either:
 - » A university graduate degree obtained after 5 years of university education; or

- » A university graduate degree obtained after 4 years of university education and professional experience over a period of at least 2 years.
- » Belgian and EU applicants must hold a university degree with 240 ECTS (for details, [contact us](#)).

For all applicants:

- » A sufficient background in economics is required. If the jury assessed an insufficient economic background, the applicant may follow the “Concepts and Methods in Economics” Training. Successful completion of this training results in a certificate. It also grants access to the Specialized Master's program in International and Development Economics (SMIDE).
- » In some cases, applicants may be subject to a written test during the admission process.

04. ADDITIONNAL INFORMATION

Number of scholarships available: 10

Length of the training: one academic year. Regular learning activities start on September 15th 2025, but an introduction to refreshing courses starts earlier (around early June 2025) and students follow this introduction session from their home country in a distance mode. The University of Namur organizes orientation training for international students in the two first weeks of September 2025.

Teaching language: English

05. UNIVERSITIES

Universities:

- » Université de Namur (UNamur)
- » Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain)

Programme director:

- » Romain Houssa (UNamur)

06. CONTACT PERSON

For information on the programme:

UNamur - Faculté des sciences économiques, sociales et de gestion

E-mail: smide@unamur.be