Master of Science in Communication Studies at VUB
Welcome Day
24 September 2020
General info on programmes JME and NMSE

• 60 ECTS - 2 semesters
• Compulsory courses (48 ECTS) + elective courses (12 ECTS) (+ preparatory programme)
• Exams in January / February and in June
  ▪ Second session exams in August / September
  ▪ Most courses also have assignments as part of evaluation
• You need to score minimum 10/20 to pass a course
• Evaluation method varies for each course
• Basic information on courses via
• Detailed information of courses via link at bottom of those pages + during first class of each course
Master thesis JME and NMSE

• Crucial part of an academic master (18 ECTS)
• Individual work, supervised by a professor/promotor
  ▪ Your responsibility
  ▪ Take action early
  ▪ Become an expert on your topic
• Work on a topic that is relevant and that you feel passionate about.
• 20,000 to 25,000 words maximum (we check the number of words)
• In English (do not hesitate to use grammarly.com)
• Thesis topic needs to be relevant to the master you follow (JME or NMSE) indicated in mathis which topics are open to which master specialization
• Master thesis coordinator for the international programmes NMSE and JME
  ▪ Prof. Luciano Morganti: luciano.morganti@vub.be
• More info in Canvas course space Master Thesis Communication Studies
Preparatory courses

- Introduction to Communication Studies (Prof. Dr. Jan Loisen)
- Research Methods for the Social Sciences (Prof. Dr. Wendy Van den Broeck)
- EU Institutions (Prof. Dr. Alexander Mattelaert) (only NMSE)

➤ Decided on the basis of your academic curriculum so far
➤ Parallel with master, slightly increased fee
Traineeship (= elective)

• What?
  ▪ 12 ECTS for a research or professional internship
  ▪ Min. of 28 days, max. of 36 days / 4 days a week

• Why?
  ▪ For students that want to become experienced in a professional working environment
  ▪ Trade-off between specializing through the elective courses and a short internship

• More info in brochure:
  https://canvas.vub.be/courses/17760/files/553438/download?wrap=1
Master of Science in Communication Studies

New Media and Society in Europe

1. Objectives of the NMSE programme
## 2. Compulsory courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Brussels Talking: Europe, Media and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>European Media and Communication Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Theories on Media, Technology and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Master Thesis Communication Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Users and Innovation in Digital Media</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Critical Issues in Media Economics</td>
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</table>
### Elective courses

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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Traineeship in Communication Studies: New Media and Society in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Open Science: Policy and Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Media, Culture and Globalisation Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Data, Privacy and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Digital Methods and Innovation</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>European Public Sphere</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Business and Consumer Ethics</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>European Media Markets</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Internet Censorship, Control and Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Media Literacy and Digital Inclusion</td>
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Master of Science in Communication Studies

Journalism and Media in Europe

Your core professors

**BENJAMIN DE CLEEN**
- JME programme coordinator
- Researches populism, radical right discourse, journalism and politics
- Teaches
  - Journalism, Politics and Ideology
  - Populist and Radical Political Discourses in Europe
- Director of
  www.researchcenterdesire.eu/

**IKE PICONE**
- Researches Journalism, technological innovation and democracy
- Teaches
  - Journalism: Trends and Technologies
  - Journalism Practice in Europe
- Member of Council for Journalism (Flanders)

**KAREN DONDERS**
- Researches public service media, private television, national and European media policy, competition policy
- Teaches
  - Political Economy of Journalism in the EU
  - European Media Markets
- Leads Media Unit of SMIT research center
### Programme JME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master Year</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Compulsory courses</strong></td>
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<td>Journalism: Trends and Technologies</td>
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<td><strong>Elective courses: choose 12 ECTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence and Lobbying (at ULB)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
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4. Elective courses

12 ECTS: internship OR 2 elective courses

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Important people and places, do’s and don’ts

We start at 10.00
Important people

- Traineeship coordinator
  - NMSE: Prof. Pascal Verhoest
  - JME: Prof. Luciano Morganti
- Thesis coordinator
  - Prof. Luciano Morganti
- Study counselor
  - Ioanna Athanassiu
- Head of department
  - Prof. Leo Van Audenhove
- Head of education board
  - Prof. Jan Loisen
- Directors of NMSE and JME programs
  - Prof. Karen Donders (NMSE)
  - Prof. Benjamin De Cleen (JME)
Important places: Studying and administration

• Pleinlaan 9, 4th floor
  ▪ Communication Studies secretariat
  ▪ Professor and assistant offices

• Pleinlaan 5, 2nd floor
  ▪ Faculty secretariat, including study councilors

• Library
  ▪ Between building B and C, level 1
  ▪ Remote access to journals via Ezproxy

• Study locations
  ▪ Library
  ▪ SBC: Studiebegeleidingscentrum on Esplanade, in front of restaurant
  ▪ During exam periods: Pleinlaan 9

• Facilities for students for whom studying/following classes online is problematic (internet connection, ...)
Important places: eating and drinking on campus

- The VUB restaurant
  - Lunch between 11.30 and 13.45h
  - Vegetarian / vegan options every day
- Cafés on the campus
  - Opinio: Cafe on the Esplanade
  - ’t Komplex: Above the sports centre
  - Pilar: Cultural center + café
Important places: sports and leisure on and around campus

• Basic-Fit sports centre
  - Discount for VUB students: 180 euros/year

• VUB swimming pool, indoor sports facilities, athletics track

• Running, walking, cycling: Ter Kamerenbos/Bois de la Cambre, Zoniënwoud/Forêt de Soignes (walk or take tram 7 or 25)

• Other swimming pools: Etterbeek, Marollen, Sint Gillis, Ukkel, ...
Important do’s

• Come to the classes (or join online), prepare for classes
• If you have questions about the course, ask them during the course, break or after the course (rather than sending e-mails about them)
• Use your VUB mail address
  ▪ Use it to contact professors
  ▪ Check your mail regularly
• Use Canvas
  ▪ Make sure you turn on notifications in Canvas to receive mail notifications
• Contact Prof. Dr. Karen Donders (NMSE) or Prof. Dr. Benjamin De Cleen (JME) with issues related to the courses/program, but NOT with administrative questions (contact the faculty)
• Finish your thesis in 2020-2021
  ▪ Start immediately on your thesis
  ▪ Aim for finishing your thesis in May, make sure it is certainly finished by August
Important don’ts

• Do not send professors unnecessary mails
  ▪ E.g. practical questions you can easily find the answer to yourself: When is the class? Where is the class? When is the deadline? What kind of exam is it? Etc.

• Do not write impolite e-mails
  ▪ “Hey there”, “why are you not responding to my mail I sent earlier today?”, ...

• Do not visit professors without an appointment

• Do not call professors on the phone if there is no real emergency
  ▪ E.g. “Hi professor, I just called with a question about my thesis.”

• Do not be late for deadlines or exams

• Do not show up unprepared for exams (“Oh, it’s an open book exam. I didn’t know”).

• Do not consider December 2021 as deadline for your thesis

• Do not expect thesis supervisor feedback in July/August

• Do not come to class when you are ill.