GOVERNANCE, ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT (GED) MAJOR

Prosperity: What makes human flourishing possible?

From material welfare to freedom & meaning

BSc Major · Liberal Arts & Sciences
Leiden University College The Hague
2025–2026

01 Governance

How humans organize to solve collective problems

Institutional Lens

Governments, markets, firms, tribes, or families address the same basic problem: how to coordinate diverse people and allocate resources. Why do some solutions work and others fail?

Self-Governance

The Dissident Mind & **Politics Through Literature**: good public governance begins with self-governance.

Philosophical Roots

Foundational Debates & **History of Economic Thought**: the ideas that have shaped political and economic life.

02 Economics

The promise and limits of markets

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

How markets create value — and who captures it. From micro incentives to macro systems.

Applied Economic Models

Behavioral, **Real Donut** & **International Economics**: How do theoretical models differ from the reality of the markets? When do markets work well and when do they need boundaries?

Political Economy

Political Economy of Natural Resources: how politics and markets shape each other.

03 Development

Putting ourselves in others' shoes

Development & History

Politics & Development, Coming of Age in Africa, The Dissident Mind, Foundational Debates: understanding the world through experience and historical context.

Sustainable Livelihoods

Sharing Scarcity, from global south perspectives to environmental constraints — development beyond GDP measures.

Comparative Approaches

Advanced Political Economy & **Human Security**, **Comparative Party Systems**: comparative approaches across regions, cultures, and political systems.

04 Reasoning Skills

Skills in the Service of Understanding

Critical Reasoning

Evaluating arguments on their merits — distinguishing evidence from ideology, across every course and discipline.

Scientific & Statistical Literacy

QRM, AQRM, GIS, Data Science & AI: learning what the numbers are actually telling us and what we can conclude based on them.

Deep Reading

Novels, interviews, policy documents — qualitative depth sits alongside quantitative data rigour.