Master’s in History
Holocaust and Genocide Studies
uva.nl/ma-holocaust-genocide
Genocide and mass atrocities are often presented in a way that makes violence seem inexplicable and therefore inexorable. Similarly, perpetrators are often portrayed as being actors motivated solely by an irrational hatred. However, genocide is a recurrent and contemporary historical dilemma. How can we explain this discrepancy?

This programme – a unique collaboration between the UvA and the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD) – seeks to demystify genocide by taking an interdisciplinary, scholarly approach to understanding genocide and mass atrocities. By the end of it, you will have obtained a deeper knowledge and understanding of the origins and process of genocide and mass human rights abuses, their aftermath and the moral and political implications.
Career prospects

All knowledge and skills graduates obtain during this Master’s programme can be utilised in, for example, scholarly research, (non-)official human rights practice and social work. Recently, graduates have found jobs in:
- Academia/research: conflict studies, human rights, legal studies, social sciences;
- Practice: governments, international courts and tribunals, commissions of inquiry, but also in: journalism, cultural institutions, museums and memorials.

Spotlight on a course

Core course (18 ECTS)
The core course of this MA will introduce you to the broad range of research and discussions in the field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Also, you will have the opportunity to survey, analyse and select material relevant to the topics presented in the course, e.g. the causes and mechanisms of genocides and mass repression as well as the transitional justice measures attendant to the aftermath of mass political repression. All participants write a research paper on one of the course topics and their MA thesis proposal.
Entry requirements
The Master’s in Holocaust and Genocide Studies is open to all students with a university Bachelor’s diploma in:
• History
• Cultural Anthropology
• European Studies
• Political Science
• Psychology
• Sociology or Law
Prospective students are advised to follow at least one of the Bachelor's courses provided by the NIOD, Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies before deciding to follow the Master’s programme Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Please check: uva.nl/ma-holocaust-genocide > Application and admission