



***Jack van den Berg (Dutch-American)***

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Specialisation: Public Policy and Administration*

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Year of graduation: 2020*

The master European Studies provided by Maastricht University was for me the most natural step to gain more experience in the field of Political Science with a focus on the European Union. My Bachelor at Zuyd University of Applied Science gave me many practical tools useful for my future career, but I found it lacked the depth. Luckily, for me there is a pre-master programme that allowed me to catch up with the level of knowledge required to do the master at university level. During the programme I chose the specialisation Public Policy and Administration because I am most interested in the internal machinery of the EU, especially how the different gears are set in motion in response of each other. Perhaps the most useful aspect of this programme, but often overlooked, is the possibility to choose your own topics in all essays and projects. This allowed me to focus my attention on my topic of interest: digital policy. This flexibility of the Master helped me immensely in the hiring process. Starting out you are never expected to have extensive knowledge of what you are working on, but having done research during the master on the topics the job dealt with made me stand out from the 200 applicants. I was not just another politics student with an understanding of the EU. Rather I could discuss policy topics that they were dealing with and provided input on potential future developments. The flexibility aside, the master programme is also a very social programme. Having talked to cohorts before and after me, it made me realise how unique it is to form close bonds with others in the master. This helps in sharing vacancies, hiring tips, and provides a wide network for a higher hiring chance.

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