

PERFORMANCE

PROCUREMENT  
MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

PROCESS

STRUCTURE

ORGANISED BY VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL  
AND LEXXION PUBLISHER

# POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

FLEXIBLE  
STARTING DATES

FIRST COURSE IN  
OCTOBER 2023

LIVE & ONLINE  
COURSES\*



BRUSSELS  
SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNANCE

THE LEGAL PUBLISHER  
**lexxion**

\*It's up to you: Attend in person, online or mix it the way it suits you best



# Level up your expertise.

## **Background**

This postgraduate certificate allows students to gather specialised knowledge in the field of public procurement law and policy. The programme distinctly focuses on the European dimension of public procurement. Public procurement in the EU is a multi-billion euro sector and this certificate addresses the current gap between the required knowledge to work in the field and the lack of formal and professional training focused on EU public procurement.

## **Who Should Take Part?**

The certificate is aimed at working professionals or part-time students who would like to develop a distinct profile in EU public procurement. Whether you are planning a future career in the growing public procurement sector, or you are already working in that field and want to extend your knowledge - this programme is designed for you. Diverse previous backgrounds are accepted because the programme will begin by explaining the basics of Public Procurement.

## **Highly Flexible Format**

The postgraduate certificate will be offered in a hybrid format, but will also be available as a fully online programme to allow students to participate from anywhere in the world and to be more flexible to their time availability. Depending on work and other obligations, students may thus also choose to attend in person the event components of the modules. Online networking sessions will also be facilitated.

## **Learning Design: Theory Meets Practice**

The learning design of this programme strives for a blending of theoretical knowledge with practical skills. This is achieved through a variety of methods: the profile of the lecturers (from academia and practice), the types of learning tasks (reading, practical case studies, group work, workshops), and the possibility to opt for an internship. The objective is to create graduates who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be their organisation's public procurement expert or to work in the broader field of public procurement.

## **Learn from the Knowledge Leaders**

This programme will be offered by the Brussels School of Governance - Institute for European Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in cooperation with Lexxion, a leading European legal publisher. Lexxion also has substantial expertise in offering EU law workshops, trainings, and lectures both online and offline. Your lecturers will be renowned experts from academia and practice.

**Questions? Contact us!**  
**Nelly Stratieva**  
**[stratieva@lexxion.eu](mailto:stratieva@lexxion.eu)**



**COURSE HIGHLIGHTS**



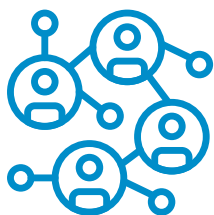
**FLEXIBLE STARTING DATE & FORMAT**

**OPTIONAL INTERNSHIP**



**THEORY & PRACTICE**

**RENOWNED LECTURERS**



**NETWORKING**

**ACADEMICALLY RECOGNISED DEGREE**



**PUBLISH YOUR RESEARCH IN ACCLAIMED JOURNAL**

**ATTEND IN PERSON OR ONLINE**



## TARGET AUDIENCE



WORKING STUDENTS OR PART TIME STUDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A MORE DISTINCT PROFILE IN EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



PROFESSIONALS WHO ALREADY WORK OR WANT TO START IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

People with diverse previous academic background can be accepted as the programme begins by explaining the basics of Public Procurement. The programme is designed to attract an international/European audience.

To be admitted to the programme, you must have at least a Bachelor (or equivalent) degree and demonstrate a working proficiency in English.

### **Start, Duration and Credits**

The programme follows the academic calendar of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), which means that the 2023-24 academic year of this programme officially starts on Monday 25 September 2023. However, the first actual class in this Postgraduate Certificate in Public Procurement will take place early October (TBC). The programme lasts one academic year (full time) or two years (part time). The student will obtain between 20 and 30 ECTS depending on the choice of elective courses.

***The application deadline for this programme is 31 August 2023.***

### **Flexible Format**

You have a choice how to follow the programme. The PGC is available fully online but you can also choose to attend the lectures in person. As a truly European learning experience, the lectures will take place in various cities around the EU. Lectures will be on work days but you have the flexibility to watch their recording instead at a time that suits your agenda better.

### **Accreditation**

The programme is officially recognized by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) as a Postgraduate with Certificate.

### **Tuition Fee**

Fee rate card for the PGC programme:

- 6700 eur for 30 credits (in 1 year)
- 4550 eur for 20 credits (in 1 year)
- 6950 eur for 2x15 credits (in 2 years)
- 4800 eur for 2x10 credits (in 2 years)

This fee applies to both EU and non-EU students.

## Curriculum

### MODULE 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

European Public Procurement law aims to ensure that the activities of the state, when entering into contracts relating to the purchase of goods and services, adhere to economic principles and do not distort competition. This course is designed to provide you with the essentials of EU public procurement law, to kick start your knowledge or to freshen up your pre-existing background.

#### Topics overview:

- **European Public Procurement Law**
- **Practical Issues in the Application of Public Procurement**
- **Public Procurement and Innovation**
- **Concessions and Public Private Partnerships**
- **Public Procurement and State Aid**
- **Remedies and Enforcement**
- **Green Public Procurement**
- **Competition in Public Procurement**

### MODULE 2: SPECIALISATION/ ELECTIVE COURSES

(\*select minimum 2 courses from the list below)

#### Course 2A: Essentials of e-Procurement and Implementation of e-Government Concepts

Effective e-Procurement can provide a wide variety of benefits including more efficiency and substantial savings for governments and businesses. This course introduces the possibilities and challenges of e-Procurement, presents case studies from different Member States and the latest legislation, technologies and initiatives in the EU. The course provides the essentials of e-Government projects and practical examples how e-solutions can improve transparency and efficiency in public administrations.

#### Topics overview:

- **Transition to e-Procurement**
- **Applying e-Procurement Tools in Different Sectors**
- **e-Procurement in Perspective**
- **Digitalisation and e-Government**
- **Management of e-Government Projects**

## MODULE 2: SPECIALISATION/ ELECTIVE COURSES

### **Course 2B: Public Procurement Requirements for ESI Funds**

Public Procurement in the EU amounts to €1 trillion. However, the violation of public procurement rules remains one of the main sources of irregularities and fraud in projects co-financed by Structural Funds. The European Commission constantly implements decisions to suspend or interrupt European funding due to the infringements of public procurement procedures. Ensuring correct public procurement – a proper drafting of tenders, running of negotiations, assignment and conclusion of the contract – is essential for all contracting authorities.

#### **Topics overview:**

- **Current European Procurement Law and the Reform**
- **Public Procurement Proceedings in Theory**
- **Tendering Phases**
- **Audit Requirements and Compliance**

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### **Course 2C: Probity and Public Procurement**

This course provides deeper knowledge on transparency, integrity, standards in public procurement, and anti-corruption measures. It gives an overview of the seminal and the latest EU Courts rulings and Commission decisions. The case law analysis identifies how principles are applied in specific situations, delineates possible exceptions and draws the implications for Public Procurement policies. The course also offers a practical angle by discussing real-life Public Procurement measures, problems and other issues from the daily work of practitioners.

#### **Topics overview:**

- **Corruption and Public Procurement**
- **Self cleaning**
- **Exclusion grounds**
- **Conflict of interest**

## MODULE 2: SPECIALISATION/ ELECTIVE COURSES

### **Course 2D: Innovation and Public Procurement**

Public procurement offers a great potential market for innovative products and services. It can help governments boost innovation at both the national and local level and improve productivity and inclusiveness. According to the OECD, 81% of its member countries have developed strategies or policies to support innovative goods and services through public procurement. This course will outline the practical implementation of the negotiation process and innovation procurement, as well as the Guidance on Public Procurement of Innovation by the Commission.

#### **Topics overview:**

- The Guidance on Public Procurement of Innovation by the Commission
- Practical Implementation of the Negotiation
- Fundamental aspects of Innovation Procurement

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## MODULE 3: RESEARCH ARTICLE OR INTERNSHIP & REPORT

**During this module students have two options to obtain the necessary credits.**

**Option 1:** Write case note or report (2,000-3,500 words).

**Option 2:** Take part in an internship/collaborate with an organisation on a project, followed up by writing a short report describing the PP aspect that was worked on and the lessons learned.

**The best papers are selected for publication in the EPPPL journal.**

## FAQ

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### **Is the programme accredited?**

Yes, the programme is officially recognised by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) as a Postgraduate with Certificate.

### **Can I also attend the courses in person should I wish to do so?**

Yes, you have a choice how to follow the programme. This Postgraduate Certificate is available fully online but you can also choose to attend the lectures in person. As a truly European learning experience, the lectures will take place in various cities around the EU. Lectures will be on working days, but you have the flexibility to watch their recording instead at a time that suits your agenda better.

### **What are the cancellation terms?**

In case of cancellation before the start of the academic year, an administrative fee of €350 will be charged. Cancellations after the start of the academic year but before 1 December will result in an administrative fee of €350 and a reimbursement of 50% of the total tuition fee. Cancellations after 1 December will not be reimbursed.