



Bachelor of Political Science, International Relations and Organisations

Frequently Asked Questions numerus fixus, selection and placement procedure

2026

Why is there a numerus fixus?

Every year, many students apply for the Bachelor's in Political Science. Especially the English specialisation in International Relations and Organisations receives substantial numbers of applications for admission. The numerus fixus of 400 has been implemented to regulate the number of students. The selection and placement procedure comes into effect when the number of applicants exceeds this numerus fixus. The procedure will then determine which applicants are best suited to start the bachelor's. Implementing this measure helps us to maintain the quality of education in the programme.

Does the selection and placement procedure also determine whether I am admissible?

The selection and placement procedure does not determine whether you are admissible; you will still have to prove that you meet all the requirements necessary to partake in a university programme. Some students will not yet be directly admissible when applying, for example, when they have yet to finish high school. Nevertheless, you can still partake in the procedure. Please be aware that you will have to adhere to the requirements before the start of the programme in September. You can find the entry requirements on the website.¹

Politologie Dutch track *Nationale en Internationale Politiek*, and the English track International Relations and Organisations: different procedures?

The applications for the Dutch track, *Nationale en Internationale Politiek*, do not require participation in the selection and placement procedure. The Numerus Fixus only applies to the English track of International Relations and Organisations. It is only possible to apply for one of the two specialisations. Admission to the Dutch track does not allow for transition to the English track, International Relations and Organisations. However, if you fail to complete the selection procedure for the English track International Relations and Organisations, or if places we offer (400), you can

¹ *Nationale en Internationale Politiek*:

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/onderwijs/opleidingen/bachelor/politicologie/politicologie/aanmelding-en-toelating/toelatingseisen>

International Relations and Organisations:

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/study-programmes/bachelor/political-science/international-relations-and-organisations/admission-and-application/application-selection-and-placement>

choose to cancel your application and apply for the Dutch track *Nationale en Internationale Politiek*, as the deadline for the Dutch track is May 1.

Do you differentiate between Dutch applications and non-Dutch applications?

The criteria for Dutch and non-Dutch applicants are the same. Results from previous education programs are standardised and converted to the Dutch VWO system (Entry level for Leiden University), so it is possible to compare the results of all applicants, regardless of country of origin.

What are the most important dates?

You can find the complete timeline on the website.² The most important dates are:

- 1 October 2025: application opens.
- 15 January 2026: application closes. After this date, it will **no longer be possible** to submit your application in Studielink.nl. Disclaimer: applying for a university programme requires some preparation and documentation. Applying early helps to smoothen the process. We therefore advise you to apply as early as possible.
- 31 January 2026: application in uSis closes (ID, diplomas, transcripts, and application fee)
- 5 February 2026. 18:00 CET: you receive instructions to partake in the Selection and Placement procedure (including instructions for submitting the online assessment).
- 19 February 2026 13:00 CET- 20 February 2026 23:59 CET: online assessment (see more information below).
- 15 April 2026: You receive your ranking number via Studielink.nl.
- 15 April 2026 onwards: period for the first 400 candidates to confirm whether they accept their offered place in the programme and want to finalise their application; every person that receives an offer and declines equals an offer for the next candidate in the ranking. As long as we have places in the programme and there are candidates on the ranking, we will continue to offer placement until 31 August 2026. Please note that after receiving your offer, you have two weeks (14 x 24 hours exactly) to accept placement.

Is it also possible to apply after 15 January 2026?

15 January 2026 is the latest possibility to apply to Studielink.nl. If candidates were not able to register between 1 October 2025 and 15 January 2026 due to unforeseen circumstances, the candidate could contact the Student Educational Affairs Office to request a late enrolment via request@sea.leidenuniv.nl The Student Educational Affairs Office will forward the request to the

² *Nationale en Internationale Politiek*:

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/onderwijs/opleidingen/bachelor/politicologie/politicologie/aanmelding-en-toelating>

International Relations and Organisations:

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/study-programmes/bachelor/political-science/international-relations-and-organisations/admission-and-application/application-selection-and-placement>

Faculty Board of Social Behavioural Sciences for permission to enrol after the deadline. This request should be received no later than 1 February 2026. For more information, check the Regulations Selection and Placement Political Science.³

Can I upload both my IB and high school transcripts to include in my GPA?

You can upload both IB and high school transcripts, but after submitting your request, your GPA, based only on the grades you have obtained, will be converted to the Dutch system for the selection and placement procedure. Still, the conversion of your GPA takes into account the admission requirement of your prior education, meaning that only the GPA from the previous education that is admissible for the bachelor's programme at Leiden University, in this case, your IB, will be used for the selection and placement procedures.

Is it necessary to finish all selection and placement procedure criteria to receive a ranking number?

You will *only* receive a ranking number if you have met all the conditions before the given deadlines: your application is complete, including the upload of your grading list for your grade average, and you have finished and submitted the online assessment.

What criteria determine the ranking?

The following two criteria and percentages will determine the ranking:

- 1) Grades from previous education– 30%
- 2) Online assessment – 70%

A low ranking is good news. Candidates with a ranking of 1 to 400 will be the first to be offered a placement offer. Please note, do not confuse your ranking with your total weighted score (the higher your score, the lower your ranking number). A high-ranking number is not necessarily bad news: see the last question in this FAQ.

What does the online assessment entail: what is to be expected, and how can I prepare?

The online assessment will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions related to International Relations and Statistics. Two weeks in advance, you will be granted access to the web lectures and the reading material required for the online assessment.

How much time is there for the online assessment?

You have three hours to partake and submit the test. The test is available for almost 35 hours: 19 February 2026, 13:00 CET, to 20 February 2026, 23:59 CET. This way, we accommodate all time zones and create equal chances for all candidates. Outside the given period, it is impossible to partake in the online assessment unless there are compelling circumstances. You can request a resit to the Selection Committee via selectiepol@fsw.leidenuniv.nl. One or more pieces of evidence should accompany the

³ <https://www.organisatiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/en/regulations/social-and-behavioural-sciences/political-science/students/selection-and-placement>

request to prove these compelling circumstances. You can submit the request until 4 March 2026 (Article 7.3 Selection Regulations Bachelor Political Science).⁴

When am I finished with the selection and placement procedure?

You are only eligible for placement in the programme if you received a ranking and completed all the requirements: completed your application, uploaded your grades, and took part in and submitted the online assessment. Please note that to receive an offer of placement, you need to be directly admissible or (un-)conditionally admitted for the bachelor's Political Science programme, International Relations and Organisations.

My ranking number is higher than the Numerus Fixus. How to proceed now?

In case of a selection and placement procedure, applicants within the range of 1 to 400 are offered a place in the programme. However, it does happen that applicants within this range decline because they choose another programme, University or do not meet the entry requirements (e.g. because they have failed to finish their final exams). In such cases, the offered place goes to someone with a ranking above the set capacity of 400. It does not necessarily mean you have no chance anymore if your ranking number is higher than 400. Of course, it is impossible to know how many candidates will decline the offer. Each candidate has two weeks (14 x 24 hours exactly) to accept or decline the offered place.

I have a disability; can I receive extra support?

Suppose a candidate needs additional accommodations during the selection process due to a disability or long-term limitation. In that case, they must complete the "[Request for Extra Facilities](#)" form and submit it with supporting documentation (such as a medical or psychological statement) by 31 January 2026.

⁴ <https://www.organisatiegids.universiteitleid.nl/en/regulations/social-and-behavioural-sciences/political-science/students/selection-and-placement>