



MOHAMMED VI  
POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITY | FACULTÉ DE GOUVERNANCE,  
SCIENCESECONOMIQUES  
ET SOCIALES



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021-2022

Fall semester: September - February / Spring semester: February – June

Main teaching language: French, English and Arabic  
Language courses: French, English, Contemporary Arabic, Darija,  
Spanish, German, Chinese

# INTRODUCTION


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The design of the course program of the Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University is in correlation with the prism of contemporary issues and challenges. Its main focus is directed towards the South-South challenges and follows the overall vision of the UM6P's ecosystem. Driven by the “South-South” dynamic, the objective of the course is to help students have a better grasp of real world issues and provide them with the opportunity to think critically the Moroccan context and its interactions with African countries.

The Faculty enables you to have access to a training focused on three majors: Economics, Political Science as well as Behavioural and Social Science. In order to join one of our exchange programs, you will be studying in Rabat, the capital city of Morocco.

Rabat, hosts the Faculty of Governance, Social Sciences and Economics which offers a wide array of teachings in Social sciences, in Political science, Law and Economics. As such, the Faculty is already a leading institution in the field of social sciences in Morocco and aims at becoming a renowned international center. It proposes an undergraduate program designed to bring cross-over knowledges on societies, economics and on political analysis with a strong focus on Mediterranean region, Africa and encompassing development issues. Four graduate programs are proposed, each of them built with a partnering international institution. The Faculty counts indeed on a wider network of 63 partnering institutions worldwide from which international students come to study in Rabat. Our guest students design their curricula among the undergraduate teachings.





# Our Mission: ” **Sharing knowledge and promoting difference**

Social, cultural and economic differences exist not only between countries but also within countries themselves. This is the reason why the Faculty of Governance, Social Sciences & Economics values the diversity of its Moroccan students as well as its international ones. Complying with the UN Education for All initiative, the Faculty of Governance, Social Sciences & Economics offers full or partial scholarships based exclusively on social criteria to 30% of its students. At the same time, the Faculty of Governance, Social Sciences & Economics implements an ambitious international policy aimed at recruiting students from all over the world, with a special emphasis on Africa and the Mediterranean countries.

As a result, students coming from different countries and diverse socio-cultural backgrounds learn on a daily basis that a subject can be approached from different points of view. This not only enriches the in-class debates but also the daily life of the student's body.

## **OUR APPROACH TO KNOWLEDGE**

Educating future leaders and decision makers able to trigger and conduct change while always holding critical analysis requires a consistent academic and educational program.

Ours is based on comparative approaches to the study of the human and social sciences.

### **Internationalization**

Each international student is offered a 4 hours/week language program (Arabic, English, French, German, Chinese, Spanish).

## Teaching a critical understanding of social facts

Our program entails numerous teachings devoted to the understanding of long term historic and social processes that led to build States and societies in the Mediterranean and Africa. Alongside those teachings which have a strong regional focus the students acquire fundamental tools of understanding through scientific learnings in Political science, Law, Sociology or anthropology. This is meant to build critical capacities by our students and help them to understand societies, economies, states or international relations as evolving social constructions. History and geopolitics of Northern Africa and Middle East, History of Political Ideas, Transnational Actors, Movements or Organizations, Euro-Mediterranean Contemporary Relations, Development, Political economy, Development theories are some of the main areas of interests. This specific program is designed in a way that the students get used to systematically adopt an international approach and a comparative angle when analyzing history, global conflicts, social phenomena, economics etc.

## A trilingual education

Morocco has a long tradition of using french language in the higher education system. Nevertheless our academic program takes into account the need to master english and arabic languages given their highest importance in the field of social sciences and their ability to grasp the cultural and intellectual dynamism in the MENA region and Africa. Rather than teaching classical Arabic that is usually taught in traditional linguistic schools, we teach contemporary Arabic which takes into account the social, political and cultural debates of the day. Thus, students are fully acquainted with the semantic nuances and argumentative constructs used by the media and opinion makers in the Arab world.

## Internationalization

Internationalization is also an integral part of our identity, not only at the level of students' exchanges but also in the development of research, workshops and seminars. On a regular basis we invite guest lecturers to give conferences on their relative expertise. They range from professors to ambassadors to officials from international organizations. Our institution is still young, but recognize the need for more research and expertise on the region as a whole and in respect with other regions and processes. The need to

disseminate and share knowledge and ideas is, of course, very important in order to better understand our neighbors and to begin working on concrete solutions to issues facing the individual countries or a region as a whole. To this end collaboration with different institutions and universities is of paramount importance to us. At the same time, we implement an ambitious international policy aimed at recruiting students from all over the world.

# ACADEMIC EVALUATION

## Classes and assessments

Academic program entails different types of classes: lectures, seminars and the combined lecture and seminar modules. Usually, in the seminars, student's evaluation is based on a series of exercises, such as oral presentations, analytical reports and written examinations. The evaluation in lecture courses is based on a final written exam. However, final evaluation may vary depending on the course outline and its format. The majority of courses are taught in French with an increasing number of classes offered in English. In certain cases, students have the possibility to hand in examinations in Arabic, French or English (depending on the professor).

## Evaluation and grading system

The Faculty uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). ECTS credits assess the workload of the courses, while ECTS letter grades signify the ranking of a student against her/his peers. As a Moroccan higher education institution, the FGSES includes in its transcripts grades corresponding to the Moroccan grading system, which uses a 20-point scale. 0-9: fail, 10-20=pass.

## Be aware

Study abroad students are expected to have completed at least one year of studies at their home institution and thus will be eligible to take any of the courses offered as long as they are in the fields of social and human sciences. If a student comes from a different field of study, he/she will be treated on a case by case bases to assess his/her ability to take a higher level course. International students must ensure that their chosen courses give them the credits required by their home institution.



# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

## All applicants must:

Be currently enrolled in an institution of higher education;

Have completed at least one year of study at the university level before coming to FGSES;

Be competent in French and/or English.

Knowledge of the Arabic language is not required in order to study at FGSES, however, international students are expected to study Arabic as part of their programme. International students whose language of instruction at their home university is Arabic are exempted from Arabic classes.

## Required documents

- 1 Completed application form;
- 2 Photocopy of passport;
- 3 Official transcript of records from the home institution;
- 4 Statement of purpose (the reason the student wants to study at FGSES, how the FGSES programme fits into his/her overall studies and life goals);
- 5 Letter of recommendation from a member of academic staff at the home institution.

## Deadlines:

For the autumn semester (September – February), the deadline is the 1st of May, and for the spring semester (February – June), the deadline is the 1st of November.

## Pre Arrival information

Choosing classes Exchange students have access to all the courses offered at the FGSES. They can enroll for one full academic year or for one semester.

## Proof of language

We do not require a proof of language proficiency certificate, but it is generally regarded that exchange students should have an equivalent of:

**French: 400/500 TCF; B2 DELF/C1 DALF;**

**English: 6.5 IELTS; 550 TOEFL (paper based).**

## Course choices

When applying, international students must submit a list of the courses they intend to take at the Faculty according to the number of credits they wish to obtain. In making their selection, students should take into account any prerequisites required: The teaching method (lectures, seminars, laboratory work and independent study); the method of assessment; and the timetable compatibility. We suggest that all the students choose alternative courses in case their first choices are not available.

## Visa procedure

Students don't need a Visa in order to enter Morocco for most nationalities. However, it is important to consult the Moroccan embassy in your country to ask about the need of visa and the procedure to follow. For those who enter Morocco without a visa, it is important to note that they cannot exceed 3 months. Therefore international students will need to apply for students residence permit while they are in Morocco.

## Health Insurance

All the international students must have a study abroad insurance which covers them in Morocco and they should bring a copy of the document to the Faculty. Besides this, students have to subscribe to insurances that cover them during their stay in Morocco. Those insurances are available to be purchased at the Faculty.

### RC Scolaire:

This insurance covers students in case of accidents or health problems that may occur inside the Faculty or during an internship. It costs about 30€ per year. This insurance is mandatory and students have to purchase it once they arrive to the Faculty.

### ISAAF Maroc:

This insurance covers students if they have any health problems wherever they are they can contact a doctor and an ambulance. This insurance is also mandatory and students have to purchase it once they arrive to the Faculty.

### Assurance Maladie:

It covers the costs of doctor visits and medication in Morocco. This insurance is required if the student is not affiliated with any such insurance.

For more information, please contact [exchange.fgses@um6p.ma](mailto:exchange.fgses@um6p.ma)

# STUDENT LIFE



## Currency change

It is recommended to students to make the currency change at the authorized bank either at the airport or upon their arrival in Rabat. Students must beforehand enquire about the foreign currencies convertible in Morocco.

## Pick up service

Students can easily find their way to Rabat thanks to the public transport service (Trains and buses) connecting all the big cities to the capital. The University doesn't provide a pick up service from and to the airports.

## Orientation programme

International students begin with some orientation sessions program in the beginning of each semester. The current Faculty's students will also be giving a talk to the newcomers on the Student Council and student organized activities. They will be on hand to introduce international students to life in and around Rabat, including where to find cafés, supermarkets and more information on the cultural aspects of the city.





## Student services

The FGSES teams is available to answer questions before the international students' arrival and they will be their point of contact in Morocco. Each student will also have a buddy to help them adapt to the FGSES teaching environment and with their academic coursework.

## Library :

The Faculty's library is specialized in humanities and Social Sciences, focusing on current issues and ideas that affect and make up present day political thinking. It has a large section concentrating on Arab, Mediterranean and African affairs, and although most of the collection is in French, about 20% of the publications are available in English and Arabic.

The collection can be broken down into two sections: Social Sciences: collections covering political sciences, contemporary history, international relations, geopolitics, economics, sociology and law;

Leadership and Management: collections covering the sciences of management.



## Eating

Located in the student district of the city of Rabat, you will have access to all restaurants and cafes, which serves sandwiches, salads, cooked dishes as well as a variety of pastries and desserts throughout the day. You can have a complete meal for a relatively cheap price (approximately 30 MAD). They can also buy the basic necessities in little supermarkets just a five-minute walk from the FGSES. There are all manner of restaurants all over Rabat, and it is short tram or taxi ride into the city centre to have a wider variety of choices in restaurants, cafés and shops.



## Housing

The FGSES can offer assistance:

In providing students rental agency services, and/or useful information about housing in Rabat;

By putting students in contact with each other when looking for flat mates prior to arrival;

In advising students having problems in their housing search, with their landlords or with roommates.

## Housing choices in Rabat

### **Bayt Al Maarifa Private Campus:**

It is an animated campus located near to the FGSES with students coming from different cities in Morocco and foreign students as well.

The fees are 3000 MAD deposit, 1000 MAD for file review and 4 months' rent in advance of 1996, 50 MAD per month for a single room or 1331 MAD for a double room.

Also note that there are certain rules and restrictions which are applied for students who decide to live at Bayt al Maarifa, like a curfew every day at 23h00.

To rent a room in Bayt Al Maarifa, some official documents are going to be demanded and these documents have to be legalized by the Moroccan administration. This may take time and you might not be able to move into the room upon your arrival in Rabat. Also note that you have to pay per month and it is not possible to leave in the middle of the month and pay just half a month. This is their website where students can apply online:

<http://www.baytalmaarifa.ma/>

The procedure is unusually long so we advise you to start it early.









## THE CITY OF RABAT

Rabat is the Moroccan capital and hosts the central administration as well as diplomatic representations and international institutions (UNDP/WHO, World Bank, European international Bank, EBRD, Council of Europe, IS-ESCO). It is also a quiet city and although it has a population of nearly 1 million (Rabat and neighbouring cities), it does not have the stressful hectic vibe of other Moroccan cities such as Casablanca or Marrakech. The city has a vibrant cultural life hosting some music festivals « Mawazine, rythmes du monde », « Jazz au Chellah »...) and regular cultural events (jazz sessions, week of the european cinema, theaters, expositions...). The Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social sciences hosts also public events on a regular basis such as books' presentations, conferences from renowned scholars as well as guest lecturers, scientific seminars or expositions. They come to give and participate in conferences and workshops; some international scholars are succumbed to the Faculty of Governance, Economics & Social Sciences for a specific period of time (up to three years); while some give short terms courses throughout the year.



# NOT TO MISS!

## Historical and cultural sites Kasbah des Oudayas:

This Kasbah was built during the reign of the Almohads (a Berber, Muslim dynasty) in 1150. There is an outdoor café that looks over the sea, where customers can drink mint tea and eat sugary treats. The staff is very friendly and customers can stay as long as they like soaking up the atmosphere. Medina: Rabat's vibrant Medina is colorful and full of characters. Visitors can buy everything from leather sandals to carpets to jewellery.



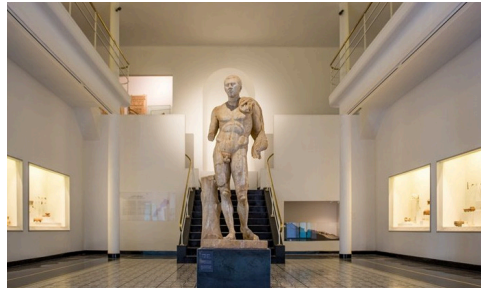
## Chellah necropolis:

Old city founded by Carthaginians, the Chellah was conquered by Romans before passing under Arab rule. It was eventually abandoned and is now home to an unbelievable numbers of birds. This breeding ground bubbles with bird life in spring. Look out for the stork nest on the top of the old minaret.



## National Archaeological Museum:

Built in 1932 and enlarged a few years later to display the finds resulting from intense archaeological excavation, it has housed the National Museum collections since 1986. It is one of the most sumptuous museums in Morocco and should certainly not be missed!







## La Tour Hassan:

The tower is the minaret of an incomplete mosque. Begun in 1195 AD, the tower was intended to be the largest minaret in the world. In 1199, Sultan Yacoub al-Mansour died and the construction of the mosque stopped. The tower is 44m high, about half of its intended 86m height.

## National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco:

Inaugurated in 2008, the National Library is meant to preserve national cultural heritage documents, to disseminate knowledge and to promote scientific research. This National edifice is endowed with various facilities using state-of-the-art technologies, such as a 300-seat auditorium, an exhibition gallery, a reading space, as well as an area devoted to manuscripts and rare books. Other spaces open to the public are devoted to magazines, posters, stamps, post cards, digital documents, microforms, and printed papers in addition to multimedia space.



## The Royal Palace:

It cannot be visited as it is still the home of the royal family. Sometimes however, the armed guards will allow tourists to walk around the inner grounds.



## The Hilton Park:



This green area is full of trees and plants, ideal for running or walking, but best avoided after dark.

## Mohammed V National Theatre:

This is one of the largest cultural institutions in Rabat. Many different events like music concerts & ballets are organized in the theatre often organized in collaboration with different European cultural institutes.



## Villa des Arts:

This is a cultural center for contemporary art referring to Moroccan culture and heritage.







## **CONTACT DETAILS AT THE FGSES**

**Incoming, outgoing mobility, partnerships**

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