

Rules of Procedure Essay Competition 40th Anniversary Public Administration

In celebration of Public Administration's 40th anniversary at Leiden University, the Institute of Public Administration organises an essay competition.

Procedure

- Submit your essay by October 30, 2024, to Yasmin Wijfjes, policy officer, via y.l.wijfjes@fgga.leidenuniv.nl.
- The jury will evaluate based on:
 - Originality and lively writing style,
 - Proper source citation,
 - Academic rigor.
- The winners will be announced during the Anniversary Day on Wednesday, November 27.

Jury

The jury consists of:

- Emeritus Prof. Dr. Frits van der Meer (jury chair),
- Dr. Petra van den Bekerom (Program Director BSc Public Administration),
- Eden Lutz (lecturer), and
- Mick de Kruijff (Chair of the B.I.L. study association).

Prizes

- The first prize winner will receive €350 and have their essay published in *Bestuurskundige Berichten*, the journal of the B.I.L. study association.
- The second prize winner will receive €125.
- The third prize winner will receive €75.

Rules

- Only Bachelor's and Master's students of the Institute of Public Administration with an active enrollment can participate.
- The essay must be written in Dutch or English.
- The word count should be between 2,000 and 3,000 words.
- The essay must be submitted in PDF format.
- The essay should be supported by theories, concepts, and research from the field of public administration.
- The use of GenAI is not allowed.

Possible topics

- Changing relations between political and administrative actors.
- Use of performance information and performance management in public administration: benefits and pitfalls.
- The impact of (de)centralisation on the functioning of municipalities and provinces.
- Trust in government (politicians and civil servants).

- The quality of public service: how the performance of civil servants can be improved.
- The (limited) space for civil servants to offer loyal dissent to politicians.
- Customization in public service delivery: how can public services better respond to individual needs?
- Democracy and the rule of law: at odds or mutually dependent?
- Integration of goals such as sustainability and climate adaptation in the practices of governments (e.g., provinces and regional water authorities).
- International governance and geopolitical developments: challenges and opportunities for Dutch public administration.
- Inclusivity and diversity in the public sector: policy and practice.
- Digitalization and AI: risks and opportunities for the government's relationship with its citizens.
- A critical reflection on the Public Administration program at Leiden University and its contribution to the improvement of public administration.
- Co-production and citizen participation in the development and implementation of government policy.
- The influence of representative bureaucracy on policy-making and service delivery.