

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS
& MANAGEMENT
HOGESCHOOL
UTRECHT



TOP CLASS AT FEM

AN EXTRA PROGRAMME CHOICE FOR EXTREMELY
TALENTED STUDENTS



TOP CLASS

A programme for ambitious FEM students



Are you performing far above average in your first year, and are your study goals just as ambitious?

HU's Faculty of Economics & Management rewards students who want to make something more of their Bachelor's degree. Beginning with the second year of study, a limited number of talented, ambitious students can participate in the Top Class, an addition to your study programme that sets you apart from other Bachelor's students and prepares you for a subsequent Master's programme.

Participation in Top Class means not only an extra challenge, but an extra effort as well. It is a more intensive extension of the standard Bachelor's programme. Within an inspiring group of students and instructors, you focus on professional skills, with extra attention to consultancy, research, and working internationally.

Top Class is designed for a select group of no more than 24 students who score above average on their first-year academic programme. Of course, for students wishing to participate in this programme, we do demand high standards of motivation and performance.

As a Top Class student, during the second, third and fourth programme years you are offered an extra programme of a total of 30-45 credits.

The programme is largely interdisciplinary. One aspect of the programme is that as a junior advisor you will take part in an external project under the supervision of one of our lecturers.

Successful participation in the Top Class programme means a distinction on your Bachelor's diploma, plus a letter of recommendation from the University Board of HU.

If Top Class sounds appealing to you, let the enthusiasm of the team and your predecessors convince you to go for the Top Class programme. It will mean a busy but ever-challenging academic career!

Ir. Jan Klingen

Manager, Innovation and
Business Knowledge Centre
Top Class Programme Manager



Drs. Gilbert Silviu, MBA

Lecturer
Top Class Project Leader



SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAMME

The Top Class programme is designed to promote the development of the more ambitious student into a leading professional in an increasingly knowledge-intensive, multidisciplinary and international work environment. The programme takes place in the second, third and fourth year of FEM's three bachelor's programmes.

In the programme, the student develops not only a professional advising and consultancy sense (via advising assignments in the regional business sector), but also a wider perspective, in part by pursuing part of the programme at a business school abroad and by functioning in multidisciplinary project groups. In the pre-Master's phase,* you will conduct applied research.

Selection, supervision and education are in the hands of the lecturer and the members of the knowledge circle. Students are coached in teams and individually. Specially appointed study career coaches meet with the students every two months to discuss progress.

Selection

Students are selected for the Top class programme at the start of their second year. If you complete your first year programme within one year with an average mark of 7 in each area of your programme, your programme advisor will schedule a meeting with you. In this meeting you will be invited to participate in the Top Class programme, based on your marks and your personal motivation. In preparation for this intake meeting, you will submit a portfolio of your academic career.

SPECIALISED INSTRUCTOR TEAM

The nature of the Top Class programme requires supervision by academically trained instructors with a wide body of experience in research and consulting. This is why selection, supervision and education are in the hands of instructors who are generally conducting their own research (doctoral research on consulting in the small and medium-sized business sector and business succession, etc.). Additionally, specific elements of this programme are given by selected professionals. Finally, the instructor team includes drs. Gilbert Silvijs, MBA, project leader of the Top Class programme.

WHY FEM TOP CLASS?

The Top Class programme is designed to increase the percentage of graduates who develop into leading professionals in Business Administration, Marketing & Commerce and Business Economics. After completing this programme, you will be better able to place your professional activities in the correct social and international context and to contribute to innovation in your field. These qualities must be expressed in publications and talks.

*** Pre-Master's**

Obtaining a Bachelor's degree in an HBO (higher professional education) programme entitles you to pursue a Master's programme. Students moving from an HBO Bachelor's programme to a university Master's programme will be required to complete a preparatory programme, or 'pre-Master's'. The content and scope of the pre-Master's programme can differ strongly between universities and between individual Master's programmes, and also depends on the content of the Bachelor's programme the student has completed. For more information, see the pre-Master's guide published annually by HU.

PROGRAMME

The Top Class programme consists of three programme components, 'Consulting and Research,' 'Study Abroad,' and 'Pre-Master's.' The three components are partially a supplement to the standard Bachelor's programme and partially a special form of the existing curriculum.

See the table included in this brochure.

- **Consulting and research**

In 'Consulting and Research,' you get involved in consulting and research projects of FEM lecturers. Along the way you develop broad consulting skills and become familiar with research methods. You become part of the lecturing staff's professional community.

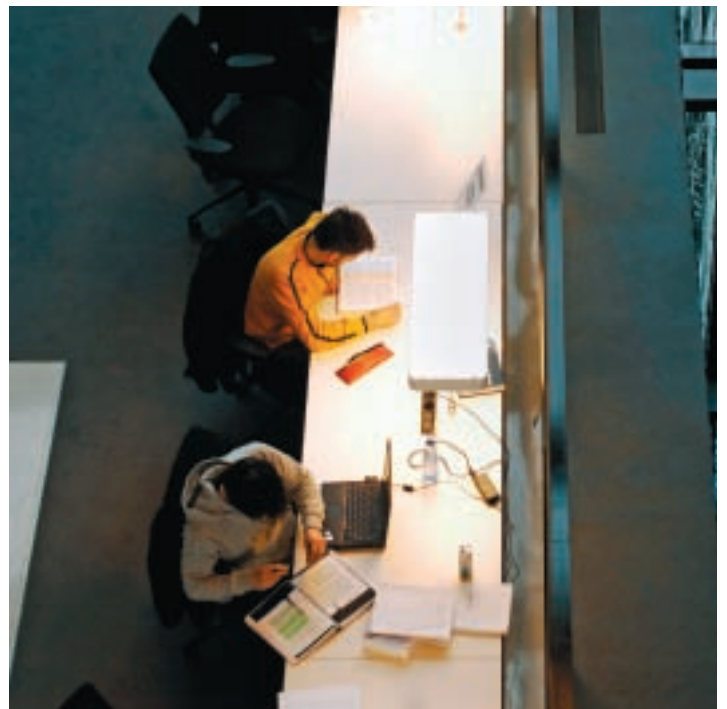
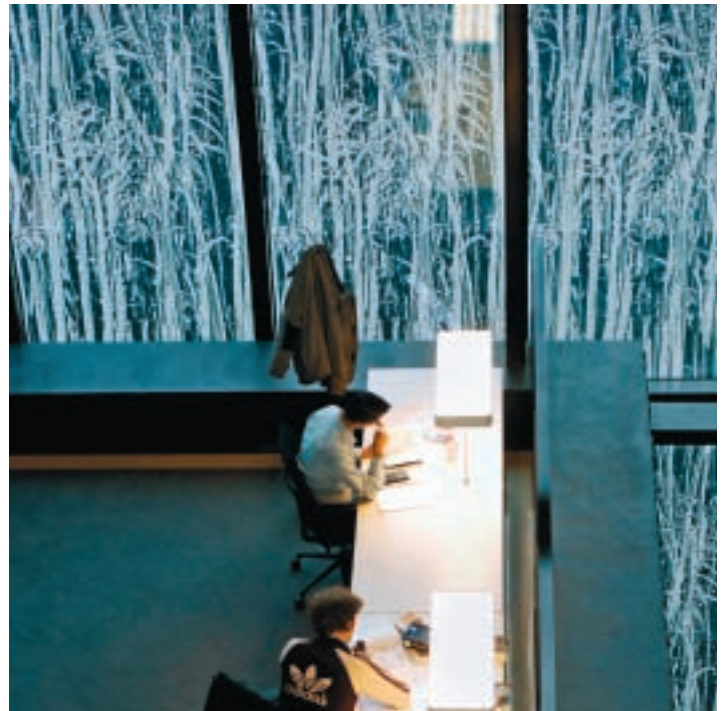
You pursue this component during the second and third years, alongside the standard study programme. In the second study year, you participate in an introductory programme in consulting skills on Tuesday afternoons and evenings, and in the fourth block you are appointed as junior advisor. In the third study year, you are trained in research skills and you get involved as a researcher in one of the lecturing staff's research lines.

- **Study abroad**

For six months, you will pursue your Bachelor's programme at a foreign university. This will allow you to place your future career in a broader international perspective. The FEM has contacts with leading business schools in the United States, Canada, England, China, Finland and elsewhere for this international component of the Top Class programme. Level, content and evaluation of the programmes to be followed at the business schools are continually coordinated with the programme you are missing 'at Utrecht' in that semester so that your study programme abroad matches as closely as possible the programme you are missing 'at Utrecht' that semester.

- **Pre-master**

You prepare to follow a university Master's programme, in part by following a depth Minor, and, as applicable, doing a pre-Master's project. This component gives you the option to design your own future development in following a Master's programme. Arrangements for the pre-Master's have been agreed with a number of Dutch universities, and these arrangements will be further detailed in the coming years. Both the depth minor* and the graduation can be part of or contribute to a pre-Master's programme at a given university.



- *** Depth minor**

Minor programmes can be breadth minors or depth minors. A 'breadth minor' is generally a subject that does not entirely relate to your major programme. The content of the 'depth minor' required here is an important part of the pre-Master's programme.

	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Year 4	Depth minor (30)		Pre-Master's supplement	
			Graduation (30)	
Year 3	Study abroad (30)		Research skills & project	
			(15)	(15)
Year 2	Intake	Introduction to Consultancy (15)		
	(15)	(15)	(15)	Consulting project (15)
Year 1	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)

Standard programme
 Top Class programme components

SCOPE AND COURSE LOAD

In the second and third years of the Bachelor's period, the Top Class programme means 30 ECTS (European Community Course Credit Transfer System) in additional credits. The potential extra credits in the fourth year depend on the pre-Master's programme the student follows.

Over the entire study period, the total in extra instructor-contact hours is over 300 hours and the total extra student contact hours is 100.

Additionally, as a Top Class group you are given ten study career days and 15 individual two-hour meetings with your study career coach.



ADVANTAGES

The Top Class programme has a great deal to offer:

- **better chances for the best jobs**
Through the contacts with companies and organisations while you study, you are also building up a network. Chances are, one of your customers will hire you soon after your graduation because he knows you and the way you work. You can benefit from this network your entire professional career.
- **member of an inspiring community of high potentials:**
You will be a part of a strongly motivated group of instructors and students, so that your study environment will be a more pleasant one in which your ambitions are acknowledged and shared.
- **intensive link between subject matter and consulting work:**
The involvement of the teaching staff allows you and your ambitious fellow students to gain useable work experience in an interdisciplinary arena. This gives you the skills essential to be a leader in your field.
- **reflection by peer reviews and master/apprentice relationship:**
You are put on a team as a junior consultant/researcher. This gives both you and the team the opportunity to intensively review the individual and group performance.
- **international orientation in your field:**
The half-year study abroad programme gives your Bachelor's degree the requisite international dimension.
- **gateway to the academic experience:**
The program is both a trial run through the academic world and an excellent preparation for a Master's programme at one of HU's academic partners.
- **profiling on the job market:**
Successful completion of the Top Class programme gives you a distinction on your Bachelor's degree, something that leading companies and recruitment & selection agencies take a keen interest in.

In short, this is all you need to know to want to find out more about how to get the most out of your Bachelor's studies!

Want to know more?

For more information about the Top Class programme, contact Alice van der Grein (alice.vandergrein@hu.nl, +31 30 2586465) or Teja de Groot (teja.degroot@hu.nl, +3130 2586403).

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