Africa has undergone significant transformation in the past decades and this is set to accelerate. Currently 65 percent of the continent’s population is below the age of 35. Projections indicate that the population will double in the next 30 years, with more than half of the people living in urbanised environments.

This young and dynamic population and growing demand for food, water, energy, land, infrastructure, health services, education, jobs, etc. can be powerful drivers of growth, but may also present severe social, economic and environmental threats. *The way in which Africa unfolds will greatly impact the course of the world’s shared future in the 21st century.*

Sustaining our technologically advanced, climate vulnerable and complex globalised world, requires a holistic and interdisciplinary approach. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasise the necessity of partnership and collaboration to create the ‘World We Want’.

Building on the SDGs the African Dynamics minor fosters a deeper understanding of integrated and sustainable development approaches in Africa. The courses offered by leading Africanists of the universities of Leiden, Delft and Rotterdam combine knowledge and expertise in diverse fields to depict Africa from different perspectives, with an emphasis on how Africans themselves view their continent and the world. The African Studies Centre Leiden research library functions as a hub of this knowledge.

To establish an understanding of what different academic fields have to offer, and why it is important to know and integrate specialisations, the African Dynamics minor students combine their knowledge from separate disciplines in addressing Africa’s challenges and strengthening the opportunities the continent presents. Innovative technologies and collaborative learning strategies are applied to stimulate the co-creation of knowledge during seminars, discussions, debates, and group workshops, as well as interactive webinars, excursions and a Small Private Online Course (SPOC), presented as a global classroom. To compare theoretical knowledge to African realities, the second block offers a three week African field study.
**Structure of the Minor**

The minor is presented in English for a maximum number of 36 students. Fusing expertise in the humanities, social and natural sciences and technology, the aim is to capacitise students from different disciplines to identify, track, and strengthen Africa’s role in the globalised world.

The minor serves as a pre-master for the master’s in African Studies at Leiden University. It consists out of a cohesive package of two courses in the first quarter of the first semester, for selected students from LU, TU Delft and EUR, and one course in the second quarter, for LU and TU Delft students who have successfully completed the two subjects in the first quarter.

The first quarter presents the theoretical underpinning of the study in two courses:

**Reading Africa** (5 ECs), an introduction to Africa’s rich history and traditions, socio-economic, geo-political, and other significant factors that shape contemporary Africa. Interactive seminars and activities are consecutively presented over a period of three weeks, after under the auspices of:

1. Leiden University (LU) African Studies Centre Prof. Marleen Dekker
2. Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) Department of Water Management Dr. Maurits Ertsen
3. Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) Rotterdam School of Management Prof. Rob van Tulder

**Exploring Africa** (10 ECs), studies African developmental complexities and opportunities from different perspectives. Following a flipped classroom online study to gain an understanding of the SDGs and their relevance in Africa, three separate modules are presented:

1. African Economies (EUR) addresses SDGs 8 – 10, 12 & 17.
3. Social Dynamics (LU) addresses SDGs 1-5 & 16

The second quarter is the practical component of the minor, and its only subject: **Collaboration Africa** (15 ECs) consists of three modules:

1. A Critical Engagement with Advancing the SDGs. A Small Private Online Course (SPOC) that aims to develop critical, transdisciplinary and innovative approaches to sustainable development. It is offered as a global classroom with guest participation by students from African universities that host the field studies.
2. Interdisciplinary Field Study. A three week field study to gain first-hand experience of working and conducting research in/on Africa. Students have a choice between joining delegations to a Moroccan, Kenyan, or South African host university. This module is self-funded, with costs ranging between 1,800 – 2,500 €. There are limited scholarships available, for which applications are encouraged and will be supported. Students who cannot or do not want to partake in the field study abroad, can complete a Netherlands based field study combining participation in the Africa Knows Conference with an academic report at the African Studies Centre in Leiden.
3. Building Networks. Webinars with think tanks, knowledge platforms, NGOs, and entrepreneurs, as well as day excursions to relevant ministries and organisations, to establish contact with institutions that inform Dutch-African relations.

A detailed outline, schedule and assessment strategy of each course is available for selected students on Brightspace.
Course Descriptions

1. Reading Africa (5 ECs)

A broad introduction to Africa’s rich history and traditions, socio-economic and geo-political factors, and other significant dynamics that shape contemporary Africa.

Upon successful completion students will have:

Acquired a foundational understanding of:

- Significant factors that shape societies and cultures in contemporary Africa;
- Dynamic characteristics and diversity of African countries and their people;
- Africa’s position and role in a globalised world and the socio-economic and geo-political issues at play;
- Methodological and ethical approaches to African studies.

Developed skills and competencies to:

- Critically search, structure and evaluate information about African countries;
- Consider relevant aspects in the analysis of complex questions;
- Communicate own secondary research data through multimedia sources;
- Reflect on how Africa’s past, present and future relate to own discipline.

Timetable
Week 36: LU Introduction & Perspectives
Week 37: EUR Introduction & Perspectives
Week 38: TUD Introduction & Perspectives

Course load
5 ECs x 28 hours = 140 hours
* Lecture contact hours: 50 hours
* Secondary research: 45 hours
* Assignment: 45 hours

Modes of instruction
Lectures & seminars
Campus visits

Assessment method and weights
Participation 20%
Pitch2Peer multi-media assignment 80%

2. Exploring Africa (10 ECs)

A multidisciplinary study of African developmental complexities and opportunities from different perspectives.

Three separate modules follow a flipped-classroom online study of the SDGs and their relevance in Africa, namely:

(1) African Economies (EUR)
(2) African Resources and Infrastructure (TU Delft)
(3) Social Dynamics (LU)

Upon successful completion students will have:

Acquired a foundational understanding of:
− The SDGs and their relevance to Africa;
− Socio-economic state of affairs and new paradigms in African context;
− Distinctive discourses on African resources and infrastructure;
− Current socio-developmental challenges and opportunities in Africa;
− Shared responsibility and the interlinkages between disciplines.

Developed skills and competencies to:
− Plan approaches that address the SDGs in an integrated and multidisciplinary way;
− Consider innovative approaches to address ‘wicked’ challenges;
− Interweave cross-cutting social and environmental issues in programmes and projects;
− Strengthen networks to partner and collaborate with stakeholders.

Timetable
Week 39: LU SDG Flipped Classroom
Week 40-41: EUR African Economies
Week 42-43: TUD African Resources & Infrastructure
Week 44-45: LU African Social Dynamics
Week 46: TUD Integration & Conference

Course load
10 ECs x 28 hours= 280 hours
* Lecture contact hours: 69 hours
* Self-study: 123 hours
* Preparation tutorials & flipped online: 22 hours
* Group assignment: 32 hours
* Individual essay: 24 hours
* Conference: 10 hours

Modes of instruction
Online self-study
Lectures & seminars
Conference

Assessment method and weights
Online SDG quiz: Pass
Module participation: 45%
Group project: 30%
Individual essay: 25%

3. Collaboration Africa (15 ECs)
This subject builds on knowledge accumulated in the first two courses in Block A. The goal is to strengthen African partnership networks, and develop sustainable project planning skills. The online learning environment forms an integral part of this course, which consists out of three modules, namely

(1) A Small Private Online Course (SPOC): A Critical Engagement with Advancing the SDGs
(2) An Interdisciplinary Field Study in Africa or the Netherlands
(3) Building Networks through webinars and excursions

Upon successful completion students will have:
Acquired a foundational understanding of:
− The significance of a systemic approach, participation, partnerships and adaptation strategies in sustainable interventions;
− Current sustainable development realities on the African continent;
− Strategies, policies and agreements that support NL-African collaboration;
− Various role-players who advance the achievement of the SDGs on the African continent.

Developed skills and competencies to:
− Source information online and learn independently;
− Apply themes introduced in the minor;
− Connect with the local communities and develop international networks;
− Build African focused strategic alliances and partnership networks.

### Timetable

**Week 47:** SPOC Systems Thinking  
**Week 48:** SPOC Participation  
**Week 49-51:** Field Study  
**Week 1:** SPOC Partnerships  
**Week 2:** SPOC Adaptation  
**Week 3:** Webinars & Excursions

### Course load

15 ECs x 28 hours = 420 hours

* Lecture contact hours: 16 hours  
* Online course: 148 hours  
* Field study: 160 hours  
* Webinars & excursions: 96 hours

### Modes of instruction

Group discussions  
Online facilitation & moderation  
Online learning & global collaboration

### Assessment method and weights

Webinars & excursions: 10%  
SPOC quiz & portfolio: 40%  
Field study report: 50%

### Links to LDE African Dynamics websites

- [African Studies Centre Leiden](#)  
- [Delft University of Technology](#)  
- [Erasmus University Rotterdam](#)  
- [LDE Alliance](#)
**Target Group**

If you are concerned about issues impacting on Africa, want to know more about emerging opportunities and sustainable growth and development approaches, interested in the continent’s rich socio-cultural traditions and diversity, or considering to pursue a career in Africa, this minor will provide you with a solid multidisciplinary foundation. You will be discovering African realities and dynamics together with students from different disciplinary background, and collaborate with student from African universities in the SPOC and during the field study in the second quarter.

We are looking for a diversity of interests and backgrounds, to strengthen the multidisciplinary collaboration. Whether you are completing a bachelor study in Archaeology, Architecture, Art, Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Geosciences, History, International Relations and Global Affairs, Languages, Law, Management, Medicine and Health, Natural Sciences, or Social Studies and Behavioural Sciences, you could be an ideal candidate for this minor.

**Application and Registration**

Only 36 students will be selected to participate in this minor in 2020. The admission requirements are:

- Third year enrolled students from LU, TU Delft and EUR.
- Proficiency in English reading, speaking and writing.
- Full-time commitment.

If you are interested to apply, you have to register through uSis (UL) or Osiris (TU Delft & EUR) and submit a letter of motivation NOT LATER than 15 April 2020 to minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl.

The letter of motivation must be between 500 to 600 words in English, describing your:

- background, field of study and future career plans;
- interest and experience with, or in Africa;
- personal learning goals and expectations from a multidisciplinary minor;
- willingness to embrace innovative learning technologies and develop online learning skills;
- commitment to a full time study during the semester from 31 Aug 2020 to 23 Oct 2020 (EUR students) and until 29 Jan 2021 (TU Delft and Leiden students).

Your application will be reviewed by the Selection Committee which includes a representative of each university. Besides the quality of your letter, we aim to select an equal number of participants from the three participating universities. If a lower number of students from one of the universities is selected, vacant places can be allocated to students from the other two or possibly outside universities. You will be notified by 23 April 2020 whether you are admitted into the LDE African Dynamics minor.

If you have been selected to enrol for the LDE Minor African Dynamics, beside an active enrolment at your home university you also need to register as a guest-student at the other participating LDE universities. Leiden University (LU), Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), and Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), will exchange the necessary registration information (your name, address, contact details, etc.), but you also need to take action. Interested students must follow these guidelines:
LU students:

1. Register your minor preferences in uSis between 1 and 15 April 2020 and submit a letter of motivation NOT LATER than 15 April 2020 to minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl
2. If accepted you will be notified by 23 April 2020 and thereafter you need to enrol:
   • as a minor-student at TU Delft through www.studielink.nl. Select the Minor Civil Engineering and follow the steps on the screen.
   • as a guest student at EUR. You will receive an email requesting you to upload a passport photo, without which you cannot be enrolled as a guest student at EUR.

Make sure you have an active registration as a Bachelor student for 2020-2021 at LU and enrolled at TU Delft and EUR before 31 August 2020!!

TU Delft students:

1. Register your minor preferences via Osiris between 1 and 15 April 2020 and submit a letter of motivation NOT LATER than 15 April 2020 to minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl
2. If accepted you will be notified by 23 April 2020 and thereafter you need to enrol:
   • as a guest student at LU. You will receive an email from LU with the request to activate your UCLN account. After activating this, you need to inform the Minor Education Coordinator: Madi Ditmars at minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl and you will be able to access Brightspace Leiden that will function as the electronic learning environment during the minor.
   • as a guest student at EUR. You will receive an email requesting you to upload a passport photo, without which you cannot be enrolled as a guest student at EUR.

Make sure you have an active registration as a Bachelor student for 2020-2021 at TU Delft and enrolled at LU and EUR before 31 August 2020!!

EUR students:

1. Register your minor preferences via Osiris between 1 and 15 April 2020 and submit a letter of motivation NOT LATER than 15 April 2020 to minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl
2. If accepted you will be notified by 23 April 2020 and thereafter you need to enrol:
   • as a guest student at LU. You will receive an email from LU with the request to activate your UCLN account. After activating this, you need to inform the Minor Education Coordinator: Madi Ditmars at minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl and you will be able to access Brightspace Leiden that will function as the electronic learning environment during the minor.
   • as a minor-student at TU Delft through www.studielink.nl. Select the Minor Civil Engineering and follow the steps on the screen.

Make sure you have an active registration as a Bachelor student for 2020-2021 at EUR and enrolled at LU and TU Delft before 31 August 2020!!

Take note: In general, EUR students can only take part in the first quarter (15 ECs) of the minor. If you are unsure please discuss this with your study coordinator.

Further Questions and Enquiries
Madi Ditmars minorafricandynamics@asc.leidenuniv.nl.