

English Course Program – Master of Arts Social Work in International an Intercultural Contexts

The English-language course program in the Master of Social Work in International and Intercultural Contexts is offered every year in the winter semester.

Course Overview

Courses	CP
Modules 4a + 4b: Social work in the international context	
4a) International social work	
4.1 International developments in the profession and scientific discipline	12 CP
4.2 International conditions of social development	
4.3 Country-specific conditions in social work	
4b) International law	
4.4 Legal and political developments in Europe	9 CP
4.5 Human rights, social rights and social work	
Module 5: Compulsory elective modules	
5.1 Languages (e.g. german intensive course)	3 CP
5.3 „Field studies“ abroad	3 CP
International master-seminar for incoming and outgoing students	
	3 CP
Total	30 CP

Course Descriptions

Modules 4a + 4b: Social work in the international context

4a) International social work

4.1 International developments in the profession and scientific discipline

Students engage in the in-depth and analytical study of theoretical and professional approaches to social work against the backdrop of international, national, and local developments. The objective is a critical appraisal and discursive further development of the most current theoretical and action-related approaches with reference to social developments and professional experiences.

4.2 International conditions of social development

Students acquire important competencies and skills to understand internationalization and global problems in a multidisciplinary way, to analyze their effects and consequences, and to develop solutions. This seminar focuses on current challenges and the approaches to solutions that are being discussed politically around the world. Topics include: Population development, wars, hunger, poverty, old and new diseases, child labor, educational imbalances, child soldiers, natural disasters. The seminar also introduces the different platforms for discussing and solving social, political and economic problems in order to understand, analyze and critically evaluate them in the context of social work.

4.3 Country-specific conditions in social work

Internationally, social work has very different historical backgrounds in individual welfare states and different countries, and in some cases, its frameworks are organized and structured very differently. Students are provided with basic theoretical knowledge of cross-national comparative social policy research and country-specific welfare cultures. They acquire competencies to analyze and understand current national and international developments and respective structural features of welfare state arrangements and social policy using selected countries as examples. In a synthesis and critical reflection of theory and empirical findings on individual welfare state arrangements, social interventions, and service cultures, students can also evaluate local "best practices" and process of "policy learning" and communicate them in the findings. Thus, they also acquire competencies to analyze selected projects and interventions in other countries and welfare regimes by way of example and can independently develop conclusions for social work in the Federal Republic of Germany. The processing of individual theoretical texts or the evaluation of international empirical studies requires the willingness to analyze texts and articles written in English.

Furthermore, students will learn basic principles of an emerging global social policy and international social work.

4b) International law

4.4 Legal and political developments in Europe

First, this module deals with the legal framework of social work on the levels of national and European law. The main focus is on current reform projects and discussions that will have an impact on the content of social work in the future. The module enables students to relate political developments at national and European level to legal principles. In the sense of comparative law, the different legal cultures with their respective understanding of (social) law are of particular importance. The aim is to use the abstract legal analyses to develop specialist strategies for dealing with concrete problems. Second, students analyze developments at the European level and in EU law with regard to their impact on social work and relate them to individual life situations.

4.5 Human rights, social rights and social work

Based on the approach of social work as a human rights profession, students first acquire basic knowledge of human rights at the European and international level, especially with regard to the different possibilities of the legal enforceability of human rights. At the same time, this enables students to recognize different legal cultures and points of view in the context of human rights. This provides students with the opportunity of learning about implementation processes and thus modes of action of human rights at the national level and thus acquire knowledge about how human rights can affect social work.

Module 5: Compulsory elective modules

5.1 Languages

With this course offering, students are to improve at least one foreign language (usually English) in order to be able to engage in professional exchange, also in the context of conferences, research projects, in the context of international exchange or also when attending international conferences and congresses. During their studies, students are given the opportunity to improve their knowledge of English, in particular, to the level "B2" of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages by the time they register for their Master's thesis. It is also possible to apply for the recognition of external seminars/language courses corresponding to the "Master" level.

In addition, two German language courses will be offered for the "incoming master-students": One language course will be an intensive language course (3 CP) before the start of lectures. The second course (3 CP) is offered during the semester.

5.3 „Field studies“ abroad

Students (in a group of maximum 15) acquire skills and competencies in preparing, organizing and conducting "field-studies" abroad. Based on the basic knowledge of the framework conditions as well as of the welfare-state and -cultural structural characteristics of social work in a selected country (e.g., Sweden, Turkey, Finland...) initially acquired via literature and in the seminars of modules 4a and 4b, this knowledge will be deepened in the course of study visits to social institutions and partner universities of the respective country. Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version) In terms of research methodology, the field studies will include, in particular, interviews with experts, group discussions, and surveys of passersby. Students also acquire practical experience, knowledge and skills in documenting the results of field studies, using a wide variety of media (reports, film documentation, etc.).

International master-seminar for incoming and outgoing students

In this seminar, incomings and outgoings are connected with each other in order to make sure that there is personal support and supervision during the semester abroad. In addition, international topics are discussed.