



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Programme description for
Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in
Social Work with specialization in Families
and Children

Second Cycle

1. Confirmation

The programme description for the Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Social Work with specialization in Families and Children, 120 higher education credits, was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg on 2013-06-05 to apply from the autumn term 2013.

2. Learning outcomes

After completing the study programme the students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- understand and critically review the contribution of different social and human sciences to children and family social work and social policy theory, research and practice. All modules will contribute to this outcome
- critically understand social work intervention with vulnerable children and marginalized families within the framework of local community, national and cross national contexts. This outcome will be provided by all modules. However, the Placement module and field work throughout the 2 years masters course will be main contributions.
- understand and reflexively make use of social work theory and practice in the framework of human rights and children's rights related to vulnerable children and families in different national and international contexts. All modules will contribute to this.
- analyze the established local system of dealing with marginalized families and children issues and the role of the different organizations involved.
- understand and reflexively review and apply the adequate research and intervention methods within local and global contexts. The Dissertation and the Research Seminar, together with the modules on social work and social research methods will lead to this outcome.

Skills and Abilities

- display a high standard professional capacity and responsibility
- critically analyze social work and social policy perspectives on vulnerable children and families
- critically analyze local and international practice on children and family social work and social policy issues
- obtain the ability to reflect on the relation between academic study and professional experience and develop learning processes taking advantage of this link
- demonstrate capacity for critical analysis and assessment of comparative data both at local and cross-country level
- identification, selection and application of different and appropriate methods within child and family protection

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- elaboration and design of participatory strategies in social work with children and marginalized families
- selection and use of strength-based strategies in child protection
- identification, selection and application of different and appropriate research and intervention methods on the domain of social work with vulnerable children and families and social policy.
- design and writing of technical and research reports according to different target audiences
- selection and use of case studies at local and global level
- preparation and development of research projects with minimum support and guidance
- elaboration and design of policy recommendations and proposals adapted to known problems on family issues
- make use of a systematic evidence-based reflection on a proper and professional way, carefully formulating judgments about ethical issues

Judgement and Approach

- capacity to reflect on and take decisions about their own professional and personal pathways.
- to be culturally and emotionally sensitive to the family and children issues with which they work.

Other

- create, organize and present professional social work knowledge, skills and arguments
- define strategies for social inclusion
- capacity-orientation in problem-solving and preventive missions
- networking strategies for cooperation with civil society resources
- collect, organize and analyze different kind of information and data
- capacity of communicate research findings and other work and observation results
- process scientific evidence to inform the public, participate in political dialogue and stimulate a broad and productive debate on current and alternative approaches to children's and marginalized families situation
- capacity of working in teams applying democratic decision-making processes
- sensitivity and adaptability to different kind of environment contexts and specific situations
- capacity of dealing with time pressure and understanding of available resources

3. Disposition

The Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Social Work with specialization in Families and Children of 120 higher education credits is jointly developed by University Institute of Lisbon, University of Gothenburg, University of Stavanger and Makerere

University – the four partners in the consortium. They are also assisted by involved associate partners from India, Brazil, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and Bulgaria. The first three partners have experience from running a one year joint programme in the same field.

The first semester of the master programme is given at the University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, the second at Stavanger University, Norway, and the third is given at the university of Gothenburg. The final semester, the students will be divided between the three universities and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

First year:

The first year of the master programme consists of nine modules, of which seven are shorter modules during the autumn semester. Four of these are statutory: *Sociology of the family, Families and Migration, Family Law and Family Social Work Placement*. The three other modules are optional. The students will choose two of three optional modules, according to their own academic background. The modules are: *Social Policy, Social Research Methodology and Social Work Methodology*. The spring semester consists of two modules: *Children, Youth and Participation* (including five higher education credits field placement), followed by *Welfare State and Welfare Policy* (including two higher education credits field visits). Both modules are statutory.

Second year:

The first semester the second year is composed by two statutory modules: *Children in Adverse Life Situations: Social Work with Children at Risk and Their Families*, followed by *Research Theories and Methods*. The fourth semester is devoted to scientific work: *Degree Report*.

4. Contents

The programme will present innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to social work with families and vulnerable children and explore the potential benefits and challenges of adopting democratic principles and empowering methods in social work theories and practice in the areas of social policy, family welfare and child protection. The programme enables students to work effectively with families and children in a changing global context and prepares students for careers in social work and social policy with governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations and private practice. All modules will confront students to new perspectives and ways of perceiving family and children's issues beyond personal judgments and experiences.

Programme structure

	Autumn term (ISCTE-IUL)		Spring term (UiS)	
	Code	Title	Code	Title
YEAR ONE	00801	Sociology of the Family	MSO 190	Children, Youth and Participation
	00833	Families and Migration	MSO 121	Welfare State and Welfare Policy
	7046	Family Law		
	M8056	Social Policy		
	00804	Family Social Work Placement		
	00803	Social Research Methodology		
	00802	Social Work Methodology		

	Autumn term (UGOT)		Spring term (ISCTE-IUL, UiS, UGOT, MU)	
	Code	Title	Code	Title
YEAR TWO	SW2231	Children in Adverse Life Situations: Social Work with Children at Risk and Their Families	SW2579-PT00805	Degree Report
	SW2373	Research Theories and Methods		

5. Courses

For information about the courses see Annex 6.

6. Prerequisites

To be admitted to the programme the following is required:

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or equivalent qualifications in a related field
- The final grade must be a minimum of C+ or equivalent and proven by certificates. Preliminary transcripts are acceptable when applying, but the final degree certificate is required before the start of the programme.
- Applicants who do not have English as their first language or do not have English as a medium of instruction on undergraduate level have to demonstrate proficiency in English by the application deadline. Acceptable tests of English language competence are:

Test	Validity	Minimum required score
TOEFL-PBT (paper-based)	2 years	570
TOEFL-CBT (computer-based)	2 years	230
TOEFL – iBT (Internet-based)	2 years	88
IELTS (International English Language Test)	2 years	6.5
APIEL (Advanced Placement International English Language)	2 years	3.0
MELAB (Michigan English Language Assessment Battery)	2 years	85
Cambridge Proficiency Examination	5 years	C
Cambridge Advanced English Test	5 years	B

Preference will be given to applicants who can document knowledge of Family Social Work and empirical methods. Modules completed at the undergraduate level, papers, essays and examination results are considered valid documentation. Additionally, preference will be given to qualified applicants who have relevant professional experience.

7. Degree

Upon completion of the programme, the students will be awarded a double degree whereof one degree is issued by Lisbon University Institute and the second by one of the other universities in the consortium. The consortium aims for a joint degree. The degree will have the denomination *Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Social Work with specialization in Families and Children.*

8. Additional information

The medium of instruction is English.

Students have the right to require their examination results in accordance with the ECTS grading scale.

The students will be given the possibility to evaluate both the programme as a whole as well as the courses included. The results from the evaluation will be communicated to the students and presented to the Programme Board established by the consortium, so that the results are part of the overall quality assurance process of the master programme as a whole as well as to guide the review and development of the individual courses.