Master in Social Sciences and Educational Sciences

Master académique

Concept

Education’s importance for individual life chances and societal development continues to rise worldwide. Changes in schooling, vocational training and higher education as well as informal, inclusive and lifelong learning emphasize this growing significance. Thus, this international, multidisciplinary, research-based Master addresses topics at the nexus of education and society and key challenges facing contemporary societies and welfare states. English-language-based, the programme distinctively unites:

- social scientific analysis of education, social systems and policies
- analyses at local, national, European, and global levels
- historical, cultural, political, educational and sociological perspectives
- provides the academic foundations needed for advanced-level research and the professional tools required for careers in expanding education and science systems.

Programme

The two-year full-time study programme (120 ECTS) focuses on the analysis of changes in ideas, institutions and organizations caused by social, economic and political integration and comparisons of the development of educational and social policies across time and space.

Particular emphasis is on Luxembourg, its neighbouring countries and Europe within the context of internationalization. Innovatively, the approaches and methodologies of a variety of academic disciplines, including educational science, history and sociology, are jointly utilized in analysis and problem solving.

Seminars are taught in English, but credits will also be given for German and French language courses. Mentoring by internationally known scholars in the social and educational sciences is paired with opportunities to contribute to cutting-edge research projects at the university and affiliated research institutes.

Advantages

- teaching and mentoring by distinguished scholars in educational theory, history of education and sociology of education
- an international, multicultural learning environment
- proximity to European Union institutions
- low tuition fees (€200/semester) for all applicants accepted into the programme
- multiple career paths
Learning Goals

As a student in the programme, you will

- acquire critical understandings of and review research related to fields of study in the social and educational sciences;
- follow and engage in debates on changing societies;
- acquire and expand your knowledge of social inequalities and welfare state regimes;
- compare, critique and plan reforms of education and social service systems;
- design, develop, and conduct empirical research using quantitative, qualitative, historical or mixed methods;
- acquire expertise in academic fields of study (social sciences, education, social and education policy); and
- engage in developing policies and programmes on local, national and international levels.

In discussion-rich seminars, you will explore developments and challenges, from global to local, as you learn to make sense of cultural, socio-economic and political characteristics of educational and social welfare systems and wider societal contexts.

Research Links & Faculty

Within the Faculty, students have opportunities to contribute to ongoing research projects and collaborate with professors and researchers. Centred in the Institute of Education & Society (InES), the programme provides links to all three research units in the Faculty: Education, Culture, Cognition and Society (ECCS), Integrative Research Unit on Social and Individual Development (INSIDE), and Identités, Politiques, Sociétés, Espaces (IPSE). Professional partnerships within Luxembourg include research centres such as CEPS/INSTEAD and the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) as well as an array of (non-)governmental organisations. Internationally, academic collaborations and exchanges exist with universities in the United States (Stanford University, University of Wisconsin–Madison), Canada (University of British Columbia at Vancouver), Switzerland (University of Bern) and Germany (University of Mannheim, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung), among others.

Career Opportunities

Students will be prepared to either continue their academic career in the University of Luxembourg’s doctoral programmes or transition to a wide variety of national or international organisations, governments, foundations or associations throughout Europe and beyond.

Admission

- Applicants must hold a Bachelor’s degree or equivalent (180 ECTS) in an educational or social science (or multiple disciplines) and have a strong interest in theoretical perspectives and excellent methodological skills.

- Because courses are taught in English, advanced command of English (both written and oral) is required. Competence in German and/or French is considered beneficial for students on the University’s multilingual campus.

- Admission is limited to 25 students per cohort. Selection is based on the application, language skills, and a personal interview.

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