



K 066/929

Curriculum

Joint Master's Degree Programme

Comparative Social Policy and Welfare

In English, organised jointly with

Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

University of Tampere (Finland)

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§ 1 Aims and Profile of Qualifications

(1) The Joint Master's Degree Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare has been designed to supplement students' academic credentials and enhance professional career prospects as highly qualified analysts and applied researchers within national, European or international social policy organizations in the areas of welfare management and social policy development, enabling graduates to apply acquired skills in evaluating social programmes. Students will have an opportunity to acquire expertise in an academic environment designed to encourage challenging ideas as well as promote critical and creative thinking on contemporary welfare issues and social policies currently in place in different European countries. Specialists and experienced professionals who wish to continue academic studies can strengthen and update their professional expertise in this area.

(2) Programme Objectives:

Educational objectives in the field of social science studies include, but are not limited to:

1. A capacity to understand the European dimension of social policy and welfare.
2. An ability to engage in open and critical examination comparing fields of social policy and welfare.
3. Expertise in understanding theories of social policy and welfare.
4. Acquiring knowledge and understanding how to successfully apply and conduct research in fields of social policy and welfare in countries with different welfare systems.
5. Knowledge and understanding methodology and sociological research methods.
6. Knowledge and understanding of comparative and interdisciplinary welfare and social policy research and social data research.
7. Intercultural competence skills.
8. The ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing in order to develop, complete and defend academic and scientific papers and participate in lectures.
9. The ability to meet various professional demands in the fields of social policy, welfare, social and welfare statistics, social security systems, labour policy, poverty, gender studies, etc.
10. To support academic mobility and job opportunities for social policy experts in Europe throughout the programme. An additional value, the programme supports heightened proficiency in English.

(3) Professional fields and programme relevance for the labour market and additional academic study

Potential career opportunities: social science oriented professions; social research and analysis, NGO and NPO sector; public sector; European and international institutions; publishing; cultural sector; international co-operation; and preparation for further graduate study.

(4) Concept for the Joint Master's programme:

The curriculum for the Master's programme was designed mutually by three partner universities: Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), Johannes Kepler University Linz (Austria) and the University of Tampere (Finland). The programme development of the Joint Master was financed by the European Union.

§ 2 Admission

(1) In compliance with § 54 para. 1 of the Universities Act the Joint Master Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare is part of the area of Social Sciences.

(2) The designation partner university refers to each university participating in the Joint Master Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare: University of Tampere, Mykolas Romeris University and Johannes Kepler University Linz. The designation home university refers to each student's home university where the student was first enrolled. Admission to the Joint Master Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare requires admission to studies at all three partner universities.

(3) The successful Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Social Economics offered at the Johannes Kepler University Linz gives - with regard to the content - pre-conditions for the admission to the Joint Master Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare.

(4) In addition, admission requirements to the Master's degree programme include the successful completion of a Bachelor's degree programme in Social Policy, Social Work, Political Science or an equivalent degree in Social Sciences (Bachelor or Master's degree or Diplomstudium). In this case, academic knowledge at a Bachelor's degree level in the area of social policy/welfare and qualitative/quantitative methods is required.

(5) Applicants who fulfil the admission requirements may apply for the Joint Master's Programme of Comparative Social Policy and Welfare at one of the partner universities. Admission is based on the applicants' educational background and solid proficiency in English. Applicants must submit a score from one of the following tests: TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System).

(6) As the admission procedure is organised jointly with each partner university, the number of university spots is restricted and each university applies admission criteria correspondingly. Admission requirements are stated in the joint agreement. Students will be asked to submit the following: completed application form, letter of motivation, current curriculum vitae, certification in the original and translated into German or English, TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) scores, recent passport-size photo and photocopy of the passport ID page.

(7) Registration and tuition fees will be regulated and charged by the students' home university. Students from the partner universities enrolled in the programme are required to pay the Austrian Student Union fee at the Johannes Kepler University Linz.

§ 3 Structure

(1) The Master's programme comprises 120 ECTS credits and corresponds to a period of study of at least four semesters, or two years, in compliance with the corresponding regulations determined by governing partner institutions.

Notation

Mandatory Subjects / Modules	71 ECTS
Master's Thesis	30 ECTS
Master's Thesis Course	10 ECTS
Internship / Practicum	9 ECTS
Total	120 ECTS

(2) Recommended course schedule to complete the programme

Division of ECTS	1 st semester		2 nd semester		3 rd semester		4 th semester	
	Course	ECTS	Course	ECTS	Course	ECTS	Course	ECTS
MRU 22 ESTS	SP1	4	SP2	5	S*	1		
	NS1	5	Rx***	4				
	I1**	3						
UTA 32 ECTS	M1	4	M2	6	S*	2		
	NS3	5	M3	6				
	I1**	3	Rx	4				
JKU 23 ECTS	T1	4	T2	5	S*	2		
	NS2	5						
	I1**	3						
Practicum 9 ECTS					P1+P2	9		
Master's thesis 40 ECTS					MTs	10	MT	30
		30		30		30		30

§ 4 Mandatory Subjects/Modules

(1) The curriculum in compliance with mandatory subjects:

Code	Subject	ECTS
929SPWFINT10	Introduction to Master's Studies	3
929WRSP10	European Welfare Regimes and Comparative Social Policy	18
929NTWW10	National Systems of Work and Welfare	15
929SPWFSWSP10	Synthesis of Welfare Regimes and Comparative Social Policy (incl. Case studies)	5
929RASP10	Research Areas of Social Policy: Comparative Analysis	12
929ERMM10	Empirical Research Methodology and Methods	18
929PRAC10	Practicum	9

(2) Practicum / Internship: Each student is required to complete an internship / practicum at an EU institution or (European) NGO / NPO or another organisation which is engaged in fields related to the Joint Master programme. In accordance with the programme and upon approval by the university, the student may complete his/her practical training at a working organization of his/her choice. The university

can provide a list of possible organisations to apply to in order to fulfill the internship / practicum requirement.

§ 5 Lectures

(1) Formal Programme: The Joint Master's Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare has been designed in accordance with the corresponding regulations governing partner institutions. Regulations of each partner university apply to the joint degree programme. The programme curriculum comprises lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical courses (synthesis), practicum / internship and other forms of courses as stipulated by the corresponding regulations governing partner institutions.

(2) Methods of Education: The online learning environment will be "Moodle". Each university uses its own Moodle platform. In addition to distance learning classes, the partner universities will jointly prepare intensive programmes each semester which will take place at one of the partner universities.

§ 6 Master's Thesis

(1) Students are required to select a thesis supervisor, officially submit a Master's thesis topic and submit a Master's thesis to the home university. Students may opt to complete a thesis under the supervision of a second advisor from a partner university.

(2) Students may opt to select one of the following areas for the Master's thesis: European Welfare Regimes and Comparative Social Policy, National Systems of Work and Welfare, Research Areas of Social Policy: Comparative Analysis. In compliance with the content of the Joint Master's programme, the topic should include a comparative perspective and focus on a field in welfare and social policy. In consultation with a thesis supervisor, students are advised to select a Master's thesis topic by the end of the second semester.

(3) The Master's thesis is worth 40 ECTS credits (30 ECTS credits for the Master's thesis and 10 ECTS credits for the Master's thesis course).

(4) The Master's thesis will affirm that the student has acquired the ability to work independently and to address scientific questions and issues. The thesis reflects the student's capacity to conduct independent study and research.

§ 7 Examination Regulations

(1) Learning Agreement In order to facilitate the programme's learning objectives and guarantee an efficient academic process, universities may opt to implement a Personal Study Plan. A Personal Study Plan must be signed by both the student and the responsible advisor for the Master's programme and will be in effect for the

duration of studies. The student can make approved changes in the proposed learning agreement. The Personal Study Plan serves mainly as a tool for the student to plan and organize his/her programme of study. The detailed distribution of credits for each university is depicted in Annex 2.

(2) Examination Methods: Academic achievement will be determined by numerous methods which include written and oral examinations submitted in accordance with corresponding stipulations governing partner institutions. The criteria are available in the "Student Handbook". The rules for course and module examinations as well as standard examinations for lectures are outlined in the "Student Handbook". Courses/modules, lectures and examinations offered by each partner university will be regulated in accordance to each university's regulations.

(3) Master's Degree Examination: The Master's degree programme will be determined as successfully completed after all required subjects, including the Master's thesis course and the Master's thesis, have been successfully passed.

(4) Grading: The national grading system, in accordance with the international grading system, will be used to assess and evaluate the academic work completed and submitted by students (transcription enclosed; Annex 1).

§ 8 Academic Degree

(1) Students enrolled in the Master's degree programme will be awarded the following academic title upon completion of the Master's degree programme from the students' home university.

(2) The academic degree awarded by each partner university is as follows:

Lithuania	Master of Sociology
Finland	Master of Social Sciences
Austria	Master of Social Sciences (MSSc or MSSc (JKU))

(3) Students will be awarded a Master's degree (certificate/diploma) and a diploma supplement by his or her home university in compliance with corresponding national legislation in effect at that university. In addition, students will receive a Joint Degree diploma issued by each university. This document will contain the names of each partner university and will be signed by each university. The document will indicate that the degree was issued in compliance with the completion of a Joint Master's degree programme offered at each university.

§ 9 Implementation

The curriculum will come into force at 1st of October 2010; the change in § 8 will come into force at 1st of October 2011.

§ 10 Transitional Regulations

The present curriculum of the Joint Master's Programme of Comparative Social Policy and Welfare replaces the curriculum which came into effect at 1st of September 2008. The present curriculum is valid for students beginning their studies in winter term 2010.

Annex 1: Grading Scheme

ECTS Grade	Definition (D)	Definition (E)	Equivalent		
			Lithuania	Finland	Austria
A	Ausgezeichnete Leistungen und nur wenige unbedeutende Fehler	Outstanding performance with only minor errors	10	5	(1) Sehr Gut
B	Überdurchschnittliche Leistungen, aber einige Fehler	Above the average standard but with some errors	9	4	(2) Gut
C	Insgesamt gute und solide Arbeit, jedoch mit einigen grundlegenden Fehlern	Generally sound work with a number of notable errors	7,8	3	(3) Befriedigend
D	Mittelmäßig, jedoch deutliche Mängel	Fair but with significant shortcomings	6	2	(4) Genügend
E	Die gezeigten Leistungen entsprechen den Mindestanforderungen	Performance meets the minimum criteria	5	1	(4) Genügend
F	Es sind erhebliche Verbesserungen erforderlich	Considerable further work is required	1-4	hylätty	(5) Nicht Genügend

Annex 2: Contribution to the programme

Title of the Course		ECTS	Offered by
1.	Introduction to Master's Degree Studies	3	
1	Introduction to scientific work and writing	3	Each university
2.	European Welfare and Comparative Social Policy	18	Joint

T1	Theories of Welfare States: basic (book examination**)	4	JKU
T2	Theories of Welfare States: extension	5	JKU
SP1	Comparative European Social Policy: basic (Book Examination)	4	MRU
SP2	Comparative European social policy: extension	5	MRU
3	National Systems of Work and Welfare	15	Joint
NS1 a	Case studies: East European model: Lithuanian system of work and social security	5	MRU
NS1 b	Case studies: Continental model: Austrian system of work and social security	5	JKU
NS1 c	Case studies: Nordic Model: Nordic Welfare Societies	5	UTA
4.S1	Synthesis of welfare regimes and comparative social policy including case studies	5	Joint
5.	Research areas of social policy: comparative analysis*	12	Joint
R1	Social demography	4	MRU
R2	Family policy	4	MRU
R3	History of social idea and social reform	4	JKU
R4	Gender and social policy	4	JKU
R5	Social policy and economy	4	UTA
R6	Work, employment and welfare	4	UTA
6.	Empirical research methodology and methods	18	
M1	Methodology of social research (book examination)	4	UTA
M2	Quantitative Research Methods	6	UTA
M3	Qualitative Research Methods	6	UTA
M4	European social science data archive	2	UTA
7.	Practicum / Internship	9	
P1	Practicum: Pre- and Post-Seminar	2	Each university
P2	Practicum / Internship	7	Each university
8.	Master's Thesis	40	
MTs	Master's Thesis Seminar	10	Each university
MT	Master's Thesis	30	
	Sum ECTS :	120	

* 3 areas to be selected by student out of 6

** practical arrangement & supervision of the exams is organised

MRU = Mykolas Romeris University, UTA = University of Tampere