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Module Handbook

Master of Public Policy and Social Change

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FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Institute of Political Science & Institute of Sociology

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1. Objectives of the Programme

Understanding the complexity of public policy in a fast-changing world is becoming ever more important for policymakers and analysts. The Master of Public Policy and Social Change (MPPSC) provides a first-class international Master's programme focusing on the analysis of public policies in the light of social changes and societal challenges. It offers BA graduates of political science, sociology and related social-science disciplines a consecutive Master's programme. The programme provides students with knowledge of the relevant sociological and political science theories and methodological skills enabling them to analyse and critically assess policies and social change. A core element of the programme will be its international comparative focus. Students will be able to critically assess the performance of countries and effectiveness of policies in dealing with social change and societal and economic challenges. The guiding principles of the course are research excellence, societal relevance, and ethical responsibility.

To enable students to conduct international comparative analyses, the programme will provide students with advanced skills in qualitative and quantitative methods. In applied seminars, students will be acquainted with the theoretical and analytical skills to interpret empirical findings and communicate them to decision makers. At its core, the Master of Public Policy and Social Changes is based on three pillars: a) (comparative) public policy analysis; b) the analysis of social structures and social change; and c) advanced methods.

In addition to the core obligatory courses within the three pillars, students can choose from various specialisation courses in comparative public policy and the analysis of social inequalities and the effectiveness of interventions. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to choose from interdisciplinary electives from a wide range of subjects in (a) political science (for instance, comparative politics, ethics and sustainability), (b) sociology (for instance urban sociology, and sociology of migration) and (c) other disciplines and subjects, such as economics and languages.

The programme trains highly-motivated international students in analysing processes of social change in European societies and the public policies to meet challenges at the national, regional and global level. The MPPSC will enable graduates to become the policy analysts of tomorrow, for a world better governed. Graduates of the MPPSC will be able to assess the outcomes of existing national and supra-national public policies and develop evidence-based policy instruments needed to address future challenges. They will be able to select and apply the most appropriate methods, frameworks and tools for social and policy analysis.

Entry requirements for this Master's course are: a) a bachelor degree in political science, sociology, economics or related social science discipline (GPA: 2.0 based on the German grading system or equivalent); b) students will have a basic knowledge of empirical social research and statistics; and c) students will be proficient in English (level B2/C1 or equivalent).

Mobility options: Students planning to include an exchange semester in their studies are required to seek guidance from the Programme Lead of the MPPSC.

2. Curriculum

2.1 Overview by Modules

Module Code	Obligatory / Elective	Module Title	Recommended Semester	CP
M1	Obligatory	Public Policy	1-2	12
M2	Obligatory	Social Stratification and Change	1-2	12
M3	Obligatory	Methodological Foundations and Reflections	1	11
M4	Obligatory	Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics	1-2	15
M5	Obligatory	Quantitative Research Methods	2-3	18
M6	Obligatory	Interdisciplinary Electives	1-3	12
M7	Obligatory	Specialisation Electives	2-3	12
M8	Obligatory	Thesis Module	4	28

2.2 Overview by Study Progress

Sem.	M1 Public Policy	M2 Social Stratification and Change	M3 Methodological Foundations and Reflections	M4 Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics	M5 Quantitative Research Methods	M6 Interdisciplinary Electives	M7 Specialisation Electives	M8 Thesis Module	Σ CP	Σ SWS	
1.	Introduction to Public Policy (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Social Inequalities in Comparative Perspective (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Theories & Methods of Comparative Politics (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics I (6 CP, 2 SWS)					29	10	
Analytical Foundations of Social Research Methods (5 CP, 2 SWS)											
2.	Social Policy in Europe (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Social Change and Public Policies (6 CP, 2 SWS)		Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics II (9 CP, 2 SWS)	Quantitative Methods I (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Tutorial (3 CP, 2 SWS)			30	10	
3.					Quantitative Methods II (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Tutorial (3 CP, 2 SWS)	Interdisciplinary Elective I (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Specialisation Elective I (6 CP, 2 SWS)	33	12	
						Interdisciplinary Elective II (6 CP, 2 SWS)	Specialisation Elective II (6 CP, 2 SWS)				
4.								Colloquium and Master's Thesis (28 CP, 2 SWS)	28	2	
Σ CP	12 CP (4 SWS)	12 CP (4 SWS)	11 CP (4 SWS)	15 CP (4 SWS)	18 CP (8 SWS)		12 CP (4 SWS)	12 CP (4 SWS)	28 CP (2 SWS)	120	34

Key	
Grading:	g = graded; ug = ungraded (pass/fail) ne = no module examination
Type of Exam:	W = written exam; O = oral exam; T = term paper; P = classroom presentation, ...
Duration:	duration of the examination in minutes
Weight:	courses: weighting of the examination grade towards the module grade modules: weighting of the module grade towards the final grade
Contact Hours:	CH; hours spent in the classroom per week during the semester
Status:	o = obligatory; e = elective
Type of Course	L = lecture; S = seminar; E = exercise; T = tutorial, ...
CP:	Credit Points (ECTS Credits)

3. Module Descriptions

3.1. Module M1 Public Policy

Module Code: M1	Module Title: Public Policy				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	12								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 360 h			Time in Class: 60 h / 4 CH		Self-Study: 300 h			
Duration	2 Semesters								
Frequency	Annually (starts every winter semester)								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Lecture and seminar (including group discussions, presentations, debates)								
Content	This module introduces participants to the main theories and concepts of public policy making. We will discuss key concepts in assessing and measuring policy change and continuity as well as constraints within policy making. A specific focus will be on explaining welfare state developments as well as understanding welfare regimes and varieties of capitalism. The module discusses social policy challenges faced by policy makers at the beginning of the 21st century, such as Europeanisation and globalization, migration and demographic change. Finally, we will focus on public policy-making in the Europe Union.								
Objectives	Students will understand the main concepts and theories of (comparative) public policy research and be able to critically discuss and reflect upon these. Furthermore, they will be able to employ these concepts and theories in conducting policy analysis. Students will acquire analytical and synthesis skills to be able to identify socio-economic policy issues and problems, as well as to discuss potential policy solutions and their trade-offs in the context of policy objectives and instruments. Students will gain familiarity with the main normative goals of social policy and identify the main models of social policy provision. They develop an understanding of the key challenges in current social policy. They develop policy strategies for addressing these policy challenges, focusing on various policy domains. The seminar will include team work, debates and the preparation of policy briefs.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Introduction into Comparative Public Policy	L	o	2	4	W	90	g	100%
	Social Policy in Europe	S	o	2	4				
Module Examination	E	o	0	4					
Transfer	The whole module or individual courses of this module can also be chosen by students of the MADRE and CMEPS, as well as the Master of Sociology with Focus on Empirical Social Research as part of the electives or specialisation modules.								
Prerequisites	Prerequisites include the same requirements as for entry of whole Master's programme.								

3.2. Module M2 Social Stratification and Change

Module Code: M2	Module Title: Social Stratification and Change				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	12								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 360 h	Time in Class: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	2 Semesters								
Frequency	Annually (starts every winter semester)								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Lectures, seminars, group discussions, presentations, debates								
Content	The module provides an overview of macro- and micro-sociological theories of social inequalities in modern postindustrial societies. These range from welfare state regime perspectives, modernisation processes, increasing differentiation in subsystems and growing individualisation to different versions of rational choice theories and identity-related perspectives. The seminars of this module contextualise and apply these theoretical approaches to describe and explain current empirical trends and variations across European countries with respect to inequalities in different domains, such as education systems, labour markets and social security systems, families and household, or migration systems. The module equips students with instruments to develop mechanism-based conceptual frameworks to analyse how macro-level policies and institutions may impact individual-level actions and attitudes.								
Objectives	Students learn and understand key theoretical perspectives for analysing social inequalities in terms of historical change as well as cross-national variations. They know the core theoretical models, are able to compare the key assumptions of these models and can apply them to real world social issues. Students learn to develop a mechanism-based conceptual model to evaluate a public policy reform and to apply the conceptual model to a real-life public policy example by the means of case studies. Students work in student teams, prepare for debates and take on the fictitious roles of policy-advocates or decision makers. They are able to discuss specific policy-related social problems, apply theoretical concepts to the problem set and present their analyses to the audience.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Social inequalities in comparative perspective	S	o	2	4	W	90	g	100%
	Social change and public policies	S	o	2	4				
Module Examination	E	o	0	4					
Transfer	The whole module or individual courses of this module can also be chosen by students of the Master of Sociology with Focus on Empirical Social Research as part of the electives or specialisation modules.								
Prerequisites	Prerequisites include the same requirements as for entry of whole Master's programme.								

3.3. Module M3 Methodological Foundations and Reflections

Module Code: M3	Module Title: Methodological Foundations and Reflections		Type of Module: obligatory							
CP (ECTS Credits)	11									
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 330 h	Time in Class: 60 h / 4 CH	Self-Study: 270 h							
Duration	1 Semester									
Frequency	Annually (starts every winter semester)									
Language of Instruction	English									
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Lectures, seminars, exercises, group discussions, presentations, debates									
Content	<p>The module provides students with an overview of the foundations of qualitative and quantitative methods for descriptive analyses and of methods in comparative political analysis.</p> <p>The seminar 'Analytical foundations of social research methods' deals with epistemological and methodological problems and (re-)introduces basic qualitative and quantitative toolsets of the social sciences like descriptive and inference statistics.</p> <p>The aim of the lecture on 'Theories and Methods of Comparative Politics' is to provide an overview of contemporary and classic research in comparative politics as well as an introduction to core methods applied in comparative politics, including case studies, comparative method, and Qualitative Comparative Analysis.</p>									
Objectives	Students know and understand the research strategies and methods of Comparative Politics. They are able to explain and critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of theories and methods of Comparative Politics in the analysis of concrete cases.									
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Course Work	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Analytical foundations of social research methods	S	o	2	3		W	60	g	50%
	Theories and methods of comparative politics	L	o	2	4	-	W	90	g	50%
	Module Examination	E	o	0	4					
Transfer	The seminar "Analytical foundations of social research methods" is also mandatory for students of the Master of Sociology with Focus on Empirical Social Research. The lecture "Theories and methods of comparative politics" can also be attended by students of the MADRE and CMEPS Master's programmes.									
Prerequisites	Prerequisites include the same requirements as for entry of the whole Master's programme.									

3.4 Module M4 Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics

Module Code: M4	Module Title: Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	15								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 450 h			Time in Class: 60 h / 4 CH		Self-Study: 390 h			
Duration	2 Semesters								
Frequency	Annually (starts every winter semester)								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Seminar, group discussion, presentations								
Content	This Module examines qualitative research methods within the social sciences with a particular reference to public policy. The module offers sessions on qualitative methods of case selection as well as on a range of methods of data analysis, including process tracing, discourse analysis, document analysis and various interviewing methods. It will further provide a comprehensive introduction to research ethics.								
Objectives	Students will gain comprehensive knowledge of different types of qualitative approaches, enabling them to choose the appropriate method to answer a research question. A range of methods of cross-case and within case analysis, such as process tracing and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) will be discussed. Furthermore, students will become familiar with conducting and analysing interviews as well as with document analysis, employing various methods of content analysis. Students will be able to critically assess ethical issues and develop strategies of how to mitigate risk as well as deal with such issues.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics I	S	o	2	6	T		g	100%
	Qualitative Research Methods and Ethics II	S	o	2	6				
	Module Examination	E	g	0	3				
Transfer	As part of the comprehensive methods' training Module 4 and Module 5 are complementary. Module 4 can also be chosen by students of the CMEPS and MADRE programmes as well as the Master of Sociology with Focus on Empirical Social Research as part of the methods, electives or specialisation modules.								
Prerequisites	Prerequisites include the same requirements as for entry of whole Master's programme.								

3.4. Module M5 Quantitative Research Methods

Module Code: M5	Module Title: Quantitative Research Methods				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	18								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 540 h		Time in Class: 120 h / 8 CH			Self-Study: 420 h			
Duration	2 Semesters								
Frequency	Annually (starts every winter semester)								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Seminar, Tutorial								
Content	<p>The module teaches students several different methods of statistical analysis which are frequently applied to analysing social inequalities, variations over time and across contexts as well as methods for policy impact evaluation.</p> <p>The first seminar trains the students to apply quantitative research methods using a statistical software package. Hands-on application of statistical knowledge to regular exercises, take-home assignments and a term paper on a specific research question are an essential form of learning in this course.</p> <p>For the second seminar, students can choose one of several different advanced method courses for analysing causal processes, such as panel data modelling, difference-in-difference estimation, statistical matching, multilevel modelling or event-history analysis. Both courses are accompanied by tutorials which enable students to apply the methods to exercises using appropriate statistical software.</p>								
Objectives	Students understand the core statistical assumptions of different statistical methods and are able to apply multivariate regression analysis to real-life social issues. Students get to know different statistical methods for analysing short-term and long-term influences of policies and institutions. They know about the difficulty of establishing causal relationships in empirical social research and about the strength and weaknesses for different methods depending on the problem set and the data available.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Quantitative methods I	S	o	2	4	T, P	N/A	g	50%
	Tutorial of quantitative methods I	T	o	2	3			ug	
	Quantitative methods II	S	o	2	4			g	50%
	Tutorial of quantitative methods II	T	o	2	3			ug	
Module Examination	E	o	0	4					
Transfer	Both seminars and tutorials of this module can also be chosen by students of the Master of Sociology with Focus on Empirical Social Research and as electives by political science Master's students enrolled in the CMEPS and MADRE.								

Prerequisites

Before attending the seminars and tutorials of the Advanced quantitative methods module, students need to have completed the seminar 'Analytical Foundations of Social Research Methods'.

3.5. Module M6 Interdisciplinary Electives

Module Code: M6	Module Title: Interdisciplinary Electives				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	12								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 360 h	Time in Class: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	2 Semesters								
Frequency	Every Semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Lectures, Seminars, student presentations, group discussions, independent study, literature study								
Content	Interdisciplinary electives cover topics relevant to social and public policies by related disciplines and subject areas including Economics, Ethics, Foreign Languages, Comparative & Middle East Politics and Society as well as Politics and Society in East-Asia. These courses convey discipline-specific theoretical concepts or methodological skills and how these can be applied to analysing changes in societies, policies and institutions and their impact on individuals' actions.								
Objectives	By attending thematically related courses of other disciplines and subject areas, students acquire a broad set of knowledge and skills within the social and economic sciences, which enables them to develop interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives for a comprehensive and rounded analysis and understanding of public policies.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Elective I	S	o	2	4	P,T,W	N/A	g	50%
	Elective II	S	o	2	4				50%
	Module Examination*	E	o	0	4				
Transfer	The interdisciplinary electives are mainly attended by students of the respective disciplines.								
Prerequisites	Prerequisites include the same requirements as for entry of the whole Master's programme or as specified by the respective programmes.								

*The Module Examination will consist of two elements, one for each electives – the grade of the module will be the average of the two elements. The type of examination will be determined by the course convener of the respective elective. The two elements that constitute the Module Examination are justified by the aim to allow students to select from a diverse range of courses to acquire a broad understanding of public policy and policy-related social issues.

3.6. Module M7 Specialisation Electives

Module Code: M7	Module Title: Specialisation Electives				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	12								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 360 h	Time in Class: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	2 Semesters								
Frequency	Every semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Lectures, seminars, student presentations, group discussions, independent study, literature study								
Content	<p>The module allows students to acquire more specialised knowledge in specific areas of sociological and public policy research or broaden their horizon towards other disciplines and methods. Students have to choose two courses of any combination of specialisation electives.</p> <p>The specialisation seminars consist of a choice of courses which provide students with insights of how theoretical perspectives or methods can be applied to understanding current social and policy issues. In the area of sociology, students may choose from a range of courses addressing social inequalities with respect to education, gender and migration background, life course sociology or methodological issues. Specialisation courses in public policy include a focus on European social policy, political economy as well as issues relating to EU integration.</p>								
Objectives	In the specialisation courses, students gain more in-depth insights into the state-of-the art in a key areas of Public Policy and Sociology. They acquire the ability to reflect and critically evaluate the research literature around specific empirical social or public policy problems.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Elective I	S	o	2	4	P,T,W	N/A	g	50%
	Elective II	S	o	2	4				50%
	Module Examination*	E	o	0	4				
Transfer	The specialisation electives in the area of public policy can also be chosen by students enrolled in the CMEPS and MADRE Master's programmes. The specialisation electives in the area of sociology can also be chosen by students of the Master of Sociology with Focus on Empirical Social Research.								
Prerequisites	Prerequisites include the same requirements as for entry of the whole Master's programme.								

* The Module Examination will consist of two elements, one for each elective – the grade of the module will be the average of the two elements. The type of examination will be determined by the course convener of the respective elective. The two elements that constitute the Module Examination are justified by the aim to allow students to select from a diverse range of courses to acquire a broad understanding of public policy and related social issues.

3.7. Thesis Module

Module Code: M8	Module Title: Thesis Module				Type of Module: obligatory				
CP (ECTS Credits)	28								
Workload - Time in Class - Self-Study	Total Workload: 840 h			Time in Class: 30 h / 2 CH		Self-Study: 810 h			
Duration	1 Semester								
Frequency	Every semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Forms of Teaching and Learning	Colloquium Master's Thesis Defense of Master's Thesis								
Content	<p>Colloquium</p> <p>The purpose of the Colloquium is to provide the support and supervision for the thesis. Students will present their idea and report on progress of their research project. A main aim of the colloquium is to discuss the research focus, help in narrowing down the question as well as to critically reflect upon the methodological approach as well as the methods to be employed. It will provide students with a supporting academic environment and peer review.</p> <p>Master's Thesis</p> <p>Students should carry out their own research on a relevant topic within the domain of the MPPSC programme. The Modules M1-M5 will be particularly useful for introducing the different parts of the research design process. Students are supported in their research by their supervisor. Length: maximum 20.000 words (excluding bibliography and annexes).</p> <p>Defence of the Master's Thesis</p> <p>The Master's Thesis will be orally examined by the supervisor and a second faculty member of the MPPSC programme.</p>								
Objectives	Students will be able to independently develop research questions and research designs as well as employ appropriate methods and effectively execute the research. They will be able to present their findings in a concise and effective manner and critically discuss these in the context of the relevant disciplinary literature.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, Weight if appl.		Type of Course	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Length of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Module Grade
	Colloquium	S	o	2	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Master's Thesis	MT	o	0	22	W	N/A	g	75%
	Oral Examination	E	o	0	3	o	30-60min	g	25%
Transfer	Qualifying academic degree; prerequisite for admission to the PhD programme.								
Prerequisites	Normally successful completion of all required courses.								

