The Master of Science in Sociology addresses contemporary social problems via a strong academic approach and the concept of sociological imagination. To have this sociological imagination a person must pull away from the situation and think from an alternative point of view. Students use this ability to connect the things that happen to people (such as their success in education, their relationship with their parents and their well-being) to social characteristics (the way schools are organised, the divorce rate, the degree of social inequality). The one year programme is based on three cornerstones:

1. An advanced scientific approach to contemporary societal problems through the method of sociological imagination. This is used to answer sociological questions such as: what are the social conditions that constitute the fundamental causes of health and illness? How can higher education institutions become more accessible? Why have so many young Muslims joined Islamic State the past couple of years? How are power and responsibilities formally and informally distributed within organizations?

2. Applied sociology, as opposed to pure theoretical research. This is translated into an internship, policy and organization/management courses and a focus on intervention in certain courses.

3. Internationalisation though internship. Students choose one of the four available Majors (International Internship, Policy and Management, Skills Lab or Conflict and Development in a Global World). They write a Master’s dissertation and opt for an international work placement or follow advanced policy-oriented and applied course units. Meanwhile they gain a thorough understanding of both advanced quantitative and qualitative research methods.

The Master of Science in Sociology provides a solid, general training by means of advanced sociological course units such as health sociology, migration, education, policy and organization. Applied quantitative analysis will unravel the secrets of multilevel analysis using real world data to answer actual research questions. Students put together their own curriculum based on their personal interest, future career prospects and ambitions. There are four applied majors in which practical skills are developed:

- International Work Placement: students are challenged to use their sociological imagination in real-life contexts and take their expertise to the next level. During this experience, students confront theoretical learning with hands-on experience, characterized by social engagement.
- Policy and Management: students immerse themselves in course units on human resources management, public administration, governance, change management and international development.
- Skills Lab: students explore and develop applied skills to prepare for future careers through course units such as ‘Dare to Venture’, ‘Business Skills’ and ‘Advanced Academic English’.
- Conflict and Development in a Global World: students follow courses on non-Western societies and learn about the implications of insights in this field for studying Western societies.

The first semester of the programme is fully dedicated to the core mandatory advanced sociological course units. From the start, students start preparing for their Master’s dissertation or work placement. By the end of the first semester, students should have taken most of their exams, and they can fully concentrate on their Major and their Master’s dissertation. Students are supervised by a Ghent University professor and conduct their own quantitative or qualitative research and bring it together in an academic paper. The Master’s Dissertation can be combined with work placement (for instance through interviews of respondents during their stay abroad). At the end of the second semester, the course unit Social Dynamics of Policy and Organization helps to digest the experiences developed during the dissertation research, the work placement and the other courses.

Our one-year programme is intensive but nonetheless feasible thanks to gradual planning. If you want to combine your Master’s Degree with a Teacher’s Degree, you can opt for a Master’s Programme in Teaching (in Dutch: educatieve master) instead of the programme described above. The ‘educatieve master’, however, is a Dutch-taught programme. More information can be found on www.ugent.be/educatievemaster.

Sociology graduates are in great demand for their combination of thorough insights in society, research expertise, communication and project management skills. Ghent University Sociology graduates start an academic career (as PhD students or research fellows) or work in NGOs, governmental organisations (on themes such as health prevention and radicalisation) and research departments (such as market research). The programme prepares you for work on scholarly projects in academia, governmental organisations or research institutes. You will be able to research social phenomena such as social inequity, gender differences, quality of labour, democratisation of higher education, migration or health and...
risk behaviour. Our programme also prepares students for future careers as policy advisors or project managers in human resources, journalism or education.
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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**TOELATTINGSOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDENS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA**

1. **Rechtstreeks:**
   - Bachelor in de politieke en sociale wetenschappen, afstudeerrichting: sociologie
   - Bachelor in de politieke wetenschappen en de sociologie, afstudeerrichting: sociologie
   - Bachelor in de sociologie
   - Bachelor of Social Sciences

2. **Na het met succes voltooien van een voorbereidingsprogramma:**
   - MIN 17 SP - MAX 51 SP
     - a Nederlandstalig programma
       - opleidingen nieuwe structuur:
         - Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs
         - Een diploma van een masteropleiding aansluitend op een bacheloropleiding
         - Een diploma van een masteropleiding die volgt op een andere masteropleiding
     - b opleidingen oude structuur:
       - Een diploma van de tweede cyclus van het hogeschoolonderwijs van twee cycli
       - Een diploma van een academische opleiding van de tweede cyclus

3. **Na het met succes voltooien van een schakelprogramma:**
   - MIN 62 SP - MAX 65 SP
     - a opleidingen nieuwe structuur:
       - Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs
       - Een diploma van een masteropleiding aansluitend op een bacheloropleiding
       - Een diploma van een masteropleiding die volgt op een andere masteropleiding
     - b opleidingen oude structuur:
       - Een diploma van de tweede cyclus van het hogeschoolonderwijs van twee cycli
       - Een diploma van een academische opleiding van de tweede cyclus

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**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS**

You are eligible for this programme if you hold a relevant Bachelor degree. This includes bachelors in sociology or a solid background in social sciences, including social science methodology.

Students who hold a Bachelor of Social Science (or equivalent) from a non-Belgian University, are admitted based on an evaluation of the content of their previous studies. The Study Programme Committee will make the final decision whether to accept the application or not. The Study Programme Committee can decide that students need to follow a preparatory course, for instance for students who hold another diploma of bachelor or master than mentioned. This preparatory course is available in English and Dutch.

Information on admission requirements and the administrative procedure for admission on the basis of a diploma obtained abroad, can be found on the following page: [www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration](http://www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration).

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**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

**Language requirements**
- Dutch: no language requirements
- English: CEFR level B2

The language requirements for this study programme can be found on: [www.ugent.be/languagerequirements](http://www.ugent.be/languagerequirements)

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**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Study programme**
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Information sessions
Graduation Fair
afstudeerbeurs.gent/en/students/further-studies

Application Deadline (for International degree students)
For students who need a visa: before 1st of April
For students who do not need a visa: before 1st of June
Read more

Tuition fee
More information is to be found on: www.ugent.be/tuitionfee

Contact
Course contact
socio_englishmaster@ugent.be

Learning path counsellor
Kris De Pue
T 09 264 97 71
tb.psw@ugent.be