

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

## WHAT

The Master of Science in Sociology addresses contemporary social problems via a strong academic approach and the concept of sociological imagination. Using your sociological imagination means that you pull away from a personal-level assessment of a situation, to include the historical and societal context. 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. We look for answers to 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 to students from various ethnic and social backgrounds? How does a history of migration in a family impact people's integration in a host society, what chances or difficulties does an ethnically diverse society pose? How are power and responsibilities formally and informally distributed within organizations?
- 2 an advanced methodological approach, as opposed to pure theoretical reasoning. Students are taught how they can independently set up research projects, culminating in a master thesis. The applied nature of our programme is furthermore evident in the internship, policy and organization/management courses and a focus on intervention in tackling social problems.
- 3 students have the opportunity to benefit from international perspectives, by being taught in an internationally diverse group. Moreover, they can pursue international mobility through the internship.

Students choose one of the four available Majors (Internship, Policy and Management, Skills Lab or Conflict and Development in a Global World). They write a Master's dissertation. Meanwhile they gain a thorough understanding of advanced quantitative research methods.

## STRUCTURE

The Master of Science in Sociology provides a solid, general training by means of advanced sociological courses dealing with topics such as health sociology, migration, higher education, policy and organisation. Applied quantitative analysis will unravel the secrets of multilevel analysis using real world data to answer actual research questions.

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 internship. Students compile part of their curriculum in light of their personal interests, future career prospects and ambitions. They have to choose between four Majors:

- Internship: 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 or 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 from various disciplines in this field for studying Western and other non-Western societies.

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, which they write down in the master's dissertation. 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 internship and the other courses.

## LABOUR MARKET

Sociology graduates are in great demand for their combination of thorough insights in society, research expertise, communication and project management

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skills. Ghent University Sociology graduates start an academic career (as PhD students or research fellows) or work in NGOs, governmental organisations (on topics 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.

## TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS 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 Rechtstreeks, na check door de inrichtende faculteit van formele toelatingsvereisten:

- Bachelor in de sociale wetenschappen, op voorwaarde dat de student de specialisatie sociologie heeft gevolgd  
*Indien andere afstudeerrichting dan kan het verkorte voorbereidingsprogramma gevolgd worden (neem contact op met [tb.psw@ugent.be](mailto:tb.psw@ugent.be))*

### 3 Na het met succes voltooien van een voorbereidingsprogramma:

#### MIN 15 SP - MAX 61 SP

- 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
  - 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
- Engelstalig 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
  - 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

### 4 Na het met succes voltooien van een schakelprogramma:

#### MIN 71 SP - MAX 77 SP

- opleidingen nieuwe structuur:
  - Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het professioneel onderwijs
- opleidingen oude structuur:
  - Een diploma van een opleiding van het hogeschoolonderwijs van één cyclus

Additional Information on Admission (Flemish Degree)

If you believe that you qualify for an exemption of specific course units, please check <https://www.ugent.be/ps/vrijstellingen>.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

You are eligible for this programme if you hold a relevant Bachelor degree, preferably in Sociology or another Social Science. We assume you have the necessary skills and knowledge, related to research and methodological skills, sociological frameworks and contents, and academic writing, to start this programme.

**Mastering research skills** means that the student can carry out:

descriptive univariate and bivariate analyses (frequencies, crosstabs, measures of position, dispersion, association, correlation and regression analysis), inferential statistics (significance tests and confidence intervals), t-tests and analyses of variance (ANOVA), multiple regression analyses, logistic regression analyses and factor analyses

**Thorough knowledge of sociological**

**frameworks and contents** means that the student is familiar with:

- the specificity of the sociological approach and the most important sociological frameworks
- classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives that underlie sociological research.

**Proficiency in academic writing** implies that the student is able to:

- formulate a valid scientific research question on a topic that relates to the social sciences
- find and consult academic literature
- bring structure, use appropriate style, apply

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knowledge of vocabulary and grammar

- cite and refer correctly (avoid plagiarism)
- use resources for academic English

Students who hold a Bachelor of Social Science(s) (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 the [Preparatory Course](#) (or units of this programme). 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).

## Tuition fee

More information is to be found on: [www.ugent.be/tuitionfee](http://www.ugent.be/tuitionfee)

## Contact

### Course contact

[socio\\_englishmaster@ugent.be](mailto:socio_englishmaster@ugent.be)

### Learning path counsellor

Kris De Pue

T 09 264 97 71

[tb.psw@ugent.be](mailto:tb.psw@ugent.be)

## 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)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Study programme

[studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-sociology-KMSOCY-en/programma](http://studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-sociology-KMSOCY-en/programma)

### Information sessions

#### EVOLV

[evolv.gent/en/students/further-studies](http://evolv.gent/en/students/further-studies)

### Enrolling institution

Information on enrolment at Ghent University.

### 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

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