

Academic Guide Exchange 2026-2027

Faculty of Social Work and Education– SOCIAL WORK

The Hague University of Applied Sciences



let's change
YOU. US. THE WORLD.

International Semester SOCIAL WORK

**Social inequality and social exclusion,
inclusion and prevention**

2026-2027

THE HAGUE
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

Academic Guide Exchange 2026-2027

Faculty of Social Work and Education– SOCIAL WORK

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Semester 1 at the Faculty of Social Work and Education at The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS)

Disclaimer

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Foreword

An exchange at The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) is a truly international experience. THUAS welcomes more than 500 exchange students from around 50 nationalities every academic year. Our academic year is divided into two semesters, which start in September and end of January. Mobilities may last a semester or a full academic year, depending on the Programme.

Our exchange students gain a rich cultural experience by studying alongside our large number of Dutch and international full-time students of English-language bachelor degree programmes. Our high-quality programmes encourage students to explore each other's cultures to become open-minded and independent thinkers – qualities which are essential in the present-day market. Working in a multicultural and cosmopolitan environment becomes second nature to our students.

Exchange students come to The Hague University of Applied Sciences as part of a reciprocal exchange programme with a partner university and must first be nominated by their home institution. Students nominated under our bilateral agreements are not charged tuition fees at THUAS but remain registered with and pay tuition to their home university. Free movers, by contrast, are responsible for paying tuition fees and arranging their admission independently.

The Hague University of Applied Sciences also participates in the Erasmus+ Programme, which enables the mobility of students and staff, the organisation of Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs), as well as participation in BIPs hosted abroad. In addition to BIPs, blended short-term and long-term mobility is available for studies and traineeships, as well as for staff mobility for teaching and training purposes.

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The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Welcome to The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS)!

At THUAS, we encourage our students, lecturers and partners to develop into open-minded global citizens – to stand firm in their own convictions and face the world. We realise that our own professional commitment makes a difference, and we must work together to develop and apply creative solutions.

The Hague is the perfect location to become a global citizen. It is the capital city of the South Holland province and the International City of Peace and Justice – the political heart of the Netherlands. It is home to the Peace Palace, International Court of Justice, Binnenhof (parliament), 115 embassies, multinationals like Shell, Siemens, and ING, and many international NGOs.

These are the values that drive us at THUAS:

- **Curious:** We are curious, ambitious, and enterprising. We are keen to contribute with critical thinking.
- **Caring:** We are dedicated, and we care about your personal growth.
- **Connecting:** We invest significantly in our network in order to develop new insights together.
- **Committed:** Together, we keep moving forward, no matter the challenge.

At THUAS, we constantly need to apply new perspectives and solutions to resolve present and future challenges. We want to empower our students to change and improve the world they live in, but this can only happen if we work together – if we evolve and change.

So, let's change. You. Us. The world.

For the coming Academic Year, The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) once again opens its doors to you, exchange students, from our hundreds of partners around the world. We are looking forward to welcoming you all.

In this academic guide, you will find general information on everything you need to start your exchange at THUAS, like the ECTS and period of offering of each course, more information on that course, such as assessment type, criteria, learning outcomes, a social guide, contact information, etc.

We here at THUAS hope that you will find the best-suited combination of classes in order to not only complete your studies but also grow as an individual and as part of a group. Furthermore, we hope that after sharing a semester or a year with us, you will return to your home institution as a 'Global Citizen'.

General information

THUAS is a vibrant and international community, home to **24,948 students of 123 nationalities**. Our university spans four campuses across three cities: two in The Hague, one in Zoetermeer, and one in Delft, each offering modern facilities and inspiring learning environments.

1. **Location Main Campus:** Johanna Westerdijkplein 75, 2521 EN The Hague
2. **Location Sportcampus Zuiderpark:** Mr. P. Droogleever Fortuynweg 22, 2533 SR Den Haag
3. **Location Zoetermeer:** Bleiswijkseweg 37, 2712 PB, Zoetermeer
4. **Location Delft:** Rotterdamseweg 137, 2628 AL, Delft

The university has 2,521 employees representing 88 nationalities, all contributing to high-quality education and support for students. With over 100 Bachelor's and Associate Degree programs across seven

Faculties, THUAS equips students with the skills, knowledge, and global perspective needed to succeed in today's world.

Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of who we are. With such multinationalism among our students and staff, we are committed to building an inclusive and supportive learning and working environment where everyone feels welcome, valued, and supported. Read more about what we mean by diversity and inclusion [here](#).

The Dutch Educational System

THUAS is a vibrant and international community, home to **24,948 students of 123 nationalities**. Our university spans four campuses across three cities: two in The Hague, one in Zoetermeer, and one in Delft, each offering modern facilities and inspiring learning environments.

Join us and experience a university where diversity, global perspectives, practical experience, and academic excellence come together!

Higher Education in the Netherlands

The vast majority of higher education institutions in the Netherlands are state-funded. There are around 13 traditional 'research' universities, 1 Open University, and 36 Universities of Applied Sciences.

The higher education system in the Netherlands is based on a three-cycle degree system, consisting of a Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degree. The Netherlands has a binary higher education system. Binary in this context means there are two types of higher education:

- Research-oriented education, typically provided by research universities
- Higher professional education is offered by the Universities of Applied Sciences

Programmes at research universities focus on theoretical aspects of the field of study and prepare students for undertaking independent research. These also lead to a bachelor's or master's degree. At research universities, you can also pursue a PhD degree.

Programmes at universities of applied sciences prepare students for particular professions and tend to be more practically oriented. They lead to either a bachelor's or a master's degree. There are currently 36 Universities of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, offering a wide variety of high-quality degree programmes in English. Thematic fields include economics, engineering, agro and food, healthcare, art, social studies, and teacher training (for primary education).

Credit and Grading System

Degree programmes and periods of study are quantified in terms of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). In this system, 60 credits represent one year of study, and one credit represents 28 hours of study. The focus of the programmes determines both the number of credits required to complete the programme and the type of degree that is awarded.

In the Netherlands, a ten-point system is used in higher education. A grade of 10 is the highest, and 6 is the minimum pass grade.

Grade meaning

10	Outstanding *	5	Almost satisfactory
9	Very good *	4	Unsatisfactory
8	Good	3	Very unsatisfactory *
7	More than satisfactory	2	Poor *
6	Satisfactory	1	Very Poor *

National Qualification Framework and European Qualifications Framework

The Dutch Higher Education Qualifications Framework is based on the [Overarching Frameworks for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area \(QF-EHEA\)](#), developed as a part of the Bologna process. The overarching EQF specifies the specific knowledge, skills, degree of independence and responsibility associated with each of the 8 levels, rather than individual qualifications.

The Dutch Higher Education Qualifications Framework consists of 3 stages:

- bachelor's
- master's
- PhD

These 3 stages correspond with EQF levels 6, 7 and 8. The associate degree corresponds to EQF level 5. More information on the level of Dutch Diplomas to be found on [Nuffic's](#) webpage.

Academic Calendar

The first semester runs from late August until late January/early February. The second semester runs from early February until July.

Check our [website](#) for the THUAS academic calendar and holiday schedule.

International Office

The International Office can assist you with practical, non-academic related matters. For example, we can help you look into arranging accommodation, registration at the municipality, collecting your residence permit, your health insurance, and answering any questions about working while studying.

Need help?

Our staff are here to help you with any questions about our services.

Location: OV1.10, main campus.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Telephone: +31 (0)70 445 85 85

If you are unable to visit us in person, you can also contact us by [e-mail](#). Visit our [website](#) to get informed about all the topics above

Accommodation (accommodation@hhs.nl)

THUAS offers a housing service for first-year international degree students and exchange students. Most exchange students are accommodated through our trusted partner DUWO University Housing, a specialist in student accommodation in the Netherlands.

DUWO offers rooms located close to the THUAS campus, giving students the choice between shared accommodation with fellow THUAS students or a self-contained room. Rental contracts are offered in line with the student's exchange period, either one semester or a full academic year.

Because availability is limited, we recommend submitting your housing application as soon as possible; don't wait until you receive your admission offer to start looking. More detailed information about our housing service, accommodation types, and conditions can be found on our [housing page](#).

Exchange (exchange@hhs.nl)

The exchange department handles all administrative matters for incoming exchange students who come to HHS for an exchange (for one semester or an entire academic year). The exchange department liaises with

partner universities, overseeing nominations and the application process. This department also ensures that exchange students have sufficient health insurance and ensures visa applications for incoming exchange students are processed. The Exchange department also liaises with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) for this latter purpose. It ensures that those who need to be reported to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) (these are often international students who are already studying here and have a Dutch residence permit, but are going abroad) are also properly registered.

Resources and Services

Whether you are studying in Delft, Zoetermeer, or at one of our campuses in The Hague, there are always lecture rooms, classrooms, workspaces, restaurants, libraries, and sports facilities available to you.

Library

The library has a diverse collection of books, nearly 900 magazines, Dutch and foreign newspapers, and a large collection of graduation essays. There is a digital library which includes (international) databases, e-journals, standards database, E-books, THUAS theses and publications in digital form etc.

The library provides excellent electronic sources of information to students and staff. It is open to students registered at THUAS and to members of staff. It's located on the first floor (entrance/exit, self-service unit for borrowing and returning items, Study Plaza) and ground floor (books, periodicals). Most library services are free of charge.

Study areas

When working on an assignment, preparing for an exam or meeting with other students, you can use a variety of specially designed work and study areas on all of our campuses. You can also log into 'our' wireless network with your laptop, tablet or smartphone. Of course, we also have 'fixed' computer workstations.

Campus Card

THUAS makes use of an electronic purse system for printing, accessing lockers (during exams), and buying food and drinks. You can pick up your Campus Card by presenting valid ID at the IT Front Office of your THUAS campus. Alternatively, during the Introduction Day, we will assist you with its procurement.

To load money onto the card, you need to have a PayPal account or a Dutch bank account. It is not possible to charge it with foreign bank cards unfortunately. Alternatively, you can also pay by European debit cards on university grounds.

IT Front Office

The FZ & IT Front Office provides integrated accommodation, facilities, and IT support across THUAS, striving to deliver the highest service standards. Its mission is to leverage the latest technologies, offer differentiated services and structures, and maintain an international perspective. The team focuses on relieving users of logistical concerns and ensuring a secure physical and digital environment.

The Front Office is happy to assist you with all IT-related questions. You can also borrow audiovisual equipment, for example, if you need to record a video for a class. Through the iFrontOffice self-service portal, you can find manuals and submit service requests. The Front Office can also assist you with any questions regarding your Campus Card.

Language support

For students who want to develop their Dutch language skills, the [Taalpunt](#) is available, while the [Language Point](#) offers support in English. To access these resources, you must first be registered at THUAS (via Osiris) to gain access to the Student portal (Studentennet in Dutch).

Social Guide

This guide is designed to help you navigate the social landscape of The Netherlands seamlessly. From language essentials to cultural insights, social outings and important information on laws and healthcare, we've got you covered. Embrace diversity, explore the city's, and make connections that will last a lifetime. It will give some practical and hopefully useful information to survive your time at THUAS. Find it [here](#).

Canteen

Forgot your lunch box? No problem! There are various food providers and vending machines at THUAS. All of our campuses have one or more restaurants where you can buy hot and cold food and drinks. The main campus also has the West 75 café, a coffee corner and a cafeteria with a wide selection of fruit, dairy products, meals, halal dishes and more.

Please note that the university does not accept cash or credit cards. Payments can be made only via the Campus Card or a Dutch (European) Maestro bank card.

There is also a small grocery store outside the main building called "Albert Heijn To Go", which sells a selection of meals and snacks and drinks. There are also various vending machines with drinks and snacks on multiple floors of the university.

Studying with a disability or special circumstances

THUAS offers customized facilities that can help make studying easier for you. At our four locations we take your (im)possibilities into account as much as possible. We can help you as much as possible right from the start of your studies if you let us know. Read more [here](#).

Sports Centre, Gym & Student life

The main campus of THUAS has a Fitness Centre where you can work out and a gym for group classes (yoga, boxing, Zumba, bodypump). In the sportshalls at Zuiderpark campus, you can play various indoor sports (basketball, football, volleyball, badminton). A sports & fitness pass gives you unlimited access to all these studentsports activities. More information [here](#).

The main campus is also home to various sports clubs (rowing, korfbal, lacrosse, rugby, tennis, football, volleyball, hockey, basketball, athletics etc.) and organises events, activities, and parties for international students from time to time. The Hague, Delft and Zoetermeer offer lots of different opportunities to make your student days as epic as you want!

Campus Student Life and Sports is located across from the main entrance of THUAS at Johanna Westerdijkplein 66. You can also reach out via email at campus@hhs.nl or follow them on [Instagram](#) and to stay up to date with the latest news on [communities and associations](#), events and student sports.

Student counselling and supervision

We have a counselling system in place to help students facing problems that may affect their study results. The student counsellor advises students on all kinds of matters ranging from study grants and housing to other study programmes inside and outside THUAS. They can also help students with any appeals against decisions judged to be unfair or incorrect. The central student counsellor may also be approached when students have more personal problems affecting their studies and to apply for exam facilities in case students need extra exam time, etc.

THUAS also has a student psychologist. Students are confronted with a diverse range of problems: from losing the motivation to continue their studies or suffering from fear of failure to very serious situations such as psychiatric disorders. The psychologist can then provide short term care. The student counsellor will refer you to the student psychologist if deemed necessary.

Any conversations with the faculty staff, counsellors and/or psychologists are strictly confidential. Want to know more? Visit our [page](#) for details.

Medical care

Physician / General Practitioner (GP)

In case of illness, you should contact a general practitioner (in Dutch: 'huisarts') first. They are your main link to any specialist or hospital. Most GP's speak English, but it is important to check if they participate in your health care system. The Hague International Centre can assist you in finding a general practitioner in The Hague. The website contains a wealth of useful information on health, and their staff speak various foreign languages. We recommend you find a GP as soon as you have arrived.

Medical emergencies

- For life threatening situations call: 112 (ambulance, fire department or police department) or visit the emergency room at the nearest hospital.
- If you are not feeling well and your symptoms are not life threatening, you can contact your general practitioner and make an appointment.
- For emergencies after 17.00 hrs and during weekends, you can contact the hadoks (in Dutch: 'huisartsenpost' via telephone number +31 (0) 70 34 69 669.

Payment

Make sure to bring proof of your health insurance to the appointment, otherwise you'll have to pay for the consult directly after you've visited the doctor. A regular consult costs around € 30 - € 50. Blood tests, psychological support e.g. cost a lot more. Do not forget to ask for a receipt, as after your visit you can declare these costs at your insurance company.

Pharmacies

In the Netherlands, you will need a prescription for most medication. With a prescription you can go to a pharmacy (apotheek) to collect your medication. You pay for it when it's ready, and if you have medical insurance, you can usually claim the expenses from the insurer. Certain medicines are available over the counter, either in a pharmacy or at a chemist (drogist). Pharmacies and chemists usually have the same opening hours as shops. There is always a pharmacy open, even on weekends.

Dentists

Dental treatment is not included in a standard medical insurance. If you need a dentist you should make an appointment first. After treatment the bill is usually sent to your address in the Netherlands. The cost of the consultation varies by type. Once again be sure to ask for a receipt in order to receive compensation from your insurance.

Bring along your passport or identity card, insurance papers and your address in The Hague.

Contact information

Faculty SWE (Social Work and Education) Front Office, OV 3.07, swe-frontoffice@hhs.nl

THUAS International Office, OV1.10, exchange@hhs.nl

For any questions on your general application at THUAS, housing service through THUAS, residence permits and visas, health insurance, registration at the municipality, etc.

THUAS Front Office FZ IT, OV1.69 frontoffice@hhs.nl

For IT related questions and issues (such as your Campus card or Wi-Fi login details), borrowing audio/visual equipment

Faculty of Social Work and Education

About the Faculty

The Faculty of Social Work and Education comprises the programmes Social Work, Education and Early Childhood Education (Primary school education). Social Work is the second biggest programme, right after Education.

Faculty SWE (Social Work and Education) Front Office, OV 3.07, swe-frontoffice@hhs.nl

Programme coordinator Internationalisation Social Work: Milena Kärtner (Internationalisation Social Work), +31.639082128, M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl

Information on the Academic Programme Social Work

Social workers have an important task in identifying (at an early stage) social developments and investigating the significance of these developments with regard to the social position, social vulnerability and quality of life of various individuals and groups within society. To that end, problems of poverty, inequality and social exclusion have long been major areas for attention; they comprise a common thread running through the history of the social work profession.

The social worker examines issues of poverty, social inequality and exclusion from a variety of perspectives and identifies both the possibilities and limitations of each of these perspectives. Where necessary, he draws public attention to social issues, puts it on the institutional and political agenda, envisions and develops proposals for improving professional practice, and gains support for these improvements.

At the same time, social workers must stay informed of current developments in professional practice, both at home, in their own country, and internationally, exploring new perspectives and approaches, along with new potential solutions and inspiring examples.

Today, developments often cut across borders and require an international perspective of both the developments and professional practice. As such, this requires the relevant skills and expertise to be able to operate in an international and multicultural environment. It requires the ability to change perspective: between an institutional perspective and a client perspective, between a local and a global perspective, but also to develop and apply new frameworks of reference and to discover opportunities for new strategies and interventions.

In this international semester you will work with students from different countries and different backgrounds to explore different theories and concepts related to poverty, social inequality and social exclusion, to research current developments, their impact in different national and local contexts and the way that social workers respond to them within their national and local contexts. Following is practical information about the organisation of our programme as well as content information about some of our classes during the international semester.

Attendance

There is an 80% attendance requirement for our Interaction classes (IC). The attendance requirement for lectures (L or HC) is recommended and voluntary.

How students contact lecturers

This is indicated on the learning platform Brightspace or directly with the lecturers. The most common manner of communication within the Social Work programme is via Email. So to be aware of messages and keep the email box in an orderly fashion is the responsibility of the student and expected from staff and class mates.

How staff contact students

See above and via Brightspace. Students need to check the platform regularly, also it sends emails. Occasionally (mobile) phones and Microsoft Teams are being used.

Semester structure

The semester is divided into 2 bloks of 10 weeks each. 7.8 weeks of classes and the last two weeks are the exam weeks. Mostly in the second exam week Monday is the day to hand in written reports, the rest of the week can be used for preparation of next blok and recreation.

Timetable/Schedule

The application for the timetable is called My Timetable and can be found on studentnet. It is important to keep checking each week for changes in times and rooms.

Class hours

A normal class is 90 minutes long, sometimes this differs.

Exam dates

2nd -6th November 2026 and November 9th; 25th -29th January and 2nd February

Registering for a course

Via Osiris

Study workload

Will be specified per course

Learning goals

Upon completion of the international semester, students will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

- knowledge about different theories of social inequality, poverty and social exclusion
- the knowledge and skills to analyse current developments in the field of inequality and poverty and their implications for social work practice;
- insight in the theories that explain the processes and mechanisms of social exclusion and their impact on the position of various groups in society;
- the development of international and intercultural competences, in particular:

- the development of a broad international perspective on the social work profession;
- an understanding of the context-related character of social work practice;
- the development of critical cultural awareness;
- the ability to cross over disciplinary and professional boundaries, languages and cultural backgrounds and to work with colleagues with a range of cultural backgrounds and frameworks of reference.

Learning methods

- Both the first and second parts of the international semester have a theoretical and practical component.
- The theoretical part uses lectures and seminars to explore different theories and concepts of social inequality, poverty and social exclusion and to analyse current developments in society, in social policy and in professional practice. This will include site visits and guest lecturers from the field.
- The practical section brings in individual and group assignments, with weekly guidance from lecturers from various disciplines.

Examination regulations

There are 2 exams on the computer (Remindo), the others are presentations in class or written exams.

Exchange students

The exchange students will be welcomed on Thursday, 27th of August, more information via Email. They will have a study coach and Milena Kärtner as coordinator internationalisation is continuous contact person. The Professional development line is specifically tailored for the exchange students with time to reflect on content and other dimensions of the exchange. This will be the classes where exchange students are amongst themselves whereas for all other classes exchange students follow class with their Dutch classmates.

A uniwide programme for exchange students is also accessible for Social Work exchange students.

Programme Social Work Course offer

Below you will find an overview of the courses as well as, an example, a short description of some of the courses within the International Semester. These courses are offered in English. Also, the courses are compulsory, unless indicated it is optional, see list below. We do prefer if students follow the whole program.

More detailed information about all course modules will be available by June 2026.

Period: Semester 1, Thursday, 27th August 2026 – Monday 1st February 2027. Until 29th January students should have accommodation in The Hague, as resits of exams are in this week.

Welcome international students: Thursday 27th August 2026

Cycle: 1st

Total number of credits: 30 ECTS

Language: All modules are taught in English

Overview

Course code	Course name	Obligatory/optional	ECTS	Semester	Block/Term
SW-HV1KSI-25	Knowledge track - Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion	obligatory	5	Autumn	1
SW-HV1KINCLU-25	Knowledge track - Inclusion	optional	5	Autumn	2
SW-HV1PMASI-25	Project - Manifest against social inequality (former title Project 1 and Research Skills Period 1)	obligatory*	5	Autumn	1
SW-HV1PPOPP-25	Project - Prevention of psychosocial problems (Former title: project 2 and Research Skills period 2)	obligatory*	5	Autumn	2
SW-HV1VSEPE-25	Skills track <i>Training intercultural sensitivity</i>	obligatory	2,5	Autumn	1
SW-HV1VSEPE-25	Skills track - <i>Training motivational interviewing</i>	obligatory**	2,5	Autumn	2
SW-HV1PDISW-25	Professional development Introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands incl. Mentorschip, personal development and Dutch Insights	obligatory	5	Autumn	1+2

*One of the projects is obligatory, we appreciate if students take both

**for this course the exam is optional, but we appreciate if students visit the classes for the working process

Course descriptions

1. Knowledge track: Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion	
Title & language	Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion English
Organising department / program	Faculty Social Work & Education Social Work
Contact person	Milena Kärtner & Gioia Mentink M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl & G.Mentink@hhs.nl
Cycle	1
Number of ECTS	5
General objectives	<p>The overall goal of the course is to equip students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze current developments and trends in the field of social inequality and poverty and their significance for the social work profession and professional practice; • analyze processes and mechanisms of social exclusion; • develop their own vision on the social function and positioning of the social work profession; • develop a broad international perspective on social work.
Summary of contents	<p>In a series of 7 lectures and 5 working group meetings different theoretical perspectives on social inequality, poverty and social exclusion will be introduced as well as their meaning for the positioning and professional practice of Social Work.</p> <p>We will begin to explore these concepts and how they interrelate with one another. In doing so, we will focus on questions such as: What is poverty? What is social inequality? What are the causes? How can these be addressed and by whom?</p> <p>The course will additionally address various visions on poverty and inequality and explore how different perspectives affect efforts to combat poverty and inequality. Attention will then be paid to current developments in society, including those concerning the welfare state and social policy, and the significance of these developments with regard to the social position of vulnerable groups within society.</p> <p>We will also, based on the international definition of social work, reflect on the positioning and role of the social worker in relation to issues of poverty, social inequality and exclusion. We will explore current developments and new initiatives in international social work practice, such as, for instance, working from a human rights perspective.</p> <p>We will then explore mechanisms behind social exclusion. The relationship between established groups and outsiders plays a major role in creating social</p>

	<p>exclusion, as do the dominant discourses that contribute to negative sentiments regarding certain groups.</p> <p>As preparation for each class, students are expected to study the reading materials assigned for that week.</p>
Indication of target group	2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor students who have affinity with social work and its related issues.
Entry requirements	None
Competency levels	<p>Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe and apply different theoretical perspectives on social inequality, poverty and social exclusion; • describe the meaning of these different perspectives for the social function and professional practice of Social Work in relation to issues of social inequality and poverty; • have an understanding of various policy measures to combat poverty and social inequality; • analyse current (international) developments, involving the welfare state and social policy, to determine how they affect the social position and the quality of life of various groups in society; • apply international frames of reference and guidelines in defining the specific contribution and positioning of social work with regard to issues of poverty, social inequality and exclusion; • apply theories in order to analyse the processes and mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion and their impact on a person's quality of life.
Description of tests and minimum pass rate	<p>Individual written exam</p> <p>Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale.</p>
Teaching methods + study load	<p>7 weekly lectures, 5 working group meetings</p> <p>Study load: 140 hrs. (5 ECTS)</p>
Contact hours	2.5 hours / week.
Study aids	Reader
participants	Minimum: 15-25 and 100
Term	Semester 1, period 1, September – Nov. 2026
Miscellaneous	This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2026-2027
OSIRIS code	SW-HV1KSEPE-21

2. Project: Manifest against Social inequality

Title & language	Project: Manifest against social inequality
Organising department/ program	Faculty Social Work & Education/ Social Work
Contact person / lecturer	Irshad Abdoellakhan i.abdoellakhan@hhs.nl
Cycle	1
Number of credits	5
General objectives	<p>The overall goal of the course is to equip students to analyze and take a critical stand in relation to current developments and professional practices in the field of social inequality and poverty by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyzing current responses of local organizations active in the field of poverty and social inequality; • compare these responses to different theoretical perspectives on social inequality and poverty (reduction) • developing their own vision on the social function and positioning of the social work profession; • developing a broad international perspective on social work.
Summary of contents	<p>Social workers make an active contribution to the (early) identification of social developments and circumstances that influence the quality of life and well-being of individuals and groups of people. The social worker examines social issues from different angles, investigates which factors are important and which possibilities are available to deal with these issues and arrive at a solution. Where necessary, the social worker puts social issues on the agenda and thinks of and develops proposals to improve the existing range of facilities and activities.</p> <p>In the context of this project, students will conduct research into the social issue chosen for the project. They will analyse the issue from a sociological perspective, professional literature and practical information to gain insight into the issue. They will then create a manifesto with their project group to put the social issue on the agenda, a powerful action driven tool.</p>
Indication of target group	2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor students who have affinity with social work and its related issues.
Entry requirements	None
Competency levels	<p>Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe and analyze current responses in the field of social inequality and poverty and your issue;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and understand the meaning of underlying assumptions and perspectives in professional practice and social policy in the field of your issue; • select relevant current developments and initiatives in international professional practice with regard to your issue; • analyse the significance of these developments in relation to (the improvement of) the policy and activities of their own organisation; • express a clear vision on the social function of Social Work in relation to issue; • refer to important international frames of reference in the field of human development, human rights and social justice; • cooperate and share knowledge with colleagues who think and act from a different frame of reference.
Description of tests and minimum pass rate	Group assignment with individual part Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale.
Teaching methods + study load	Weekly working group meetings, one projectweek schoolwide Field visit, interviews with local professional and/or service user Study load: 140 hrs. (5 ECTS)
Contact hours	3-5 hours / week.
Study aids	Reader
Partners	Local organizations active in the field of social inequality and poverty
participants	15 – 30 max
Term	Semester 1, period 1 August – Nov. 2025
Miscellaneous	This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2025-2026
OSIRIS code	SW-HV1PAVAE-20

3. Skills track: Training Intercultural Sensitivity

Title & language	Training Intercultural Sensitivity English
Organising department / program	Faculty Social Work & Education Social Work
Contact person	Milena Kärtner M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl
Cycle	1
Number of credits	2,5
General objectives	The overall goal of the course is to equip students to contribute to the development of the profession by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on the influence of their own socialization and frame of references and those of colleagues and clients on acting in private context as well as Social Work situations • Practicing intercultural communication, in a way that socialization, frame of references and cultural elements are being reflected in the way of making contact with people
Summary of contents	In a series of 7 training sessions and several field assignments basic skills of intercultural communication and sensitivity will be trained. For the training sessions and the field assignments active participation of each student individually and in groups is mandatory. Additionally, as preparation for each training session/assignment, students are expected to study the reading materials assigned for that week. Also an exchange day with the University of Antwerp is part of the program.
Indication of target group	2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor students who have affinity with social work and its related issues.
Entry requirements	None
Competency levels	Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognize situations where different cultural frames of reference are underlying to conflicts and misunderstandings; • show appropriate behavior in these situations, referencing to a broad interpretation of the term culture and applying basis skills of intercultural sensitivity taking into account their professional context and the context of colleagues as well as clients.
Description of tests and minimum pass rate	Portfolio with group assignments and individual assignments Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale.
Teaching methods + study load	- 7 training sessions - 2 field assignments Study load: 70 hrs. (2,5 ECTS)
Contact hours	2 to 3 hours / week

Study aids	Reader and book
Partners	tba
participants	15 – 25
Term	Semester 1, period 1 August – Nov. 2026
Miscellaneous	This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2026-2027
OSIRIS code	SW-HV1VSEPE-20

4. Professional development track: Introduction to social work in the Netherlands (SWIN)	
Title & language	Introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands - English
Organising department/ program	Faculty Social Work & Education Social Work
Contact person / lecturer	Daniël Rambaran a.j.d.rambaran@hhs.nl
Cycle	1
Number of ECTS	2,5
General objectives	The overall goal of the course is to offer international students a short introduction to social work in the Netherlands, its history and national context.
Summary of contents	During eight classes an introduction will be offered to social work in the Netherlands, its history, its main characteristics and socio-political context. In addition to the lectures, students will visit a number of local organizations in the field of social work and write a short reflection about their observations.
Indication of target group	2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor students who have affinity with social work and its related issues.
Entry requirements	None
Competency levels	Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an understanding of the history, main characteristics and current context of social work in the Netherlands; • a first insight in professional practice; • an understanding of the main features of the Dutch welfare state and current social policy developments in the Netherlands; • understanding of the context-related character of social work practice.
Description of tests and minimum pass rate	Individual written assignment Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale.
Teaching methods + study load	- lectures - field visits - individual assignment Study load: 70 hrs. (2,5 ECTS)
Contact hours	1.5 hours / week.
Study aids	Reader
Partners	Local organizations in the field of social work.
participants	Minimum: 10 - Maximum: 25
Term	Semester 1, period 1 + 2 Sep. 2025 – January 2026
Miscellaneous	This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2025-2026
OSIRIS code	SW-HV1KSEP-20

5. Professional development: mentorship & Dutch insights	
Title & language	Professional development English
Organising department / program	Faculty Social Work & Education Social Work
Contact person	Milena Kärtner M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl
Cycle	1
Number of credits	2,5
General objectives	The overall goal of the course is to equip students to contribute to the development of their professional identity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on the professional standards in light of their own socialization, frame of references and those of colleagues and clients on acting in private context as well as Social Work situations • Reflecting on everyday study- teamwork and exchange-life experiences while increasing the critical knowledge of Dutch habits during several group activities
Summary of contents	In a series of 6-8 training sessions and several special activities (such as e.g. the Sinterklaas lunch) spread over the whole semester experience and reflection will take place. For the sessions in varying group constellations active participation of each student individually and in groups is mandatory.
Indication of target group	2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor students who have affinity with social work and its related issues.
Entry requirements	None
Competency levels	Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and reflect on their knowledge, attitude, and skills which are relevant for their studies and future practical work • Reflect and act on learning moments that were and are going to be essential in this exchange semester and one point that they are going to take with them as future learning moment. • link their socialization and frame of reference, i.e. their norms and values, as well as the culture shock theory to this experience.
Description of tests and minimum pass rate	Creative individual presentation, summarizing and reflecting on the whole exchange experience. Minimum pass rate: not relevant
Teaching methods + study load	- training & reflection sessions - evaluation/teamwork/cultural activity sessions Study load: 70 hrs. (2,5 ECTS)
Contact hours	2 hours / week
Study aids	Reader

Minimum- and maximum participation	15 – 25
Term	Semester 1, period 1+2 August 2026 – Jan. 2027
Miscellaneous	This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2026-2027
OSIRIS code	SW-HV1POE-20

International Semester Social Work (Summary)

Faculty: Social Work and Education

Period: Semester 1, Thursday, 27th August 2026 – Monday 1st February 2027. Until 29th January students should have accommodation in The Hague, as resits of exams are in this week. Exams will be coordinated with students Accomodations provided by THUAS (Duwo)

Welcome international students: Thursday 27th August 2027

Cycle: 1st

Total number of credits: 30 ECTS

Language: All modules are taught in English

Program:

Period 1 (31 st August – 13 th Nov. 2026)	Period 2 (17 th Nov. 2026 – 1st February 2027)
1. Knowledge track: Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion (exam 5 ECTS)	1. Knowledge track: Inclusion (exam 5 ECTS)
2. Project 1 Manifesto (exam 5 ECTS)	2. Project 2 Prevention (exam 5 ECTS)
3. Skills track: Training intercultural sensitivity (exam 2,5 ECTS)	3. Skills track: Training Motivational interviewing (exam 2,5 ECTS)
4. A) Professional Development: Introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands incl. Dutch insights & Mentorship (exam at the end of sem. 1 = 5 ECTS)	

More information about the program of the International Semester Social Work:

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Further information about The Hague University of Applied Sciences and registration:

<https://www.thehagueuniversity.com/programmes/other-courses/exchange-programmes>