# Academic Guide Social Work 2023-2024

## Bachelor of Social Work, THUAS

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# International Semester Social Work

## Social inequality and social exclusion, inclusion and prevention

**2023-2024**

**Semester 1**

THE HAGUE
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

# Academic Guide Social Work 2023-2024

## Bachelor of Social Work, THUAS

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

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# Introduction to the programme

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.

# Structure of the programme

**Modules**

The international semester Social Work consists of two 10-week study periods. Welcome of our international students is on August, 24th, the introduction week with the whole class starts August, 28th 2023.

The first 10-week unit is made up of six parts:

1. An introduction to Social Work in The Netherlands (part 1.)
2. Knowledge track: Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion
3. Project: Analysing different approaches of poverty reduction
4. Research skills: project Quality of Life
5. Skills track: Training Intercultural sensitivity
6. Professional development track: Mentorship/Personal development/Dutch insights

The second period of 10 weeks is made up by:

1. An introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands (part 2.)
2. Knowledge track: Inclusion
3. Project: Prevention
4. Research skills: project Quality of life (cont.)
5. Skills track: Training motivational interviewing
6. Professional development track: Mentorship/Personal development/Dutch insights

**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.

**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.

**Assessment / Credits**

- Introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands — individual paper — 3 ECTS
- Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion — individual written exam — 4 ECTS
- Inclusion — individual assignment — 3 ECTS
- Project: Analysing local approaches of poverty reduction — group assignment — 3 ECTS
- Project: Prevention — group assignment — 5 ECTS
- Research skills: project Quality of Life — group/individual assignment — 3 ECTS
- Training Intercultural sensitivity — individual/group assessment — 3 ECTS
- Training Motivational interviewing — individual assessment — 3 ECTS
- Professional development — individual presentation — 3 ECTS

| Course title | ECTS | | Semester 1 Term 1 | Semester 1 Term 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Introduction to Social Work in The Netherlands | 3 | | X | X |
| Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion | 4 | | X | |
| Inclusion | 3 | optional | | X |
| Project: Analyzing different approaches of poverty reduction | 3 | | X | |
| Project: Prevention | 5 | | | X |
| Research skills: project Quality of Life | 3 | | X | X |
| Training Intercultural sensitivity | 3 | | X | |
| Training Motivational interviewing | 3 | optional | | X |
| Professional Development: Mentorship/Personal development/ Dutch insights | 3 | | X | X |

# Courses

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

More detailed information about all course modules will be available by the beginning of April 2022.

| | 1. Knowledge track: Introduction to social work in the Netherlands |
|---|---|
| **Title & language** | Introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands<br>English |
| **Organising department/ program** | Faculty Social Work & Education<br>Social Work |
| **Contact person / lecturer** | Daniël Rambaran<br>a.j.d.rambaran@hhs.nl |
| **Cycle** | 1 |
| **Number of ECTS** | 3 |
| **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 its 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.<br>In addition to the lectures, students will visit a number of local organisations in the field of social work and write a short reflection about their observations. |
| **Indication of target group** | 2nd and 3rd 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:<br>• an understanding of the history, main characteristics and current context of social work in the Netherlands;<br>• a first insight in professional practice;<br>• an understanding of the main features of the Dutch welfare state and current social policy developments in the Netherlands;<br>• understanding of the context-related character of social work practice. |
| **Description of tests and minimum pass rate** | Individual written assignment<br>Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale. |
| **Teaching methods + study load** | - lectures<br>- field visits<br>- individual assignment<br>Study load: 84 hrs. (3 ECTS) |
| **Contact hours** | 1.5 hours / week. |

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| **Study aids** | Reader |
| **Partners** | Local organisations in the field of social work. |
| **Minimum- and maximum participation** | Minimum: 10<br>Maximum: 25 |
| **Term** | Semester 1, period 1 + 2<br>Sep. 2023 – January 2024 |
| **Miscellaneous** | This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2023-2024 |
| **OSIRIS code** | SW-HV1KSEP-20 |

| 2. Knowledge track: Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion | |
|---|---|
| **Title & language** | Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion<br>English |
| **Organising department / program** | Faculty Social Work & Education<br>Social Work |
| **Contact person** | Milena Kartner & Gioia Mentink<br>M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl & G.Mentink@hhs.nl |
| **Cycle** | 1 |
| **Number of ECTS** | 4 |
| **General objectives** | The overall goal of the course is to equip students to:<br>• analyze current developments and trends in the field of social inequality and poverty and their significance for the social work profession and professional practice;<br>• analyze processes and mechanisms of social exclusion;<br>• develop their own vision on the social function and positioning of the social work profession;<br>• develop a broad international perspective on social work. |
| **Summary of contents** | 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.<br>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?<br>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.<br>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.<br>We will then explore mechanisms behind social exclusion. The relationship between established groups and outsiders plays a major role in creating social exclusion, as do the dominant discourses that contribute to negative sentiments regarding certain groups. |

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| | As preparation for each class, students are expected to study the reading materials assigned for that week. |
| **Indication of target group** | 2nd and 3rd 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:<br>• describe and apply different theoretical perspectives on social inequality, poverty and social exclusion;<br>• 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;<br>• have an understanding of various policy measures to combat poverty and social inequality;<br>• 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;<br>• 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;<br>• 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** | Individual written exam<br>Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale. |
| **Teaching methods + study load** | 7 weekly lectures, 5 working group meetings<br>Study load: 112 hrs. (4 ECTS) |
| **Contact hours** | 2.5 hours / week. |
| **Study aids** | Reader |
| **Minimum- and maximum participation** | Minimum: 25<br>Maximum: 50 |
| **Term** | Semester 1, period 1<br>August – Nov. 2023 |
| **Miscellaneous** | This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2023-2024 |
| **OSIRIS code** | SW-HV1KSEPE-21 |

| 3. Project: Analysing different approaches of poverty reduction | |
|---|---|
| **Title & language** | Project: Analyzing different approaches of poverty reduction<br>English |
| **Organising department/ program** | Faculty Social Work & Education/<br>Social Work |
| **Contact person / lecturer** | Rudy van den Hoven<br>r.f.m.vandenhoven@hhs.nl |
| **Cycle** | 1 |
| **Number of credits** | 3 |
| **General objectives** | 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:<br>• analyzing current responses of local organizations active in the field of poverty and social inequality;<br>• compare these responses to different theoretical perspectives on social inequality and poverty (reduction)<br>• developing their own vision on the social function and positioning of the social work profession;<br>• developing a broad international perspective on social work. |
| **Summary of contents** | In small working groups, students will study the way local organizations in The Hague active in the field of Social Work respond to issues of poverty and social inequality. They will study the vision, policy and working methods of these organisations and analyse these aspects from different theoretical perspectives.<br>They will apply a human rights perspective and explore how current developments and new initiatives in international SW practice can contribute to the professional practice and policies of local organizations.<br>Finally they will, with the help of international literature, develop a proposal aimed at the improvement or further development of the organisation's policy and current range of activities. |
| **Indication of target group** | 2nd and 3rd 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:<br>• describe and analyze current responses in the field of social inequality and poverty;<br>• identify and understand the meaning of underlying assumptions and perspectives in professional practice and social policy in the field of poverty and social inequality; |

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| | • select relevant current developments and initiatives in international professional practice with regard to combating poverty and social inequality;<br>• analyse the significance of these developments in relation to (the improvement of) the policy and activities of their own organisation;<br>• express a clear vision on the social function of Social Work in relation to issues of social inequality and poverty;<br>• refer to important international frames of reference in the field of human development, human rights and social justice;<br>• 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<br>Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale. |
| **Teaching methods + study load** | Weekly working group meetings<br>Field visit, interviews with local professional and/or service user<br>Study load: 84 hrs. (3 ECTS) |
| **Contact hours** | 1.5 hours / week. |
| **Study aids** | Reader |
| **Partners** | Local organizations active in the field of social inequality and poverty |
| **Minimum- and maximum participation** | Minimum: 15<br>Maximum: 30 |
| **Term** | Semester 1, period 1<br>August – Nov. 2023 |
| **Miscellaneous** | This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2023-2024 |
| **OSIRIS code** | SW-HV1PAVAE-20 |

| 4. Skills track: Training Intercultural Sensitivity | |
|---|---|
| **Title & language** | Training Intercultural Sensitivity<br>English |
| **Organising department / program** | Faculty Social Work & Education<br>Social Work |
| **Contact person** | Milena Kärtner<br>M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl |
| **Cycle** | 1 |
| **Number of credits** | 3 |
| **General objectives** | The overall goal of the course is to equip students to contribute to the development of the profession by:<br>• 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<br>• 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.<br>For the training sessions and the field assignments active participation of each student individually and in groups is mandatory.<br>Additionally, as preparation for each training session/assignment, students are expected to study the reading materials assigned for that week.<br>Also an online exchange with the University of the Free State in South Africa is part of the program. Some training session and assignments will be in cooperation with South Africa, some only with the international class. |
| **Indication of target group** | 2nd and 3rd 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:<br>• recognize situations where different cultural frames of reference are underlying to conflicts and misunderstandings;<br>• 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<br>Minimum pass rate: 5.5 or more on a 10-point scale. |
| **Teaching methods + study load** | - 7 training sessions, 1 lecture<br>- 2 field assignments |

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| | Study load: 84 hrs.  (3 ECTS) |
| **Contact hours** | 2 to 3 hours / week |
| **Study aids** | Reader and book |
| **Partners** | University of the Free state, Bloemfontein, South Africa |
| **Minimum- and maximum participation** | 15 – 25 |
| **Term** | Semester 1, period 1<br>August – Nov. 2023 |
| **Miscellaneous** | This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2023-2024 |
| **OSIRIS code** | SW-HV1VSEPE-20 |

| 5. Professional development: mentorship, Dutch insights, Personal development | |
|---|---|
| **Title & language** | Professional development<br>English |
| **Organising department / program** | Faculty Social Work & Education<br>Social Work |
| **Contact person** | Milena Kärtner<br>M.L.Kartner@hhs.nl |
| **Cycle** | 1 |
| **Number of credits** | 3 |
| **General objectives** | The overall goal of the course is to equip students to contribute to the development of their professional identity by:<br>• 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<br>• 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 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.<br>For the sessions in varying group constellations active participation of each student individually and in groups is mandatory. |
| **Indication of target group** | 2nd and 3rd 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:<br>• Experience and reflect on their knowledge, attitude, and skills which are relevant for their studies and future practical work<br>• 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.<br>• link their socialisation 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** | - 8 training sessions<br>- 4 evaluation/teamwork/cultural activity sessions<br>Study load: 84 hrs. (3 ECTS) |

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| **Contact hours** | 2 to 3 hours / week |
| **Study aids** | Reader |
| **Minimum- and maximum participation** | 15 – 25 |
| **Term** | Semester 1, period 1+2<br>August 2023 – Jan. 2024 |
| **Miscellaneous** | This module is part of the International Semester Social Work 2023-2024 |
| **OSIRIS code** | SW-HV1POE-20 |

# International Semester Social Work (Summary)

**Faculty:** Social Work and Education

**Period**: Semester 1, 28th August 2022 – 2nd February 2024

**Welcome international students**: Thursday 24th August

**Cycle:** 1st

**Total number of credits:** 30 ECTS

**Language:** All modules are taught in English

**Program:**

| Period 1 (30th August – Nov. 2022) | Period 2 (Nov. 2022 – 27th Jan. 2023) |
|---|---|
| 1. Knowledge track: Social inequality, poverty and social exclusion (4 ECTS) | 1. Knowledgetrack: Inclusion (3 ECTS) |
| 2. Knowledgetrack: Introduction to Social Work in the Netherlands (3 ECTS) | |
| 2. Project: Analysing different approaches of poverty reduction (3 ECTS) | 3. Project: Prevention (5 ECTS) |
| 4. Training intercultural sensitivity (3 ECTS) | 3. Training Motivational interviewing (3 ECTS) |
| 5. Research skills: project Quality of Life (3 ECTS) | |
| 6. Professional Development: Dutch insights & Mentorship (3 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