

## Master of Social Work (MSW) "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession"

The Master Study Program "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession" was developed by Prof. Dr. Silvia Staub-Bernasconi in 2002; since then the program started every two years, with an average of 20 - 25 Students. The 7<sup>th</sup> course will start in March 2012. The Study program has been reaccredited in 2009 till the year 2014.

The Program is offered by the ZPSA - Centrum for Post gradual Studies of Social Work - which is an institute in cooperation of the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, the Catholic University of Applied Sciences and the Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. Further cooperation partners are: Institute for Rehabilitation Sciences of the Humboldt University, Berlin, the Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg and the University of Basel.

### Length of the Program

The Master Study Program "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession" is a part-time program offered to practitioners who are concurrently employed in the field, though being employed in the field is not obligatory. The standard time for completing the program, including the masters' thesis, is 5 study semesters; which is equivalent to 1,5 years in a full-time program worth 90 Credits. The total workload of 2700 hours consists of 550 hours of presence and 2150 hours of accompanied self-study.

Being a part time program, most students continue to work during their studies. The seminars are therefore once a month from Thursday - Sunday. The exceptional 2 week attendance in the very beginning and a one week presence at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester is known well in advance, so that students can plan accordingly.

### Fees

The fee of the program is 7740€, which has to be paid in 30 installments of 258€/month. Working students can apply to get the fee deducted from their tax returns at the end of the year - making the program more affordable.

### Language

The Study Program is in German, but students are required to have basic knowledge in English as literature in English needs to be understood. Most of the students are German, Swiss or Austrian or permanent residents of one these countries.

## Eligibility

Eligible for the Master Study Program "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession" are applicants with:

- prior degrees (Bachelor or Diploma 180 or 210 Credit points) in the fields of Social Work, Social Welfare, Social Pedagogy or Inclusive Education, in Human, Social, or Cultural Sciences. Students, who have gained 180 CPs in previous studies and would like to start their study with 210 CPs, can ask the examination board to acknowledge other study and/or work experience as relevant to gain the missing Credit points.
- desirable is at least two years of practice experience in social work or related fields of practice;
- desirable are English language skills.

## Overview of Main Fields of Study Program

The Master Study Program "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession" consists of five Study fields:

- Theoretical basic knowledge
- Philosophies of Science and Research Methodology
- Knowledge of the Profession: Vulnerable Groups, Social Problems and Human rights Politics
- Operational Knowledge: Human Rights Education, Practice and Research in various professional fields
- Master thesis

## General educational objectives

- Achievement of differentiated theoretical and analytical Criteria and the ability of an inter and transdisciplinary organization of knowledge for complex social problems on the local, national and international level
- A personal and professional ethical review and reflection based on Human Rights as a regulative idea and an element of a professional ethical code
- Supplementary methodological knowledge and ability to act in situations of conflict and/or dilemma and violation of Human Rights; for e.g. the submission of complaints to the UN treaty bodies, the preparation of complaints to the European Court of Human rights and intercultural communication, Mediation and handling with power structures under social Justice aspects, democratic participation, antiracist Social Work, innovation despite financial compulsions
- Expertise in the development of projects, -acquisition, organization and implementation
- Expertise in Social Work Research ( qualitative and quantitative methods)
- Access to Social welfare networks, Governmental and nongovernmental Organizations and international Organizations who deal with Human Rights
- Development or/and stabilization of a professional identity

## Content of the Program

Nr.	Name of Module	Sem.	Lecturers	CPs
A I: Discipline and Profession of Social Work - <i>mandatory module</i>				15
A I/1	Theories of Social Work in an international framework	1.	Prof. Dr. Ria Puhl	5
A I/2	Social Work and Human Rights	1.	Dr. Nivedita Prasad Prof. Dr. Staub-Bernasconi	5
A I/3	Ethics of Social professional Action	1. /2.	Prof. Dr. Axel Bohmeyer	5
A II Framework requirements of Social Work - <i>mandatory module</i>				10
A II/1	Individual and World Society	1.	Prof. Dr. Ueli Mäder	5
A II/2	Structure and Dynamic of the third sector	1. /2.	Dr. Eckhard Priller	5
A III Human Rights in History, Philosophy, Law and (Social)politics - <i>mandatory module</i>				15
A III/1	History, legal background and politics of Human Rights	1.	PD Dr. Wolfgang Heinz	5
A III/2	Theories of Social Justice and the concept of Social Human Rights	1.	Dr. Arnd Pollmann	5
A III/3	International Law	4.	Prof. Dr. Kurt Pärli	5
A IV Social work-research - Philosophies of Science and Research Methodology - <i>mandatory module</i>				5
AIV /1	Social work-research - quantitative and qualitative methods	1./2. /4.	Prof. Dr. Brigitte Wießmeier Prof. Dr. Martina Stallmann Prof. Dr. Susanne Schönborn	5
B Social Problems - Vulnerable Groups, Human Rights - social micro, meso and macropractice - <i>mandatory modules with choice</i>				6 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> To be gained in two sub-modules

	Introduction to the B Sub-modules <sup>2</sup>	2.	All lecturers of the B Modules	
B 1	Human Rights and Poverty, Unemployment and wealth	2. /3.	Prof. Dr. Christine Labonté-Roset Prof. Dr. Helga Hackenberg	3
B 2	Human Rights and Culture, Ethnicity and Marginalisation	2. /3.	Prof. Dr. Maria do Mar Castro Varela Dr. Nivedita Prasad	3
B 3	Human Rights and Gender relations	2. /3.	Prof. Dr. Petra Focks Prof. Dr. Jutta Hartmann Prof. Dr. Barbara Kavemann	3
B 4	Human Rights and/as Rights of Children	2. /3.	Prof. Dr. Karl-Peter Fritzsche	3
B 5	Human Rights and Disability Studies	2. /3.	Prof. Dr. Ernst von Kardorff	3
C Practical fields of Human Rights based Social work - <i>mandatory modules with choice</i>				6 <sup>3</sup>
C 1	Introduction to the C Sub-modules <sup>4</sup>	2.	All lecturers of the C Modules	
C 1	Human Rights Education	2./3.	Dr. Claudia Lohrenscheit	3
C 2	Human Rights based Social Work Practice - local, national and international	2./3.	Dr. Nivedita Prasad	3
C 3	Innovative organizational development - Change management in Organizations	2./3.	Prof. Dr. Susanne Schönborn	3
D	Project with Coaching and Presentation	2./3. 4.	Students can choose their supervisors	15
E	Master thesis incl. Colloquies and Final exam	4./ 5.	Students can choose their supervisors	18

<sup>2</sup> A minimum of 2 out of 5 B Sub-Modules have to be chosen

<sup>3</sup> To be gained in two sub-modules

<sup>4</sup> A minimum of 2 out of 3 C Sub-Modules have to be chosen

## Access to Further Study

Students who have achieved 300 Credit points are entitled to be granted access to doctoral programs or to advanced public service positions. Students who do not have sufficient Credit Points are given the opportunity to gain the missing 30 Credit points by different means such as:

- Acknowledgement of work experience
- Acknowledgement or internship in a foreign country
- Compilation of publications
- Taking up supplementary B and C Modules
- Taking up supplementary Modules in other Master programs
- Compilation of an exposé for a PHD
- Participation in excursions in a foreign country

## Further Information Sources

Further information is available in the Eligibility regulation (Zulassungsordnung), the Study regulation (Studienordnung), the Examination regulation (Prüfungsordnung) and in the Module Handbook of the Study Program.

Up to date information in German is available on the website of the ZPSA:  
[www.zpsa.de](http://www.zpsa.de)

Dr. Nivedita Prasad, Director of the study program  
Margit Wagner, Coordinator of the Study program