

Master in Social Sciences and Educational Sciences



Programme

- 120 ECTS / 4 semesters
- Full-time
- Registration fees: 400€ / semester



Application

- EU: 1 February – 15 July 2026
- Non-EU: 1 February – 24 March 2026



Teaching Language

- English



Admission

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent (180 ECTS) in an educational or social science (or multiple disciplines) and a strong interest in theoretical perspectives and excellent methodological skills.
- Language requirements: English C1 (CEFR). Knowledge of French and German are considered an asset.

This international, multidisciplinary, research-based Master in Social Sciences and Educational Sciences addresses topics at the nexus of education and society and key challenges facing contemporary societies, especially European welfare states.

The Master in Social Sciences and Educational Sciences (MASSES) focuses on the analysis of changes in institutions and organisations caused by social, economic and political integration and crises as well as comparisons of the development of educational and social policies and systems across time and space. Particular emphasis is on Luxembourg, its neighbouring countries and Europe within the context of internationalisation. Innovatively, theories and methodologies of a variety of academic disciplines, including sociology, education and political science, are jointly utilised in analysis and problem solving.

The Master in Social Sciences and Educational Sciences brings together:

- social scientific analysis of education, social systems, and policies
- multi-level and comparative analyses at local, national, European, and global levels
- sociological, educational, political, historical and cultural perspectives

The programme provides the academic foundations needed for advanced-level research, e.g. in Sociology of Education, and the professional tools required for careers in expanding education and science systems. Students are taught to understand the development of education and welfare states (e.g. schooling and social services) across time – and to compare across cases.

A research-based study programme with insider views on educational policymaking.

Career perspectives

Students will be prepared to either continue their academic career in doctoral programmes at the University of Luxembourg (or other leading universities globally) or transition to a wide variety of national or international organisations, governments, foundations or associations in Luxembourg, throughout Europe and beyond.

Programme objectives

Students of the programme:

- cultivate critical understandings of research related to fields of study in the social and educational sciences;
- follow and engage in debates on changing societies;
- acquire and expand knowledge of social inequalities and welfare state regimes; compare, critique, and plan reforms of education and science as well as social service systems;
- design, develop, and conduct empirical research using quantitative, qualitative, historical or mixed methods;
- extend expertise in several academic fields of study (social sciences, education, social and education policy); and
- engage in developing policies and programmes on local, national, and international levels.

Programme structure

In small discussion-rich seminars, students together explore developments and challenges, from global to local, as they learn to make sense of cultural, socio-economic, and political characteristics of educational and social welfare systems and wider societal contexts. Seminars are taught in English, with comprehensive training in academic writing offered throughout the course, which culminates in an extensive research thesis written in the second year.

Mentoring by internationally known scholars in the social and educational sciences is paired with opportunities to contribute to cutting-edge research projects at the university and affiliated research institutes.

Within the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, students may participate in on-going research projects and collaborate with professors and researchers.

Professional partnerships within Luxembourg include research centers such as the Luxembourg Institute for Socio-economic Research (LISER) and the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) – located in the same building – as well as an array of international (non-)governmental organisations, such as UNESCO and OECD.

Internationally, academic collaborations and exchanges exist with universities in the United States (Penn State University), Switzerland (University of Fribourg) and Germany (University of Hannover), among others.

CONTACT

✉ christelle.karleskind@uni.lu
Study Programme Administrator
T. +352 / 46 66 44 - 9510

Justin Powell
Study Programme Director

✉ masses@uni.lu

 masses.uni.lu

