



## **MA Comparative European Social Studies (MACESS)**

Zuyd University of Applied Science and the London Metropolitan University, in co-operation with an extended network of various universities and colleges all over Europe offer this MA. It is intended for graduate social professionals (social workers, social pedagogues, care workers etc.) and offers the opportunity to conduct a comparative study and research in the field of social professional practice and/or social policy within a European context. Successful completion of the course is awarded by an English MA degree.

The programme is designed for graduate students from the variety of social professions and applied social studies in the wider Europe and beyond who have the appropriate language, academic and professional skills and knowledge to succeed with the programme assessment tasks. Students are eligible to attend on a full-time or part-time basis. Students are welcomed from countries of the wider Europe, recruited and nominated through the MACESS website and the network.

The main focus is to enable students to develop a scientific basis for the professional application of their knowledge and understanding of skills in theory and methods of social professional work in a European perspective. They are introduced to the main European institutions and organisations, as well as in the discussions on a European level on social professional work. Topics include, new trends, projects, policy-making, with a focus on comparison, transfer and implementation from a local (or national) to a European level, or vice versa: researching the possibilities of implementation of EU initiatives at local level.

The curriculum compares different social systems on a local, regional, national and European level. Students must formulate proposals for implementation and change in social institutions at these levels and develop plans for building networks of co-operation in an international or European context.

### **Course programme**

Macess is a 1 year full time programme from September – August. Course load is 90 ects. It's also possible to study in part time modes or to study individual modules and to obtain a certificate.

Modules:

#### ***European Institutions and Policy***

This module is designed to introduce students to European Institutions and policies, to help them acquire insight into the rationale of co-operation and integration, and to familiarise them with policy-making. Although this module goes far beyond social policy in Europe, the approach taken is to place the development of 'social Europe' within its appropriate political and policy context.

### ***Comparative Social Research***

The module is designed to develop students' research mindedness, providing them the opportunity to build the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in comparative social research in a European and global context. The module develops students' understanding of research as a process. Different perspectives on research and its role in social professional practice and social policy are covered.

### ***Comparative Social Policy***

This module examines theories of the state and welfare, and discusses various frameworks for comparison. Within this structure, students will be invited to apply knowledge from lectures and from within the student group in order to make comparisons of different welfare regimes.

### ***European Social Professions in Context***

The module will introduce students to the history and concept of 'European social professional practices' within different welfare regimes, major factors of their development, and innovative policies and practices, including service user involvement.

### ***Education and Supervision of Social professionals in Europe***

The module will examine different theories and approaches to education and supervision relevant to the social professions in a European context

### ***Evaluation in a European Context***

The overall purpose of this module is to provide students with an opportunity to consider the European and comparative social welfare and care contexts within which evaluation is commissioned, carried out and intends to affect. It introduces both the theoretical and practical aspects of evaluation which underpin the increasing emphasis in all sectors on effective and efficient service provision.

### ***Leadership and Management of Social Organisations in Europe***

The module will examine organisational theory, leadership and management in relation to social welfare provision and programmes in a European context. Students will be introduced to management and leadership theory and policy frameworks, to develop a formal approach to their management and leadership role. In addition, students will critically explore key practice areas, drawing from relevant theories and reflecting on practice. Particular attention will be paid to leadership and communication skills, ethical reflection and the specific requirement of leading and managing social organizations. Finally the module will critically explore current theories and practices regarding leading change and managing diversity, and in particular leading and managing teams, networks, and inter-cultural working groups.

### ***European Social Professions in Practice - Ethics, Risks and Decision-making***

This module will introduce students to contemporary theories and strategies around the role of the social work practitioner from both a local and global perspective. Looking specifically at challenges for the practitioner, the module will examine personal and professional issues around ethical decision-making and risk management, factors that have a significant impact upon how social work is shaped, perceived and evaluated.

## ***The Dissertation***

The dissertation provides students with the opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills developed over the course of the teaching programme and apply these in an extended piece of research on a topic of choice in comparative social studies. Academic supervision is provided throughout, to support and facilitate the individual research process of students.

## **Career Opportunities / enhancements**

People vary in age and experience and have a wide variety of different professional and academic qualifications when applying to the MACESS programme and this will obviously inform their different career choices. For example, people coming to the programme immediately after completing their qualifying bachelor in the social professions may want to use their MACESS award to help secure a position in professional practice in order to gain experience and expertise in a particular social field; people coming to the programme with considerable experience may use their MACESS qualification to change direction in their profession or to seek promotion.

MACESS alumni have been successful in gaining positions in the following areas: Lecturers in universities / Directors and managers of both small and large organizations in the social area / Senior practitioners at the frontline of health and social care practice / Researchers and authors / Consultants / Policy advisors to governments and organizations

### **Facts:**

- 1 year MA for students with a social science BA degree (or familiar)
- English taught program at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences in Maastricht (NL)
- Degree awarded by London Metropolitan University (UK)
- Full-time and part-time modes of study possible
- Fee: € 3.600,-
- Teaching staff is composed from a large European network of higher education institutions; travel to Maastricht for all lectures
- Students come from all over Europe and beyond
- Entry requirements: social science degree, professional qualification in social professions
- English language support available all year
- Library / media resources and computing facilities
- Student rooms can be reserved (€290 - 350 p/m)
- Study visits EC and COE free of charge
- Module textbooks: € 250,- . Module outlines, booklets and readers free of charge
- Assistance to non-EU students requiring a valid visa and health insurance

For further details and application: [www.maccess.nl](http://www.maccess.nl)

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