



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN



Master of Science in Social Policy Analysis (IMPALLA)

INTERNATIONAL INTERUNIVERSITY
PROGRAMME

Faculty of Social Sciences





Welcome to IMPALLA

Are you looking for an advanced academic degree in international comparative social policy research? Would you like to be taught by internationally renowned professors with years of expertise in implementing and evaluating social policies? Would you like to be able to apply your theoretical knowledge to empirical analysis by using statistical methods and data handling?

If so, the **Master of Science in Social Policy Analysis** offered by **Luxembourg, Leuven, and Associate Institutions** (IMPALLA) is worth your serious consideration.

Attending the IMPALLA programme was a great opportunity to sharpen both my academic and social skills. I also really appreciated the material support and resources, truly outstanding in comparison with other educational institutions.

The IMPALLA programme has several important assets. Its international and comparative focus, the high calibre of its staff and the international character of its student body form the cornerstones of this unique programme. The IMPALLA programme provides an up-to-date ICT environment and special access to national and international comparative micro databases. Finally, students are conscientiously guided by a team of assistant professors and researchers.

Besides its professional education, this programme is unique because of the congenial family atmosphere, the cohesion with all involved, and the care and attention given to the needs of the students.

Educational project

Our ambition is to train students to become qualified analysts in comparative social policy who:

- have mastered state-of-the-art research methodologies
- are sensitive to the determinants and dysfunctional effects of social action and public policies
- are able to apply their skills in evaluating social systems and programmes

The learning process is interactive, emphasising applied approaches to the subjects studied. Students will be introduced to contemporary social and political theories that aim to explain societal change. They will also learn to define and formulate research questions, problems and issues. They acquire a thorough understanding of the rationale and range of various research methods and an extensive knowledge of data sources. As a consequence, they will be able to make their own choices in dealing with social policy issues and will be able to present their options critically and reflectively.



In the first term of the programme, students choose a case-study, which they then carry out independently. This exercise aims at enhancing students':

- individual aptitude for analysis and synthesis
- ability to work in an international and/or multidisciplinary team
- skills in motivating and presenting study results

Working environment

The IMPALLA programme provides a cutting-edge ICT environment for individual, group and classroom arrangements. It also offers special access to national and international comparative micro databases (and corresponding meta-information), available on-site and within the consortium's archive network.

Time is set aside for regular interaction with the on-site research teams working on national and international comparative projects, as well as for contacts with visiting researchers.

Social activities, academic events and visits to European institutions and research centres (in Luxembourg, Belgium, etc.) are also part of the programme.

Profile



Applicants should have strong English language skills and a solid knowledge of statistics and research methodology. They should be interested in social policy as such, in its development and implementation, in social problems and social change and should be motivated to analyse these subjects more profoundly.

By the end of the programme, students should be able to grasp both the overall socio-economic picture and the crucial social-policy issues at stake.

They should be able to choose and master the correct methodologies needed to analyse the available databases, and they should be able to present and communicate the results of their personal research.

I consider the IMPALLA programme as the best preparation for a PhD or an academic career. As for the schedule and the studying requirements, the IMPALLA year was exceedingly demanding. Learning how to use statistical and social-policy analysis tools for my research improved my methodological skills. Luxembourg as well as Leuven each provide a perfect working environment for students, with 24/7 access to PC facilities, a floor to themselves, and the guidance of professors' assistants.



Admission requirements

A university degree of at least four years in social or behavioural sciences, including training in statistics, is a prerequisite for applying to the programme.

Applicants who are non-native English speakers must provide evidence of English language proficiency by presenting a language test score (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS) of at least C1 level, according to the Common European Framework of the Council of Europe.

Students may apply for a grant provided by the IMPALLA programme.

Admission is limited to 24 students per year. The closing date for applications is to be found on our website.

Graduates of the IMPALLA programme receive a degree conferred by K.U.Leuven. Candidates must thus follow K.U.Leuven's specific application procedure. Consult our website for detailed information.

For more information see www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla

Programme

The programme begins in late August with an intensive introductory period for all participants. By mid-October, students should be ready to begin the programme's main courses.

The lectures covering the theoretical aspects of the programme are spread out over two periods and are complemented by exercises related to the subjects being studied. During the rest of the week, students are encouraged to attend expert meetings, carry out case studies in groups or individually, and complete individual assignments.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS		60 credits
COURSE		CREDITS
Levelling-up Group		
• Levelling-up Statistics		3
• Levelling-up Social Sciences		8
Socio-Economic Policy Group		
• Social Problems and Reforms Seminar		7
• Social Policy		3
• Comparative and International Socio-Economic Policy		3
Policy Evaluation Group		
• The Policy Cycle		3
• Evaluation Techniques and Tools		4
Statistics & Research Group		
• Statistics & Research Methods - Part I		5
• Statistics & Research Methods - Part II		5
Master's Dissertation		
• Master's Dissertation		16
Optional: Choose one		
• Performance Audit in Social Policy		3
• Applied Methodology: how to do relevant research?		3

For detailed descriptions please consult www.kuleuven.be/coursecatalogue

Overview of the academic year

Most of the courses take place in G.D. Luxembourg, but the programme includes a three-month stay at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, in Leuven, Belgium, during which students receive further teaching and training.

Term	Period	Location
• Levelling-up term	Late August - Mid-October	CEPS/INSTEAD, G.D. Luxembourg
• Second term	Mid-October - January	CEPS/INSTEAD, G.D. Luxembourg
• Third term	February - April	K.U.Leuven, Belgium
• Dissertation term	May - July	CEPS/INSTEAD, G.D. Luxembourg

Most of the courses are scheduled in units of one week.

Studying abroad

The programme is organised jointly by the Centre for Sociological Research at K.U.Leuven (Belgium) and the Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). Associated institutions are the University of Tilburg (the Netherlands), the University of Nancy II (France), and the University of Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). Students reside in Luxembourg for seven months and in Leuven for three months. The programme attracts students from all around the world.

Career prospects

In a globalising world, social policy issues are of central importance. New jobs are constantly created in the fields of implementation and evaluation of social policies. Past IMPALLA graduates have pursued careers as consultants to national ministries and administrations or international institutions, academic institutions, advanced research centres, or private firms specialising in auditing and impact assessment.

In short, the programme qualifies graduates for a top-level career as a social researcher in either the public or private sector.

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Learn more

www.kuleuven.be/ma/impalla
www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla
www.impalla.ceps.lu

General information

K.U.Leuven - International programmes: www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes
 K.U.Leuven - International Office: www.kuleuven.be/english

CEPS/INSTEAD

IMPALLA Programme
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impalla.secretariat@ceps.lu

Organising institutions

- K.U.Leuven, Centre for Sociological Research (Belgium)
- Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)

Associated institutions

- University of Tilburg (the Netherlands)
- University of Nancy II (France)
- University of Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)



This brochure provides the most complete and accurate information available concerning Master's programmes offered at K.U.Leuven. Amendments to the composition of this programme may, however, be approved at any time. The study load of many Master's programmes may increase from 60 to 120 credits in the future. Consequently, K.U.Leuven is in no way legally bound by the information provided in this brochure. The most recent information on all our academic programmes can be consulted at www.coursecatalogue.kuleuven.be

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