

Cand.soc.



MSc in Social Sciences in Comparative Public Policy and Welfare Studies

SDU 

Business and
Social Sciences

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Cand.soc. / Master of Science in Social Sciences in Comparative Public Policy and Welfare Studies

Programme structure

		Common courses		Possible specializations (choose one course per semester)	
	<i>Skills</i>	<i>Methods</i>	<i>Policies and out-comes</i>	<i>Social justice</i>	<i>Understanding social change</i>
1. Semester Basic courses	<i>Blended learning activities</i>	Quantitative methods for public policy (10 ECTS)	The Nordic model of governance (5 ECTS) Public policy/ Offentlig politik (5 ECTS)	Social policy: Challenges and solutions (10 ECTS)	Science, technology and society (10 ECTS)
2. Semester Applied courses	<i>Blended learning activities</i>	Research design (10 ECTS)	Economics for policy evaluation (10 ECTS)	Ethics and public policy (10 ECTS)	Global issues and development (10 ECTS)
3. Semester Continued specialisation	<i>Integrated activities to elective courses/internship</i>	Elective courses in Denmark or abroad (10-30 ECTS) and/or internship (10 or 20 ECTS)			
4. Semester Independent work		Master thesis (30 ECTS)			

The numbers indicate the work load of each course in ECTS points.

Aim higher!

In the first two semesters, you take 60 ECTS in compulsory courses. First semester courses give a broad overview of the evolution, challenges and perspectives on public policies and welfare studies, addressing classical topics as well as contemporary issues.

Second semester courses focus on specific issues related to the formulation and implementation of welfare-related policies.

The courses in the first two semesters are organized in such a way as to offer you two specializations to choose from right from the start of your studies. This allows you to build skills for your future career. One specialization emphasizes the politics side of public policies, and the other emphasizes processes of social change and their consequences for welfare provision.

The two specializations have in common the courses "Quantitative methods" (semester 1), "Research design" (semester 2), "The Nordic model of governance" (semester 1), "Public policy/Offentlig politik"(semester 1) and "Economics for policy evaluation" (semester 2) – which provide them with essential tools to understand public policies. Altogether, the common courses give 20 ECTS each semester.

Students can form the desired specialization by choosing the following courses, which give 10 ECTS each semester:

- Specialization "Social justice": courses "Social policy: challenges and solutions" (semester 1) and "Ethics and public policy" (semester 2).
- Specialization "Understanding social change": courses "Science, technology and society" (semester 1) and "Global issues and development" (semester 2).

In the third semester, you have the opportunity to continue your specialization by choosing between courses (in Denmark or abroad) or internships, while in the fourth semester you write your Master's thesis on a topic of your choice.

What are our students researching?

The Master's thesis is the culmination of the Master's degree program and reflects students' ability to conduct independent research. Here are some of the exciting topics that our students have chosen to explore:

- Atypical workers' experiences on the labour market
- The global economic crisis as a critical juncture for the Greek clientelistic system
- Employers' engagement in the successful integration of immigrants
- How a changed narrative on 'the ability to work' affects the perception of 'deservingness'
- Refugees' experiences of integration
- Gay couples' experiences with medical system
- Social inclusion as a way to narrow the achievement gap between immigrants and natives
- How our societies face the challenge of technological change
- The impact of the World Wars on wealth taxation in Austria
- Impact of educational attainment on individual preferences for redistribution

Internship

An internship is your chance to test yourself in the job market during your studies. You can spend a part of the third semester carrying out a company project or other project-oriented work. Here are some of the places where our students have done internships:

- Danish National Centre for Social Research
- European institutions
- Danish Research Office in Brussels
- Local municipalities
- World Health Organisation
– Copenhagen Office

Learning

Teaching, coaching and supervision are provided by an international group of leading researchers

in their fields of public policy and administration, political science, history, and sociology.

Most of these researchers come from the Danish Centre for Welfare Studies. There are also guest lectures by leading scholars affiliated with the centre or visiting.

See more at www.sdu.dk/welfare

Lecturers, coaches and mentors use a variety of teaching methods to optimize learning outcomes for students, e.g. lectures, group work, lab work. Students get hands-on experience with different methods and data.

Dynamic student environment

The University of Southern Denmark provides a good infrastructure for students working in groups or alone centered at new facilities at the Department of Political Science. In addition to the formal teaching, students can engage in informal reading groups on classic or new texts, visit relevant institutions and much more.

There are social get-togethers with film evenings, cultural visits and other events.

The University of Southern Denmark is a modern institution offering education and

research at the highest level. Every day more than 1,400 researchers and 32,000 students build on the University's reputation as a centre of academic excellence.

This programme is offered at the largest campus which is located in Odense, the third largest city in Denmark. Lively and youthful, this historic city has a bustling social scene and is little more than an hour away from Copenhagen. Odense is known for being the birthplace of world-renowned storyteller Hans Christian Andersen.



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The welfare state in the 21st century

Why are some societies more equal than others? How can we explain soaring unemployment and budget deficits? Why do women participate in the labour market as much as men in some countries but less in others? Why do healthcare, childcare and other public services differ in their quality across developed societies – and how do these differences matter? Answers to all these questions relate to the welfare state – more specifically, to public policies and welfare studies.

The development of the modern welfare state profoundly transformed societies in the 20th century. In the Western world, the welfare state laid the foundation for peace and stability and helped to establish fundamental principles such as gender equality and social mobility. More recently, Asian and Latin American countries have embraced the concept and developed ambitious welfare state programmes.

At the same time as welfare states fundamentally shape the functioning of societies all over the world, they are also subject to intense political conflict and to multiple pressures for change. This helps explain why there are different types of welfare states across advanced societies.

Understanding the development and reform of the modern welfare states, as well as their effects and main challenges, is essential for people interested in the future of our societies. This is the knowledge we provide our students with – students who want to have a say in shaping the world of tomorrow as policy advisors, consultants, decision-makers, civil servants or scholars.

Career opportunities

The two-year MSc in Social Sciences in Comparative Public Policy and Welfare Studies links directly to current global and national challenges, such as ageing populations, changing family models, and economic crises. The programme provides you with a broad, high-level set of skills and competencies enabling you to contribute to the development of sustainable and democratically legitimate solutions to such challenges.

You will be an attractive candidate to international and national agencies, as well as to all levels of public administration and policy-making. You will be involved in policy analysis and in devising policy solutions for achieving social and economic goals.

Entry requirements

In the overview below you can see which bachelor degrees qualify you to the MSc in Social Sciences in Comparative Public Policy and Welfare Studies.

Degrees with direct admission

- Bachelor in Political Science
- Bachelor in Social work
- Bachelor in History
- Bachelor in Area Studies

All Social Science bachelors

- Bachelor in International Negotiation – economics, language and culture

Other degrees

- Bachelor in Humanities if at least 20 ECTS points were acquired in social science disciplines.

Application deadlines: 1 March

Study start: 1 September

Contact information

Follow the MSc in Social Sciences in Comparative Public Policy and Welfare Studies - SDU on facebook.com/WelfareStudies.

Questions concerning the study programme:

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Please see our homepage for more details on entry requirements.

sdu.dk/comparativewelfare



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