

Social Work: Social Policies and Welfare Studies at the Malmö University 2026



You are most welcome to this course (7.5 ECTS) where you have a great opportunity to gain cross-border learning in an international context. You'll meet fellow-Social work students from different countries and lecturer's from different subject-areas and countries. The course is divided into a campus-part (in Malmö) estimating 09.00-16.00 (Jan27th- Feb5th 2026) and thereafter you'll work with a written assignment which is net-based incl supervision. Course Introduction (online): Jan13th 13.15-15.00.

Purpose and content

The course deals with social policy and social work organization in different situations on the basis of a comparative perspective. The practice of social work in cultural diversity and an international environment is discussed. Moreover, it focuses knowledge of various welfare systems in terms of comparative country studies, culture, social policy and social work. The course is discussed through different themes (e.g); children and family, ageing, migration, drug addiction, community based social work, methodology, disaster risk management, profession and education.

Furthermore, the course helps to develop the student reflections based on their professional identity. Students are expected to reflect critically, analyze and discuss different aspects of the welfare system, such as social policy, organization, challenges and social work in a Swedish/Nordic and comparative perspective.

Learning outcome

After completion of the course students should be able to:

1. describe and analyze social policies in local and global context,
2. analyze social problems and identify vulnerable groups and environments, and reflect on the meaning of welfare system for people,
3. describe and problematize the social systems in which social work operates, and
4. critically reflect on and analyze the different models of welfare and its importance for practical social work.

Admission requirements

Basic eligibility, special permission equivalent of English B in Swedish secondary school, 30 credits in Social Sciences.
MAU Course code: HS180E

Further information (*in addition to your institutional contact*)

Jonas Christensen, PhD, Assoc. Prof/Senior Lecturer, Course Instructor

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