

MIGRATION & REFUGEES

INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER SOCIAL WORK

POSTGRADUATE, ENGLISH-TAUGHT SEMESTER - BRUGES (Campus Brugge Centrum - Sint-Jorisstraat 71)**Is this the course I am looking for?**

We are inviting and welcome expressions of interest from bachelor students keen to engage with core themes of migration, embedded within the **human rights** framework and rights-based approaches.

In this course students will learn about the impact on social transformation and cultural identity when **vulnerable people** move from one geographical location to another, circumstances in which human rights may be violated and sources of support and protection. This block study programme involves several field trips and explores the developments and responses to the opportunities and challenges of migration, within the Belgian and European legislative frameworks.

This course is suitable for all as it is enriched by the diversity of its participants and it is ideal for anyone looking to expand their knowledge and skills in this valuable and rewarding area of work. In addition, it provides an ideal foundation for anyone with a future interest in working in support services for migrants or wider international development.

English-taught semesters, what are they?

An English-taught semester is part of a bachelor programme and offers a coherent package of course units in English. This provides an option for semester exchange to incoming students from international Howest partner universities, and other international students who would like to study abroad.

» **This specific international semester can also be followed as a postgraduate programme.**



Practical: The programme is organized and run from Bruges, Belgium during the Autumn. The postgraduate course costs € 1000. For some modules you can obtain an exemption, depending upon your previous education. Due to the nature of the postgraduate course, the full programme can only be combined with part-time working and flexible hours in a relevant sector.

More information:

For more information on course content or registration, please contact the programme coordinators:
johan.bertels@howest.be or
sarah.de.vriendt@howest.be

2020-2021

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Compulsory modules

Intercultural learning and identity (3 ECTS)

Social care professionals need to be aware of their own cultural identity to be able to overcome the differences and challenges that this presents. In this module we will analyse frameworks to understand different group cultures, their values and standards. As every human is unique and can make choices, we also focus on individual cultural identities. We will use non formal training methods to explore issues such as stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination and take this opportunity to learn together as a diverse interactive group of people, informed by and drawing upon our own life experience.

Introduction in Social Work (3 ECTS)

The international semester is developed by the Social Work department and a clear framework and understanding of Social Work is necessary to be able to work within the domain of migration. We therefore approach migration from an ethical point of view, starting from the universal human rights and based on the global definition of social work. Social work in Europe is evolving from a purely social context to critical ecological social work.

Integration in different fields (6 ECTS)

This module contains an introduction of the history and demography of European and worldwide migration, an analysis of Flemish integration projects and field visits in a variety of service areas such as housing, employment, culture, sport, youth, education etc. Students will analyse the circumstances and approach in their own culture and country of origin and through comparative learning techniques, compare it with the approach taken in Belgium and other European countries.

Project Work (6 ECTS)

Students will have the opportunity to spend 4 hours a week at an organisation that supports migrants and/or refugees so that the knowledge gained from study of the other modules can be applied and integrated into practice. Students will add value and use project work methods to support their organisation to address and seek to resolve a specific problem in the field.

International & national policy and (legal) frame work (3 ECTS)

The course will examine the different international policies, treaties and institutions at European and global level. Legal policy, administration and the application human rights of migrants in the Flanders region and wider Europe will form the basis of our discussions.

Optional modules

Cultural Frameworks in Health (3 ECTS)

Through visits, guest speakers and case studies, students will expand their cultural knowledge, theory and practice framework by learning about cultural patterns and barriers in Health and Intercultural communication. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about health promotion alongside people with a migration background and those working in underdeveloped countries.

Psychological aspects of migration (3 ECTS)

The psychological impact of migration can be enormous, for example when people leave their family and friends behind or flee war. Students will explore techniques such as psychological counselling, used within Flemish mental health care services to support migrant children, adolescents and adults.