

Course catalogue

Social Protection (MSc)

Last Updated: 30.01.2024

Objectives

The master's programme offers an interdisciplinary and in-depth study of social protection systems. Graduates of the degree will be able to design "smart" systems, which can be sustainably financed while being effective and flexible. Graduates will also be in a position to contribute towards optimizing and, whenever necessary, reorganising existing social protection systems and single programmes, adapting them to future demographic, economic and social challenges.

We want our graduates to:

- analyze the characteristics, determinants, instruments and actors of social protection systems, covering low-, middle- as well as high-income countries
- know how to use different analytical methods and tools for designing and reforming social protection systems
- be capable to combine and interlink different social protection instruments at policy, programmatic and administrative level to make social protection inclusive
- have a solid understanding of how to institutionalize and sustainably finance social protection systems
- be comfortable using state-of-the-art management methods to implement social protection interventions effectively and efficiently
- establish an interdisciplinary and interinstitutional network of national and international experts

The curriculum mirrors the core competencies that we think are essential to be actively involved in planning, managing, evaluating and reforming social protection systems over time. The master's programme imparts technical knowledge about the genesis, characteristics and policy instruments in social protection systems and transfers the analytical skills that are necessary to tailor a social protection system to the respective economic, political, cultural and institutional opportunities and challenges of a country and further develop it over time in reaction to reform needs and opportunities.

The master's programme does not have an explicit regional focus as its primary objective is to allow students to work in various contexts and with social protection systems of different degrees of maturity. In all modules, examples from low-, middle- and high-income countries will be provided. Case studies, group discussions and projects as well as the various backgrounds of students and lecturers also serve to familiarise students with different contexts. The electives in the master's programme then gives students the chance to think through challenges and suitable linkages at policy and programmatic level to tailor social protection to the specific needs of various groups in society.

Research also occupies a central role in the master's programme. The programme conveys central methods for designing and carrying out scientific research and guides students through conducting their own research for their master's thesis on a topic that they consider particularly vital and that they would like to study in greater depth. This is not only relevant for those who would like to pursue a career in research or academia later on but is an equally great opportunity to specialise in a certain topic.

The study programme is practice-oriented with respect to the content of the curriculum that is regularly assessed against the required skill-set on the job-market, the blending of theoretical foundations with practical applications of knowledge in-class as well as the integration of a practical term into the curriculum that allows students to practice the newly acquired skills and prepares them for the job market.

As challenges in social protection policy can rarely be mastered alone but usually require a fruitful exchange with various actors, we place great emphasis on strengthening the communication and social competencies of our students. These competencies are fostered through case studies, group projects, presentations and interactive lecturing in an intercultural and interdisciplinary group. We also offer a separate module on political and change communication and ensure that there are opportunities for students to socialise and benefit from each other's expertise during as well as after their studies.

Overview of Modules											
Module No.	Module	ECTS / Semester				Workload		Teaching & Learning methods	Pre-requisites	Methods of examination	Emphasis of grade
		1.	2.	3.	4.	Contact hours (45min)	Independ. study (1h)				
1st Semester											
M1	Module 1: Comparative Analysis of Social Protection Systems	8				120	110				8 / 88
M 1.1	Social Protection Systems: Constitutive Elements	2				30	27,5	IL, E, D, ST ¹	None	Portfolio	
M 1.2	Social Protection Systems: Driving Factors	2				30	27,5				
M 1.3	Comparative Social Protection Analysis	2				30	27,5				
M 1.4	International Social Protection Policy	2				30	27,5				
M2	Module 2: Foundational Skills	7				105	96,25				7 / 88
M 2.1	Economics of Social Protection	2				30	27,5	IL, E, D	None	Written exam (in-class)	
M 2.2	Statistics	2				30	27,5				
M 2.3	Demography	1				15	13,75				
M 2.4	Poverty and Risk Assessment	2				30	27,5				
M3	Module 3: Social Protection Policy Instruments	8				120	110				8 / 88
M 2.1	Contributory Schemes	2				30	27,5	IL, E, D, P, GP	None	Portfolio	
M 2.2	Social Transfers	2				30	27,5				
M 2.3	Social Services	2				30	27,5				
M 2.4	Promotional Measures	2				30	27,5				
M4	Module 4: Quantitative Methods in Social Protection	7				105	96,25				7 / 88
M 4.1	Econometrics	2				30	27,5	IL, E, D	None	Written exam (in-class)	
M 4.2	Evaluation	2				30	27,5				
M 4.3	Actuarial Practice	3				45	41,25				

¹ IL = Interactive lecturing; E = Exercises; D = Discussions; OD = Online Discussions; ST = Study Tour; P = Presentations; GP = Group project

Module No.	Module	ECTS / Semester				Workload		Teaching & Learning methods	Pre-requisites	Methods of examination	Emphasis of grade
		1.	2.	3.	4.	Contact hours (45min)	Independ. study (1h)				
2nd Semester											
M5	Module 5: Social Protection Financing		6			90	82,5				6 / 88
M 5.1	Public Finance		2			30	27,5	IL, E, OD	None	Written exam (take-home)	
M 5.2	Resource Mobilization		2			30	27,5				
M 5.3	Financing Techniques		2			30	27,5				
M6	Module 6: Groups in Focus (Electives)		6			90	82,5				6 / 88
M 6.1	Children / Youth	Students choose 2 Electives	3			45	41,25	IL, E, OD, P	None	(A) Presentation (50%) (B) Research Paper (50%)	
M 6.2	Elderly		3			45	41,25				
M 6.3	Migrants		3			45	41,25				
M 6.4	People with Disability		3			45	41,25				
M 6.5	Family		3			45	41,25				
M 6.6	Working Population		3			45	41,25				
M7	Module 7: Social Protection Management		6			120	110				6 / 88
M 7.1	Delivery of Social Transfers		2			30	27,5	IL, E, OD, P	None	Portfolio	
M 7.2	Delivery of Social Insurance		2			30	27,5				
M 7.3	Information Management		2			30	27,5				
M8	Module 8: Social Protection Reforms		8			80	120				8 / 88
M 8.1	Reform Needs		2			60	55	IL, E, OD, GP	None	(A) Presentation (40%) (B) Reform Proposal (60%)	
M 8.2	Reform Management & Communication		6			60	55				
M9	Module 9: Research Methods		4		2	60	90				4 / 88
M 9.1	Research Methods		4			60	55	IL, E, OD, P	None	Attendance rate of 66,6% (M9.1) Research Proposal (100%) (M9.2) Presentations (fail/pass)	
M 9.2	Research Colloquium				2	30	27,5				
3rd Semester											
M10	Module 10: Studium Generale			5		Depends on course(s) selected				0 / 88	
M11	Module 11: Internship			25			625		(1) Min. 46 ECTS	(1) Internship Report (2) Internship Certificate	0 / 88
4th Semester											
M12	Module 12: Master Thesis				28	0	700		(1) Min. 46 ECTS (2) M9.1 needs to be passed.	Master's Thesis	28 / 88
Sum		30	30	30	30	930	2.177,5				

Course Schedule MSc Social Protection					
	Pre-Courses Online & on-campus	1st Semester On-campus	2nd Semester Online	3rd Semester Online	4th Semester Online
Modules	Economics	M1: Comparative Analysis of Social Protection Systems	M5: Social Protection Financing	M11: Internship	M12: Master Thesis
	Statistics	M2: Foundational Skills	M6: Groups in Focus		
	Academic Writing	M3: Social Protection Policy Instruments	M7: Social Protection Management		
	Social Protection	M4: Quantitative Methods in Social Protection	M8: Social Protection Reforms		
			M9.1 Research Methods		M9.2 Research Colloquium
		M10: Studium Generale			

Course descriptions

M1 Comparative Analysis of Social Protection Systems	6
M2 Foundational Skills	8
M3 Social Protection Policy Instruments	10
M4 Quantitative Methods in Social Protection	12
M5 Social Protection Financing	14
M6 Electives: Groups in Focus.....	16
M7 Social Protection Management	18
M8 Social Protection Reforms	20
M9 Research Methods	22
M10 Studium Generale.....	23
M11 Internship	24
M12 Master Thesis	25

M1 Comparative Analysis of Social Protection Systems

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		Duration
M1	200 h	8 ECTS	1 st Semester	Winter semester		8 SWS ²
1	Courses of the module			Contact hours	Independ. study	Group size
	M1.1 Social protection systems: constitutive elements (2 ECTS) M1.2 Social protection systems: driving factors (2 ECTS) M1.3 Comparative social protection analysis (2 ECTS) M1.4 International social protection policy (2 ECTS)			120 h	110 h	25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies					
	<p>In Module 1, you will be familiarised with the basic concepts, the main actors as well as theoretical approaches behind the rise, growth and entrenchment of social protection systems. You learn how to compare different social protection systems and study the constitutive elements as well as differences across systems. You are sensitized about the importance of political and other contextual factors when it comes to system design and also get to understand that the welfare state is no longer a purely national affair but shaped by regional and global influences and regulations.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the constitutive elements of social protection systems including the various actors and how they have historically developed in various context • get to understand the interplay of actors in social protection systems and where conflicts arise between the market, state, the family and civil society • study and critically discuss different welfare typologies, their merits and challenges • reflect on the explanatory approaches for the existence, growth and entrenchment of social protection systems • develop a critical understanding of the political factors that shape the adoption and implementation of social protection policies and programmes and the analytical frameworks that are available to understand this • be able to place the concept of social protection into the wider policy arena and draw linkages with other sectors • understand the social, economic and political rationale of social protection as well as any conflicting forces • learn how to compare different social protection systems and which indicators, methodological frameworks and databases to draw on • know international regulations and institutions and in what way they shape national social protection policies • learn how national social protection systems are influenced by international crises and other challenges such as migration 					
3	Contents of the module					
	<p>1.1 Social protection systems: constitutive elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of social protection • Typologies and conceptual frameworks • System's approach to social protection • Core instruments and actors in social protection • Role of social protection and regional particularities • Main methods / indicators for comparative analysis of social protection systems <p>1.2 Social protection systems: driving factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare state theories • Determinants of social protection systems 					

² SWS = Semester Wochen Stunden (translation = lecture hours of 45min per semester week)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of values and social justice norms • Political economy models of social protection <p>1.3 Comparative social protection analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main indicators for comparative analysis • Databases for quantitative and qualitative data • Comparability of data • Main comparative methods <p>1.4 International social protection policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International crises affecting the welfare state • Global policy ideas, norms and regulations • Transportability and coordination at regional and international level (example of the European Union) • Migration and the welfare state • Interplay of social protection at national and international level • International support for social protection initiatives
4	<p>Teaching and learning methods</p> <p>Interactive lecturing, discussions, exercises, study tour</p>
5	<p>Pre-requisites</p> <p>None</p>
6	<p>Methods of examination</p> <p>Portfolio</p>
7	<p>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</p> <p>Passing the portfolio</p>
8	<p>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</p> <p>9,0% (8 / 88)</p>
9	<p>Person responsible for module</p> <p>Masauso Chirwa</p>

M2 Foundational Skills

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer	Duration	
M2	175 h	7 ECTS	1 st Semester	Winter semester	7 SWS	
1	Courses of the module 2.1 Economics of social protection (2 ECTS) 2.2 Statistics (2 ECTS) 2.3 Demography (1 ECTS) 2.4 Poverty and risk assessment (2 ECTS)			Contact hours 105 h	Independ. study 96,25 h	Group size 25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>In Module 2, you will be familiarised with the main micro- and macro-economic determinants and implications of social protection schemes and systems. You learn and understand how social protection responds to market failures and to economic cycles but also how it is used to modify outcomes of the markets when these outcomes are not seen as acceptable from the rights, equity, and justice perspectives. In addition, you will get to know the basics of survey methodology and inferential statistics, which serve as a basis for the subsequent analyses carried out in the following modules in the master's programme. Where possible, statistics will be applied to the socio-economic context. In order to understand the (changing) needs for social protection, you will examine the concepts and driving factors behind demographic, poverty and risks trends. This will be an important basis for designing but also evaluating the effects of social protection as social protection schemes are not only influenced but also impact demography, poverty, inequality and the risk exposure of a country.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the micro- and macro-economic aspects of social protection interventions • learn how to analyze and measure economic activity of the population • study and critically discuss economic impacts of social protection • reflect on how social protection affects labour market incentives • develop a critical understanding of different views economists have on social protection • be aware of the challenges of survey design and be able to distinguish different characteristics of datasets • understand that estimates depend on samples and be able to quantify this dependency by calculating standard errors • know how to calculate and interpret confidence intervals • be able to test statistical hypotheses and to interpret p-values • discuss the role of social protection in the globalized economy • be able to understand demographic projections along with the associated assumptions • get to understand nature and impacts of economic transition and ageing populations • learn how to measure and analyze poverty and vulnerability • assess the risk profile of a country 					
3	Contents of the module 2.1 Economics of social protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity and efficiency trade-off - real or just alleged? • Determinants of the demand and supply of labour • Intertemporal choice and social protection • Decision making in the conditions of uncertainty and imperfect information • Market failures, asymmetric information, public goods and common resources and social protection • Social protection interventions: distortions or desired changes of market outcomes? • Economics of taxation • Introduction to health economics 2.2 Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey methodology: 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Total Survey Error Framework by Groves et. Al. ○ Different datasets (longitudinal, crosssections) and commonly used data sources in economic and social statistics ○ Data confidentiality and ethics ● Inference statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The sampling distribution of the mean and the central limit theorem ○ Standard errors and confidence intervals ○ Hypothesis tests and p-values <p>2.3 Demography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fertility ● Mortality ● Measuring migration and impacts on demographic developments ● Demographic transition and ageing populations ● Demographic projections <p>2.4 Poverty and risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concepts of poverty, vulnerability, inequality and risk ● Welfare indicators and poverty lines ● Interpretations and use of poverty analysis for social protection ● Profiles and determinants of poverty and inequality ● Risk profiles
4	Teaching and learning methods Interactive lecturing, exercises, discussions
5	Pre-requisites None
6	Methods of examination Written exam (in-class)
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Passing the written exam
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 8,0% (7 / 88)
9	Person responsible for module Simona Helmsmüller

M3 Social Protection Policy Instruments

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M3	200 h	8 ECTS	1 st Semester	Winter semester		
1	Courses of the module 3.1 Contributory schemes (2 ECTS) 3.2 Social transfers (2 ECTS) 3.3 Social services (2 ECTS) 3.4 Promotional measures (2 ECTS)			Contact hours 120 h	Independ. study 110 h	Group size 25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>Module 3 familiarizes you in detail with the main social protection policy instruments comprising contributory schemes, tax-financed transfers and services as well as promotional measures to give recipients the opportunity to become productive again. You study the concept, impact, challenges of different instruments and learn how the choice and prioritization of instruments is dependent on the inherent logic of the respective social protection system. For each and every instrument, you analyse the various design options and determine which options are most suitable in a given context.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire a solid understanding of the various policy instruments that make up an effective social protection system • discuss for each and every instrument the underlying concepts, their relevance in different country contexts, the potential effects and challenges • get a good overview of the evidence base and outstanding questions regarding different social protection instruments • analyse the design options that policymakers have for each instrument and learn various methods of how to make informed decisions • be capable of writing a policy paper, providing policy recommendations on social protection policy choices 					
3	Contents of the module 3.1 Contributory schemes Social insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic principles and rationale of social insurance • Detailed discussion of benefits, membership, and financing of all branches of social insurance • Conditions of functioning of social insurance • Mathematics of social insurance • Effects of social insurance and challenges & limitations • International perspectives on social insurance • Insurance for the informal sector • Social insurance in developing countries Private insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic principles and rational of private (re)insurance • Conditions of functioning of private insurance • Different private insurance schemes and related risks • Public regulation of private insurance plans • Is private insurance an option for the poor? • Micro insurance 3.2 Social transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept & typology of transfers • Role and justification for social transfers • Common misconceptions • Impact and coverage of social transfers around the world 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Databases and costing tools • Challenges & limitations • Analysis of design choices with respect to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeting ○ Transfer modality ○ Transfer amount ○ Conditionality ○ Duration and exit <p>3.3 Social services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social care services in the international development context • Conceptualisation and organisation of social care • Social work research and evidence based practice • Service planning, development and monitoring • Social care workforce • Social services for vulnerable groups: older people, children, young people, people with mental health problems and disability, families and communities • Participation and service user engagement <p>3.4 Promotional measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and institutions for labour governance • Employment at the centre of socio-economic policy and international labour standards • Employment policy and labour market policies • Defining employment challenges and identifying appropriate policy measures • Labour market aggregates for social protection and employment policy design • Active and passive labour market policies: Design by objective, types of interventions and targeting of public measures • Activation strategies and social protection: Tiering approach applied to the Public Employment Services • Labour and employment agendas from a development perspective • Labour mobility and migration in the employment and social policy agenda
4	Teaching and learning methods Interactive lecturing, exercises, discussions, group project, presentation
5	Pre-requisites None
6	Methods of examination Portfolio
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Passing the portfolio
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 9,0% (8 / 88)
9	Person responsible for module Masauso Chirwa

M4 Quantitative Methods in Social Protection

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M4	175 h	7 ECTS	1 st Semester	Winter semester		
1	Courses of the module 4.1 Econometrics (2 ECTS) 4.2 Evaluation (2 ECTS) 4.3 Actuarial practice (3 ECTS)			Contact hours 105 h	Independ. study 96,25 h	Group size 25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>In Module 4 you are introduced to ex-ante as well as ex-post evaluation methods in order to assess whether the design chosen is socially, politically and economically appropriate, whether interventions are cost-effective and whether fiduciary risks are minimised. As a good command of quantitative skills is required for ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of social protection interventions, you first follow a sub-module on applied econometrics and the use of a statistical software package. You then explore different methods that can be used to evaluate the impact, cost-effectiveness and fiduciary risks of social protection programmes, including methods of actuarial valuations and projections. You learn to judge when and how to best evaluate a social protection programme and when and how to evaluate an entire social protection system.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire stronger quantitative analytical techniques • know which techniques are suitable for which evaluation design • get to use a statistical software package and are prepared to use this software for different econometric, microsimulation, actuarial projections and valuation methods • be familiar with different evaluation techniques to assess the impact, the cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of social protection programmes • learn to assess data requirements for indicators necessary to measure performance of national social protection systems, review challenges and practical solutions resulting from constraints of limited data availability and data quality • critically reflect on different national and international approaches to evaluations of social protection systems and make suggestions for improvements 					
3	Contents of the module 4.1 Econometrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple linear regression • Testing for significance • Multiple regression and omitted variable bias • Nonlinear regression and interaction effects • Internal and external validity • Introduction to causality: randomized control trials 4.2 Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Evaluation Design: theory of change and selection of indicators • Process / service delivery evaluations: examples of targeting, payments & administrative processes • Quantitative impact evaluation techniques: experimental vs. non-experimental • Non-experimental: Difference-in-Difference, Matching techniques, Regression Discontinuity Design • Externality Effects, Local Economy Impact and general equilibrium effects, Cost-benefit analysis/Cost-effectiveness analysis • Introduction to public expenditure and performance reviews approach • International benchmarks for social protection evaluation (introducing examples of internationally agreed guidelines and benchmark indicators from ADB, EU, ILO, OECD, World Bank etc.) 					

	4.3 Actuarial practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding actuarial practice • Basics actuarial methods • Actuarial valuation of public pension schemes, social health insurance schemes, employment injury schemes, unemployment benefit schemes, sickness and maternity benefit schemes • The role of actuaries and actuarial methods in ensuring good governance of social protection and their limitations in doing so
4	Teaching and learning methods Interactive lecturing, exercises, discussions
5	Pre-requisites None
6	Methods of examination Written exam (in-class)
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Passing the written exam
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 8,0% (7 / 88)
9	Person responsible for module Simona Helmsmüller

M5 Social Protection Financing

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M5	150 h	6 ECTS	2 nd Semester	Summer semester		
1	Courses of the module 5.1 Public finance (2 ECTS) 5.2 Resource mobilization (2 ECTS) 5.3 Financing techniques (2 ECTS)			Contact hours 60 h	Independ. study 90 h	Group size 25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>In Module 5, you acquire knowledge of the determinants of different size of governments in various countries, different patterns of public expenditure and different structures of its financing. You study types and nature of publicly funded programmes, methods of comparing its costs and benefits as well choices of sources of its financing. You will understand impacts of different types of taxation and learn about the concepts of public finance sustainability. This module trains you to understand the social protection expenditure trends in different demographic, economic and specific country settings. Studying the determinants of affordability of social protection including the role of political processes, you analyse how greater fiscal space can be generated for social protection. You acquire insights into the different financing methods and techniques that are available for various instruments such as health care benefits, pensions and other benefits and you get to analyze approaches to sustainability assessment in social protection. In order to project expenditure and revenues into the future, you learn the social budgeting approach and the basics of social protection modelling and projections.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the basics of public finance, rationale of publicly funded programmes, and its financing options • learn about costs-benefit analysis • study impact incidence and impacts of different types of taxation and acquire knowledge about methods of tax-benefit analysis • be able to use government finance statistics databases and understand different methods of assessment of sustainability of public finances • acquire knowledge of the size of public financial space and expenditure trends in different country settings as well as the determinants of public social expenditure • be familiar with social budgeting methods • grasp the concepts of affordability, policy space and fiscal space and know how to apply them in the area of social protection • study the issue of opportunity costs and different resource mobilization strategies and are introduced to the underlying political processes • be familiar with the different social protection financing methods that are available for various types of programmes • acquire advanced knowledge on quantitative planning tools needed for the effective monitoring, planning and development of social protection systems 					
3	Contents of the module 5.1 Public Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of public finance theory • Elements of costs-benefit analysis • Government finance statistics • Tax incidence, combined redistributive analysis of taxes and benefits • Sustainability of public finances 5.2 Resource mobilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure trends and patterns • Determinants of national social expenditure • Social protection in national and government accounts 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social budgeting – assessing past and future financial performance of the social protection system • Policy space, fiscal space & affordability – dynamic and forward-looking approach • Opportunity costs, fiscal policies and short- and long-term resource mobilization strategies <p>5.3 Financing techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing social protection systems: definition, parameters, long-term sustainability, redistributive impacts and main challenges • Financing health care benefits – challenges in short- and long-term • Financing social security pensions – a long term, forward looking challenge • Financing other (short-term) benefits • Role of external financing
4	<p>Teaching and learning methods</p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises, (online) discussions</p>
5	<p>Pre-requisites</p> <p>None</p>
6	<p>Methods of examination</p> <p>Written exam (take home)</p>
7	<p>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</p> <p>Passing the written exam</p>
8	<p>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</p> <p>6,8% (6 / 88)</p>
9	<p>Person responsible for module</p> <p>Krzysztof Hagemeyer</p>

M6 Electives: Groups in Focus

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M6	150 h	6 ECTS	2 nd Semester	Summer semester		
1	Courses of the module (exemplary) 6.1 Children / youth (3 ECTS) 6.2 Elderly (3 ECTS) 6.3 Migrants (3 ECTS) 6.4 People with disability (3 ECTS) 6.5 Family (3 ECTS) 6.6 Working population (3 ECTS)			Contact hours 90 h	Independ. study 82,5 h	Group size 10 - 15
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>In Module 6, you can choose two out of four electives. You analyse the characteristics, needs and specific risks of different groups in society. Being familiar with different social protection instruments and policies, you examine how instruments have to be best combined and designed to meet the needs of these groups. You will learn how to determine which risks can be mainstreamed into regular social protection programming, which risks require separate interventions and how we design interventions in order not to indirectly disadvantage certain groups in society.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study different risks and needs associated with different stages in the life cycle • assess different options of combining social protection instruments to respond to these needs • problematize access issues for these different groups to social protection benefits and services • determine current policy gaps, inconsistencies and negative incentives • be familiar with the evidence base spanning across different country contexts • analyze policy solutions and best global practices 					
3	Contents of the module 6.1 Children / youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of social protection, child protection and child-sensitive social protection • Definition of special needs and risks of children • Impact of social protection on child protection outcomes • Improving outcomes: establishing linkages between social protection and child protection 6.2 Elderly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special characteristics, needs and risks of elderly • Social protection measures specifically for elderly • Health and care needs for the elderly • Measuring impact of social protection for elderly 6.3 Migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration and social protection in the destination country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interlinkages between social protection and migration in the destination country ○ Migrant rights and access to social protection in different country contexts ○ Forced and voluntary migrants in destination country and in transit ○ Country case studies • Migration and social protection in the country of origin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interlinkages between social protection and migration in countries of origin ○ Effects of remittances and social transfers ○ Relation between social transfers and migration ○ Portability and social security benefits for migrants 6.4 People with disability					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions and concepts of disability • Disability in data collection and analysis • Link between disability, inequality, intersectionality and poverty • Rational for social protection for persons with disabilities • Ensuring access across social protection programs • Disability and eligibility determination • Inclusive social protection system and life cycle approach (income security, coverage of extra cost, access to health and support services) <p>6.5 Family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special needs and risks of women • Special (mental) health care needs • Impact of (lack of) social protection on gender • Design of gender-sensitive social protection benefits and services • Mainstreaming gender into existing programmes • Protection of primary care providers • Maternity/paternity benefits and parental leave policies <p>6.6 Working population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social risk and contingencies faced by working population and resulting insurance and protection needs • Situation of people with different employment status, in formal and informal employment • Prevention and protection in case of employment accidents and occupational disease – forms of protection and country case studies • Sickness – forms of protection and country case studies • Unemployment protection and labour market policies – forms of protection and country case studies • Social health protection – forms and country case studies
4	<p>Teaching and learning methods</p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises, (online) discussions, presentations</p>
5	<p>Pre-requisites</p> <p>None</p>
6	<p>Methods of examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (50%) • Research Paper (50%) <p>Final grade will be calculated on the basis of the grades allocated to both exams.</p>
7	<p>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</p> <p>Obtaining at least 50% of the overall points for both exam parts</p>
8	<p>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</p> <p>6,8% (6 / 88)</p>
9	<p>Person responsible for module</p> <p>Masauso Chirwa</p>

M7 Social Protection Management

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M7	150 h	6 ECTS	2 nd Semester	Summer semester		
1	Courses of the module			Contact hours	Independ. study	Group size
	7.1 Delivery of social transfers (2 ECTS) 7.2 Delivery of social insurance (2 ECTS) 7.3 Information management (2 ECTS)			90 h	82,5 h	25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies					
	<p>In Module 7, you learn different techniques that facilitate the management of social protection programmes. You explore the delivery process as well as delivery options for different country contexts in greater detail. This means that you get for instance to assess which identification and payment methods are most appropriate in the area of social transfers and how enrolment and contribution collection can be better incentivized in the area of social insurance. You are familiarized with the challenges in the implementation process and learn different strategies of how to overcome them and which role digitalization can play. Exploring the opportunities of different data registries, you also learn how to best manage the wealth of information around recipients of social protection programmes, how to create interoperable data systems and how to deal with challenges of data governance and privacy protection.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the different decisions to be made in the implementation process, how they are sequenced and interlinked • get an understanding of the importance of sound implementation mechanisms • be in a position to detail and outline the different steps in the implementation processes such as the enrolment or payment process • are familiarized with challenges pertaining to the outreach activities, identification and enrolment of recipients, payment of benefits, collection of contributions and management of funds as well as grievance redress mechanisms • learn how to interpret administrative costs • get to now how to integrate information management systems around recipients and deal with the challenges that come along with it • be enabled to design and implement management information systems with their underlying databases 					
3	Contents of the module					
	7.1 Delivery mechanisms for social transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection delivery chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification and enrolment ○ Payment mechanisms ○ Complaints and grievance mechanisms ○ Monitoring systems • Administrative costs • Digitalization of the delivery process for social transfers 					
	7.2 Delivery mechanisms for social insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment of contributors • Challenges related to workers in non-standard forms of labour • Contribution collection • Social security reserve management 					
	7.4 Information management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data management needs in social protection • Rationale for integrated data management • Advantages and risks of data and information integration • Set-up of integrated information systems and related challenges in different country contexts 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data privacy and governance
4	Teaching and learning methods Interactive lecturing, exercises, (online) discussions
5	Pre-requisites None
6	Methods of examination Portfolio
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Passing the portfolio
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 6,8% (6 / 88)
9	Person responsible for module Masauso Chirwa

M8 Social Protection Reforms

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M8	200 h	8 ECTS	2 nd Semester	Summer semester		
1	Courses of the module 8.1 Reform needs (2 ECTS) 8.2 Reform management & communication (6 ECTS)			Contact hours 120 h	Independ. study 110 h	Group size 25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>In Module 8, you study the need and opportunities for system reform, in reaction to socio-economic trends, ecological and political influences, technological advances and emerging risks. Phenomena such as climate change and adaptive social protection, the changing nature of work, humanitarian social protection, demographic trends and the automation of administrative processes will be studied among others. These trends will motivate one reform initiative that you prepare, assessing different reform options and bearing in mind the contextual factors, the financing and implementation needs. In a second step, keeping in mind that there are many obstacles even for technically sound reforms, you examine as to how policy changes and reforms can be best managed and communicated so that obstacles are minimised and the general public as well as public policymakers are in support.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • become familiar with the recent common megatrends that affect social protection policy • study reform processes in different country settings and policy areas and see which lessons are transferable • understand strategic reform opportunities and constraints • understand factors impacting on reform processes and their role for the political feasibility of social protection reforms • understand the role and incentives of stakeholders involved in the reform process • examine as to how policy changes and reforms can be best communicated, using different media sources • know how to effectively engage in a political dialogue process so that obstacles are minimised and reforms actually take place • learn to write a policy engagement strategy • understand the different aspects of the rights-based approach and implementation of law • get to know an overview about different international and regional legal frameworks for social protection • discuss national legal frameworks, interventions and stakeholders as drivers of social protection reforms 					
3	Contents of the module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reform needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current topics in social protection such as adaptive social protection, shock-responsive social protection, digital social protection, demographic change, new forms of labor ○ Reform management & communication <p>Managing reforms (Reform projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform context, reform arena and reform process • Steps and tools in political economy analysis of reforms • Country case studies for different reforms <p>Communicating reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication strategy • Strategic use of media/social media • Policy influence plan 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change management and communication <p>Reform process from a legal perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal frameworks governing social protection systems • Sources of social security law • Judicial protection • International social security law • Funding • Sustainability of systems
4	<p>Teaching and learning methods</p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises, (online) discussions, group project</p>
5	<p>Pre-requisites</p> <p>None</p>
6	<p>Methods of examination</p> <p>Presentation (40%) & Reform Proposal (60%)</p>
7	<p>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</p> <p>Obtaining at least 50% of the overall points for both exam parts</p>
8	<p>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</p> <p>9,0% (8 / 88)</p>
9	<p>Person responsible for module</p> <p>Simona Helmsmüller</p>

M9 Research Methods

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M9	150 h	6 ECTS	3 rd & 4 th Semester	Winter & summer semester		
1	Courses of the module 9.1 Research methods (4 ECTS) 9.2 Colloquium (2 ECTS)			Contact hours 90 h	Independ. study 82,5 h	Group size 25-30
2	Learning outcomes and competencies In Module 9, you focus on sharpening your research skills to eventually prepare them for research papers throughout the master's programme, your master's thesis as well as potentially for a PhD later on. By systematically learning how to formulate a research question, how to come up with a suitable research design, how to collect and analyse data and how to write it up, you are accompanied in writing a successful master's thesis. In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know the different steps in the research process as well as the logic of how to interconnect them • be in a position to formulate a research question and design the appropriate methodology • obtain a detailed overview and learn how to use different quantitative and qualitative research methods • be capable to critically assess the methodology of other studies • know how to conduct your own research and write up your research findings • learn how to present your research ideas and first results, and incorporate feedback 					
3	Contents of the module 9.1 Research methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of research questions • Research design • Overview of quantitative research methods • Overview of qualitative research methods • Sampling • Data collection • Data analysis (software) • Write-up and publishing 9.2 Colloquium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of research ideas and progress • Incorporation of feedback 					
4	Teaching and learning methods Interactive lecturing, exercises, online discussions, presentations					
5	Pre-requisites None					
6	Methods of examination Research proposal and final presentation					
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of at least 66% for both sub-modules • Passing the research proposal • Passing the final presentation 					
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 4,5% (4 / 88)					
9	Person responsible for module Simona Helmsmüller					

M10 Studium Generale

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M10	125 h	5 ECTS	3 rd Semester	Variable		
1	Courses of the module 10 Studium Generale (5 ECTS)			Contact hours Variable	Independ. study Variable	Group size Variable
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>In Module 10, you have the opportunity to strengthen your skills in an area that you deem important for your future career. The department has put together a 5-ECTS vocational preparation module in collaboration with the language center and the library which imparts students with important soft skills, data analysis skills and competencies of how and where to apply. Language and other soft skill courses by the language center, courses by other departments of the University, summer schools as well as MOOCs can equally be followed as long as a certificate of completion is issued and the length of the course(s) are equivalent with the requirements of 5 ECTS.</p> <p>You will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deal with the choice of course and your own interests • acquire interdisciplinary competencies • engage with the topics of interest 					
3	Contents of the module Students are free to choose the content of the courses under the Studium Generale.					
4	Teaching and learning methods Depends on course(s) selected					
5	Pre-requisites Depends on course(s) selected					
6	Methods of examination Depends on course(s) selected					
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Certificate of completion by the Institution where the course is booked					
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 0% (0 / 88)					
9	Person responsible for module Simona Helmsmüller					

M11 Internship

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer	Duration	
M11	625 h	25 ECTS	3 rd Semester	Winter semester	Min. 3 months	
1	Courses of the module 11 Internship (25 ECTS)			Contact hours N/A	Independent study 625 h	Group size N/A
2	Learning outcomes and competencies <p>The goal of the internship is for the student to acquire practical knowledge, skills and techniques, which are required in various professional fields related to social protection. Students will have the opportunity to integrate some of the notions and concepts seen in the previous semesters into a professional environment and to reflect on the nexus between theory and practice.</p> <p>You will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elaborate individual learning objectives for your internship along with a detailed plan to reach those objectives and ensure accountability throughout the semester together with an internship mentor and a lecturer of H-BRS • reflect on the professional experience gained, how this experience relates to theory and concepts learned in class as well as to the career you wish to pursue • complete a report on your internship experience • present and discuss your experience with other students with an emphasis on lessons learned and best practices 					
3	Contents of the module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for an internship • Conduct of the internship • Review of the internship experience and relating it to the skills acquired in the master's programme • Distillation of lessons learned for fellow students 					
4	Teaching and learning methods Seminars, group discussions, internship proposal, internship report, internship					
5	Pre-requisites A total of 46 ECTS have to be accumulated					
6	Methods of examination Internship report and internship certificate					
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Passing the internship report and showing proof of the internship certificate					
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 0% (0 / 88)					
9	Person responsible for module Simona Helmsmüller					

M12 Master's Thesis

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer	Duration	
M12	700 h	28 ECTS	4 th Semester	Winter semester	6 months	
1	Courses of the module 12 Master Thesis			Contact hours N/A	Independ. study 700 h	Group size N/A
2	Learning outcomes and competencies The master's thesis marks the end of the study programme where you will demonstrate your capacity to come up with a relevant research questions, independently devise a research design, conduct your own research and write up your findings in a succinct manner. Your master's thesis can have a stronger theory or practice-focus and allows you to become a subject matter specialist in one of the topics in social protection. You will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know how to scientifically approach a complex research question • conduct a literature review • develop an appropriate research design • conduct your own research • write up your research findings 					
3	Contents of the module Thesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic research and write-up 					
4	Teaching and learning methods None					
5	Pre-requisites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Proposal (M9.1) has to be successfully passed • A total of 46 ECTS have to be accumulated 					
6	Methods of examination Master's Thesis					
7	Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits Passing the master's thesis					
8	Emphasis of the grade for the final grade 31,8% (28 / 88)					
9	Person responsible for module Brian Mathebula					