Sociology and Social Research

laurea magistrale, corrispondig to MSc/MA

academic year 2021/22
MSc/MA in Sociology and Social Research

prepares students to become professional social science researchers, who are able:

▪ to reflect on and analyse society and social problems
▪ to design and conduct social research
▪ make a valid contribution to contemporary social debates

To achieve this, the programme:

✓ Offers students high quality state-of-the-art, in-depth and specialized training in sociology and social research
✓ Provides students with the tools needed to investigate societal issues in contemporary society
➢ Enables students to achieve a comprehensive understanding of social processes and social phenomena and thereby be able to make an active contribution to contemporary debates
Intensive two-year programme combining:

✓ **In-depth methodological training (qualitative and quantitative)**
  Practical experience in applying knowledge gained in courses through discussions and labs, combining individual and collaborative work in small groups
  ▪ complemented with lab sessions and seminars to ensure active absorption of novel theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills (such as interviews, focus groups and statistical analysis)

✓ **Contemporary social issues**
  ▪ Specialization on substantive social issues and straightforward integration of methods competences with current debates and theoretical insights.
  ▪ Specialization courses ensures that students can develop a substantive area of expertise, through:
    - selection of specific courses in the second year, internship, thesis topic and various seminars

✓ **Opportunities for international experience**
Structure: Year 1

✓ Qualitative and quantitative research methods and techniques
  ➢ gaining skills that enable a (more) thorough investigation of substantive problems
  ➢ analyse society and to understand important social issues

✓ Lab sessions complement course
  ➢ ensures an active absorption of novel theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills. These include discussions and (collaborative) work in small groups, to practice methodological technical skills (such as interviews, focus groups and statistical analysis) and to acquire further insights.

✓ Interdisciplinary approach
  combining topics and methods from various social sciences (sociology, political science, history, social statistics)
Structure: Year 2 (part 1)

✓ Builds further on the foundations in the first year

✓ Allow students to specialize into areas such as

  - **social inequality and social change**
    - education (system) and social inequality,
    - family dynamics and social demography,
    - labour market, work & employment, social stratification
    - comparative welfare systems,
    - collective action.

  - **culture and communication**
    - space and culture, cultural transformations in lifestyles, sociology of culture
    - communication, science and technology
    - digital social data, computational sociology
    - language and society
    - social networks
Structure: Year 2 (part 2)

- **internship** (for instance in private and public research institutes)
- show mastering of *specialized* area and research skills with their dissertation
- **international** exchange opportunities (see next page)

➢ Together their specialization, dissertation, the international opportunities and internship will allow to maximize employability and future career.
International experience (part 1)

✓ International environment in Trento:

- students from different countries part of the programme
- courses are in English
- courses are taught by experts in the field, many of which have worked and studied abroad at some point in the past

✓ Exchange opportunities

- Erasmus+ programmes, and bilateral agreements outside Europe
- Double degrees programmes (funded)
  - Bamberg (DE),
  - Barcellona - Pompeu Fabra (ES),
  - Tilburg (NL),
  - Graz (A),
  - Brno (CR),
  - S Pietroburgo - Higher School of Economics (RUS)
International experience (part 2)

✓ importance of have international exposure

✓ enriched experience - strengthen skills and curriculum for future occupation

✓ CV - employers increasingly look for candidates with international experience and other languages
Objectives/Outcomes:

With the advanced knowledge of the discipline and high analytical capabilities, you will:
✓ be able to evaluate existing research when providing advice
✓ conduct rigorous and sound research independently

and as a result will:
➢ be able to make an academically sound contribution to societal discussions,
➢ contribute in shaping society through sharp analysis and understanding of social phenomena and advising on interventions, like social policy
➢ coordinated positions and responsibilities
➢ communicate analysis and solutions
**Employability**

- public and private research institutes
- organizations, with responsibility for planning in the analysis of public policies, with particular reference to social policies and social reporting
- institutions, with expertise in conducting market surveys and research on consumption, multimedia communication and knowledge management; public relations, internal relations and institutional communication experts in complex organizations, in the third sector and in voluntary associations on issues of social relevance
- academic career: the advanced methodological focus of the master's programme makes this degree a privileged path to a Doctorate Course
This Master's Course trains graduates with a high level preparation in the field of social research. Working as a sociologist requires advanced knowledge in the main fields of sociological theory and methods and techniques needed to carry out research in on the social world. The complex nature of social phenomena requires specific skills to analyse, study and research this field.

Graduates master logic-conceptual tools and the resulting theoretical and methodological skills required in the different phases of social research:

- testing hypotheses;
- the preparation of a research plan suitable to test the hypotheses;
- data collection techniques;
- analysis and interpreting of quantitative and qualitative data.

The study plan is marked by a concrete approach to research, through the use of laboratories and credit seminars, aimed at acquiring the methodological and technical skills needed to carry out the analysis. At the same time students acquire the sociological theories needed to analyse the world, as well as the philosophic bases of social sciences and the statistic-economic characteristics of the social world. During their second year students further study methods to carry out political and historical research and further specialize according to their personal interest, choosing among the numerous elective courses made available by the Master's course. Students are encouraged to spend a study period at other European universities, also in the framework of international agreements.

Testimonial by Filippo Gioachin, Master student

The content of the video is available in Italian only
What you study in 2021-22:

https://offertaformativa.unitn.it/en/lm/sociology-and-social-research

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<td>I e II</td>
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<td>Survey design for social research lab</td>
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<td>Language - English (B2)**</td>
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### SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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<th>Semester</th>
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<td><strong>3 out of these:</strong></td>
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<td>Economic and labour sociology</td>
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<td>Education and Social Inequalities</td>
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<td>Sociology of collective action</td>
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<td>II</td>
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<td>Sociology of Generations</td>
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<td>Social stratification and mobility</td>
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<td>Social Demography</td>
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<td>Advanced social networks</td>
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### CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

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<td>Communication, science and tecnology</td>
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<td>Digital social data</td>
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<td>Space and culture</td>
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#### Additional Credits

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<td>Free exam*</td>
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<td>Stage or other vocational-oriented activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
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Testimonials

“After the bachelor, my interest for quantitative research methods as applied to social change, drove me to study Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento. Thanks to its practical and research-orientated approach, I learned to think critically and independently. The atmosphere at the department is very stimulating, with a high-quality teaching which is internationally recognised. I strongly advise this master, which played an important role in my professional career!”

Carlotta, junior researcher Doxa, Milano, won a master at the London School of Economics, UK

“Participating in the Master Course in Sociology and Social Research has been for me a wonderful “all-in” kind of experience: the course provided me with opportunities for academic, social, and personal growth. The MA is definitely a unique chance to meet and network with international peers and professors and strengthen a high-level expertise in the field of quantitative and qualitative social research.”

Damiano, researcher at the Netherland Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute NIDI, NL

«Per chi desidera dedicarsi alla ricerca e all'insegnamento, SSR prepara diligentemente al mondo accademico sia d'ambiente italiano che europeo. L'impostazione fortemente incentrata sul 'learning by doing' infatti, mi ha consentito di sviluppare delle skills facilmente spendibili nel mio percorso post-Magistrale, consentendomi di accedere senza troppe difficoltà ad un dottorato in Germania. L'esperienza accademica è inoltre arricchita, per chi vuole, dalle molte opportunità di lavoro come tutor, research assistant, etc. che consentono sia di crearsi un network con professori, ricercatori, dottorandi e altri studenti/esse del Dipartimento, sia di fare le prime importanti esperienze dirette di ricerca e insegnamento retribuiti»

Giulia, ricercatrice junior presso il Wissenschafts Zentrum Berlin WZB, Berlino, DE
Sociology and Social Research

Questions?  ➔  stefani.scherer@unitn.it